BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 28 JANUARY 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mrs Norman (Chairman), Peltzer Dunn (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Allen, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Cobb, Davey, Davis, Drake, Duncan, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Fryer, Hamilton, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Janio, Kemble, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K Norman, Older, Oxley, Phillips, Pidgeon, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smart, Smith, Steedman, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, Wells, West, Wrighton and Young.

PART ONE

38. STATUTORY OR VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE BY COUNCILLORS OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS APPEARING ON THE AGENDA.

38.1 Councillors Norman, Randall, McCaffery, Hawkes, Brown and A. Norman declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 52(g) on the agenda;

38.2 Councillors Kemble, Mears, Wells and Elgood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 49 on the agenda and stated that they would withdraw from the meeting as appropriate;

38.3 Councillors Hawkes and Rufus and Wakefield-Jarrett declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 52(b) on the agenda; and

38.4 Councillor Harmer-Strange declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 46 on the agenda.

39. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2009 (COPY ATTACHED).

39.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th December 2009 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

40. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

40.1 The Mayor reported the sad news of the death of former Mayor Councillor Sheila Schaffer, who had been elected in 1987 to Hanover Ward. She had served on the council until 1999, and was Mayor of Brighton in 1995/96. The Mayor then asked for a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

40.2 The Mayor then offered her thanks and appreciation to Joy Hollister, Director of Adult Social Care & Housing, who is leaving the Council to take up a post in the City of London.

40.3 The Mayor stated that she was delighted to have the opportunity on behalf of the Council to congratulate both the Revenues & Benefits and Bereavement Service teams of the Customer Services Division for achieving the Customer Service Excellence Standard. She noted that the Bereavement Services was amongst the first 100 to achieve this standard and both services had received a letter of congratulation from the Prime Minister.

The Mayor then presented the certificates to Steven Horlock on behalf of the Bereavement Services and Jackie Mitrovic on behalf of Revenues and Benefits and wished them continued success in the future.

40.4 The Mayor then drew the council's attention to Item 51 on the agenda, the 12-month review of the constitution, and pointed out that recommendation 2.3 of the report should refer to 'recommendations 8 and 13' rather than paragraphs 8 and 13 in the body of the report. She also noted that it was proposed that in accordance with resolutions of the Cabinet and Governance Committee, any agreed resolution of the council would come into effect from date of the Annual Council meeting in May.

40.5 The Mayor then drew councillors' attention to her next charity event, a Valentines Evening Gala Dinner to be held in the Royal Pavilion Banqueting Room on Saturday 13 February.

41. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS.

41.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the councillor presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.

41.2 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 65 residents concerning a request for single yellow lines rather than double yellow lines in Court Farm Road.

41.3 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 210 residents concerning a request for crossings to be installed at the junction of Old Shoreham Road and Sackville Road.

41.4 Councillor Carden presented a petition signed by 157 residents concerning the planned use of Hangleton Bottom.

41.5 Councillor Davey presented an E-petition signed by 1,259 residents and other signatories, concerning the retention of the History Centre.

42. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

42.1 The Mayor reported that five written question had been received from a members of the public and invited Mr. Hawtree to come forward and address the council.

42.2 Mr. Hawtree asked the following question;

"Could Councillor Smith please tell us when work will begin on the next Library Plan?"

42.3 Councillor Smith replied, "Last January, the Council unanimously approved the Library Plan which covers the three years from April 2009 to March 2012. Library Services will begin work on a new three year plan in 2011."

42.4 Mr. Hawtree asked the following supplementary question;

"Thank you very much for that Councillor Smith and, of course, as I know one doesn't need a pachydermous memory to recall that meeting at full Council a year ago, which came to the Council after some delays the current Library Plan; but also the current Plan at no point mentions the braxy notion of reconfiguring the Jubilee Library to contain the Local History Centre.

Can I now ask you, Councillor Smith, as that Plan was not only perhaps misleadingly presented to such an extent of not mentioning the radical proposal which came some 11 months later, will you now set up a panel of Councillors, independently advised, to discuss ways in which that large space can now instead be used to contain more general stock and shelving as residents have regularly asked?"

42.5 Councillor Smith replied, "At the last Cabinet meeting Councillor Mary Mears announced that she was setting up a commission to look into the future of the History Centre and everything else and that would be taken up."

42.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for his questions and invited Mr. Elkin to come forward and address the council.

42.7 Mr. Elkin asked the following question;

"Is it right that you and your Party were not voted in at the last council elections? What is the idea of having a go at the last elections or is there a Parliamentary Election this year that would mean that you are not interested in the electorate that you are supposed to serve?"

42.8 Councillor Mitchell replied, "Mr Elkin, thank you ever so much for coming here this afternoon to ask your question.

Actually, Councillors from all parties were voted on to this council at the last election and the current make-up of all the Councillors here means that no one party is in overall

control of the council. The current Administration is not being stopped from operating at all. However, individual parties do differ from time to time on some issues, issues like how taxpayers' money should be spent and also on different points of policy where Opposition Councillors are entitled to put forward different points of view and also different ideas. This is actually good democracy at work but I really do believe, Mr Elkin, that every single Councillor in this Chamber this afternoon does work hard and does put the good of the city at the forefront during that work."

42.9 Mr. Elkin asked the following supplementary question;

"I can remember back when Labour were in charge of the council, won the council elections there and started to put in place against the people near the King Alfred their plans. They are against, every single house there in Vallance Gardens and Hove Street were against and had a go at the council."

42.10 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I remember that very well indeed, Mr Elkin, as well and that was again during a time of no overall political control on the council. The Labour Administration worked to put forward a plan for regenerating that site, for providing a sports complex at no cost to taxpayers that was supported by a very controversial housing development. I can assure you that at each and every step along the way there was consultation, there was both the legal and statutory consultation. It took an awful long time to go through but I do agree with you it was extremely controversial."

42.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Elkin for his questions and invited Miss. Willcock to come forward and address the council.

42.12 Miss. Willcock asked the following question;

"Can Councillor Smith confirm please that various groups, and other interested people, will be able to take part in continuing discussions about the Brighton History Centre?"

42.13 Councillor Smith replied, "A thorough consultation process will be taking place to support the development of the Keep. We will also be setting up a Local History Support Group to work with us in developing local and family history services within the city. Local interest groups and other interested people will be invited to take part in the consultation process."

42.14 Miss Willcock asked the following supplementary question;

"That is really most reassuring, thanks Councillor Smith.

As decisions that are made for this highly valued facility must in the future be based on evidence that is both representative and fully accountable, would you kindly assure us that both a clear, detailed Mission Statement for the Group and minutes of its meetings will be made accessible to all interested parties?"

42.15 Councillor Smith replied, "I will."

42.16 The Mayor thanked Miss. Willcock for her questions and invited Ms. Murray to come forward and address the council.

42.17 Ms. Murray asked the following question;

"Several activities within the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982, come under the 2003 Licensing Act, which states: *'The fee is to recover the administration, inspection and enforcement costs of licensing authorities which arise from carrying out their licensing functions under the Act'.* Licensed under the Act are Off Licenses that pay approx £180 a year, have specific licence criteria and commonly consume more council resources than a Licensed Sex Establishment. As councils are able to accomplish this for a mere £180 fee, why do Sex Establishment renewal fees carry a far higher cost, for universally utilising far less council resources?"

42.18 Councillor Cobb replied, "Sex shop licence fees are set at local discretion at a level that the council reasonably believes will cover the costs of providing this service. This ensures that the General Fund and council taxpayers are not subsidising this service. Licensing fees under the Licensing Act 2003 are set nationally. The local government bodies for lobbying for a fair settlement with income covering costs of administrating the service."

42.19 Ms. Murray asked the following supplementary question;

"If that's the case how are those fees actually justified when other discretionary licensing fees for bingo halls, adult entertainment centres, family entertainment centres are actually set in the region of £500 per annum and what you are proposing to charge us is actually £10,000 per annum?"

42.20 Councillor Cobb replied, "All fees and activities are monitored by officers and fees are amended accordingly. Sex establishment fees cover the whole business: administration, unauthorised activities, enforcement and legal costs."

42.21 The Mayor thanked Ms. Murray for her questions and invited Mr. Carder to come forward and address the council.

42.22 Mr. Carder asked the following question;

"Users retain concerns about removing Brighton History Centre resources to The Keep, finding no mention in council minutes until last month. Will the Cabinet Member for Culture:

a) explain the decision process and reasons, pointing to documentation;
b) state how and when inclusion of the Centre's resources was allowed for in The Keep's design;
c) state if and when microform resources and books are to be removed from the Centre to the Jubilee Library;
d) state whether library users will enjoy the present instant access to microforms; and
e) state if there will be an overall loss of microform readers?

