

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**4.30pm 22 MARCH 2012**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Meadows (Chair), Wells (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Cox, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West.

**PART ONE**

**74. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 74.1 Councillor Mitchell declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 91(a), Notice of Motion – Support for the 3Ts Development, Royal Sussex County Hospital as she worked for the NHS and in Item 86, Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2012-13 as her son worked for the Youth Justice Board.
- 74.2 Councillor West declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 89, South Downs National Park Authority – Delegation of Development Control Function to Constituent Authorities as he was a member of the Authority's Board.
- 74.3 Councillor Jones declared a personal but non-prejudicial interest in Item 91(a), Notice of Motion – Support for the 3Ts Development, Royal Sussex County Hospital as he worked for the NHS.
- 74.4 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

**75. MINUTES**

- 75.1 The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings; subject to the substitution of Councillor Robins for Councillor Jones in paragraph 35.1; and
- 75.2 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

**76. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

- 76.1 The Mayor informed the council that she had agreed to take an additional item, Item 90A, Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13, as detailed in the addendum papers as an urgent item as it needed to be considered before the end of March and had been inadvertently missed from the agenda papers.
- 76.2 The Mayor also reminded council of her fish and chip supper which was taking place on the 19<sup>th</sup> April in aid of her charities.
- 76.3 Councillor Fitch noted the Mayor's decision to take the urgent item and wished to give notice that the Labour & Co-operative Group would be moving an amendment to the recommendations.
- 76.4 The Mayor noted Councillor Fitch's comments.

**77. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.**

- 77.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 77.2 Councillor Fitch presented a petition signed by 295 residents concerning the need to save Toads Hole Valley from development.
- 77.3 Ms. Justine Sylvester presented a petition signed by 317 residents calling on the council to expand the catchment area for Dorothy Stinger and Varndean Schools.
- 77.4 The Mayor noted that Item 87 on the agenda dealt with the admissions arrangements for schools in Brighton and Hove and therefore the petition would be taken into consideration as part of that debate.

**78. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- 78.1 The Mayor reported that 5 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr Michael Hollingdale to come forward and address the council.
- 78.2 Mr Hollingdale asked the following question; "Would the Council members please consider the benefit to the community of Brighton & Hove, of the Hove Open Bowls Tournament - it takes place for one week in July of each year on the four wonderful greens in Hove on the seafront. The Tournament has been established since 1929 with the Mayor being recognized as Patron - he / she attends to open the Tournament and gives prizes on Finals Day. Having duly considered, would the Members consider approving some financial support from an appropriate budget on an annual basis to help securing the future survival of the Tournament?"
- 78.3 Councillor Bowden replied; "We have sponsored the tournament, as you rightly say, and we will be doing so again this year, as you also observe, we are under some financial constraints from central government. We do wish to be as fair and consistent as

possible with all clubs and there are many clubs making similar requests as yours and I'm going to take away your request and discuss that with officers to see how we can accommodate you."

- 78.4 Mr Hollingdale asked the following supplementary question; "Since you're going to take it away and attend to it, that's very kind thank you very much."
- 78.5 The Mayor thanked Mr Hollingdale for his questions and invited Mr Deryck Chester to come forward and address the council.
- 78.6 Mr Deryck Chester asked the following question; "In October every councillor voted for Saltdean Lido to be put on the forward plan. So why has it come off and why does the latest report from council officials say that the only ward affected is Rottingdean Coastal?"
- 78.7 Councillor Bowden replied; "There's no hidden agenda, nothing sinister, the council did vote as you say. It came to my CMM in December and we discussed it there, where decisions were made about the operation. It came again to my March meeting where progress was noted and, believe me, it will be on our radar and when we have things to discuss where decisions will be taken, you will see it on the forward plan again. It is not going away as you will probably discover from future questions coming after yours."
- 78.8 Mr Chester asked the following supplementary question; "Saltdean Lido is the only grade two listed lido in the country and as such it's not an issue just for local residents but for all of Brighton. The Saltdean Lido Campaign's put together a plan to make the site an economic hub and major tourist attraction. You wouldn't say the West Pier is an issue concerning just one ward so unfortunately it does sometimes appear that different rules are being applied to the lido. Why is that?"
- 78.9 Councillor Bowden replied; "I would take it further it's not just for Saltdean or the city, it's probably the country, because it is a leading example of its architecture of its time. In future reports I will make sure that there are no omissions and make certain all wards are affected and that's always been our understanding as well. We value it the same as you do, the same as the campaign, the same as the SRA and the all the community groups. It's to do with the whole city not just Saltdean."
- 78.10 The Mayor thanked Mr Chester for his questions and invited Ms Rebecca Crook to come forward and address the council.
- 78.11 Ms Crook asked the following question; "In view of English Heritage's visit to Saltdean Lido last week, when will the local planning authority be serving its second warning letter and a section 48 repairs notice to the leaseholder at Saltdean Lido? Given that the minimum time allowed is 2 months, how long will it be giving Mr. Audley to complete the works?"
- 78.12 Councillor MacCafferty replied;
- 78.13 "English Heritage's visit last week was not specifically on the matter of a potential Repairs Notice and any decisions on this issue, including those on timings, are a matter for the council as local planning authority. The second stage warning letter has now

been sent to Mr. Audley together with a draft schedule of works that we will be seeking to require under a repairs notice. The council has allowed a period of 28 days for Mr. Audley to respond to that letter before determining whether to proceed with the issue of a formal repairs notice. No specific deadline for completion of the works has been given as this will depend on the response received and the ongoing discussions we have with him.

- 78.14 The decision as to whether or not to serve a repairs notice will be a matter for the planning committee. If the notice were to be served, the council may proceed with compulsory purchase after a minimum of two months has elapsed and any decision on when to proceed with compulsory purchase would be taken at that time. I would stress, once again, that action under this legislation is not something this council can enter in to lightly and therefore it's a relatively lengthy process as you are undoubtedly experiencing."
- 78.15 Ms Crook asked the following supplementary question; "It's reassuring to hear some progress has been made. I'm afraid there seems to be a lack of clarity around the council strategy on what the council are going to do moving forward. The latest report that we have highlights eighty pages of disrepair, so it seems to me that it would be fair to say it's quite unlikely that anything will be complied with within twenty eight days I would like to know what the council are going to do in twenty eight days time."
- 78.16 Councillor MacCafferty replied; "I will have to give you a written response because of the litigious nature of this area, I would be afraid of saying something that would actually mean that we damage ourselves as a council."
- 78.17 The Mayor thanked Ms. Crook for her questions and invited Ms. Bridget Fishleigh to come forward and address the council.
- 78.18 Ms. Fishleigh asked the following question; "BHCC officials have repeatedly said that a CPO of Saltdean Lido would be expensive and so would only be undertaken as a last resort. What risk assessments and cost estimates have been produced by the council to support the view that a CPO will be too expensive and too time consuming?"
- 78.19 Councillor Bowden replied; "Compulsory purchase is indeed a very expensive last resort. If and when there is a proposal to compulsory purchase, as you heard from councillor MacCafferty to acquire the leasehold on the lido, full risk assessment will be taken. We've got solicitors here who have experience of that and they tell me that it is a very expensive process. This council doesn't actually have the sort of money to throw down the throats of solicitors. It is the last resort but if we come to that point then we will do a full risk assessment to assess what those costs are likely to be."
- 78.20 Ms. Fishleigh asked the following supplementary question; "We've heard again and again a CPO is too expensive and too time consuming. Have you actually produced any documents to give us an estimate? The people of Saltdean, Brighton and around the world want to know how much is too expensive. Give us a figure."
- 78.21 Councillor Bowden replied; "We haven't got precise figures as we haven't reached that stage yet and as we say, every time this matter is raised we do not see this as the first resort. It is the very last resort because if it gets to this stage it will be costly. We have

the experience of legal advice, of people who have done this before and it does cost a lot of money. I would say six figures easily and when you think of public enquiries and the hiring of venues and of evidence taking all those things will mount up. So it has to remain the last resort, I can't give you a precise figure yet because we haven't reached it. If the planning authority takes it to a stage where a compulsory order is going to be considered then we'll do that risk assessment and share that information with you."

78.22 The Mayor thanked Ms. Fishleigh for her questions and invited Ms Valerie Paynter to come forward and address the council.

78.23 Ms. Paynter asked the following question; "Automatic right of access to live planning application hard copy within City Direct was terminated on January 1st. People are told to view material online or seek to view the case officer's copy. This can mean only partial or very brief file access and is also planned to end shortly. The Council gave no advance notice of intention to force engagement online. There was no public consultation to understand how this might affect engagement with the planning process. Officers took just a one month look at user numbers. I'm shocked. Why was there no public consultation concerning this move?"

78.24 Councillor MacCafferty replied; "You started to talk about automatic right of access and automatic immediate access, the live planning applications as you well know is available online. That's been the case since 2005. Those can be viewed on any pc, at our city direct offices here in Hove Town Hall, libraries or at the various council contact points around the city. As you are well aware, City Direct has large format screens so that the plans can be viewed and measured at various scales. As you are probably also aware, because the training that we will provide for you, our electronic measuring tool can also be used on individual pc's as well.

The whole case file (which includes all the comments made on an application and the correspondence) can be booked to view at 24 hours notice. This has not changed. Most case files can and are made available on demand. The additional or spare hardcopy of the plans which was placed in City Direct is no longer being printed as this was a duplication of work and information which is already available and accessible online and is already on the case file.

