

# Older People's Council

Title:	<b>Older People's Council</b>								
Date:	<b>21 February 2012</b>								
Time:	<b>10.00am</b>								
Venue	<b>Room 126, King's House</b>								
Members:	<p><b>Councillors:</b>            Jack Hazelgrove (Chair)</p> <table> <tr> <td>Val Brown</td> <td>Harry Steer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Colin Carden</td> <td>Peter Terry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Eyles</td> <td>Francis Tonks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penny Morley (co-optee)</td> <td>(Vice Chair) Colin Vincent</td> </tr> </table>	Val Brown	Harry Steer	Colin Carden	Peter Terry	John Eyles	Francis Tonks	Penny Morley (co-optee)	(Vice Chair) Colin Vincent
Val Brown	Harry Steer								
Colin Carden	Peter Terry								
John Eyles	Francis Tonks								
Penny Morley (co-optee)	(Vice Chair) Colin Vincent								
Contact:	<p><b>Mary van Beinum</b>            Overview &amp; Scrutiny Support Officer            01273 – 29 - 1062            Mary.vanbeinum@brighton-hove.gov.uk</p>								



- 15. Apologies and Declarations of Interest**
- 16. New Co-optee Welcome**
- 17. Minutes of the last meeting 17 January 2012 and matters arising** **1 - 6**
- 18. Independent Sector Care Home Contract**
- Presentation on current arrangements and to consult on Core Principles.
- 19. The Martlets Hospice**
- Presentation by Robert Griffiths of the Martlets.
- 20. COFFEE BREAK**
- 21. Current Consultation Topics** **7 - 8**
- From the Council's Consultation Portal
- 22. The Council's Forward Plan** **9 - 10**
- Selection from the latest Forward Plan, published 17 January
- 23. Reports from Members, the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer**
- Plus Round-up. Verbal Updates.
- 24. Letter to the Press**
- Suggestions - for discussion.
- 25. OPC Work Programme and Update** **11 - 26**
- Including recent correspondence
- 26. Any Other Business**



**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.00am 17 JANUARY 2012**

**ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Hazelgrove (Chair)

**Also in attendance:** Bojczuk, Brown, Carden, Eyles, Steer, Terry, Tonks and Vincent

**Other Members present:** McCabe (Chair of Age Concern), Robertson (Pensioner's Association), Howley (Pensioner Action)

**PART ONE**

**9. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

9.1 There were no apologies or declarations of interest.

**10. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 13 DECEMBER 2011 AND MATTERS ARISING**

10.1 The minutes were agreed.

10.2 Matters arising –

Item 3.1- Colin Vincent spoke to Philip Letchfield on the Local Account revised document. The final draft had been approved at the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee and would go onto Cabinet. It was agreed to have the Local Account scheduled into the OPC's future work programme.

Item 3.2 - Colin Vincent had requested information on the age groups of people that had used St. Patrick's. Churches were collaboratively piloting a scheme called "Anti freeze" for a one month during the coldest period. This would be reviewed.

**11. PROPOSED BUDGET**

11.1 Mark Ireland - Head of Strategic Finance & Procurement, James Hengeveld - Head of Finance Integrated Financial Management & Planning and Brian Doughty – Head of Adults Assessment (HoAA) presented the budget information and answered questions.

11.2 Officers talked through a presentation which included what services did the council provide in 2011 and 2012, how were council services funded, what did the money get spent on, 2011/12 to 2014 savings projections, where the 2012/2013 proposed savings

were being made, Council tax increase or freeze and Budget setting - what happened next.

11.3 Members asked the following questions which included:

1. How was the Council going to deliver the increase in assessments as older people were living longer? Members were told that the Council has the responsibility to assess eligible need then to purchase or organise services to meet that need this would mean that the Council would need to buy more services in, to meet the increased demand. It was noted that the Council were not changing the eligibility criteria.
2. Whether there was going to be less money spent on older people? There was going to be a small growth in the budget although Members were advised that as older people preferred to stay in their homes longer, this would lead to more innovative care within homes, better use of housing and technology.
3. Further clarification was required on the individual cost of £100k, for a looked after child seemed very high. Members were told that this was an average figure as some costs were lower as these children went into adoption services; however some were far higher due to some children having complex needs.

There was a discussion around Brighton and Hove having the second highest looked after children (LAC) figures in the country, (there were approximately 420 LAC in the city). Ofsted had confirmed that the thresholds were correct. Children's services were focussing on early prevention.