42.23 Councillor Smith replied, "I will answer (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) for you.

(a) The development of The Keep has been discussed at various Council meetings, including; Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee meetings in 2007 and 2008, and Policy & Resources Committee and Cabinet Meetings in 2008 and 2009.

(b) The scope of resources for Brighton & Hove that will be included is still being discussed as part of The Keep development process.

(c) Only duplicate materials and on-line resources will be relocated to Jubilee Library.

(d) Service users will be able to enjoy the same access to microforms in the History Centre as currently provided.

(e) There will be no overall loss of microform readers."

42.24 Mr. Carder asked the following supplementary question;

"In view of your answer to Part (a) I was hoping to understand the decision to remove the Brighton History Centre to The Keep, which you didn't mention. Can you tell me what the decision process on deciding the removal of the Brighton History Centre to The Keep was as opposed to the development of The Keep?"

42.25 Councillor Smith replied, "We are still considering what items are going to The Keep and it will be coming to committees later on."

42.26 The Mayor thanked Mr. Carder for his questions.

43. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

43.1 The Mayor reported that two Deputations had been received and invited Mr. Towers as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.

43.2 Mr. Towers thanked the Mayor and stated that;

"The issue we have set out is about unsafe crossings at Old Shoreham Road, Neville Road and Sackville Road. There is a lot of strength of community feeling around this that it is an unsafe crossing and I think that is evidenced from the presentation that Councillor Bennett made on the petition earlier. Out of 212 adult residents who were spoken to, 210 agreed to sign the petition.

The problems are firstly, it's a complex junction. There are four filter lanes. The light sequences are complex. It's impossible as a pedestrian on these crossings to understand what the light sequence is unless you've done it day in, day out, for quite a period of time. Once you get to the central island you're exposed, there are no safety barriers on the central crossings. There is no space or insufficient space for parents with children, particularly with buggies or with young children, when crossing at peak times. Cars speed and jump the lights and it's complicated further still by the junction both north and south having a convergence of traffic from two lanes down to one, with traffic drivers looking to jockey for position to get into the right lane, perhaps more than focus on the pedestrians that are standing in front of them waiting to cross.

These issues have been raised over many years it's not a new problem. We were given statistics way back from 2002 to 2004 that showed nine reported collisions resulting in injuries to people. For the last three years up until November 2009 ten more injuries were reported. That, of course, masks the larger number, we think, of unreported incidents and accidents and certainly the huge number of near misses that I and other people witness regularly.

Residents that we spoke to fear crossing and fear for their children crossing. This we believe undermines policies to promote reduction in car use, to promote increased exercise and use of green spaces, particularly as we are so close to Hove Park. Many parents drive their children to school because they consider it unsafe to take them across these roads. Some children, particularly older ones who otherwise should be capable and able and free to go to the park on their own have to rely on their parents being available in order to cross them safely.

Our understanding is that £7.4m surplus was made from parking fines last year in the city and a number of initiatives such as school cycle parks, cycle lanes and subsidised bus routes were used as a consequence of that; yet we can't cross the road safely and that to me raises questions about priorities and perspective. Over four years of raising this issue no action has been taken at this junction.

I quote from a letter from the then Council Leader, Councillor Simon Burgess, back in 2006 who said: 'this junction will be included for consideration if any planning applications for development are received in the area that may present opportunities to secure funds for improvements.'

Okay, so we've been waiting for this private funding to come in and save the day. Since that letter we estimate thirteen or more further casualties have resulted at that junction. That's thirteen people who couldn't wait for a private developer to come in with a solution. We understand that there is a proposal for Sackville Place retail development. We have no idea of the timeframe for that. We have no idea of the schedule of works in terms of whether it's possible to expedite and bring forward the work to secure that junction and make it safe for people to cross ahead of any other work that takes place and, furthermore, it raises concerns for a number of the local residents about an increase in traffic per se.

What we are asking for is not to wait but just to take some action now. We want an immediate safety audit, a safety audit of that site at peak times, not off-peak times, at peak times when the majority of people are crossing. We want a green man crossing, both north and south. We would like to see safety barriers installed. We would like traffic calming measures and we would like pedestrian prioritisation at those lights in terms of the scheduling. We did consider whether or not the option of a school traffic warden, or as we used to call them 'lollipop men'/'lollipop ladies', might be feasible but I think the argument is they'd probably be put at too much risk."

43.3 Councillor Theobald replied, "I do welcome the way in which you have put the argument, if I may put it that way, this afternoon, very eloquently and thank you very much.

Things have moved forward since Councillor Burgess's time because our design proposals do include the provision of controlled pedestrian crossing points on all arms of the junctions. We have the design, the proposals are there, they have been designed. What I will do because it is connected and you are right and you mention that in your speech to the development at Sackville Place. What I will do is I will ask the Planning Department to contact you and to give you an update as to exactly where that development is. I do appreciate the position that you and the other residents in your area are in and obviously I am very much hoping that the proposals that have been designed can be implemented as soon as possible."

43.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Towers for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

43.5 The Mayor then invited Ms. Slinn as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.

43.6 Ms. Slinn thanked the Mayor and stated that;

"I am a resident of Hove, having lived in the two streets leading off the Old Shoreham Road which are at opposite ends of the stretch of Old Shoreham Road between BHASVIC and the Upper Drive for over 11 years. I have a 13 year old boy who attends Cardinal Newman and I have concerns about the safety of the crossing at the Upper Drive/Old Shoreham Road and the lack of a crossing at The Drive and Old Shoreham Road. It's clear that those junctions are very busy and the Upper Drive junction is used predominantly by school children.

There are three schools around that junction with approximately 3,000 school children attending those schools. At the junction with The Drive there appear to be no pedestrian traffic signals at all. There appears to be no time delay between the change of lights to allow school children or other pedestrians to cross safely. At the junction with the Upper Drive there is a crossing. However, there have been many incidents recently of cars speeding through the crossing to avoid the lights changing and actually driving through red lights, crashing into railings, into bollards and narrowly avoiding pedestrians.

I've got anecdotal evidence from neighbours and friends who have been nearly run over at the crossing. My window cleaner was nearly run over by a speeding car last week and my neighbour across the road with her new baby was nearly run over a couple of weeks ago. I myself was involved in a car collision in December and had that happened five minutes earlier it might have affected the school children using the crossing.

I consider the design of the Old Shoreham Road is partly to blame. It gives a false impression to motorists. The carriageways are very wide and they encourage speeding and overtaking. There are also bus stops immediately before the crossing on either side of the road and when buses stop, cars overtake them at the crossing. In fact, the whole

stretch of the Old Shoreham Road just before the Upper Drive and up to The Drive is wide and motorists appear to treat it like a dual carriageway with accompanying speeds.

There are no signs indicating that there are schools along this part of the Old Shoreham Road. The only signs there are are halfway up the Upper Drive immediately opposite the entrances to the schools. I find this quite shocking, bearing in mind there are the three schools located at this junction with approximately 3,000 children attending. There is no speed camera, there is no traffic signal camera and no device which advises motorists to slow down and many of these are present on other roads in the city. I consider it very alarming that school children have to cross a busy road that is effectively being used as a dual carriageway.

I have spoken to many parents in the area, including parents at Somerhill Junior School for which I am a parent governor, and they too raise their concerns about this stretch of the Old Shoreham Road and the safety of their children attending the secondary schools.

I have taken advice from a Highways Engineer who considers that there are some very simple measures that could be taken. The first thing would be to erect school signs just before the junction of the Upper Drive, approaching south, east and west and that would alert motorists to the fact that there are people crossing and there are school children crossing and secondly to prevent overtaking, which again I do consider the design of the road may give motorists a false impression, simple measures could be made to the carriageway and thirdly a 'slow down' device could be erected. Lastly, if this stretch of the Old Shoreham Road was reduced to a 20mph zone, the traffic would slow down. As this road has a school crossing anyway, that would be a good reason to make this part of the road 20mph.

As parents we like our children to attend their local schools and to be able to walk to school rather than be driven. However, we want them to be able to walk to school safely.

We need the junction and the crossing to be made safer by slowing down the traffic and making motorists aware that the crossing is used by school children.

A petition has been started, a written petition and there is an e-petition on the council website and we hope to be able to present this to the March Cabinet meeting."

43.7 Councillor Theobald responded; "Once again, can I congratulate you like your predecessor on putting the case very strongly and very well indeed.

As with the other junction, again I know it extremely well and what I will do is to arrange for an officer to come out and meet with you on the site and discuss some of these points, because it may be that one or two of them we would be able to do. You have already alluded to the fact that my Cabinet Member meeting is on 25 March and again there is a follow-up there, so no doubt we will meet again on 25 March. I hope in the meantime an officer will meet with you and have a discussion and take on board some of the points that you have made."