This was a common sense change to working practices. This change followed a month of monitoring the situation without a spare hardcopy in City Direct. During that month (August 2011) we had a total of 448 callers to City Direct to use the planning service for various reasons. Of those, 54 dropped in to use our on demand and free pre-app and advice service. 34 wanted to see the whole case file to view the letters of representation (i.e. the case officer file). 17 just wanted to see the plans and used the pc's in City Direct. Interestingly 8 people needed some assistance from our staff. 4 were elderly and did not wish to view any documents, they wanted to be talked through the process and the proposals and 4 were shown how to view plans in City Direct.

City Direct and Planning Staff are always on hand to answer queries. Jeanette Walsh, as I referred to previously, has personally offered you assistance which I am more than happy to help facilitate for you and your colleagues from Save Hove."

78.25 Ms Paynter asked the following supplementary question; “Everything you’ve said in this reply is what the development control manager said to me in her email and I decided to ask this question after receiving that email. You haven’t told me why there was no prior notice and why there was no consultation with the public which would have thrown up information which would tell you that there are at least 40 or 50% of the public out there who are not online, who do not wish to be online and who are now disenfranchised. It’s one thing to have a localism bill it’s another thing to have these neighbourhood councils but I am seeing an absolute assault on democracy here and I would like an explanation.”

78.26 Councillor MacCafferty replied; “This is actually our attempt to be ambitious in the terms of the way in which we deal with open governance of the council as well as trying to manage the planning applications as they come in. As you are well aware 60% of all the planning applications come in online through the national planning portal and that percentage has grown enormously since 2005 and we expect it to carry on in the future as well.

Prior to the launch there’s going to be assistance, there’s going to be support and there’s going information to help everyone with the changeover but if there is anything I can do in the meanwhile to support either yourself or your colleagues of course I will do that.”

78.27 The Mayor thanked Ms Paynter for her questions.

## **79. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

79.1 The Mayor reported that one deputation had been received from members of the public and invited Ms. Rebecca Crook as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.

79.2 Ms. Crook thanked the Mayor and stated that: “The Save Saltdean Lido campaign journey started 2 years ago and our lobbying efforts have certainly put the spotlight on the council resulting in recent activities. It is a pity that it has taken a campaign group to instigate action from the council but nevertheless progress is being made and for that we thank the council.

The council talk a lot about delivering improved collaboration with council communities and a commitment of listening to its residents which in principle sounds great but the reality for the people in Saltdean and the issues surrounding Saltdean lido is that on an implementation level the council’s intelligent commissioning has well and truly failed. We often wonder if the council even remember that Saltdean lido is part of the city, whether Saltdean is part of the city.

The council’s current tourism strategy, the ten year vision to 2018, outlines the vision and the targets for the city but not once in that 61 page document is Saltdean even mentioned, let alone the lido. Clearly the council don’t think owning the first listed lido in the country and more recently the only lido to have grade 2 star recognition, is important or a benefit to the city or it’s tourism strategy. How very short-sighted, perhaps this may explain why the council is so reluctant to take action against the lease holder of the site. Maybe it’s because the council don’t know what to do with Saltdean lido. We need the

council to realise the potential of the lido site and the benefits that it could offer to local people. Intelligent commissioning shouldn't be about writing fluffy statements. It should be about taking action and making things happen for the benefit of local people.

Saltdean lido is an opportunity for the council to actually do something, make a positive impact on the local community. In the business plan - the Saltdean Lido Community Interest Company, we talk about economic growth potential, new employment opportunities, a community hub, a restored listed building, and better facilities for local people and an all year round major tourist destination. The sad fact and reality is, we've got a crumbling building on the English heritage at risk register. English heritage, as you have already heard, visited the site just last week and they confirmed to us that it will very much be remaining on the at risk register and it's apparent to us that without a comprehensive maintenance plan in place that will actually be enforced by the council, Saltdean lido could be lost forever.

The council have got to stop talking about things and take enforcement action, the leaseholder has made no secret that his desire is to develop the site under enabling development. As you'll be aware enabling development is an absolute last resort and a clear message to everyone is that Saltdean lido community interests company has a credible and robust business plan in place and as long as that option is on the table enabling development will be very unlikely.

We still believe the council has a comprehensive strategy in place the removal of the lease holder, or any plans for an exit strategy or the future of the site. The council have repeatedly attempted to underplay issues which the campaign group have raised including health and safety issues, planning concerns over listed building amendment consents, business rates, disrepair to the building, non compliance with the lease and a whole host of other things, so it's really disappointing that a letter sent to the council listing these points in detail still hasn't received a full reply.

We're sure that the council are getting more and more agitated by the campaign's group determination and focus. In the very first public meeting which we held we stated that we were in this for the long haul and we are. We will not be going anywhere until the matter is fully resolved and in fact as the campaign goes on everyday we only gain more momentum and more support and we will continue to come to these meetings every month if that's what it takes.

We ask again that the council listen to what local people want; for the lease to be removed from the current lease holder and for the community to be given the opportunity to tender for the entire site. The council talk about being committed to achieving stronger outcomes for citizens and the plans state, "this means using strong evidence to understand what needs to be done" that's the council's words.

We've provided the evidence to remove the leaseholder, research from 3000 local people, a full business plan, a fund raising strategy, even an intra-management plan. So what exactly is the council waiting for?"

- 79.3 Councillor Bowden replied, "I will only emphasise again that the council has to be very careful about the way it acts. It has to stay within the law at all times and we are working down a road map, we do have a plan and we are acting on it and you've heard

today from my colleague and you've heard from me that we are taking this extremely seriously. This is an asset for the whole city and we intend to see this through like you. We're in it for the long term as well. I will remind you as well, I've said this before, our tourism strategy is in the process of being updated, rest assured Saltdean will feature large there because I see it as a huge asset as you do and as the rest of the community does. So watch this space is all I can say."

- 79.4 The Mayor thanked Ms. Crook 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 Economic Development & Culture Committee 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.

#### **80. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

- 80.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that written questions from Members 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:

##### **(a) Councillor Turton**

- 80.2 "How many staff currently employed by the City Council are (a) casual/temporary staff; (b) what percentage of the Council's total workforce are casual/temporary staff; (c) what is the average length of time the Council employs a casual/temporary member of staff for; (d) what is the longest period of time a current casual/temporary member of staff has been employed for?"

##### **Reply from Councillor Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.**

- 80.3 "The terms 'casual' and 'temporary' are often mixed, but they do have a more formal definition that it may be useful to understand:

A casual worker does not have an employment contract with the council and is not obliged to work and the council is also not obliged to offer work (non mutuality of obligation). A temporary employee has a contract of employment with the council for a minimum of three months and is obliged to work the contracted hours that the contract states.

Casual workers provide a valuable service to the city council providing a wide variety of skilled workers who have been recruited and are available for work in a great many service areas. There are currently 1140 casual workers on our books, excluding schools where there are similar number including directly employed supply teachers. The length of time a casual worker remains on our books varies greatly. If a casual does not work for twelve weeks they are removed from payroll and made a leaver as the relevant checks including Criminal Records Bureau checks are not valid beyond this time.

Overall, just over 16% of the total number of people who work for the council are casual workers. However, their length of service varies considerably so the full-time-equivalent percentage is much lower. The casual worker with the longest work history with the



council started at the Brighton Centre in 1983. There are also 612 individuals that are employed through temporary, fixed term and secondment contracts across the council excluding schools.

The non-mutuality of obligation makes the arrangement attractive to individuals who have other commitments which include study and child care responsibilities. The majority of our casual workforce, approximately 80%, work regularly supporting services across the council. Human Resources are continuing to review the casual workforce as part of our workforce planning including contractual requirements and this will be a key element of our evolving People Strategy.

The council also appoints casual workers to its staff pools as a route-way into employment. This includes both Care and Administration workers who are appointed through assessment centres. Overall the flexibility of our workforce coupled with the skills they have is a valuable asset to the council”

**(b) Councillor Turton**

80.4 “How many call centres serving the public does the Council have?”

**Reply from Councillor Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.**

80.5 “The Council is committed to improving the public telephone service within its customer access strategy. Our objective is to improve the whole customer experience, as underlined in the Customer Promise (we will be easy to reach; we will be clear and treat you with respect; we listen and act to get things done). This means enhancing customer service across all access channels (telephones, face to face and digital) and improving how those channels inter-relate.

On the telephones, we need to strike a balance between timely and efficient call answering and ensuring customer’s speak to the correct officer who can fully resolve the query. We are developing our front and back office processes to get the right mix of processes, technology and officer skills.

The council delivers a vast amount of services across the city; the majority of which have a telephone line for external customers to contact them. There are 16 services that are considered to have high volume telephone use. They all employ call centre technology to different degrees depending on their customer base and the proportion of calls that need to be handled by specialists. However, they are not call centres as the public perception might imagine them, in that they are not each cubicle farms of people with headsets dealing with nothing but calls. They are staffed by council officers going about their daily duties, which include responding to public enquiries.

We are currently upgrading our telephony systems and, as part of the recently agreed ICT strategy, will be reducing the number of different IT systems used to handle customer information. We are also developing the next stage in our customer access plan focusing on ensuring we are providing the most appropriate access be that face-to-face, post, telephone or internet. This includes looking at options to drive more calls through a single number. The plan will also link even more closely to other major initiatives (such as workstyles).”

