



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee Ad Hoc Panel - 20mph speed limits/zones
Date:	19 January 2010
Time:	10.00am
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: West (Chair) Bennett Mitchell Elgood Wells
Contact:	Libby Young Overview & Scrutiny Assistant 01273 290450 e-mail libby.f.young@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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AGENDA

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|-----------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. | Procedural Business | 1 - 2 |
| 2. | Chairman's Communications | |
| 3. | Evidence-gathering Sessions | 3 - 6 |

To hear evidence from:

- Mark Dunn: Traffic Management, Road Policing Unit, Sussex Police
- Sam Rouse: Senior Technical Officer, Air Quality, Brighton & Hove City Council
- John Stewart: Chair of the UK Noise Association (UKNA)

(Biographies of Speakers, attached.)

Agreed Scrutiny Panel terms of reference, also attached for information.

4. Date of Next Meetings

26th January 2010 at 10am in the Lecture Room, Friends' Meeting House, Brighton

11th February 2010 at 10am in Committee Room 3, Brighton Town Hall

23rd February 2010 at 10am in Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

5. Any Other Business

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Libby Young, (01273 290450 – email libby.f.young@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication 13th January 2010

Agenda Item 1

PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

A. Declaration of Substitutes

Where a Member of the Commission is unable to attend a meeting for whatever reason, a substitute Member (who is not a Cabinet Member) may attend and speak and vote in their place for that meeting. Substitutes are not allowed on Scrutiny Select Committees or Scrutiny Panels.

The substitute Member shall be a Member of the Council drawn from the same political group as the Member who is unable to attend the meeting, and must not already be a Member of the Commission. The substitute Member must declare themselves as a substitute, and be minuted as such, at the beginning of the meeting or as soon as they arrive.

B. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:-
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and
 - (c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.
- (4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:-

(a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence,

(b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee, or

(c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

C. Declaration of party whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

D. Exclusion of press and public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

AGENDA ITEM 3

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Mark Dunn: Traffic Management, Road Policing Unit, Sussex Police:

Mark Dunn served as a police officer with Sussex Police for 31 years, the majority of which was spent on specialist Traffic/Road Policing Departments. Mark retired as an Inspector performing the Operations Manager role within the Road Policing Department in 2004 in order to take up this current role which was converted from a Police Inspector post at that time as part of the Force review.

The Traffic Management role for Sussex Police covers a multitude of tasks in relation to traffic and safety issues, but provides the main point of contact between the police and the relevant highway authorities to provide comment, viewpoint and statutory consultation responses on behalf of the Chief Constable.

Sam Rouse: Senior Technical Officer, Air Quality, Brighton & Hove City Council

Sam Rouse is the officer for air quality in the Environmental Protection Team within Environmental Health.

Under IV of Environment Act 1995, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to assess air quality in their areas. This is achieved through the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) regime. LAQM requires all local authorities in England and Wales to submit to defra reports on the state of their local air quality.

The detailed LAQM reports are in the public domain and present findings of outdoor pollution monitoring. Computer models are utilised to estimate how emissions from vehicles and chimneys disperse in the environment. The monitoring and modelling evidence is compared with the AQS (Air Quality Strategy) for England. The AQS stipulates legally binding objectives for several pollutants in outdoor air it is for the protection of human health i.e the ambient air that people inhale. For Nitrogen Dioxide the AQS objective is the same as that recommended by the World Health Organisation.

If an area (town, city, street, suburb or village) is not in compliance with one or more of the AQS objectives the local authority has a legal duty to declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). Furthermore an action plan is to be written targeting air quality improvement in the AQMA. The air quality action plan plays a part in influencing transport planning, development control, sustainable initiatives and technological innovation.

Furthermore we answer generic enquires relating to air pollution & smoke control and participate in the writing of new air quality guidance and policy.

John Stewart: Chair of the UK Noise Association (UKNA)

John Stewart has worked in the transport field for the past 30 years at both a local and national level. He is a former chair of Campaign for Better Transport (formerly Transport 2000). He is also a former Chair of the road safety charity RoadPeace and was a founder member and Chair of the Slower Speeds Initiative. Since 2000, he has chaired the UK Noise Association which lobbies for policies to cut noise.

Scrutiny Panel's Terms of Reference:

- 1) To gain an understanding of the collision statistics
- 2) To seek a range of views as to the impact of 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones on road safety in terms of reducing vehicle speeds and casualty numbers
- 3) To investigate what options other local authorities across the country are pursuing in terms of 20 mph speed limits/zones
- 4) To gain an understanding of the potential environmental impacts of 20 mph speeds on air quality, tail pipe and carbon emissions as well as noise
- 5) To gain an understanding of the potential 'other benefits' which 20 mph speeds may bring, such as health benefits, increased sociability, and better walking and cycling conditions
- 6) To gain an understanding of any potential consequences of any displacement of traffic as a result of introducing lower speed limits
- 7) To gain an understanding of the speed limit review currently being undertaken in the city and the links with this investigation
- 8) To identify the benefits, feasibility and potential costs of various 20 mph speed options for the city
- 9) To develop recommendations for the future development of council policy on 20 mph speed limits/zones