43.8 The Mayor thanked Ms. Slinn for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be

referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

44. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

44.1 The Mayor reminded the council that councillors' questions and the replies from the appropriate councillor were now taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum, which had been circulated as detailed below.

44.2 **(a)** Councillor Fryer asked:

"What measures did the council take to ensure that school closures were kept to a minimum during the cold weather and to address the impact this has on children and young people's education and their families?"

44.3 Councillor Brown replied,

"Our first priority during any period of severe weather conditions is the safety and well being of the children in the City. The CYPT updates and issues emergency closure advice, including guidance on how to deal with severe weather conditions, to all schools annually in the autumn term.

The CYPT worked closely with Environment to enable the schools to open as soon as possible during the spell of extreme weather conditions but ultimately the final decision rests with individual head teachers. The Schools Futures Director was identified as the contact point for schools and he prioritised schools to ensure the most effective use of limited resources in difficult circumstances. The Head of Highways Operations liaised with the CYPT so that roads and pavements serving schools were cleared as soon as possible and the CYPT through its contractors cleared school paths and car parks.

Secondary schools were identified as the top priority and supported to enable all AS and GCSE students to take their exams at their school and at the nationally allocated time. This was closely followed by Special Schools then Primary schools.

Head teachers stayed in contact with students and their families throughout the difficult weather period informing them of arrangements made for examinations and helping families overcome any logistical problems.

Schools in general kept parents informed of their arrangements through school websites, text messaging and local media. Many schools put work for pupils on their websites to ensure that the disruption to learning was minimised.

This support was highlighted in a letter to the Argus when Hove Park was commended for staying in direct contact with 6th form students and ensuring that students received the support they needed during the exam period."

44.4 Councillor Fryer asked a supplementary question, “Thank you Councillor Brown for your reply and it’s great to hear that teachers and schools are doing everything they can, I’m sure they are, to prevent school closures, so this question wasn’t meant in any way to have a go at schools.

I completely understand the pressures that school staff and other services are under and, of course, it’s fair to say that we aren’t used to the snowy weather we’ve been having recently, but in severe weather conditions medical staff have to report often to their nearest hospital and this used to be the case in schools, where teachers used to report to their nearest school.

My question is, in order to address parents’ concerns over school closures will the Administration undertake to look at re-establishing this policy in the future for Brighton & Hove schools?”

44.5 Councillor Brown replied, “Yes, it is something that I’m sure we’ll look at but it is quite a difficult thing to organise, because you could end up with an awful lot of staff in one school and still no staff in another, so there’s no simple answer to that.

We did work very closely with Environment to clear the roads into the schools, particularly the secondary schools, as you know they were having exams, and then we concentrated on the special schools. Everything was done to try and get the staff into school and we did open the schools as soon as possible but it’s something that we will look at in more detail.”

44.6 **(b)** Councillor Kitcat asked,

"Will Cllr G Theobald make clear to this meeting and colleagues in East Sussex County Council that this city has no wish to ship its waste to landraise sites in the East Sussex countryside?"

44.7 Councillor Theobald replied,

“As a waste planning authority we are obliged to make provision in our plans for viable and deliverable facilities for dealing with all waste streams. To this end we will aim to make provision within the city for facilities to handle and treat waste generated in the city but it is unlikely that these would be sufficient to handle and treat all the waste the city generates. However, I would like to make it clear that our priorities are to promote recycling and other sustainable methods of waste management – landraise would be very much a last resort.”

44.8 Councillor Kitcat asked a supplementary question, “Well, I’m disappointed that Councillor Theobald won’t rule out landraise sites in our precious countryside but I am delighted that he does have a priority in recycling. Recycling is important but what about waste reduction which is part of Government policy. What progress is the Councillor making on measures such as the much feted Supermarket Summit and other such actions long promised by the Conservative Administration?”

44.9 Councillor Theobald replied, "Well, I wouldn't expect Councillor Kitcat to be fully satisfied with my answer. I do know that you have met with officers recently and put some of your views across and you've had a useful meeting. We have a Waste Plan which will be coming before the March Cabinet meeting, the full Cabinet meeting, and I am sure that some of the points that you make there will be answered."

44.10 **(c)** Councillor Kitcat asked,

"Does Councillor Theobald agree that recycling municipal waste is the cheapest way of handling waste for this council and that greater rates of recycling can play an important part in improving this council's financial situation in the face of the extremely low central government grant?"

44.11 Councillor Theobald replied.

"Yes."

44.12 Councillor Kitcat asked a supplementary question, "Can I say what a new and refreshing feeling it is to have Councillor Theobald agree with me so wholeheartedly. When will he make clear his ambitions for waste management in this city? He has just referred to the waste strategy but he has yet to include other Members in consulting on this. Is this a final draft? When will we be graced with a version of it, to see it?"

44.13 Councillor Theobald replied, "I would have thought that you would know the answer to that one because I've already said that the waste strategy, which has been widely consulted will be presented to Cabinet in March and you've already had a discussion, I understand, with officers which is good, so in March there will be the item and you'll then be able to make further points."

44.14 **(d)** Councillor Kitcat asked,

"Can Councillor Smith explain why he responded to a public question on the Brighton 'O' at our last council meeting by saying that this Council was 'dealing directly' with Brighton Sailing Club yet the club report no such talks are happening?"

44.15 Councillor Smith replied,

"Thank you Councillor Kitcat for your question on the Brighton 'O'. The Sailing Club have been advised in writing that the planning application for the Brighton 'O' has been deferred for further consideration. The concerns of the Sailing Club will be taken into account in the determination of the planning application insofar as they are relevant to planning matters. Additionally, the council will also take these concerns into account when considering its position as landowner in discussions with the promoters of the Brighton 'O'."

44.16 Councillor Kitcat asked a supplementary question, "I'm afraid I believe there's some terminological inexactitude at play here. As steward of our seafront and landlords for the Sailing Club, where I believe we have just signed a new 25 year lease, Councillor

Smith said he would be dealing directly with the Club. He said that in our last full Council meeting, yet he hasn't done so, so when will he make good on that promise?"

44.17 Councillor Smith replied, "I didn't say I personally would be dealing with the Sailing Club and I understand that they've had a meeting with Councillor Geoffrey Theobald's last Cabinet meeting to discuss things there but lots of the issues are planning and landlords' ones which I don't interfere with the landlords' ones and I don't interfere with the planning ones."

44.18 **(e)** Councillor Hamilton asked,

"On 18th January 2010 the Leader of the Council's current Forward Plan listed a key decision relating to Hangleton Bottom as being Key Decision CAB 5498:

"to seek agreement to the marketing approach and the future use of the site."

This decision was marked "deferred" and had been marked as such on successive Forward Plans since it first appeared on the Forward Plan in October 2008. In the interest of openness and transparency will the Leader of the Council explain why a report went to the Central Services CMM on January 18th seeking agreement to the marketing approach and future use of the site without having been listed in advance on her publicly available Forward Plan?"

44.19 Councillor Mears replied,

The decision in the Hangleton Bottom report taken to Central Services Cabinet Member Meeting (CS CMM) on the 18th January is not a key decision and not required to be on the forward plan. This is an exploratory report giving an early warning and seeking permission to test the property market to explore what interest is out in the open market for the redevelopment of this strategic council owned site. It does not have a significant impact on 2 or more wards or involve a significant expenditure or saving of £500k. The decision could have proceeded under officers' delegated powers.

Once we have the results of this marketing exercise we will review and analyse the options, consult with the necessary parties as set out under our property protocol and prepare a detailed report for Cabinet to consider the options on the strategic potential future uses on the site. This will be a key decision affecting more than 2 wards with financial implications over £500k.

In the interests of being open and transparent we took an early report to CS CMM giving notice of our intention to explore and test the market regarding on this site and prepare a further substantial report for Cabinet consideration. The key decision regarding the future use of the site is to be taken by Cabinet and as such the Forward Plan wording will be adhered to."

44.20 Councillor Hamilton asked a supplementary question, "I would like to thank Councillor Mears for her reply. In it she states that at the Central Services Cabinet Member Meeting on 18 January the report was, I quote: 'seeking permission to test the property

market'. The answer also expresses 'our intention to explore and test the market' and states that 'Forward Plan wording will be adhered to.'

In the Forward Plan Key Decision CAB 5498 includes the wording: 'to seek agreement to the marketing approach'. Has your Administration already agreed to a marketing approach as proposed in the Forward Plan or not?"

44.21 Councillor Mears replied, "I will respond to Councillor Hamilton, although he has actually had two goes at this in the CMM and at the Call-In. No, there's been no proposals, Councillor Hamilton, that's why it's going out to the market testing. I can understand why you are so exercised about this and I do realise, you know, and particularly as Councillor Carden has handed in a petition.