**(c) Councillor Turton**

80.6 “Since May 2010 to date, have any individuals who are not either councillors or employees of the Council been provided with a Council email account and, if so, for what reason?”

**Reply from Councillor Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.**

80.7 “The creation of email accounts is administered through the new starters’ process and is applicable to all Council employees, officers of the council employed by partner organisations, casual/agency workers and contractors. Since May 2010 the following individuals, who are not councillors or employees of the Council, have been set up with an email account:

1 x agency worker	Temporary arrangement contracted by the council to process caseload. Now ceased.
1 x South Downs Health Officer	Joint working with South Downs Health.
1 x Sussex Police Officer	Joint working with Sussex Police.
3 x employees of FutureGov	Contracted on behalf of the council to engage in development of Patchwork initiative 24/10/11 – 27/04/12.

All users of council provided email are subject to the controls outlined in:

- a. BHCC Acceptable use of ICT Policy which defines the acceptable use of ICT services for all Elected Members, employees and contractors of the council;
- b. BHCC Email Use Policy covering the use of all Council email systems on any computer system including any access to the Councils email via the internet.”

**(d) Councillor G Theobald**

80.8 “Will the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety please give me an update on progress with the Council’s bid for the March 2012 round of Government Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant funding?”

**Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety**

80.9 “The Communities & Equality Team has started work on ensuring the inclusion of the armed forces community as part of the council’s wider work to tackle inequality. We are waiting for the results of the Veteran’s Health needs analysis to provide data on the number and needs of local veterans. This will be released in May 2012. In the meantime we are working with local armed forces organisations and our commissioned community development workers to identify issues and possible activities to support local people.

In developing the Community Covenant Partnership our intention is to build on the existing Armed Forces network to include community and voluntary sector representatives. This will support broader community activity which can be funded from our existing discretionary grants. We are unsure at this stage whether the people involved would prefer a Brighton & Hove only approach, or one that covers the whole of Sussex.

Although there are no national resources still available this financial year there will be an opportunity to access government funding in 2012/13 – with quarterly decision-making panels. In Brighton & Hove we are also planning to re-launch the Heroes Welcome campaign. We are also working with Armed Forces representatives to build a larger presence at People's Day in June. We are also mindful that it is the WW1 centenary in 2014 and we're already actively looking to resource an event to mark this."

**(e) Councillor G Theobald**

- 80.10 "Will the Leader of the Council list the meetings he has had with other local authority Leaders and heads of other organisations in the city about the possibility of sharing central services such as Human Resources and what was the result of these meetings?"

**Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.**

- 80.11 "I have continued the previous administration's commitment to working alongside other local authorities in the region through the South East 7 partnership. This comprises Kent, Hampshire, East Sussex, West Sussex, Surrey and Medway alongside Brighton & Hove. This group has focused on areas where we consider we could achieve financial savings through better procurement and we are collaborating on a whole range of policy initiatives and are getting excellent support from many government departments. Brighton & Hove, through the Director of Finance, are leading work on ICT across the region and great progress has been made in improving our ICT infrastructure through a project known as the "network of networks.

All the councils have been jointly funding some ICT category management expertise to make sure we get the best available deals from ICT suppliers across the region. There is also work on property asset management and commodities procurement through the SE7 partnership. The Strategic Director Resources is also discussing with East Sussex possible areas for sharing support services and it has been agreed to consider a few areas in more detail. One specific area that is showing great promise is the combined development of a local Public Service Network (called LINK). This initiative, started as part of SE7 work, is a joint procurement on behalf of various partners that will initially deliver cheaper, secure connections to each organisation. In the future, there will be additional benefits such as shared applications (e.g. telephony and video-conferencing) and a platform for shared services and processes. The OJEU notice for this procurement was published on 26 October 2011, with an estimated value of between £10 million and £100 million

We are also pleased to be working alongside the South Downs National Park Authority as their provider of financial services, including payroll, and Chief Finance Officer support over the last two years. We have recently tendered for a 3-5 year contract for

this service through a full OJEU procurement exercise and I am delighted to be able to announce that our bid has been successful.

Within the City, the Public Service Board has asked us, through the Strategic Director Resources, to lead a steering group to look at sharing support services across all public sector organisations. Partners have indicated a wish to look in detail at several possibilities including customer access, property, HR, ICT, learning and development, communications and others. The development of the Clinical commissioning Group opens up specific opportunities for sharing and several areas have been identified for further review. A City property group meets to specifically look at opportunities in sharing accommodation and discussions with the Police on their use of rooms in Hove Town Hall are ongoing.

We strongly believe that shared service arrangements are a positive way to distribute the costs of our support services and save money. We recognise that strong leadership and good planning is required to ensure success.”

**(f) Councillor Brown**

80.12 “How many applications has the Council so far received for Diamond Jubilee street parties and what is the Administration doing to encourage community events over the weekend of 2nd-4th June?”

**Reply from Councillor Bowden, Cabinet member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism.**

80.13 “To date we have had one completed application for a street party to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee and around 20 calls and enquiries on the subject. However in the run-up to the Royal Wedding, we had a large number of late applications for street parties, and we expect this to happen this year also. We are not charging fees for road closures for the Diamond Jubilee, making it easier and cheaper for groups to run street parties. We will be advertising small-scale funding to support community groups wanting to put on celebratory events during the summer, now that we have confirmation of community funding budgets for 2012/13.”

**(g) Councillor C Theobald**

80.14 “What is the Council doing to take advantage of the Government’s new £24 million Coastal Communities Fund, either by submitting a bid directly, or by helping other organisations in the city to bid?”

**Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.**

80.15 “We received notification of the launch prospectus in mid February and the expressions of interest must be complete by the end of March. Whilst these deadlines are tight, I can confirm that we, as the local authority, will be making a formal expression of interest to the Fund. I am also pleased to say that officers from across the Council have supported awareness of the Fund among local partners as well as considering where we can match existing priorities to the Fund objectives.

Given the extremely tight deadlines, the expression of interest from the authority will focus on two key areas:

- Two bids related to training and skills development will be worked up jointly with partners involved in the City Employment and Skills Training Group. The group includes City College, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce, Albion in the Community, the Economic Partnership, the LEP, CVSF, Job Centre Plus and others.
  - One funding application will be submitted for the Build Green project which aims to raise awareness of new technologies and develop the skills of local residents and businesses in sustainable construction methods through training.
  - The second bid is looking to research, develop and implement training programmes and develop business employment strategies and activities in order to equip and encourage young people to work in the Shoreham Port Regeneration area.
- A bid related to the seafront, specifically Madeira Drive, to support economic growth and wider regeneration in the area. This focus on Madeira Drive partly arises from cross-party work into the seafront strategy at a Culture Scrutiny meeting.

If successful in the short listing phase, the authority will be required to submit a full application and business plan by September with a decision due in December. DCLG has also indicated that it expects to run two further rounds of funding in 2013 and 2014 and we will be looking to apply in future rounds to both of these to ensure that local community organisations, charities and others can make the most of the funds available to enhance our City and promote employment and jobs.”

**(h) Councillor Cox**

80.16 “What steps are being taken to ensure that the Olympic Torch parade and other planned Olympic events in the city are not disrupted following recent threats to do so by prominent Trade Union leaders?”

**Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.**

80.17 “We have heard of no planned action from the local Trade Union leadership during the Olympic Torch Parade. In terms of our general plans for the Torch parade and other associated events, a full Event Management Team (EMT) has been convened and has already met twice. This group consists of the police, fire, ambulance service, civil contingencies, the council's health, safety and licensing department and others. We are working closely with both Sussex and the Metropolitan Police. These plans are reviewed by the city-wide Safety Advisory Group, comprising of senior officers from the emergency services, healthcare providers and council personnel, including civil contingencies (emergency planning).

The council is also employing both volunteers and paid traffic management stewards to assist the police with the torch relay route. Finally, we have every faith in our excellent

local police and if Cllr Cox has any information, perhaps he can share it with Chief Superintendent Graham Bartlett.”

**(i) Councillor Cox**

80.18 “Overall, communal bins have been widely welcomed as a success when sited in suitable locations, with less rubbish spoiling the street scene. What plans does the Administration have for extending the use of communal bins to other suitable neighbourhoods?”

**Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability.**

80.19 “Communal bins have indeed been widely welcomed and resulted in cleaner streets in areas of high density housing. This week we have begun a communal recycling trial with 3200 households in Brunswick and Adelaide ward to see if this makes recycling easier for residents. When we consulted these residents 87% of them were willing to give the trial a go, which is very encouraging. If it is successful, and results in increased recycling rates, we will consult residents on rolling this service out more widely in the communal bin area.

Officers are also working with ward councillors in Hanover to see whether communal refuse could be introduced here. The streets in Hanover are very narrow and refuse containment is a problem. A trial in a few streets has been successful but further assessment and consultation with residents is needed before a decision is made.

No other areas are currently being considered for communal refuse. However officers are happy to discuss any particular suggestions for streets to be included in the scheme”

**(j) Councillor Wealls**

80.20 “Will the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People please identify the total value of services for children and young people that were commissioned ‘intelligently’ with an open tendering process in the year 2011/12, and those that will undergo a similar process in 2012/13?”

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.**

80.21 “Details of services for children and young people commissioned during 2011/12 and plans for 2012/13 are set out in the City Commissioning Work Plan agreed by Cabinet. This includes services to address child poverty, to support families in multiple disadvantages and to improve outcomes for young people. A significant proportion of services are jointly commissioned with health including services for children with a disability, child and adolescent mental health services and provision for vulnerable teenagers. Collaboration and co-production underpins intelligent commissioning - fully engaging service users, communities and partners to understand need and existing services, to define outcomes and design care pathways and to prioritise efficiency and value for money.