4. Due to an increase in older people and a reduction in funding, would this result in a budget overspend? As older people went into independent living could this lead to more emergency care? Were all budget items being scrutinised as there was a 1% reduction in white lining of roads compared to a 6% reduction in re-enabling older people's services? Members were advised that this was a complex area as older people moved into more independent living. Members questioned whether there was a significant drive being made to find other savings, as it came across as if the carbon budget was more favourable than a moral budget.

Members were told that there were savings being made in this financial year to put towards the overall expected 2012-14 savings. Support services would be developed to ensure housing was appropriate to the users needs.

Clarification was given on the white lining of roads which was a £20K- £30k saving.

5. Whether the Council were making savings from the use of consultants; as this work could be completed in house, attendances at conferences and the value of free parking to councillors. Members heard how there were significant controls in place on the use of consultants and such requests would have to be approved by the Chief Executive. There was a freeze on attending courses. Parking bays were offered to the public, outside of Full Council meetings.

6. Whether the governments extra £750 mill. of funding that was being allocated for supporting older people being discharged from hospitals would assist with increasing services for older people? Members were told how the Council received £736k of this extra funding on the 2 January, 2012 with a caveat that the money would need to be spent by April 2012. Officers were investigating whether this money could be carried over into the following year.
7. With an increase in older people staying at home the Argus had recently reported that there would be a £60k reduction in Meals on Wheels, how were the Council going to deliver this? Members were informed that the information published was misleading. The Meals on Wheels contract was currently out for tender. The demand for Meals on Wheels was declining as more choices were made available. The Council would ensure better value for money.
8. The Council's unchanged eligibility criteria would determine that the right people received the correct support. It was informed that this was the correct strategy for services.
9. Savings had been identified for bus services. Members heard how the 10% savings and increase in costs would be challenging and would need to be met.
10. The closure of some public toilets was concerning especially as 2 were in Brighton and 7 were in Hove and Portslade.

11.4 Members thanked Officers for their time.

## **12. IMPROVED WORKING FOR THE OPC RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 The Chair announced that a recently retired member of the public was interested in being elected onto the OPC as a Co-optee. Penny Morley wanted to put herself forward. Penny had a background in Trade Union research. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. Members agreed for Penny to be co-opted onto the OPC.
- 12.2 Tom Hook – Head of Scrutiny presented a summary of the recommendations as set out in the last meeting by the Centre for Public Scrutiny - Expert Advisor.
- 12.3 These were:
  1. Identify a work plan with 3 or 4 key issues to focus on to influence the agenda. The Council's Forward Plan should be used to identify potential work planning ideas for the OPC.
  2. Become the statutory consultee for all older people. Utilise items on the consultation portal, agree a general approach of response at the monthly meetings.
  3. Raise the profile of the OPC by increasing it's communication to a wider audience by the further publication of letters in the Argus. One letter a month to be published by involving all members of the group. This month's letter could highlight the points raised within this budget meeting.

The development of the OPC website, to increase usage. The University can develop the website for a fee of £400 for 4 months work.

The OPC had been allocated £4k for 2011/2012 from council funding there was £900 left. The same amount of funding had been allocated for the OPC for 2012/2013.

Members agreed that the promotional stands should be upgraded and monies should be set aside for new banners. In addition to increase the circulation of posters within medical centres, doctors surgeries, community centres and supermarkets.

It was suggested that the OPC should have a column within City News.

Mike and Colin Vincent formed a marketing working group to collate promotional ideas for the OPC. Feedback of their findings would be heard at the next meeting.

4. Quarterly joint meetings with Age Concern, Pensioner Action and Pensioner's Association to ensure these meetings were well attended. Invite speakers like the Leader of the Council to give older people the opportunity to cross examine them.
5. Monthly meetings to be used to develop strategies and identify issues.
6. Governance – work is in hand to move to the Committee system. The OPC agreed to request representation at each of the committees.
7. Any work to do with the next election should be placed on hold.

### **13. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS, THE CHAIR, SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

#### 13.1 Francis Tonks –

- Raised the issue of the single lift in Donald Hall Road which was out of work for 3-4 months. 30% of the residents here were elderly, of which one of these residents was a wheelchair user and another had a heart condition. There were issues with carrying shopping and climbing the stairs. It was understood that the spare parts came from Europe which caused delays. Compensation vouchers had been offered to residents.