The history around it is that the Borough Plan actually took ten years to fruition under the previous Administration. Councillor Hamilton as you know you were the Chairman of Planning and the site was identified, the CMM report is very clear that it's going out for a marketing exercise. I don't know how many times you want that put a different way.

There obviously is a problem, Councillor Hamilton, around this with your Group but bearing in mind you identified the Borough Plan in the waste strategy, you put it in, you had no problem with it. I was quite surprised, actually, Councillor to see a petition from Councillor Carden. If Councillor Carden, you know, felt so exercised that he had to present a petition, I am so surprised we haven't received one in the past from Councillor Hamilton on this.

The legal advice is very clear, the report is very clear from CMM and let me make it very clear today, Councillor Hamilton, this is going out to a marketing exercise."

44.22 Councillor Alford asked a further supplementary question, "Could Councillor Mears confirm for me exactly when the Hangleton Bottom site was allocated for waste facilities in the Brighton & Hove Local Plan and the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Waste Local Plan?"

44.23 Councillor Mears replied, "I am happy to give some history around it. The Plan was agreed in 2005. As I said earlier the previous Administration with Councillor Mitchell as the Chair of Environment, Councillor Hamilton exactly was Chairman of Planning.

I'm just really surprised there's obviously something that we're missing here and I'm not quite sure what it is. There is obviously a real issue with the Labour Councillors. They had no problem identifying a site and putting in a waste strategy, no problem at all. I haven't heard in this Council Chamber, at Cabinet, any report, any written question around this since 2005, nothing at all. Now all of a sudden there's all this noise and heat.

Now there obviously is an issue for the Labour Councillors but I think they need to recognise it took ten years to develop the Borough Plan for the waste strategy, ten years, when they were in Administration and they obviously were quite comfortable in 2005 with the recommendation that they put in. Now the recommendation from the CMM is very clear, this is going out to a marketing exercise. Now if they need or want

the minutes from the 2005 meeting they've only got to go back into the archives and get them as I did check, so I really don't understand what the problem is.

I'm happy to answer Councillor Alford's question. The history is quite plain, it became under the previous Administration and we have already had the waste strategy going out to consultation which was at a Cabinet meeting in Brighton Chamber. Councillor Kitcat was there, although he made reference to it today, he actually was there and went through the Plan page by page at the meeting. I don't remember, sitting in that meeting, any reference from the Labour Group around waste and the Plan around Hangleton Bottom, so I am slightly confused but I am sure it will all become clear later."

44.24 **(f)** Councillor McCaffery asked,

"At a training event for school governors on Safeguarding Children in November, I asked who the Brighton and Hove Local Children's Safeguarding Board reports to. The officer did not know and has since informed me that despite asking she has not yet received an answer. We as Councillors are legally responsible for the children in our care, Would the Cabinet member for Children Families and Schools please inform this Council who the LCSB reports to?"

44.25 Councillor Brown replied,

"he Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is the most important among a number of checks and balances across public services to assure the quality and effectiveness of local safeguarding and child protection arrangements. External inspection by Ofsted has consistently found that the LSCB in Brighton and Hove is effective and works to a high standard.

Although the local authority is responsible for ensuring an effective LSCB is in place the Board is a distinct and separate body with duties set out in statutory guidance. In Brighton and Hove the LSCB has provided reports to the Children and Young People's Board, but is not accountable to it. Our LSCB now has an Independent Chair who has attended the Trust Board and will provide regular reports on the quality and effectiveness of local safeguarding and child protection services.

The Director of Children's Services is responsible for ensuring the Independent Chair fulfils the terms of their job description and contract. The relationship between a Local Safeguarding Children Board and a Children's Trust Board is complex:

Chapter 3 of the 2006 Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children states:

3.52 The LSCB should not be subordinate to, or subsumed within, the children's trust arrangements in a way that might compromise its separate identity and independent voice. The LSCB should expect to be consulted by the partnership on issues that affect how children are safeguarded and how their welfare is promoted. The LSCB is a formal consultee during the development of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Lord Laming's Report 'The Protection of Children in England (2009)' recommended the revision of this guidance and draft proposals are currently out for consultation for implementation in April 2010.

The future relationship between LSCBs and Children's Trust Boards has also been addressed in the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009. Statutory Guidance to inform the implementation of the Act is also out for consultation. In summary:

- The Children's Trust Board must link to the LSCB and ensure ongoing direct and regular communication with it. The LSCB is a distinct and separate body with a separate identity and independent voice that has a role to challenge the CTB. It is not subsumed by or subordinate to the CTB.

- The Children's Trust Board will receive an annual report from the LSCB on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements locally."

44.26 Councillor McCaffery asked a supplementary question, "Thank you for your very long and very full answer, it stretched to a whole page.

We are, of course, as Councillors aware of the recent, horrendous case where two young boys were attacked by two other young boys and also that in the report of that there were 31 occasions when there was a failure on the part of the council to intervene which might have prevented that attack.

As Councillors we take a strategic direction and importantly decide the budget regarding our children's services. We need to know how well our procedures are working. How will the Local Safeguarding Children Board report to us? I understand from your answer and I welcome the last bullet point that there will be an annual report to CYPT. I would like to know how that report will be communicated to us and all the 54 Councillors and indeed whether that yearly report will be in the public domain?"

44.27 Councillor Brown replied, "I apologise for the long answer but it is quite complicated.

Yes, we will get a yearly report and I am sure it will be open to all Councillors and, I would have thought, to a wider audience but obviously if there is any information that is classified and can't be given out, then we will have to look at it very carefully and until we have the first one it's a bit difficult to say that.

I would just like to say that we are working very closely with the Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Independent Chair has attended the CYPT and explained his roles and responsibilities already. We held a spring Safeguarding Conference that all senior staff, the Independent Chair and myself attended and just a fortnight ago the Chair, the named GP and the named nurse for child protection, a Social Services Manager and myself all attended a Safeguarding Conference arranged by COHSE for all authorities in the south east. I also sit as an observer now on the Local Safeguarding Children Board, so there is close links but it does have to have its separate identity."

44.28 **(g)** Councillor Mitchell asked,

In his departmental budget report for 2010/11, the Cabinet Member for Environment is proposing a £200,000 cut to the council's Supported Transport budget with effect from April 2010. Given that this would have entailed the formal three month prior notification of contract termination, could the Cabinet Member inform the council as to whether this notification has been served and which bus service contracts and routes will be affected?"

44.29 Councillor Theobald replied,

The city council is mindful of the statutory obligation on the bus operator to give the Traffic Commissioner 56 days notice of any service cancellations. Budget figures are constantly being updated as fresh information becomes available. If indeed the administration proposes any changes to subsidised bus routes then the appropriate documentation will be issued in due course."

44.30 Councillor Mitchell asked a supplementary question, "Thank you very much Councillor Theobald for your response. I have to say that there does seem to be a glimmer of hope maybe in your response that the cuts that were decided at Cabinet may actually be reversed in the same way that we have seen the cuts to the History Centre and Booth Museum reversed, so I do hope that can be the case.

My supplementary question actually relates to the very well used bus route service No 21 extension that goes through the Marina, through Whitehawk, Manor Hill, down to the Open Market, London Road and also enables people to access Brighton Station and City College. That service is currently funded by a Section 106 Agreement which will come to an end in March and I would like to ask Councillor Theobald if he would give assurances today that you will find that additional money within your budget to keep that very valuable service running?"

44.31 Councillor Theobald replied, "I don't think I've got anything to add to what I actually say today, which is budget figures are constantly being updated as fresh information becomes available."

44.32 Councillor Morgan asked a further supplementary question, "Given that Councillor Theobald's recently published parking report states that council subsidised bus routes are funded from parking income, why is he proposing these budget cuts when his Administration made £7m profit from parking last year?"

44.33 Councillor Theobald replied, "I don't think I'm proposing anything here today."

44.34 **(h)** Councillor Caulfield asked,

In the light of 1) her Scrutiny Committee's examination of the Administration's housing budget proposals last week and 2) comments in Gscene from the Leader of the Labour Group and her housing spokesperson that the LDV is not worth pursuing, could Cllr. Meadows, in her capacity as Chair of the Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee, reassure council members that she, and the rest of the Labour

Group, are fully committed to supporting tenants in ensuring that the LDV is successfully set up this spring?"

44.35 Councillor Meadows replied,

"Neither quotation contained within the Gscene article stated that the LDV is not worth pursuing. I can readily give assurances that the Labour Group remains committed to the principals of a Local Delivery Vehicle and recognise its potential, not only in terms of benefits to tenant's homes but other uses in the long term.

However, in common with other interested parties, including the other political parties on the council, we reserve the right to question and scrutinise the process as the LDV is set up, in terms of its cost and the achievement of its original objectives."