In this context Intelligent commissioning may include an open tendering process if there is evidence this is the best option to develop the market, reduce costs and sustain the local economy. That has not been the case during 2011/12. The approach taken with youth work provision, for example, has been to give established local providers the opportunity to work together to meet the challenges set out in the joint commissioning strategy. This approach has received considerable national attention and last week praise from Tim Loughton.

However, during 2012/13 the council, in partnership with West Sussex Council, will re-tender the framework for accredited and preferred providers of children's residential and fostering services which has been in place since 2008. The total value for these services in 2011/12 was £13.3m out of a children, youth and families commissioning budget of £17.127m."

## **81. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

81.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that councillors' oral questions would be taken in the order as listed on the Council Agenda and that a period of 30 minutes was set aside for the item. Should any questions not be reached at the end of the time period, those councillors would have the opportunity for their question to be carried over to the next council meeting.

81.2 (a) Councillor G Theobald asked; "Over the last few weeks and months, I have received a lot of correspondence from sports clubs across the city who will be badly affected by the various increases in charges imposed by the green administration in last month's budget. One of those that's causing me particular concern is the introduction of parking charges in Preston Park up until 8 pm and at weekends which is going to threaten the very existence such as the St. Peters cricket club and the Preston Youth Cycle Club who use the velodrome in the park and indeed football clubs as well. Something that I would have thought would be very close to the green party's hearts.

I understand that the cost of moving back the charging period from 8 pm to 6pm on week days would only be about £4000 and I don't know the cost for excluding weekends but given that the council's annual income from it's parking operation is around 25 million pounds, will the cabinet member please give serious consideration to at least ending charging at 6pm for the sake of the hundreds of residents both young and old who are members of these 2 fantastic local sports clubs and many other users of Preston park who will now inevitably think twice before using the facilities?"

81.3 Councillor West replied; "You recall that this came to my CMM some little while ago and in the report there that was agreed, it set out that there had been an extensive amount of consultation with members of the public and with club users as well. It was extremely detailed as you will recall and the arguments were all set out then and I think the whole thing was gone through very thoroughly and I don't particularly remember you raising these specific questions at that time when it would have been useful.

That was agreed and the work will go ahead and the benefits of this is that at the moment we have a large amount of unrestricted parking happening within the public park but there has been in the past a petition of several thousand plus many complaints about the impact upon the fabric of the park and the safety, in particular, of children, and

it was very much time to do something about it and that is a request of the former ward councillors who met as a cross party panel who considered this matter in detail before it was brought to me to make a decision upon extensive consultation.

So I think the matter has been done very well and the charging regime will be set in and the changes made. Now of course we can review hours and tariffs and things like that and I believe that I said at the time, when making the decision, that we will be able to do things like that. Without having charging we cannot enforce a parking regime in the park and therefore we will have no effect on the current situation of people parking in the way they do. I hope that answers your question, I could answer questions about sports pavilions if that is in your supplementary.”

- 81.4 Councillor G Theobald asked the following supplementary question; “You refer to it was as agreed, what you mean is you agreed it, the fact is you wanted to stop commuters. My supplementary to you is if you don’t have the charge in the evenings or at weekends, that won’t affect commuters because commuters are, if that’s your view, blocking up the car park during the day time working hours, I’m talking about sports clubs who use the park for their sports facilities, sports matches in the evenings after the commuters have gone home.

So by keeping this going until 8 o’clock at night rather than 6 o’clock at night makes a difference of about £4000 I’m told, which is very small and after all you’ll make more money in Preston Park Avenue because presumably commuters will go in to Preston Park Avenue. By looking at this in 6 months the summer will have already gone, it is imperative that you look at this now before the summer season otherwise these sports clubs, I’m talking about who play their matches in the evenings, I’m particularly concerned about that; I’m also concerned at weekends. But I’ve asked you at least to deal with the night time issue. But I’d like you to deal with the weekend one as well because commuters do not use the park on the weekends or in the evenings but sports clubs do.

If you leave it 6 months these clubs really will be in a problem because the summer season will have gone, can you please look at this as soon as possible?”

- 81.5 Councillor West replied; “I’m happy to consider the point that Councillor Theobald makes and I’ll get back to him in writing after consulting officers. The point is that we do need to continue with the regime that has now been agreed and is going to be installed, that was the decision. My esteemed colleague here reminds me, also, that this is a budgetary matter and that your party supported the budget that contains these details so you had there another opportunity to make a change if you thought this was inappropriate.”
- 81.6 **(b)** Councillor Carden asked; “In Portslade we have a lot of problems with parking on the streets and the residents can’t use the garages that are provided up there. Many are lying empty; many are full of rubbish where builders are using them as their lots but these cars are not getting out off the road.

Where the big vans are now parking its extremely dangerous where kids do cross and play in the evenings. My request is to try and bring those garage rents down so that



people can actually use them because there's no mileage at all in a load of garages lying around empty so please could you bring those rents down?"

- 81.7 Councillor Wakefield replied; "In North Portslade I'm aware that you've got 7 areas of garages, Graham Avenue, Valley Road, Stonery Close, Hazelholt, Flint Close, Foredown Road and Downland Court. I'm aware that there are 146 garages in that area. A lot of the garages, as you say, aren't in use and are in disrepair. At the moment the garages in north Portslade are actually some of the cheapest in the city because they are in an outer area.

The current charge for garages in the area, as I'm sure you're aware, vary from £3.40p at the current price to, if you're a council blue badge holder, £15.39 if you're a private non-blue badge holder. The new charge, there is going to be a slight increase, will be of 7p if you're a blue badge holder, 31p if you are a private garage renter. I do sympathise that there's some difficulty when you have large vehicles and you don't have space. It would be nice to see more of the garages being used, garages will be being refurbished with some of the money that comes from the garages rents and hopefully that might make them more attractive. There's also quite a number of garages in your area that are within the scheme where they're going to be demolished, I believe they've already started, with the hope of building new council houses in their place.

I'm ever so happy to meet with local councillors, as I have before, to discuss garages and discuss pricing in that area along with relevant officers as well so please make an arrangement to meet me and have a meeting so that we can have a discussion on it."

- 81.8 Councillor Carden asked the following supplementary question; "Why is this different between a person that lives in a council house renting a garage and a person that lives on the same estate that's bought his house? I can't understand that. Same garage different rent. I don't understand it and this is what people are asked to make, someone quoted me it was nearly £18. I didn't get the full facts, they've got 2 cars and it's cost them a lot of money every week to get there cars off the road and keep the area safe."
- 81.9 Councillor Wakefield replied; "I haven't got all those details in front of me here; I haven't got them all in my head. Garages is one small part of the HRA budget, I would be very happy to meet with you, a lot of what you say is historical. There's absolutely no reason why some of these things can't change and I would be very willing to meet with you and discuss with yourself and fellow ward councillors."
- 81.10 (c) Councillor Janio asked; "The previous Conservative administration took some very courageous decisions in the development of sustainable transport solutions right across Brighton and Hove. One of the most magnificent was the increase in cycling usage of over 26% in 2 years. Can the Cabinet Member of transport tell us how many brand new sustainable transport solutions his administration has introduced of over their first year?"
- 81.11 Councillor Davey replied; "We are introducing sustainable transport solutions and sustainable transport solutions are informed by the sustainable transport hierarchy which is walking, cycling and public transport and there's a whole host of things we're doing; improving the public realm, putting in new crossings which are going in across the city, we've got this wonderful new cycle lane going on the Old Shoreham Road

which I understand you were supportive of under your administration perhaps you could correct me if that isn't the case."

- 81.12 Councillor Janio asked the following supplementary question; "One year ago the Conservative administration was poised ready to launch their very own version of the cycle hire scheme known as Boris bikes in London. Could I ask the Cabinet Member, as this has failed to materialise, must we now call it Davey's duds?"
- 81.13 Councillor Davey replied; "If you were poised to launch your own Boris bikes scheme maybe let me have a copy of the business plan and I'll have a look at it and we'll see where we can go."
- 81.14 **(d)** Councillor Marsh asked; "Would the Cabinet Member agree with me that every child in this city is entitled to access of fair and equitable process when expressing their preferences for schools they wish their children to attend regardless of where they live in the city?"
- 81.15 Councillor Shanks replied; "Of course I would agree with you, there's obviously a supplementary coming."
- 81.16 Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question; "Could the Cabinet Member assure me that instead of the piecemeal tinkering with the admissions process currently being undertaken much to everyone's dissatisfaction and frustration, she will honour the commitment made by the Labour administration in 2007 for a full scale review of the admissions process in this current year 2012 to ensure that all the children and families of this city are entitled to and deserve. Will she give me assurance that that process will go ahead as previously committed?"
- 81.17 Councillor Shanks replied; "The commitment to review in 2012 would have to have been started in 2011 certainly before our administration came in to power. Because it was decided by the previous Conservative administration not to review that and I'm sure I don't need to remind councillors here because I wasn't a councillor then, what happened in the previous catchment area consultation."

I think we have got a system at the moment which is working really well for the majority of our children. 95% of parents got the preferred one of their 3 preferences at our secondary schools. Only 60 children have been directed as catchment. So we're not in a position where we've got a great deal of problems with the school admissions system and I think at the moment we do need more secondary places and we're really keen to make sure that in the next couple years we get new secondary schools in the city.