#### 13.2 Peter Terry -

- In connection with the breakdown of lifts, 3 lifts were out of operation at Bristol Estate. The contactors had been changed and the lifts back in operation fairly quickly. There was a 10 year programme to renovate all lifts within council residencies.

#### 13.3 Colin Vincent -

- Attended the LiNK – for the second steering group meeting and the Toilets consultative group. Colin needed someone else to attend the next meeting on the 6 Feb. Peter agreed to attend in Colin's place.



- The development of care homes- there were new contract arrangements for homes supported by the Council. The next meeting would be in March. Partners that attended this meeting included Carer's, Age UK, Alzheimer's Society and the LiNK.

13.4 Mike Bojczuk, Secretary -

- Asked whether anyone had completed the National Audit on Dementia Care and the Palliative Care Audit? Other surveys included the neighbourhood councils.

13.5 Val Brown-

- Was back from long term sickness and was aware of the survey on neighbourhood councils. Wanted to take equality and inclusion forward.

13.6 Harry Steer-

- attended the Portslade Local Action Team (LAT) which was chaired by Cllr. Penny Gilbey.
- Grey Matters was planning their future schedules.

13.7 Jack Hazelgrove –Chair

- Bus Users Group is being restructured.
- Planning to attend the Pensioner Action meeting and representing the OPC on the 13 March.
- Also would be attending the Mental Health Action Group about the closure of beds at Mill View Hospital.

#### **14. WORK PROGRAMME**

14.1 Members agreed to invite the Martlets to come and speak about their funding at the next meeting. The work programme was agreed.

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of



**Selection of Consultations Open (end February 2012) on the Council's Consultation Portal**

<http://consult.brighton-hove.gov.uk/portal>

Local Account

Autism Strategy

Waste Strategy

Public Toilets

Spots Facilities Plan

Beach Huts

Corporate Plan

Sports

Able to Work Survey

Proposed additional licensing scheme for HMOs



**Selection of Report Items (end February 2012) on the Council's Forward Plan**

<http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=345&RP=215>

<b>Key Decision</b>	<b>Decision-making Body and Date Decision to be Taken</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Libraries Plan 2012-2015	6 March CRT CMM 22 March Council	To seek approval for the Libraries Plan.
Outdoor Events Policy	6 March CRT CMM	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the revised Outdoor Events Policy
Fee Level for Adult Social Care Services 2011-12	12 March ASCH CMM	To seek approval for the fees paid to independent and voluntary sector providers that supply Adult Social Care services on behalf of BHCC
Community Meals Service	12 March SCH CMM	The report makes recommendations regarding the future provision of the community meals service
Local Transport Plan Capital Programme 2012/13	15 March Cabinet	Allocation of LTP capital budget to maintenance and integrated transport projects
The Council's Equality Policy and Action Plan	15 March Cabinet 22 March Council	To seek approval for the for the policy and action plan.

## Agenda Item 22

Housing Allocation Policy Review	15 March Cabinet 22 March Council	To seek Cabinet endorsement and full Council Approval for recommended changes to the Allocation policy
Asset Management Fund 2012/13	19 April Cabinet	To seek Cabinet Member Approval for the allocation of the Asset Management Fund 2012/13
Sports Facilities Management Contract - Capital Investment Proposals	19 April Cabinet	To seek Cabinet approval for the capital investment schemes at Withdean Sports Complex and Prince Regent Swimming Complex
City Plan, Part 1 - Document for Consultation	10 May Cabinet	Full version of the revised City Plan, Part 1 that replaces the Core Strategy. The purpose of the report is to seek agreement to go out to consultation on the full document

Agenda items/ Speakers	Reason for the agenda item	Outcome & Monitoring
<b>15 November 2011</b>		
John Barradell (10am)	Present the Council's priorities and what the OPC can get involved in	Colin Vincent agreed to get involved with the City Forum groups.
Ageing Well - Consultant	Scrutiny had been successful in getting 3 consultancy days for the Ageing Well programme	Individual interviews set for the 28 November & 1 December
<b>28 November &amp; 1 December</b>		
Individual interviews with OPC members and Ageing Well programme Consultant and Palliative Care Consultant (1 December only)		
<b>13 December 2011</b>		
Bill Randall (10-10.40am)	Present priorities and challenges of the administration. Follow up previous private meeting with the Leader.	
Ageing Well - Consultant	Present the findings from the interviews and potential work programme	
<b>17 January 2012</b>		
Finance	Mark Ireland and James Hengeveld to present the Council's proposed budget. Pensioner Action, pensioner Association & Age Concern invited.	