44.36 Councillor Caulfield asked a supplementary question, "I do actually disagree with your answer because at Scrutiny last week you did actually us the question: 'Is the LDV worth pursuing?'. My supplementary to your answer is after his election defeat in 2007 the ex-Labour Council Leader, Simon Burgess, talked about the housing stock transfer debacle in an interview with the 'Argus' and I've got his quote here. He said, 'the issue didn't help with motivation and tenants were left wondering whether they could trust us or not.'

Does Councillor Meadows then think that almost three years later playing politics with the LDV is going to help to restore that trust and can she therefore confirm today, and give us a cast-iron assurance, that both she and the Labour Group will support the LDV proposals at Budget Council next month?"

44.37 Councillor Meadows replied, "I can only say and state that I will give assurances that the Labour Group remains committed to the principles of a Local Delivery Vehicle and recognise its potential, not only in terms of benefits to tenants homes but other uses in the long term. However, as Chair of Adult Social Care & Housing Scrutiny Panel it would be rather remiss of me not to scrutinise any budget proposals."

44.38 Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked a further supplementary question, "I am grateful for Councillor Meadows and her answer and as she is speaking as Chair of Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Bearing in mind she does say within the first answer to the initial question, I can readily give assurances that the Labour Group remains committed to the principles, etc, etc, could I draw attention to the fact that actually she is replying as the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and as such would she confirm therefore that a Labour Group Whip was actually in place?"

44.39 Councillor Meadows replied, "I'm sorry, I don't reply for the Whip."

44.40 **(i)** Councillor Davey asked,

Brighton & Hove Buses are justifiably an award winning service provider and the partnership with the city council is often cited as an example of best practice yet, concerns remain over aspects of the bus service in the city. These concerns include: high prices as recently highlighted by the Office of Fair Trading, a limited service to the outer areas of the city, congestion in the city centre and poor air quality. Could the Cabinet Member for Environment please tell us what he is doing to address these issues?"

44.41 Councillor Theobald replied,

"The Council has no direct control over fare levels as it is a commercial decision for the bus company. Officers and I meet regularly with the bus company to discuss matters of mutual concern."

44.42 Councillor Davey asked a supplementary question, "You say the council has no direct control over buses in the city, however, other local authorities are using powers provided in the Local Transport Act 2008 that give them some control over bus services. Will the Cabinet Member be using similar powers to secure and improve the bus service for the people of Brighton & Hove?"

44.43 Councillor Theobald replied, "I've given you the answer to this particular question. You're actually asking me something completely different. In my view, Madam Mayor, that is not a supplementary to the question that is here."

44.44 **(j)** Councillor Simson asked,

"As the Council's representative on the Sussex Police Authority, could Cllr. Duncan please tell me how much it has cost to police the last two 'Smash EDO' demonstrations (in May 2009 and January 2010)?"

44.45 Councillor Duncan replied,

Thanks for your question. Final figures for the policing costs incurred during the events you describe are yet to be published: I'm happy to report back, via the Community Safety Forum, when they are. That's likely to be in March this year, when the financial report for the force's budgetary year 2009/10 is completed.

In the meantime, I can report that Sussex Police has incurred costs of approximately £5.1 million in relation to policing politically motivated events in Brighton and Hove during the current financial year, including the Labour Party conference, several multi-denominational 'peace' walks, weekly peace vigils in the city, and the protests, to which your question directly refers, against the role of the Brighton-based EDO-ITT factory in manufacturing weapons components that have reportedly been used by the Israeli military during the unlawful bombing raids in Gaza that killed more than 1400 people in January 2009, many of them civilians.

The protest last May directly cost £370,080; no information is available yet for the cost of policing the January 2010 protest.

In any event, I expect – and have strongly argued at SPA meetings – that the Home Office will meet these costs from general exchequer funds so, in the final analysis, there will be no budgetary implications for Sussex Police. It has already been agreed that, should the Home Office decide not to meet the costs of policing any or all of these events, such costs will be met centrally – and not from the budget for policing Brighton and Hove."

44.46 Councillor Simson asked a supplementary question, "On his ever informative and fascinating blog Councillor Duncan stated of the 'Smash EDO' protests and I quote, 'in short there has been a complete breakdown of trust between the demonstrators and Sussex Police. None of this is the protestors' fault. It's no wonder really that they don't trust the police. In the past Sussex Police has been seen to be taking sides in the way it has policed 'Smash EDOs' regular vigils at the factory.'

Does Councillor Duncan feel that 'Smash EDO' are correct in refusing to co-operate with the Police, using this breakdown in trust as a reason, thus incurring additional policing costs and will he take this opportunity to publicly condemn them for their irresponsible attitude?"

44.47 Councillor Duncan replied, "Thank you very much for your question. I didn't quite understand it because there were two ideas roughed up in there, so firstly I will say I will answer them in reverse order.

I won't take this opportunity to publicly condemn 'Smash EDO' protestors' objectives. Their objectives are to stop a factory which is reportedly making weapons of mass destruction.

I think there has been a breakdown of trust between the police who are responsible for policing the protests and some of the protestors. That's not a view I've come to on my own, that's the view of the police in a number of the briefings that I've had before the protests with them. I think, however, there is some justification for both the Police's attitude and the protestors' attitude. It's not really for me to say whether either the police or the protestors are right, it's merely for me to report that both the police think the police are right and the protestors think the protestors are right.

We've all got a duty to work together for the good of the city to see a factory close down that is promoting these protests."

44.48 Councillor Allen asked a further supplementary question, "Would Councillor Duncan, Brighton & Hove's sole representative on the Sussex Police Authority and aren't we lucky, please confirm that the Police Authority regards active participation as a demonstrator in events such as 'Smash EDO' as an essential part of on the job training for Members of the Authority and could he confirm that the other Members of the Police Authority, Conservative, Labour and Lib Dem, are as conscientious as he is in their demonstrating duties?"

44.49 Councillor Duncan replied, "Thank you for that very informative question. I can confirm that there was one other Member of the Police Authority present at the January demonstration. She is an independently appointed Member of the Police Authority representing the Brighton & Hove area. There is one other representative from this area, also independently appointed, who has not, as far as I am aware, taken part in a protest.

I can't confirm what the police attitude is about whether it's a sensible use of Authority Members' time but I can confirm that I am always encouraged to be playing an active role in the protests and with the police who are taking their position very seriously in delivering the democratically chosen Local Policing Plan which recognises the police's duty to facilitate peaceful protest on our streets."

44.50 **(k)** Councillor Bennett asked,

"Residents are asking me…Dyke Road is a gateway into Brighton and Hove and sets visitors first impressions of the City. Cars are being parked on the grass verges on the western side causing damage, even though the road is wide enough for cars to be parked correctly; these appear to be overspill cars from nearby parking schemes. How will the council rectify the situation?"

44.51 Councillor Theobald replied,

"Cars have been parking along these verges for several years now and the Council cannot prevent this where there are no yellow lines. Only the Police can take action for obstruction.

In order to prevent vehicles from blocking bus stops, thus causing danger to bus passengers, 24 hour bus stop clearways will shortly be installed. The yellow lines could be extended along Dyke Road, which would protect the verges, but this would lead to more cars parking in the side roads."

44.52 Councillor Bennett asked a supplementary question, "Neighbouring authorities like Eastbourne and Worthing have neat posts installed to protect the grass verges and they work very well. Would it be possible for your department to investigate this option for the city's grass verges?"

44.53 Councillor Theobald replied, "We can investigate any options and certainly I will ask officers to look at it. I mean I do know that stretch of road well and there are posts put there in front of some verges. I sympathise with residents and I understand that when the verges are disturbed… We can look at it but I'm not sure, because there are other areas of the city as well. The city is a big place, 3,000 roads and, unfortunately, it's becoming more common for vehicles to park on verges."

44.54 **(l)** Councillor Bennett asked,

"The school parking sign outside Lancing Pre Prep has the wrong times for no parking. The school operates at different hours to those displayed; could I please have a date for when the council will amend the sign to the correct hours?"

44.55 Councillor Theobald replied,

"The times displayed on School Keep Clear signs across the city are all the same because they are all subject to the same city-wide Traffic Regulation Order. It was considered important that the signs are consistent across the city so that Parking Enforcement can be carried out effectively.

Officers have already been in discussion over the matter with Lancing Pre Prep School, and are carrying out an informal consultation to gauge how many other schools would benefit if the No Stopping times were extended or changed. I will be discussing the results of the informal consultation with my colleague the Cabinet Member for Children's Services."

44.56 Councillor Bennett asked a supplementary question, "The signs with the wrong times are more dangerous than no signs outside the school at all. The discussions have been going on about changing these signs for a number of years. Would it please be possible to have a more solid date for when they will be changed?"

44.57 Councillor Theobald replied, "I am actually inclined to agree with the point that Councillor Bennett has made about signs and it's better to have not a sign at all, rather than one giving inaccurate timings for that particular school.