I think it will be preferential now in a sense, to review what we've got because we will need to look at where those schools are going and how we can make sure that they're in the right places and that children can get some easily. We feel that we have looked at this; it isn't something that we legally need to do. We are looking at reviewing, and we'll be coming on to that later when we discuss the school admissions plan as Councillor Marsh knows, at the work we've done this year on looking at some areas that we thought needed looking at."

- 81.18 **(e)** Councillor K Norman asked; “Recent figures from the care quality commission show that nationally, more than half of elderly disabled people in care homes are being denied medical care and are being treated with a lack of dignity and respect. I know that over the past few years, we’ve had a really good record of this in Brighton and Hove but would the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care now reassure our local residents that safeguards are in place locally to ensure that such practices are not happening in Brighton and Hove and will not happen in Brighton and Hove?”
- 81.19 Councillor Jarrett replied; “I’m glad to see that there is somebody on the opposite benches who takes a keen interest in adult social care because it is nice to hear. We are constantly concerned about the issue of adult safeguarding and quality of care. We are in a situation where we do not have direct control over a large proportion of the provision because it is in private hands. We have discussed this at the adult safeguarding board and we have also discussed it at the homecare commissioning board and we are continuing to look for improved ways in which we can be more certain about the quality of the care that there is in our city. I would like to reassure everybody that the quality of care and adult safeguarding is always uppermost in our minds and we are continuing to seek to improve our procedures in that area.”
- 81.20 Councillor K Norman asked the following supplementary question; “No doubt you will be aware of the interim report of the commission on improving dignity and care that was published by the Local Government Association. Will you make a commitment today to ensuring that all the recommendations from the final report of the commission to be published in their sum are implemented in Brighton and Hove as soon as possible?”
- 81.21 Councillor Jarrett replied; “Certainly we will implement all the recommendations as soon as possible within budgetary constraints. The big problem is going to be any cost implications of these requirements and as you’ll be aware, we have a serious budgetary situation at the moment. As I stated in Budget Council I was extremely concerned about the long term impacts on the adult social care budget of the problem that we’re going to find ourselves in for the 2013/2014 budget as a result of changes that have been made. But within cost constraints, yes we will do everything that we can to implement those recommendations as soon as possible.”
- 81.22 **(f)** Councillor Morgan asked; “Given that the Council’s intelligent commissioning pilot report on domestic violence from spring 2011 stated that 11,000 women in the city each year are subject to domestic violence. Domestic violence continues to be under reported with possibly only a quarter of incidents being reported to police and which committed the city council to specifically deliver new shared outcomes to achieve a more co-ordinated community response to preventing and reducing domestic violence.

Does the Cabinet Member agree that the administration was wrong not to support the joint Crime Stoppers, Sussex Police, West Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove Albion Project to increase anonymous third party reporting of domestic abuse?”

- 81.23 Councillor Duncan replied; “I think the first thing to say is that the background figures that you give about domestic violence inform us on this side of the chamber in our belief that tackling domestic violence, supporting victims and survivors of domestic violence and bringing perpetrators to justice is an absolute top priority. To that end we, through the intelligent commissioning pilot that you describe, are spending an extra £100,000 on

measures particularly through drives to support front line services. I think the important thing when considering any of these issues is that all of the money we spend, next years' budget whipped up £100,000 increase will be over half a million pounds, all that will be focused on frontline services to protect victims and bring perpetrators to justice.

I don't actually agree that that Crime Stoppers scheme to which you refer would have been focused on those front line and projectors. That is why, in order to protect services that are delivering those front line objectives, I don't agree that actually we should take money away from organisations like Rise and give it to organisations like Crime Stoppers."

81.24 Councillor Morgan asked the following supplementary question; "Is the Cabinet Member saying that despite the estimated cost to local residents and public services that responding to domestic violence being estimated at £132,000,000 pounds, this council could not find £5000 from an annual budget of over £720,000,000 to fund a clearly identified and universally supported key policy area when it was prepared to spend 10 times that amount on promoting organic farming."

81.25 Councillor Duncan replied; "I think the question was, again, why? And I think the answer was very clear, officers looked closely at that scheme, decided that the benefits it would provide in terms of supporting victims or bringing perpetrators to justice just weren't justified by that scheme. That isn't to say that this work isn't of the utmost importance, that particular scheme however, professional officers decided; wasn't the best way of spending money in our DV budget."

81.26 (g) Councillor Wealls asked; "Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People please assure the council that the planned review of children's centres will fully involve the not for profit voluntary and community sectors and that all commissioning and procurement will ensure that there's a level playing field between them and in house service providers in order to ensure that there are no front service cuts?"

81.27 Councillor Shanks replied; "As you know the Children's centres we're talking about are in-house children centres and we are not proposing to consider out sourcing our children centres because they're part of the city wide house led models so they're part of what we get money from the health service etc.

The consultation will look at a review of the children's health centre's services including health visiting which it needs to involve and we'll also need to look at the statutory guidance on children's centres which is being revised at the moment and then we'll be able to look at what level of saving we might be able to get and we'll look at this in the new children and young people's committee in terms of scope of the consultation.

I think we do already have voluntary sector providers which deliver children's services and we obviously welcome that provision but what we're consulting on here is our in-house provision and we do have a statutory duty to provide children's centres and sure start centres which we are very keen to do. We think that this model working with health is the best model that we can provide at the moment."

81.28 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question; "Statutory obligation to provide isn't the same thing as statutory obligation to provide from in-house services

and we need to make that clear. Just to make you aware a council like Westminster have managed reduce their budget by 20% without hitting front line services by fully engaging with voluntary sector. When I saw the Green's budget proposals back in December I asked officers whether they've been asked to talk to the voluntary sector to see whether there were more services that could be run by them in Sure Start centres and the answer to that was, "we haven't been asked."

So I would like to ask you again whether you will at least talk to them to see what can be done by the non profit sector to see whether the priority of protecting front line services is maintained."

81.29 Councillor Shanks replied; "We do have different positions on this politically, Councillor Wealls and I, and we're not going to agree on this, I think it's very important that we provide services as a council but I also think it's very important that the voluntary sector provide services and we strongly support where they do. In this occasion we're providing children's centres which are very well regarded, they've had very high Ofsted ratings, they work very well, they're improving outcomes for young people and I would want to continue that where we can."

81.30 (h) Councillor Hamilton asked; "Many council facilities are free. I can go to a library, museum or art gallery at no cost. Residents can take a dog for a walk in the park or take their children to the playground. These amenities are free and so they should be, I never here the word subsidy mentioned with regard to them yet for those who wish to play cricket or football or keep an allotment, they are deemed to be subsidised and can therefore be subjected to extortionate increase to reduce the subsidy."

81.31 Councillor West replied; "We've had these arguments already and that was a matter for the budget and we had that discussion and the rates for the next year were set at that budget. I don't know why you're asking this question now really."

81.32 Councillor Hamilton asked the following supplementary question; "I see in the budget document that a saving of £93,800 is to be made on Bowling Green maintenance from April 2013. I understand the subsidy is to be limited to £4000 for each green. Bowls clubs will either have to maintain the greens themselves, difficult as it is a specialist job, or face very large increases in their subscriptions which will prove difficult for many of the retired members. Some clubs may well go under, my estimate is that a bowls season ticket will at least double. Please can you give your estimate as to the likely increase?"

81.33 Councillor West replied; "Councillor Hamilton is correct to have identified in our projection for the 2013/ 2014 budget that would reduce the subsidy to bowling greens by £94,000. The question coming back your way really is why are we having to do this?"

That is because, as you understand, we are being subjected to very deep cuts in our grants from the government and that matter has only been exacerbated to a considerable degree by the actions of both the opposition parties in choosing to freeze the council tax out the budget this year which I think comes to a total of about 3.6 million in the years 2013/2014. So I think to some extent we already know the government's put us under this pressure it's also the opposition parties opposite that are putting us under this pressure to have to consider reducing these sorts of subsidies."

81.34 (i) Councillor A Norman asked; “The new Crime Stoppers domestic violence service which aims to increase anonymous third party information relating to incidents of domestic abuse in Sussex was launched on St Valentine’s day by West Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club and Sussex Police. A similar scheme in London has recently proved very successful, a leading Sussex police officer said that it was vital that all local agencies came together in order to build a framework of trust for victims of domestic violence. Where those abused can feel safe, supported and empowered to make significant and often life changing decisions.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me the reason Brighton and Hove City Council felt unable to join with our partners in this vitally important work?”

81.35 Councillor Duncan replied; “I refer Councillor Norman to the answer I previously gave. I will however, because it was phrased slightly differently, give a slightly nuanced answer which is to say yes the spirit of partnership is absolutely key to this. That is why we are working very closely with Sussex Police and indeed are embedding the partnership Community Safety Team with the Neighbour Policing Teams of Sussex Police.

It also suggests why it’s so important for us to have discussions with other councils, notably East Sussex County Council who took exactly the same decision as officers here in Brighton and Hove, it’s a scheme that West Sussex decided they would rather spend money on this particular scheme than on other things to protect these services that are operating on the front line to help victims of domestic violence. East Sussex County Council made the same decision we did and it’s a decision that I think was the right one for victims.”

81.36 Councillor A Norman asked the following supplementary question; “The money in question to join this initiative was £5000 is there any way that this money could be found from other sources such as the small grants funding?”