<b>21 February 2012</b>		
Independent Sector Care Home Contract - Jane McDonald	Current arrangements and to consult on our Core Principles	
<b>21 February 2012</b>		
Robert Griffiths (Director of Fundraising) The Martletts	Future budget and service provision	
<b>20 March 2012- PUBLIC MEETING – Funding the future of Social Care for Older People – Jubilee Library</b>		
Terry Parkin (10.10 – 11.15am) and Brian Doughty	How are the Council funding day care services, how do older people access care services. Where is the Council at with the Open Public Services White Paper on the Personalisation Agenda - Case studies	
<b>17 April 2012</b>		
<b>22 May 2012</b>		
<b>19 June 2012 – PUBLIC MEETING</b>		



17 July 2012		
21 August 2012		
18 September 2012 – AGM PUBLIC MEETING		
23 October 2012		
20 November 2011		
18 December 2011		





**Jack Hazelgrove**  
**Brighton & Hove Older People's**  
**Council**  
**c/o Room 128**  
**King's House**  
**Grand Avenue**  
**Hove**  
**BN3 2LS**

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Cllr Jason Kitcat  
Brighton & Hove City Council

**Date:** 20 January 2011

**Our Ref:** BudCon

Cc Catherine Vaughan  
Mark Ireland

Dear Cllr Kitcat,

**Joint submission from the Older People's Council, Age Concern Brighton, Hove & Portslade, Pensioner Action and the Pensioners' Association on the council's draft budget proposals.**

We write following a briefing from Mark Ireland, James Hengeveld and Brian Doughty on the draft budget proposals to make comment and raise concerns over how the budget will affect older people within Brighton and Hove.

The extremely challenging nature of the cuts required to the council's budget were well understood by all. However there was a general feeling that those budgets relating to 'place' should be revisited to maximise savings to ensure that 'people' budgets can be further protected.

We strongly support the policy retaining current eligibility criteria with regards to accessing adult social care services. This will give peace-of-mind to many vulnerable people and recognises that early support will often save money in the long run as people can retain independence for longer.

There are a number of specific proposals that are worth mentioning as cause for concern for older people. Firstly the future of Community Meals and reassurance regarding the frequency of delivery and quality of the meals provided. Whilst Brian Doughty was able to provide some guarantee regarding this we would still like it put on record our views that the service level needs to be retained.

There has been much in the press locally regarding proposals to reduce public toilet provision. We strongly oppose any reduction in public toilets within Brighton and Hove. Public toilets are vital for older people and a number of other vulnerable groups in society. Surveys have found that around two thirds of older people will not go out as often as they would like due to a lack of public toilets in their area.



Continued moves towards supporting independent living and a move away from residential care homes are of course welcome, as is the freedom that comes with personalised budgets. We would however stress that these kind of initiatives need to be driven by the service users, meet their needs and not be in response to cost-cutting measures.

Whilst there is not a great deal of detail regarding exactly which routes will be affected we have considerable concern regarding any loss of bus routes which play a vital part in keeping older people independent and able to enjoy the vibrant city we live. More than any other group buses are at the centre of how older people move about the city.

We hope you can take our concerns and comments on board in future iterations of your budget.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Hazelgrove  
Older People's Council

Isla Robertson  
Pensioners' Association

Sue Howley  
Pensioner Action

Frances McCabe  
Age Concern





**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**Councillor Jason Kitcat  
Cabinet Member for Finances  
& Central Services**

Kings House, Grand Avenue,  
Hove, BN3 2LS

Jack Hazelgrove  
Brighton & Hove Older People's Council  
C/o Room 128  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove  
BN3 2LS

Date: 26 January 2012  
Our Ref:  
Your Ref:  
Phone: 01273 290481  
Fax: 01273 291003  
e-mail: [jason.kitcat@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:jason.kitcat@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Dear Jack, Isla, Sue and Frances

Thank you for your letter on 20th January, I very much appreciate your joint submission and your comments.

In relation to community meals we are working closely with the scrutiny panel on this issue to implement their recommendations for the service.

We sought savings from public toilets with a heavy heart, and as part of our desire to seek as many savings from 'place' budgets versus 'people' ones, however the division is not always clear cut. In response to feedback we will be putting £25,000 recurring funding back into toilets, preventing a number from closure. We are also looking to engage in a more long-term way with key interest groups to see how we can more strategically address this issue. It's also worth noting that, whilst not in the budget papers, we are creating a number of new public toilet facilities in the city as conditions of new leases we are letting for kiosks and cafes in the city.