I think we've inherited a situation here where all the signs in the city, as I have said in my initial answer, say the same thing and, of course, there are a few independent schools where the times are different. That is where the informal consultation is going on and once we have received that I will discuss it with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, because there might well be some other independent schools and if then we took this matter further, as it's possible, there would have to be a full consultation to change the signs to a different time."

44.58 **(m)** Councillor Bennett asked,

"Will the council commit to work with City Park to ensure maximum use of the car parks to help reduce the problems on local roads by overspill parking?"

44.59 Councillor Theobald replied,

"The council is already working closely with the occupiers of City Park (Legal & General and Lloyds/TSB) to reduce the number of employees travelling to work on their own by car.

Last year, for instance, Legal & General and Lloyds/TSB agreed to work together to promote sustainable travel choices to their employees and produced a joint Travel Plan, a first for Brighton & Hove."

44.60 Councillor Bennett asked a supplementary question, "As the employees at City Park still come by car but park in the surrounding roads causing disruption and distress to local residents, would it not be better for them to use the underused car park and could the officers work with City Park to try and promote this?"

44.61 Councillor Theobald replied, "If there is a car park at City Park belonging to Legal & General and Lloyds TSB and they obviously own those car parks, if you're telling me that that car park is regularly empty then certainly we'll talk to Lloyds and to Legal & General. I mean we are already working with them on sustainable travel choices. They run a lottery for instance and the winning people are on that lottery get a car parking space for the next two weeks. I mean those are the sorts of illustrations that I've been informed about but if you are telling me that there are car parking spaces regularly empty there then that's something I will certainly ask officers to have a word with."

44.62 Councillor Hyde asked a further supplementary question, "I'm in no doubt that the misguided planning policy of car-free development has contributed significantly to the problem of overspill and parking on local roads across the whole city over the last five years. I remember the Legal & General coming to committee before I was Chair and I said that there had been many problems but, of course, it wasn't listened to. Would Councillor Theobald therefore agree with me that the recent reinstatement of that policy in the Core Strategy by the rainbow coalition, which, of course, is Labour, Lib Dem and the Greens, was irresponsible and contrary to the wishes of the vast majority of residents of the city."

44.63 Councillor Theobald replied, "Yes."

45. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

45.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

Item 46 - Students in the Community – Scrutiny Review Panel Report;
Item 47 - Procurement of a Brighton & Hove GP-Led Health Centre – Scrutiny Panel Report;
Item 48 - Older People and Community Safety – Scrutiny Panel Report;
Item 49 - Licence Fees 2010/11;
Item 50 - Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-2011;
Item 51 - 12-Month Review of the Constitution.

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

45.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Item No's. 46 to 51 inclusive had been reserved for discussion.

(c) Oral Questions from Members

45.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

46. STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT

46.1 Councillor Meadows introduced the report which detailed the findings of the Adult Social Care & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Scrutiny Review Panel which looked at the issues relating to the growing number of students in the city and their impact on communities.

46.2 Councillor Wrighton stated that she fully supported the report and noted that the Panel's recommendations had taken some time to be considered by the Cabinet and welcomed the additional response from the Local Strategic Housing Partnership.

46.3 Councillor Caulfield welcomed the report but was disappointed that a number of the recommendations had focussed on environment and planning matters and had not addressed matters such as the change of use of family homes into student accommodation. She hoped that such matters would be taken up by the Strategic Housing Partnership.

46.4 Councillor Mears stated that she felt it was important to recognise the work of Dr. smith from Brighton University with the Housing Partnership and that the Panel's recommendations were being taken forward.

46.5 Councillor Randall welcomed the report but queried whether the Housing Partnership's work was having any real effect in certain wards such as his own. He believed the use of homes and the failure of landlords to look after their properties contributed to the problem and hoped that further work with the universities could be undertaken to encourage better use of the Halls of Residence and an understanding of the needs of local communities.

46.6 Councillor Theobald offered his congratulations to the Members of the Review Panel on an excellent report and noted that the recommendations linked to the Environment Directorate had been implemented.

46.7 Councillor Meadows thanked the Members for their comments and stated that the Panel had to complete its task and therefore had not been able to look at all aspects involving the impact of students. She believed that there was a need to work with the universities and to consider how affordable accommodation for students could be provided, whilst recognising the demand for family homes etc.

46.8 The Mayor noted that the report was before council for noting and asked that it be noted.

46.9 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

Refreshment Break

46.10 The Mayor stated that in view of the time and in wishing to give the opportunity for a full debate on the next item, she proposed to adjourn the meeting for the refreshment break.

46.11 The meeting was then adjourned at 6.25pm.

46.12 The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6.55pm.

47. PROCUREMENT OF A BRIGHTON & HOVE GP-LED HEALTH CENTRE: - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT

47.1 Councillor Alford introduced the report of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Scrutiny Review Panel into the issue of the procurement of a Brighton and Hove GP-Led Health Centre. Councillor Alford noted that the Panel's recommendations related to local NHS procurement and therefore the response had been made by the NHS Brighton & Hove. He also wished to place on record his thanks to the officers in supporting the Panel and helping to produce the final report.

47.2 Councillors Kitcat and Allen welcomed the report and noted that the Panel's remit had been very narrow but had produced a number of recommendations which had been accepted by the NHS. Councillor Allen also wished to record his thanks to the Scrutiny Support Officer.

47.3 Councillor Peltzer Dunn welcomed the report and noted the positive response received from the Chief Executive of the NHS.

47.4 The Mayor noted that the report was before council for noting and asked that it be noted.

47.5 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

48. OLDER PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT

48.1 Councillor Marsh introduced the report of the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Scrutiny Review Panel into Older People and Community Safety. Councillor Marsh noted that a number of the recommendations had been taken board and actioned and welcomed the executive's response. She also wished to place on record her thanks to the officers involved in the review process and the Scrutiny Support Officer.

48.2 Councillor Kennedy welcomed the report and stated that she had been pleased to see the issue taken forward in such a way. She also wished to place on record her thanks to the officers involved.

48.3 Councillor Simson stated that the report had been presented at the Community Safety Forum which had commented on how good a report it was. She stated that the

recommendations would be taken forward and was certain the Community Safety Forum would monitor their implementation.

48.4 Councillors commented on the various findings of the report and expressed their support and hope that the implementation of the recommendations would make a difference to the lives of Older People.

48.5 Councillor Marsh thanked the Members for their comments.

48.6 The Mayor noted that the report was before Council for noting and moved that it be noted.

48.7 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

49. LICENCE FEES 2010/11

49.1 Councillor Cobb introduced the report which set out the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11 relating to the range of services covered by Environmental Health and Licensing. She also noted that there was a Green amendment to the recommendations and stated that the Conservative Group were happy to accept it.

49.2 Councillor Kitcat moved the Green Group amendment which would freeze certain charges.

49.3 Councillor Randall formerly seconded the amendment.

49.4 The Mayor then put the amendment to the vote which was carried and therefore put the recommendations as amended to the vote.

49.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Fees and Charges within the schedule at Appendix A to the report subject to the following amendments be approved:

(i) The penultimate sentence of paragraph 3.2 of the report to read, “It is also proposed to freeze the Street Trading charges;”

(ii) The first sentence of paragraph 3.8 to read “It is proposed to freeze sex establishment fees, street trading fees and maintain taxi licence fees.;” and

(iii) To amend Appendix A to replace all references of 10% Street Trading Fees increases with 0%.

Note: Councillors Elgood, Kemble, Mears and Wells having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item had withdrawn from the meeting and took no part in the debate or vote thereon.

50. COMMUNITY SAFETY, CRIME REDUCTION AND DRUGS STRATEGY 2008 -2011

50.1 Councillor Simson introduced the report which sought approval of the priorities within the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-11 and to the action plans for the delivery of those priorities. She noted that the Cabinet had agreed the Strategy and action plans and recommended that they be approved by the council.

50.2 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and stated that it was the culmination of excellent partnership working and wished to thank the officers concerned for bringing it forward.

50.3 Councillor Elgood welcomed the report and stated that he felt it was the best report that he had seen as a councillor. He hoped that it would be implemented and that the strategy would be taken to the various Local Action Teams (LATs) for sign –up.

50.4 Councillor Duncan echoed the comments and stated that the Green Group fully supported the aims of the strategy.

50.5 Councillor Simson thanked the Members for their comments and stated that she hoped the strategy would be refreshed annually so that certain issues could be raised as priorities. She accepted that the strategy's implementation was an important factor and would seek to ensure its success.

50.6 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved which she put to the vote and were carried.

50.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Community Safety, Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2008-11, the priorities within the strategy, together with the action plans for the delivery of those priorities be approved.