81.37 Councillor Duncan replied; “It is a technical question, yes the small grants is designed to make money available for organisations that are doing things in the city that contribute to this council’s corporate goals. Of course, as I’ve said, reducing domestic violence is one of our administration’s goals it’s also one of the council’s corporate goals in a roundabout way through reducing inequality and throughout the corporate goals I’ll go away and look at the very specific thing you’ve suggested, talk about it with officers in the grants scheme and provide a written response in due course.”

81.38 (j) Councillor Cobb asked; “Given the unprecedented number road works in recent months, could the Cabinet Member for Transport and the Public Realm please tell me:

- A) What measures are being taken to try to ease delays for road users?
- B) What the timetable is for introducing a road permit or lane rental scheme in the city given that the Conservative groups’ notice of motion was passed almost 6 months ago at full council on the 20th October 2011?

81.39 Councillor Davey replied; “The level of road works are not unprecedented and I’m sure we all remember the city absolutely grinding to a halt when Southern Water were digging up the town centre just a few years ago so you know only too well that the

council has to facilitate the access for the utility companies to carry out essential works and that is exactly what we are doing as previous administrations have done before us.

To ease delays the Highways Manager and their team work very, very hard with the public transport operators. Concerning delays to people, one of the things that happened in Ditchling Road where that unfortunately had to be closed due to some danger, left some residents isolated in the Roundhill area and what we did do was arrange for the contractor to pay for a shuttle bus so that the older people that lived in the Roundhill area did not have the inconvenience and the delays to them as non car owners of not being able to get into the town.

Please look out for the report that will be at the Cabinet Member meeting next Tuesday which is about the introduction of a permit system which presents the business case for it and if this had been done under the previous administration, if we'd have inherited a permit system, we would have been in the position to apply for the lane rental system pilot that the central government was seeking but because you did not leave us with a permit system we were not in a position to do that. We will look at proceeding with a permit system and then, should the government decide to extend the lane rental facility to other authorities, we will be in a position to go for that should a Transport Committee or what ever other committee is made of a cross party membership, decide that is the best way to go for the city."

81.40 Councillor Cobb asked the following supplementary question; "I would like the Cabinet Member to respond with more detail in a written reply, in reference to the number of road works not being unprecedented you did say you had all the figures etc."

81.41 Councillor Davey replied; "In 2011 it was 10,300, in 2010 it was 10,000, 2009 it was 10,800 and in 2008 it was 10,600, however he would ensure a written response was provided."

81.42 **(k)** Councillor C Theobald asked; "Will the Cabinet Member please tell me why the council is turning down local businesses who are willing to pay good money to the council to sponsor things like flowerbeds and roundabouts etc in the city? For example, the sponsor for the welcome to Brighton and Hove sign in Patcham has been refused their sponsorship this year and I would like to know why you are turning down good money in the city?"

81.43 Councillor J Kitcat replied; "You may recall that the previous administration, former councillor Fallon-Khan, approved a report starting a tender process for corporate sponsorship of a wide variety of sites across the city and that process has gone through and as such it will be through that contract through which any sponsorship will be done rather than on an ad-hoc basis.

A tender was advertised and 6 companies responded to the 9 lots however there were a variety of issues with those tenders and so it was agreed with those companies that further mapping information would be collected along with locations for large format advertising and we have reopened the process to let them improve and expand their tenders which will close at the end of April and I look forward to bringing forward some more information on the successful bidders at the end of that. That's why the process is

currently held up because we are waiting for that to complete according to procurement regulations.”

81.44 Councillor C Theobald asked the following supplementary question; “I just wonder why there have been such long delays in getting this tender process, it seems if you haven’t got a corporate sponsor now that means we’ll be losing out. I can’t see how these things are going to take place, how you’re going to have that sign ready for the summer when you haven’t actually got the corporate sponsor in line at the moment. Please can you tell me have you got somebody that’s actually going to do it for this year?”

81.45 Councillor J Kitcat replied; “As I say the process should be complete by the end of April so I hope we can move forward with that. Unfortunately because at the moment the bidders have been potentially expanding their tenders, we can’t offer on a piece by piece basis various sponsorships because the tenderers could expand their documents to cover say a roundabout so we’d be in a situation where we’d agreed to let it to 2 people simultaneously which would not be appropriate.

Unfortunately there was a delay due to some contractual issues due to some existing agreements relating to bus stops which haven’t been unpicked when we took over but we are moving ahead, and as I say by the end of April, I hope to have it in place and hopefully it will come to a Cabinet or Committee meeting and we can discuss it further then.”

## **82. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.**

### **(a) Callover**

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

- Item 83 - Traveller Strategy Scrutiny Review
- Item 84 - Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012
- Item 85 - The Council’s Equality Policy and Action Plan
- Item 87 - Admissions Arrangements for Brighton & Hove Schools 2013/14
- Item 88 - Pay Policy Statement
- Item 90A - Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13

82.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items listed above had been reserved for discussion;

### **(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports**

82.3 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 86 - Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2-12-13
- Item 89 - South Downs National Park Authority – Delegation of Development Control Function to Constituent Authorities
- Item 90 - Review of Part 9.4 of the Constitution



(c) **Oral Questions from Members**

82.4 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

**83. TRAVELLER STRATEGY SCRUTINY REVIEW**

- 83.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report which detailed the findings and recommendations of the Traveller Scrutiny Panel and the response to those recommendations from the Administration. He stated that it had been a challenging and complex subject and he wished to acknowledge the role of the Chair, Dr. McGarry from the University of Brighton and the panel members. The Panel had been expertly supported by the exceptional scrutiny team and he hoped it would become a model for future scrutiny reviews.
- 83.2 Councillor West stated that it had been a pleasure to welcome the report which detailed a valuable and comprehensive piece of work, for which he wished to thank the panel members, the various witnesses and scrutiny officers. It was an excellent example of how scrutiny work could contribute to policy development and he believed it had improved the final commissioning strategy which was the next item on the agenda. He noted that the majority of the recommendations had been taken on board and built into the strategy which he hoped would be the foundation for future development.
- 83.3 Councillor Summers stated that she had welcomed the opportunity to sit on the panel and believed that a balanced report had been produced, based on current up-to-date data. She wished thank everyone who had given evidence, noting that at times it had been very intense with differing views being outlined and taken on board. She hoped that it had influenced the commissioning strategy and that the recommendations would be closely monitored under the new governance arrangements.
- 83.4 Councillor Robins stated that he had learnt a lot during the course of the panel and was pleased to have been a member and part of the process. He wished to pay tribute to the panel members and especially the Chair, Dr McGarry and to thank the scrutiny staff for their support throughout.
- 83.5 Councillor G. Theobald welcomed the report and thanked all concerned for taking his request forward and producing what was overall a very good report and a number of excellent recommendations. He was concerned about the final recommendation which he felt went too far in regard to the role of councillors and felt that Chair's foreword was unhelpful in referencing councillors.
- 83.6 Councillor Littman noted the comments and stated that he had nothing to add other than to recommend the report to all Members.
- 83.7 The Mayor noted that the report was before Members for information and asked that it be noted.
- 83.8 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**84. TRAVELLER COMMISSIONING STRATEGY 2012**

- 84.1 Councillor West introduced the report which outlined the proposed Traveller Commissioning Strategy for 2012 and its accompanying Action Plan. He stated that the strategy had been developed, taking on board the outcome of the scrutiny review and was aimed at enabling the challenges faced by the travelling community and local residents to be tackled so that their needs could be met. He believed the provision of a permanent site for travellers was a significant step forward and would enable access to services such as schools and employment opportunities. He was delighted to present the strategy to the Council and wished to thank all those that had been involved in what was a very significant piece of work. He also noted that it was already having an impact across the county and a new joint traveller forum had been established with representatives from both East and West Sussex County Councils. He hoped that all Members would support the strategy.
- 84.2 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the Strategy and the Scrutiny report which she believed had enhanced the development of the strategy itself. She believed it provided a right balance between the needs of travellers and the settled community and hoped that a local forum could be established to compliment the Sussex wide one.
- 84.3 Councillor G. Theobald welcomed the Strategy and agreed that there was a need to balance the needs of the travelling community and those of the settled community; however he was not sure that the balance had been struck or that anything new was being offered to residents. He still felt that the city was regarded as the place for travellers to be with the number of unauthorised encampments remaining at a high level. The most recent taking place when there had been spaces available at Horsdean transit site.
- 84.4 Councillor Janio stated that there was a need for a strategy but felt that the bias remained in favour of the travellers and if there was to be a consistent approach he would like more information on how that would be achieved.
- 84.5 Councillor Cox stated that the city council was becoming known as a tolerant authority which was supported by the increased levels of unauthorised encampments and suggested that better communication may help in terms of identifying areas that were available. There were areas which should not be tolerated e.g. Wild Park and Queens Park and the police should be encouraged to act to move on illegal camps immediately they appeared.
- 84.6 Councillor Wakefield stated that she wished to formally second the Strategy and hoped that the increased level of site availability would have a positive impact for the city. She hoped that all Members would support the strategy and work to enable greater cohesion between the two groups.
- 84.7 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that a well balanced strategy was required and that such a strategy was fit for purpose. As things stood the question of the level of unauthorised encampments remained and he hoped that the adoption of the strategy would see the balancing of both the traveller and settled communities' needs. He suggested that some aspects were open to test and sought Councillor West's guarantee it would be effective.

