

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

5.00pm 8 DECEMBER 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Kemble (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Turton (Opposition Spokesperson – Labour Group)

Other Members present: Councillor Davis

PART ONE

23. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

23a Declarations of Interests

23.1 There were none

23b Exclusion of Press and Public

23.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act), the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A (3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(I) of the Act).

23.3 **RESOLVED** – that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

24.1 Councillor Turton referred to paragraph 13.3 and asked why October 2009 had been set as a cut off date for the programme of support workshops for local businesses. The Economic Development Manager explained that the support had not been cut off but had been winding down. There would be a re-launch of the project. The Head of Culture and Economy reported that a detailed report on this subject had already been submitted to the Economy Task Force and would be made available to Councillor Turton.

- 24.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes held on 15 September 2009 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member.

25. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Lloyds TSB

- 25.1 The Cabinet Member reported that the council was very sorry to hear, last week, that Lloyds Banking Group announced plans to cut 580 local jobs, closing its contact centre at Sussex House in Grand Parade, Brighton by May 2010. As Lloyds was currently the fourth largest private sector employer in the city this had serious implications, and was clearly the largest loss of jobs for Brighton & Hove in this recession to date.
- 25.2 The city council was working closely with colleagues from the Regional Development Agency (SEEDA) and officers were in the process of setting up a Task Force to help all the affected employees to formulate a rapid response service in order to give staff at risk as much support as possible through this time, including offering tailored skills training and job matching services. A meeting to discuss this further with Lloyds was expected in early December.

Update on Response to the Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel on Environmental Industries

- 25.3 The final Ad Hoc Scrutiny Panel review on Environmental Industries was received in October and in the Cabinet Member's view it was an excellent and thorough piece of work that he welcomed from an economic development perspective. The department was currently formulating an Executive Response and would be arranging an additional Cabinet Member Meeting in January to consider this matter.

Digital Media Development

- 25.4 The Cabinet Member attended a very good inward investment workshop on digital media development in the city which was organised by Wired Sussex. The Regional Development Agency were there, along with UK Trade and Industry and it was a useful and productive session that he hoped would give the council a blueprint for how to chase and retain digital businesses for the city for the future.

Future Jobs Fund

- 25.5 The Cabinet Member reported that the Futures Jobs Fund scheme was progressing well. He carried out a special visit to Hove YMCA, one of the council's partners in the scheme. Hove YMCA also had a ministerial visit on the same day.

26. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 26.1 All items were reserved for discussion.

27. PETITIONS

27.1 There were none.

28. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

28.1 There were none.

29. DEPUTATIONS

29.1 There were none.

30. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

30.1 There were none.

31. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

31.1 Councillor Davis had submitted the following written question:

“Please can the Cabinet Member update us with developments on the i360 project?”

31.2 The Cabinet Member replied as follows:

“The i360 gained planning permission in 2006. All pre-start planning conditions have been discharged and sufficient works have been carried out to for the planning authority to confirm that the development has commenced.

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Agreements with the council as landowner are complete save for a few minor items.

Brighton i360 Limited is currently in discussion with potential funders to secure the remaining funding to enable the project to start. The council is working closely with Brighton i360 both to support the project itself and in bringing forward plans for the seafront arches and landscaping works adjacent to the development.

It remains Brighton i360’s aim to complete the i360 for opening in 2012.
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It remains Brighton i360’s aim to complete the i360 for opening in 2012.”

31.3 The Head of Culture and Economy explained that it was felt that the area around the i360 should not replicate the livelier noisier areas of the city. The arches at the back should be capitalised and used. The big spaces either side of the i360 could be used by artists and for events such as craft markets. Licensing arrangements would allow for light music outside and inside cafes.

31.4 **RESOLVED** – That the written question and response be noted.

32. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

32.1 There were none.

33. BUSINESS RETENTION AND INWARD INVESTMENT STRATEGY

33.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Culture and Enterprise which gave an update on activities carried out in the first 6 months against the approved Business Retention and Inward Investment (BRII) Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Strategy and Implementation Plan was approved on 23 March 2009 and set out the framework for the city council to work with internal and external partners to safeguard and develop the economic base of the city; setting out actions to support and retain existing businesses and attract new ones to the city (for copy see minute book). It was reported that a welcome pack which would provide information to local businesses would be available by the end of the week.

33.2 Councillor Turton considered that the welcome pack was the right approach but noted that there were limited resources. He expressed concern that only one officer would be consigned to implement the strategy. He asked the Cabinet Member to request more resources for the strategy at full Cabinet.

33.3 The Cabinet Member replied that he would be happy to take up Councillor Turton's comments about additional resources with the Leader of the Council.

33.4 Councillor Turton referred to paragraph 3.11 relating to business retention. He asked what would happen to this work after the General Election and asked officers to clarify what would happen if SEEDA was abolished.

33.5 The Cabinet Member said he would write to the Chair of SEEDA and the Shadow Minister to ask them for their views on this matter, and would inform Councillor Turton of the outcome.

33.6 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations.

(1) That the content of the report be noted.

(2) That further updates be requested from the Director of Cultural Services on the actions contained within the Implementation Plan.

The meeting concluded at 5.23pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of