

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

5.00pm 15 JUNE 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Fallon-Khan (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Davis (in substitution for Councillor Turton)

Other Members present: Councillor Kennedy

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declarations of Interests

1.1 There were none.

1b Exclusion of Press and Public

1.2 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 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 100(1) of the Act).meeting.

1.3 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded during consideration of any item on the agenda.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2010 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

3. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Cabinet Member

- 3.1 Councillor Fallon-Khan introduced himself as the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects stating that he was looking forward to this role. He also wished to place on record his congratulations and thanks to Councillor Ted Kemble, the previous cabinet member for his achievements whilst in that role.

Achievements of City Employment Initiatives Team

- 3.2 The Cabinet Member stated that he had pleasure in announcing that the City Employment Initiatives Team had been short listed for a number of Job Centre Plus Awards-namely in the categories of Employer of the Year, New Recruit of the Year and the Partnership Works Award. Last year this team had won the Recruitment Innovation Award and had come runner up in the Skills Works Award from Job Centre Plus. The Cabinet Member stated that those present receive more information about the work of this team in reports to be considered on that days agenda.

City Futures Jobs Fair

- 3.3 The Cabinet Member explained that he had had the honour of opening the City Futures Jobs Fair earlier that month at the Brighton Centre. Over 1,000 people had come to see what local employers and training agencies had had on offer and he had shared the opening platform with Julia Sweeney, the Deputy Director General for the Department of Work and Pensions.

4. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 4.1 All items were reserved for discussion.

5. PETITIONS

- 5.1 There were none.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 6.1 There were none.

7. DEPUTATIONS

- 7.1 There were none.

8. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 8.1 There were none.

9. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 9.1 There were none.

10. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

- 10.1 There were none.

11. UPDATE ON WORK OF CITY EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES TEAM

- 11.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Housing, Culture and Enterprise which highlighted the key elements of the this work and set out the outlined the lead the council was taking in tackling unemployment and creating a diverse workforce that reflected the community which it served. It was noted that a separate report would be submitted to full Cabinet in July.
- 11.2 Councillor Davis referred to the INTERREG bid for £1 m which was currently being written and in which the team was the lead partner. She considered that this fitted into the digital arts media base that had become established in the city. In view of the constraints on public finance the need to source external funds for programme delivery would become increasingly important.
- 11.3 Councillor Kennedy sought clarification as to when currently secured funding would cease and was informed that this was in place until March 2011 and that the final payment would be made in September 2011. In answer to further questions the Head of the Arts and Creative Industries Unit explained the structures that were in place to ensure that eligible young people were provided (by Job Centre Plus in concert with other partners) with all relevant information in order to enable them to make advised choices.
- 11.4 **RESOLVED** - That the Cabinet Member to notes the work of the City Employment Initiatives team particularly in terms of reducing youth unemployment and supporting the needs of disadvantaged communities in the city.

12. INTERIM WORK AND SKILLS PLAN

- 12.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Housing, Culture and Enterprise detailing the Interim Work and Skills Plan and setting it into its policy context. The report was intended to provide a summary of the Interim Work and Skills Plan for Brighton & Hove and outlined the work required to produce a three-year work and skills plan for the city by March 2011.
- 12.2 Councillor Davis welcomed the report and sought information regarding the structures which would be put into place to seek to ensure that there was information resources and expertise where shared effectively. The Head of the Arts and Creative Industries Unit outlined the different approaches and strategies used explaining however that funding was an issue.
- 12.4 Councillor Kennedy welcomed the report and was pleased to note the partnership initiatives which were in place and recognised the importance of on-going funding streams. She asked how priority areas for delivery were assessed and the context of these initiatives in the context of work in deprived communities. It was important in her view to dovetail these with other work being carried out to address specific areas of deprivation.
- 12.5 The Cabinet Member welcomed the comments made and stated that he had attended very productive meetings at which it had been clear that there was an awareness of the

need to identify which strategies had been most effective, why and how that work could be carried forward.

12.6 **RESOLVED** - That the Cabinet Member notes the content of the report and proposed actions.

13. CREATIVE INDUSTRIES UPDATE : CREATIVE INDUSTRIES SECTOR : NEW ENGLAND HOUSE CONSULTATION

13.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report summarising the current state of the local creative industries sector and council interventions to ensure that the sector could develop, grow and provide employment opportunities for residents, including an update on the creation of a new digital media enterprise and innovation hub at New England House.

13.2 It was noted that Brighton & Hove's creative industries sector was rich and diverse, consisting of around 1,500 businesses employing approximately 10,000 people. 5,800 sole traders and freelancers were estimated to work locally in the creative sector, providing an estimated total employment figure of 15,800 or 10.7% of all city employment (2007 data).

13.3 Councillor Kennedy whilst happy to note the report in general terms stated that as any application for future use/ modifications to the building was likely to be determined by the Planning Committee of which she was also a Member, she was unable to comment in any depth as she would need to be unfettered in any future decision making. It was important that she remained of a neutral mind and was not seen to have predetermined any application.

13.3 Councillor Davis welcomed the concept of a series of flexible uses which would provide a hub which was a centre of excellence but stressed the need for this to be affordable.

13.5 The Cabinet Member stated that this building could potentially be a tremendous asset for the city.

13.6 **RESOLVED** - That the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects receive the report and note the activity currently being undertaken by the Council to support the growing local creative industries sector in Brighton & Hove.

14. PRESENTATION BY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

14.1 It was noted that regrettably representatives from the Chamber of Commerce had been unable to attend the meeting and it had been agreed by the Cabinet Member that they would have the opportunity to make their presentation at the next scheduled meeting of this Cabinet Member Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of