- 84.8 Councillor C. Theobald questioned whether placing the permanent site adjacent to the transient one was the best way forward and suggested that a site elsewhere would have been a better approach. She was concerned that the problems encountered at the transient site would be exacerbated and queried how it would be affected by the National Park.
- 84.9 Councillor Mears stated that there were a lot of good aspects within the report and made a plea to the Administration that in having regard to unauthorised encampments, the residents and city's needs should be accounted for. There was a need to ensure that open spaces remained accessible to residents and suggested that a further report be brought back to Members later in the year detailing how well the strategy had worked.
- 84.10 Councillor Simson welcomed the strategy although she could not agree with every word; it was an important working document for the Traveller Liaison Team. She asked for clarity to be given in respect of the level of tolerated sites that would be accepted and hoped that there would be some form of protocol drawn up and made available. She also suggested that a list of unacceptable sites should be drawn up and queried whether the strategy effectively recognised what was likely to happen over the next 12-18 months.
- 84.11 Councillor West noted the comments and welcomed the support from the Leader of the Labour & Co-operative Group. He would also discuss the points raised with officers and look at whether certain parts could be clarified further or additional information made available to Members. He believed the strategy offered a positive approach to the matter and would in a large part rely on the political will of the council to be effective. There was a need to go through the planning process in relation to the establishment of the permanent site and hopefully if this proved successful the site could be instigated.
- 84.12 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and put the recommendations to the vote.
- 84.13 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012 as detailed in appendix 1 to the report and the accompanying Action Plan as outlined in appendix 2 to the report be approved;
  - (2) That the Strategic Directors and Heads of Service be given delegated authority to take all steps necessary or incidental to the Traveller Commissioning Strategy 2012 and accompanying Action Plan in (1) above; and
  - (3) That Council's thanks be placed on record to the local residents, Travellers, Community & Voluntary Sector Organisations, community representatives, officers from other public sector organisations and the Traveller Scrutiny Panel who gave up their time to help develop the strategy.
- 84.14 The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a refreshment break at 6.50pm.
- 84.15 The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7.20pm.

**85. THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITY POLICY AND ACTION PLAN**

- 85.1 Councillor Duncan introduced the report and stated that it was an important policy and one that had been updated for 2012-15 and replaced the previous Single Equality Scheme and Working Towards an Inclusive City Policy. He hoped that the new policy would lead to greater joint working and improved accessibility to all and thereby create a more equal city.
- 85.2 Councillor Gilbey welcomed the report and the approach to tackling issues such as domestic violence, hate crime through to employment. She hoped that the new policy would clarify matters for staff and looked forward to it having a positive impact for all concerned.
- 85.3 Councillor Cobb welcomed the report and stated that she wished to thank the officers concerned for all their hard work in putting the policy together and ensuring that it was fully inclusive. She also noted that the council had achieved level 3 of the Equality Standard and hoped that this would be maintained.
- 85.4 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and put the recommendations to the vote.

**85.5 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Equality and Inclusion Policy 2012-15 as set out in appendix 1 to the report be agreed;
- (2) That it be noted that the corporate actions to deliver on the objectives as set out in Section 2 of the Policy, and that a full, measurable action plan would be developed through consultation to support the agreed objectives, for submission to the appropriate committee after consultation.

**86. YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-13****86.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Youth Justice Plan 2012-2013 given as appendix 1 to the report be approved; and
- (2) That it be noted that the Strategic Director was authorised to proceed with the Youth Justice Plan for 2012-15.

**87. ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS 2013/14**

- 87.1 Councillor Shanks introduced the report and stated that she was pleased present the proposed admission arrangements for Brighton and Hove Schools in 2013/14. She noted that a cross-party working group had been established to look at the admission arrangements and that this was a national problem and not just one faced by Brighton and Hove. She also noted that following consultations changes had been taken on board and that further consultation was proposed for the Dorothy Stringer/Varndean areas and the points raised in the petition presented earlier could be considered as part

of that process. She was keen to work with the schools, parents and governors to provide access to places across the city and noted that there was a need to increase the Secondary School provision in the city.

- 87.2 Councillor Lepper expressed concern over the report and its failure to address the needs of both primary and secondary school children. She stated that given the known changes in the child population across the city she was surprised to find that pressures for places remained and queried whether the children's right to an education was being addressed. She believed that the city was facing a crisis and action was required to address this otherwise the number of disillusioned parents would increase and children's education would suffer.
- 87.3 Councillor Wealls stated that there was a lot in the report which should be commended. However, it did appear that aspects of the consultation process were flawed and that people had not been made aware of the consequences and a prime example was that for Dorothy Stringer/Varndean which was highlighted by the petition today. He suggested that the Cabinet Member should consider holding an emergency meeting to review the situation and if need be recommend further action. He also suggested that the decision regarding the sibling link should be reconsidered.
- 87.4 Councillor G. Theobald referred to the previous Labour Administration and the decision to amend catchment areas and not to take account of the views that the boundary for Dorothy Stringer/Varndean should be taken up to Dyke Road. He noted that concerns had been expressed by the then Labour Members for Preston Park which had not been accepted and this had contributed to the situation that was faced today. He suggested that the matter should be looked at urgently and hoped that the Cabinet Member would address the matter in her right of reply.
- 87.5 Councillor Hamilton noted that there were also problems for Portslade South with the decision in 2010 that Benfield Junior would take in two reception classes which would then go to the Junior School at the exclusion of others. This had a direct effect on St Peter's and was something that should have been recognised and dealt with rather than still being unresolved some 18months later. He therefore sought reassurance that the issue would be looked at as a priority.
- 87.6 Councillor Shanks noted the comments and stated that she hoped that progress was being made for Portslade as she was aware of proposals for St. Peter's that should help to alleviate matters. She was also aware that officers were working with staff at the Connaught School regarding the use of the old police station and the provision of buses and staggered start times. She also acknowledged that there appeared to be a question mark over the consultation process and was assured by officers that she could call an urgent CMM to consider the matter further, albeit that there was a need to meet statutory timeframes.
- 87.7 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and put the recommendations to the vote.

**87.8 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the consultation documents be adopted for the admissions year 2013/14, with the exception of Portslade Infant School which it is proposed will become a primary school with an admission number of 60, and St Nicholas' CE Junior school which it is proposed will admit 60 reception children in addition to the 64 year 3 children proposed. Both of these proposed changes are currently going through the statutory processes, in order to take effect in September 2013;
- (2) That the admission priorities for Community Schools set out in the consultation documents be adopted for all age groups, with the amendments set out below;
- (3) That priority 1 (Children in the Care of the Local Authority) should be extended to include 'children who were looked after, but ceased to be so because they were adopted, (or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order);
- (4) That the proposal to alter the boundary between the catchment areas for Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA), and Blatchington Mill/Hove Park be adopted so that the shaded area on Map 4 of the consultation documents be included in the catchment area for PACA and not the catchment area for Blatchington Mill/Hove Park; and
- (5) That the proposal to amend the sibling link so that it only applies within catchment area be adopted, but that the protection for those living in areas which have changed catchment area be adopted as described in the consultation document.

**88. PAY POLICY STATEMENT**

88.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report which set out the proposed pay policy statement for the authority as required by the Localism Act 2011.

88.2 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and put the recommendations to the vote.

**88.3 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the adoption of the Pay Policy Statement as set out in appendix A to the report be adopted;
- (2) That the proposal to extend the role of the current Member Appointments Panel to become a Recruitment and Remuneration Panel, which would be responsible for the provision of advice on the council's pay policy and the starting salary of new appointees to Chief Officer posts be noted. The extended role of the Panel would come into force when the new constitution was approved and adopted by full council on 26 April 2012; and
- (3) That the requirement that the Council approve a Pay Policy Statement annually be noted.

**89. SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY - DELEGATION OF DEVELOPMENT CONTROL FUNCTION TO CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES**

89.1 **RESOLVED:** That it be agreed that the Agency Agreement dated 21 June 2011 between the SDNPA and the Council relating to the provision of planning services in Brighton and Hove be terminated on a date to be agreed by the SDNPA and the Strategic Director; Place.

**90. REVIEW OF PART 9.4 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

90.1 **RESOLVED:** That the amended version of Part 9.4 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

**90.A ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2012/13**

90.2 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report which detailed the Annual Investment Strategy for 2012/13 which met with the CIPFA guidance and noted that officers had an excellent record in terms of the investment strategy for the council. He was happy to accept the Labour & Co-operative amendment that had been circulated and he hoped that further work would enable greater involvement with ethical institutions.

90.3 Councillor Fitch moved the amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group which sought to ask officers to look at alternatives to financial investment in Barclays bank and he hoped that a report would be brought to a future committee meeting.

90.4 Councillor A. Norman stated that the council's record for investments was second to none and officers should be commended for their work over the years and she hoped that would continue.

90.5 Councillor G. Theobald queried whether the intention to review investing in Barclays should also include other institutions such as Santander, which was Spanish and may well have connections with areas that would not be regarded as ethical by some people e.g. bull fighting. He was concerned about the process and how it would affect the council's ability to invest in various institutions.

90.6 Councillor Cox stated that he was staggered by the proposed amendment from the Labour & Co-operative Group and could not understand the reasoning behind it and questioned whether residents would.

90.7 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that the intention was to look at wider opportunities for investing in ethical institutions and to enable the council to diversify.