51. 12-MONTH REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

51.1 Councillor Oxley introduced the report which detailed the outcome of the 12-month review of the Constitution and put forward proposals for amendments to the Constitution. Councillor Oxley wished to place on record his thanks to the officers involved in the review process and for putting together the various amendments resulting from the consultation exercise. He noted that both the Governance Committee and the Cabinet had agreed the respective recommendations that fell under their responsibilities and that the intention would be for all the changes to come into effect on the day after the Annual Council Meeting in May.

51.2 Councillor Oxley also noted that there was a Green amendment to the recommendations and stated that he could not accept them. Whilst the transition from the committee system to the Leader and Cabinet model had been a complex one, he believed it had retained the aims of openness and transparency and therefore should be maintained as far as possible, whilst taking into account the proposed amendments.

51.3 Councillor Taylor stated that the Green Group welcomed the report and the changes being proposed, but felt that they did not necessarily go far enough and the amendment

sought to go a step further. It was felt that the number of Cabinet Member Meetings could be reduced with the loss of the Enterprise, Employment & Major Projects and Culture, Recreation & Tourism CMM's. In the long-term the CMM's for Environment and Housing would also be cut and all business transacted at Cabinet meetings. It was also felt that the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee should be split into two, with a separate Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee created. The current remit of the committee was too large and this change would enable a more effective overview & scrutiny process to be established. He therefore formerly moved the amendment.

51.4 Councillor Randall formerly seconded the amendment.

51.5 Councillor Elgood welcomed the report and stated that he fully supported the proposed amendments and hoped that further consideration would be given to enabling neighbourhood decision-making to become a reality. He also suggested that consideration should be given to the re-establishment of an Equalities Forum, which had been successful in the past and would compliment the Community Safety Forum.

51.6 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and stated that she felt the consultation exercise had been very constructive and the proposed amendments would provide benefits for those involved in the democratic processes of the council. However, she could not support the Green amendment which did not appear to have provided for the resource implications if were to be approved and therefore it would be better to consider the proposals as part of another review.

51.7 Councillor Simson stated that she was surprised by the Green amendment and queried how the Community Safety Form (CSF), was expected to operate if a Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee was established. She believed the CSF provided an excellent means of engaging with groups and partners and a means of reviewing issues etc. She also noted that the City Inclusion Forum had been established and suggested that it held a wider remit than an Equalities Forum and therefore there was not a need to have a separate Equalities Forum.

51.8 Councillor Oxley noted the comments and stated that he believed it was important to maintain a process that was open and transparent. The CMM's were part of that process and as such should be retained as they offered the public the opportunity to see how and when decisions were being made and to hold those decisions to account. He felt that the Green amendment had not been thought through and failed to account for the resource implications and therefore should not be accepted. The proposed amalgamation of the Central Services and Finance CMM's into the Cabinet was a logical one in view of the corporate nature of the business they were responsible for. However, the remaining CMM's were necessary and should remain. He was unclear as to why there was a need for an extra overview & scrutiny committee and what the role of the CSF would be under such a structure. He therefore wished to move the recommendations of the report and to oppose the Green amendment.

51.9 The Mayor noted that an amendment had been moved and put it to the vote which was lost.

51.10 The Mayor then put the recommendations to the vote which were carried.

51.11 **RESOLVED:**

(1) That the proposals for amendments to the Constitution to be effective from the day after the Annual Council Meeting in May 2010, as set out in recommendations 8 and 13 in the body of the report be approved; and

(2) That the Head of Law be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution to reflect the above recommendations and those of the Cabinet and Governance Committee.

52. NOTICES OF MOTION.

(a) Support Fairtrade in the City

52.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Davis.

52.2 Councillor Cobb moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Kemble, which was accepted by Councillor Mitchell.

52.3 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"In 2009 the Fairtrade Foundation celebrates its 15th Anniversary as Brighton celebrates being the UK's first Fairtrade town over 13 years ago.

Seven in 10 households purchase Fairtrade goods, including an extra 1.3 million more households in 2008, helping Fairtrade sales reach an estimated £700m in 2008, a 43% increase on the previous year. There are over 460 producer organisations selling to the UK and 746 to the global Fairtrade system, representing more than 1.5 million farmers and workers.

Over 4,500 products have been licensed to carry the Fairtrade Mark including;

coffee, tea, herbal teas, chocolate, cocoa, sugar, bananas, grapes, pineapples, mangoes, avocados, apples, pears, plums, grapefruit, lemons, oranges, satsumas, clementines, mandarins, lychees, coconuts, dried fruit, juices, smoothies, biscuits, cakes & snacks, honey, jams & preserves, chutney & sauces, rice, quinoa, herbs & spices, seeds, nuts & nut oil, wines, beers, rum, confectionary, muesli, cereal bars, yoghurt, ice-cream, flowers, sports balls and cotton products including clothing, homeware, cloth toys, cotton wool, olive oil and beauty products.

In June this year, the Fairtrade Foundation announced the first cosmetic products to carry the Fairtrade Mark in the UK.

Businesses in Brighton and Hove will be stocking these products . 57 new Fairtrade products will contain one or more Fairtrade certified ingredient such as cocoa butter, shea nut butter, sugar or brazil nut oil, benefiting disadvantaged producers from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

This Council recognises that introducing Fairtrade labelling to cosmetic products will increase the overall number of Fairtrade products in UK shops and the volumes of ingredients which producers are able to sell under Fairtrade terms, which in turn increases the benefits back to farmers.

(1) This Council calls upon the Cabinet to consider the Council's responsibility as a guiding force in local businesses to encourage the use of Fairtrade products in business and also to the City's residents through the following;

- Reaffirming its commitment to Fairtrade and ensuring that the City will continue to be classified as a 'Fairtrade City.'

- Being a leading example to the City and where appropriate, ensuring that only Fairtrade products are served and sold on Council premises, such as fruit, fruit juices, soaps, jams, teas and coffees.

- Publicising its Fairtrade policy and practice via City News and the Council's website.

(2) That the Chief Executive write to the Managers of Boots (North Road) and Neil's Yard as local businesses that have chosen to stock the new Fairtrade products, welcoming their decision to stock more Fairtrade products locally; and

(3) That the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for International Development, renewing this City's commitment to Fairtrade and welcoming the almost £2 million dedicated to Fairtrade Foundation since 1997 out of £12 million to fair and ethical trade initiatives and the £400 million for Aid for Trade which helps developing countries build their trade capacity."

52.4 **The motion was carried.**

(b) Support Consideration of a New Co-Operative Trust Primary School for Hove

52.5 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Davis and seconded by Councillor Hawkes.

52.6 Councillor Brown moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Alford, which was accepted by Councillor Mitchell.

52.7 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"Co-operative Trust Schools are becoming an increasingly popular way of raising school standards through developing partnerships, helping to engage the local community and strengthening the curriculum through the shared co-operative values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equity and community solidarity. They can help raise aspirations and standards, ensure that parents have more choice of good local schools and have a greater say in the running of their schools through better democratic participation.

There are now 240 Co-op Trust schools operating in the UK with five Primary Schools in Doncaster being included within the Trust Schools Programme in October 2009, supported by Government funding to become established. The Trust School model is flexible, allowing schools and their governing bodies to build a Trust that meets their specific needs.

This council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People to:

(1) Recognise that the Co-operative Trust School model incorporates values and principles that would benefit children, parents and communities in the city;

(2) Commits to giving serious consideration to a range of potential providers, including the Co-operative Trust, when seeking to provide a new Primary School in Hove; and

(3) Considers how the Co-operative Trust School Programme could generally enhance cross-sector educational provision in Brighton and Hove, particularly in respect of poorly performing schools."

52.8 **The motion was carried.**

(c) High Pay Commission

52.9 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Randall and seconded by Councillor Kitcat.

52.10 Councillor Allen moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hamilton, which was **not** accepted by Councillor Randall.

The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Allen had not been accepted by Councillor Randall and therefore put the amendment to the vote, which was carried.

52.11 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"This council recognises that the pay gap between high earners and the rest of society, particularly those on low incomes, is unfair, unsustainable and damaging to social cohesion.

It also recognises that inflated bonus payments and other rewards in the banking and financial sector fuelled the risk-taking that nearly brought down the world economy and triggered the recession.

Furthermore, it believes the unfair and unjustifiable gap between high and low earners is not restricted to the private sector and that pay differentials in local government and other public services are unacceptable and should also be addressed.

This council notes the campaign launched by the pressure group Compass for the establishment of a High Pay Commission.

At the same time this council acknowledges the action taken by the government to tackle the excess bonus culture, welcoming in particular the announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Pre-Budget statement that there will be a 50% levy on bank bonuses above £25,000 and that over half of additional revenue will be raised from the wealthiest 2% of the population."