90.8 The Mayor noted that the amendment had been accepted by Councillor Kitcat and that Councillor Cobb had requested a recorded vote for which a sufficient number of Members had indicated their support. She therefore called on the Head of Democratic Services to undertake the vote.

90.9 The Mayor stated that the recommendation as amended had been carried by a vote of 33 to 17 and therefore was approved.

**90.10 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Annual Investment Strategy 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (2) That officers be requested to look at alternatives to financial investment in Barclays bank, and to bring a report to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee or other appropriate body of the council.

**91. NOTICES OF MOTION.****(a) Support for the 3Ts Development, Royal Sussex County Hospital**

91.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Randall on behalf of all three Groups represented on the Council and jointly seconded by Councillor G. Theobald and Councillor Mitchell.

91.2 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This council notes that the Royal Sussex County Hospital has stood within this city for almost 200 years, serving the residents of and visitors to Brighton & Hove alike, as well as patients from across East Sussex and West Sussex and beyond.

The majority of the buildings are widely recognised to be desperately outdated, some in fact predating Florence Nightingale herself, and in need of urgent modernisation.

This council therefore welcomes the proposed investment in and redevelopment of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, which will provide not only state of the art facilities befitting of 21<sup>st</sup> century healthcare, but also greatly improve the quality of experience for patients and their visitors, which is so important to their treatment and recovery.

Such a major redevelopment of the hospital will also bring investment into the local area and create much needed jobs, through both the construction of the scheme and through new medical services provided on the site.

Council also notes also the unanimous Planning Committee decision to grant consent to the planning application on 27 January 2012.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health to confirm the Council’s unequivocal support for this vital regeneration of the hospital, and asks that the Secretary of State confirm his wholehearted support for the scheme and early confirmation of the availability of the funding required thereby securing its timely delivery.”

91.3 **The motion was carried.**



**(b) Brighton & Hove: A City Fit for Cycling**

91.4 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Davey on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Follett.

91.5 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This council warmly welcomes the cycling campaign initiated by The Times newspaper following the collision in which their young reporter Mary Bowers was very seriously injured. The ‘Cities Fit For Cycling’ campaign has made a significant contribution to the national cycling debate both inside and outside government.

We would like to thank Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State Norman Baker MP and Mike Penning MP for their letter to The Chief Executive and Council Leader of February 28<sup>th</sup> which:

- Outlined coalition government actions to promote cycling
- Encouraged the city council to consider taking forward the points raised by The Times campaign
- Asked the city council to report back on its efforts so that they may be disseminated to others
- Invited the city council to the national conference hosted by the Department for Transport entitled ‘Creating a National Cycling Revolution’.

We note that Brighton & Hove already has a good record in cycling following investment in both cycle infrastructure, such as cycle lanes and cycle parking, and smarter choices activities such as Personal, Employer and School travel planning. These initiatives, started under previous administrations and continued by the current administration, have enabled a steady increase in the number of people cycling.

We also note that cycling offers people the benefits of low cost, healthy and efficient transport. Furthermore, the city benefits from an increase in cycling through reductions in congestion and air pollution, which contribute to a safer, healthier and cleaner city.

However, this council recognises it must do everything possible to make the city’s streets safer for cycling to avoid unnecessary and tragic loss of life such as that of Jo Walters on the Lewes Road in 2010.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to The Times pledging our support for the ‘Cities Fit For Cycling’ campaign
- Ask the Chief Executive to reply to the Under Secretaries of State thanking them for their commitment to cycling, and informing them of the measures this council is taking to promote cycling and increase safety, including the provision of high quality cycle infrastructure, reducing speed limits to 20mph in residential areas and

improving road safety education – all of which are supported by the Times campaign and the Department for Transport.

- Invite the Under Secretaries of State to visit the city to see first hand the steps that we are taking to make Brighton & Hove a City Fit for Cycling and if they are able to attend the opening of the Old Shoreham Road cycle lane at the start of Bike Week 2012 on June 18<sup>th</sup>.”

91.6 **The motion was carried.**

91.7 Councillor Randall stated that he felt the following motion placed him in a difficult position as he was likely to be the Mayor at the time of the Jubilee celebrations and therefore could be involved in various official events as part of those celebrations. He therefore felt that it would be appropriate for him to not take part in the debate or the voting on the motion.

91.8 The Mayor noted Councillor Randall’s decision.

**(c) Condemnation of Proposed Smash EDO Disruption**

91.9 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Janio on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor Cox.

91.10 Councillor Duncan moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was seconded by Councillor J. Kitcat.

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

91.12 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

“This Council condemns Smash EDO over their plans to disrupt the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations, as part of a wider ‘Summer of Resistance’ in Brighton & Hove.

This Council welcomes the fact that the right to protest is a basic human right in the UK but also agrees that with that right comes a concurrent responsibility to the wider community. Smash EDO has demonstrated, over a number of years of activity in Brighton & Hove, that they have little regard to upholding these responsibilities.

Furthermore, this Council deeply regrets that Smash EDO consistently refuse to work with Sussex Police, and other agencies in the city, to ensure that the danger to the general public, the impact on city businesses and the cost of policing the protests themselves is minimised. This Council also believes that the current Administration’s policy of designating Brighton & Hove a ‘protest city’ will inevitably encourage Smash EDO to cause further disruption and endangers the city’s reputation as a top national and international tourist destination.

Therefore, this Council:

- 1) Calls on Smash EDO to abandon their plans to disrupt the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the city;
- 2) Calls on Smash EDO to work with Sussex Police at the earliest opportunity in order to minimise the cost and disruption of any future demonstrations;
- 3) Calls on the City's 3 MPs to write to Smash EDO, urging them to abandon their plans to disrupt the Diamond Jubilee and calls on the Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council to consider doing likewise."

91.13 **The motion was carried.**

**(d) Tenants with Disabilities and the Brighton & Hove Standard**

91.14 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Farrow on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Morgn.

91.15 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

"This council notes the Brighton and Hove Standard relating to the replacement of kitchens and bathrooms in council owned homes.

According to the policy the standard has a test to ensure the home is in a reasonable state of repair. A kitchen will fail this test if it is 30 years or older and in poor condition. A bathroom will fail this test if it is 40 years or older and in poor condition. Kitchens and bathrooms are considered as 'other' building components and one is allowed to fail and still meet the Decent Homes Standard. This means that two need to fail to have one replaced.

This council notes that the test is not made based on individual circumstance but only on the condition of the property. Whether the property has been adapted or not, if the bathroom passes decency then so does the property.

This council notes that the effect of this policy is to disqualify any tenant with disabilities or mobility issues who has had adaptations carried out to their bathroom by the council's social care team from having their kitchen replaced, regardless of condition.

This council believes that this policy could therefore be judged to discriminate against tenants with disabilities or mobility issues, and requests that the Cabinet Member for Housing to consider asking officers to bring a report on this issue to the first meeting of the Housing Committee in the next municipal year."

91.16 **The motion was carried.**

**(e) End the Big Six Energy Fix**

91.17 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Sykes on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Randall.

91.18 Councillor Pissaridou moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group which was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

91.19 Councillor G. Theobald moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group which was seconded by Councillor Peltzer Dunn.

91.20 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Pissaridou had been accepted by Councillor Sykes and that the amendment moved by Councillor Theobald had not been accepted. She therefore put the proposed Conservative amendment to the vote, which was lost.

91.21 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This council notes with concern the oligopoly in the energy market, which sees excessive profiteering by the Big Six energy suppliers who control more than 99% of the market. \*(i)

It also notes an OFGEM report that the Big Six are increasing the margins on their bills above the increase in fossil fuel price rises, and that a recent think-tank report found the Big Six overcharge as many as 5.6 million customers through their pricing policies. Furthermore, complex pricing systems mean many people, often the most vulnerable, are stuck on tariffs that don't offer them the best deal. As a result, the poor pay more.

This is a particular concern for Brighton & Hove, where many homes are not energy efficient and the number of households living in fuel poverty has increased during the last three years - mainly as a result of the price of domestic energy almost doubling during this period.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Join Friends of the Earth, Oxfam, the NUT, War on Want, and Church Action on Poverty among others, in supporting the 'End the Big Six Energy Fix' campaign.
- Ask the City Council's Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change urging them to consider the following actions, supported by a majority of voters in a recent poll: \*(ii)
  - Impose a levy on the Big Six and ring-fence the proceeds for investment in home insulation and energy efficiency programmes, lifting the poorest out of fuel poverty and creating thousands of jobs.
  - Give OFGEM the power to cap and control energy. Any price cap could be linked to the wholesale price of energy to make energy costs fairer.

- Launch an independent public inquiry into the Big Six energy companies in order to identify other market reforms that could help make energy prices fairer, reduce fuel poverty and increase trust between consumers and companies.

Furthermore,

This council calls on the coalition government:

- To ensure that those aged 75 and over are automatically on the cheapest tariff.
- To target the energy company obligation on families in fuel poverty.
- To improve energy efficiency by setting tough new standards for the private rented sector.”

#### Notes

(i) *Department for Energy and Climate Change figures on market share.*

(ii) *A YouGov poll commissioned by Compass and Friends of the Earth found that:*

- *71% of voters support a levy on the profits on the Big Six.*
- *77% of voters support the money raised from a levy being spent on home insulation and energy efficiency measures to remove people from fuel poverty.*
- *And an overwhelming 86% of voters support an independent public inquiry.*

91.22 **The motion was carried.**

## 92. CLOSE OF MEETING

93.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of