52.12 **The motion was carried.**

(d) Protecting Neighbourhood Policing Services in Brighton and Hove

52.13 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Duncan and seconded by Councillor Taylor.

52.14 Councillor Simson moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Theobald, which was not accepted by Councillor Duncan.

52.15 Councillor Morgan moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Meadows, which was accepted by Councillor Duncan.

52.16 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Simson had not been accepted by Councillor Duncan and therefore put the proposed amendment to the vote, which was carried.

52.17 The Mayor noted that in moving her amendment, Councillor Simson had indicated that she was happy to accept the amendment moved by Councillor Morgan.

52.18 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"Both crime and, crucially, fear of crime, are falling in Brighton and Hove.

This is, in large part, due to the model of neighbourhood policing that has been adopted by Sussex Police, and, in particular, the engagement of both PCSOs and police officers with community groups and LATs across the city. Since 2007 the number of PCSOs and police officers patrolling the city has risen.

This Council believes:

1. That residents of the city want to see more, not less, community-led policing in their neighbourhoods;

2. That the Government should find the necessary funding from appropriate sources to increase the budget allocated to Sussex Police in 2010/11 and coming years;

3. That any cuts Sussex Police are forced to make should not lead to any reduction in the numbers of staff and officers employed to serve the city of Brighton and Hove – or the partnership work with this council, LATs or any other community groups.

This Council therefore resolves:

1. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the city's three MPs urging them to put pressure on Government to ensure additional funds are available to Sussex Police to ring-fence neighbourhood policing in Brighton and Hove;

2. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Constable of Sussex, Martin Richards QPM, and the Chairman of Sussex Police Authority, Laurie Bush, asking them to ensure there are no cuts to the numbers of police staff or officers delivering neighbourhood policing in Brighton and Hove; and

3. To place on record its thanks to Sussex Police for all the force's efforts to improve community safety in the city, especially the force's decision to open a new public-facing police station in Hollingbury last year, and the way police staff and officers have engaged with partnership work, both with this Council and the network of LATS representing neighbourhoods across the city.

4. To ask the Council's sole representative on the Sussex Police Authority to relay to his fellow members the Council's view that the proactive use of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders and a tough stance against benefit fraud has had a significant positive effect on reducing both "crime and, crucially, the fear of crime" in Brighton & Hove."

52.19 **The motion was carried.**

(e) Responsible Licensing

52.20 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Fryer and seconded by Councillor West.

52.21 Councillor Cobb moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Simson, which was accepted by Councillor Fryer.

52.22 Councillor Lepper moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Morgan, which was **not** accepted by Councillor Fryer.

52.23 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"This council notes that:

Nationally there are over 200,000 hospital admissions related to alcohol each year, of which 20,000 are under the age of 18.

Brighton & Hove has a serious problem with excessive alcohol consumption in people of all ages, with over 2,000 hospital admissions per year related to alcohol.

According to Sussex Police, five children a week, on average, are hospitalised in Brighton and Hove owing to alcohol abuse - a staggering ten times higher than the

national average.

Brighton & Hove PCT has recognised and is targeting the need to reduce hospital related admissions due to alcohol consumption.

In the published 2008 report of Brighton and Hove's Director of public Health Dr Tom Scanlon reported that the negative health impacts of alcohol use by children and young people are worsening in the city.

Furthermore, organisations such as Alcohol Concern have found that the average amount of pocket money young people receive would enable them to buy 57 units of alcohol per week.

The recent scrutiny 'Reducing Alcohol related harm to children and young people' recognised the correlation between a lower price of alcohol and off-sales purchasing with higher rates of alcohol consumption.

70 per cent of all alcohol supplied in the UK is sold by supermarkets where most alcohol is the cheapest.

A great deal of anti-social behaviour is associated with people drinking on the street, i.e. drinking alcohol purchased from off-licenses rather than pubs and clubs where the alcohol is consumed on-site.

Deliberately selling alcohol at a loss, known as 'loss leaders' encourages people to purchase alcohol in off-licenses where it is virtually impossible for the licensee to have any control over its consumption.

Earlier this year a Sussex Police and Sussex Police Authority issued a joint statement calling for a ban on volume-related alcohol discounts in pubs and called for '2 for 1' deals to be scrapped in favour of lowering drinks prices across the board. The statement, a response to the Government's consultation of revisions to its Code of Conduct for Alcohol Retailers, also called for a ban on 'loss leaders' - the practise of alcohol being sold for less that it costs retailers - especially in supermarkets.

Therefore this Council requests the Chief Executive to write to Gerry Sutcliffe, the Minister for Alcohol Licensing, calling for:

a) A ban on the practice of selling alcohol at a cost which is lower than the cost price for the licensee; and

b) A ban on the practice of drinks promotions such as '2 for 1' and 'Happy Hour' which encourage people to consume more alcohol and at a faster rate than they would otherwise have done

c) A thorough overhaul of the Licensing Act 2003 including giving councils the power to (i) make it easier to remove licences from any premises which are continually causing problems, in particular, those found selling alcohol to children; and (ii) charge more for late night licences to pay for additional policing.

Furthermore it calls on:

a) the Licensing Committee to draw up a list of 'best practice' which takes into account the recommendations of the 'Reducing Alcohol related harm to children and young people' scrutiny and looks into ways of publicly recognising and rewarding responsible licensees who follow best practice, in a similar way to its successful 'Scores-on-the-Doors' scheme;

b) The Cabinet to consider how planning policy and enforcement could be more effectively used to supplement the existing licensing powers to control the availability of alcohol through licensed premises in the City and to bring forward a report as a matter of priority."

52.24 **The motion was carried.**

(f) Van Dwellers in Brighton and Hove

52.25 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Mears and seconded by Councillor Theobald.

52.26 Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Fryer, which was accepted by Councillor Mears.

52.27 Councillor McCaffery moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Mitchell, which was accepted by Councillor Mears.

52.28 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"This Council notes the growing number of "van dwellers" on the City's roads. The only other cities in the U.K. with similar levels of lived in vehicles are Bristol and Blackpool.

This Council notes that van dwellers do not generally meet the legal definition of gypsies and travellers and in the main, have expressed a desire to remain in Brighton & Hove.

This Council considers that the legal measures available to deal with the problem of van dwellers are both cumbersome and inadequate.

Therefore, this Council resolves:

To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking him to recognise the unique nature of the van dwelling and to request that councils be required to undertake a survey of the accommodation needs of "van dwellers" and report to the government accordingly, in order for policies to be established to enable councils to address their particular accommodation needs."

52.29 **The motion was carried.**

(g) Sussex University – Cuts to Jobs and Services

52.30 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Randall and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

52.31 Councillor Kemble moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hyde, which was put to the vote by the Mayor and lost.

52.32 Councillor Elgood moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Watkins, which was accepted by Councillor Randall.

52.33 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"Nearly 50 years after it was established, the University of Sussex is a leading teaching and research institution. In the 2009 Times Higher Education University World Rankings, Sussex was ranked in the top five per cent of all universities worldwide.

University of Sussex staff and students play an integral role in Brighton and Hove, contributing to the city's economy, culture and vibrant atmosphere. The entire student community makes up roughly ten per cent of the population and brings in around £250 million to the regional economy annually.

This council notes:

The University of Sussex has revealed plans to cut spending by £5 million during the next academic year, achieved through job losses, course closures and department restructuring.

Proposed changes include:

- a reduction of 24 posts in Life sciences, 13 posts in Informatics, 5 posts in English, 3 in History, Art History and Philosophy and 62 posts in Professional support services including 5.5 Student Advice posts;

- closing Unisex, a tripartite project involving the Universities of Sussex and Brighton and the local NHS Primary Care Trust, that provides support and advice for students concerning sexual health, HIV & Aids, Drugs and Alcohol;

- potentially closing the campus crèche and nursery, which is used by more than 80 staff and 20 students.

This council believes:

- The proposed plans will have a negative impact on staff and students alike;

- In the longer term the cuts could reduce the critical role the university plays in supporting and helping to develop the city's economy and prosperity;

- Reducing student support services is a particularly damaging option.

Therefore, this council

(1) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex informing him of our concern and asking him and his colleagues to reconsider the proposals; and

(2) In communicating these views, this council also calls on the University of Sussex to consider accepting the proposal made by the trade union UCU who adopted a resolution to present an alternative solution (with equivalent savings) to the University management. This proposes additional offers of part time working instead of redundancy, albeit to a greater number of people. It would have the distinct advantage of retaining the skills within the University, avoiding large numbers of redundancy payments, and putting the University in a position where it can grow faster in better economic times. It could also avoid industrial action which will impact negatively on teaching and research as well as the University's reputation."

52.34 **The motion was carried.**

The meeting concluded at 10.45pm

Signed Chairman

Dated this day of