In relation to bus subsidies, our aim is to re-evaluate bus routes as the routes they take have not been challenged and reviewed for many years. In that time the population and needs of our city have changed - we think the routes might need to also. We also believe there are better contractual practices we could be adopting to help reduce our costs.

We are continuing to review the budget, and as new information about grants and any underspend come in we will seek to modify proposals in response to feedback. We agree services should be user-led, not driven by cost savings, and that is an ethos we are seeking to champion.

Thank you again for your feedback and don't hesitate to respond with any further questions or queries.

Best wishes,

[Jason.Kitcat@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:Jason.Kitcat@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services  
Green Member for Regency Ward

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John Barradell  
Chief Executive  
Brighton & Hove City Council

**Date:** 20 January 2011  
**Our Ref:** GovCha

Dear John,

**Older People's Council & Changes to Governance Arrangements**

We understand that Brighton and Hove City Council is likely to be moving to new governance arrangements in May 2012.

As you are aware the Older People's Council is a directly elected body representing older people within Brighton, Hove and Portslade.

I am writing to request that the OPC is granted a non-voting co-opted place on each of the policy committees relevant to older people established under the new system and also on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee if retained.

Giving the OPC a seat on each committee would allow the voice of older people to be heard during the decision-making process. This can only be a good thing for the council, older people and the quality of decision-making in the city.

I am sure that you will wish to consult with the political groups on the council, but look forward to a prompt response.

Yours sincerely,

Jack Hazelgrove  
Chair, Older People's Council









**Brighton & Hove Older People's  
Council  
Room 128  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove  
BN3 2LS**

The Argus

**Date:** 24 January 2012

**Our Ref:** BusCon

Dear Sir,

The eagle-eyed amongst your readers will have spotted deep within the council's draft budget papers reference to changes to bus services the council currently subsidises. Clearly set out are proposals for *'fewer supported bus routes'* and that *'unviable services with very poor patronage will be reduced or withdrawn'*.

Bus services are vital to many vulnerable groups within the city, older people being a prime example. Free bus travel allows older people to shop, socialise and access the services that keep them independent. This lets them to play and a full and active role in the life of our city and indeed reduces the cost of support to the council and society as a whole.

As subsidised bus services compete with other services for scarce council funding any campaign to save individual routes looks to be an uphill struggle. Bus users all over the city should be concerned whether their route will be one that faces the axe completely or suffer a reduced timetable.

As a city we enjoy a formidable bus service, indeed one of the most comprehensive in the country, as the list of awards on the Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company's website shows. Their website also states that the local market for bus travel has grown 5% each year since 1993. It should be possible for the council and a company that has been supported by the city for long to come together to ensure that any reduction in service is kept to a minimum and alternative ways of delivering the service are explored.

Yours faithfully,

Someone  
Older People's Council





Mr Francis Tonks  
10 Wykeham Terrace  
Brighton  
BN1 3FF

Date: 2 February 2012  
Our Ref: BR/vg  
Your Ref:  
Phone: (01273) 291011  
e-mail: [bill.randall@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:bill.randall@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Dear Frances

### **Lifts at Donald Hall Road**

Thank you for your letter dated 11 January 2012 regarding recent issues with lifts in the Donald Hall Road area.

Firstly, we would like to apologise for the delays and the inconvenience the situation has caused to the residents. The councils Mechanical and Engineering (M&E) Team have explained that there was a serious issue sourcing a replacement motor for this lift in December 2011. Eventually, one was acquired from the Czech Republic. They have also explained that there were significant problems with the previous service contractor, Thyssen Krupp. They have assured me that the new service contractor (Liftec) who won the new contract in January this year will be providing a much more effective and efficient service going forward.

Regarding the issue raised about information provision; our officers work very hard to support the residents affected by the lift breakdowns. For example they have been in continued contact with all of the vulnerable residents, they offer temporary accommodation where needed and in this instance they have run errands and done shopping for people who could not manage the stairs.

The process for breakdown situations such as this is managed by the M&E team along with Housing Managers and Estates Services. Residents are kept informed when this type of incident happens, with letters and notices in the block giving full and detailed contact details to call or write to.

Although I understand from a resident's point of view this may not fully compensate for being without a lift for such a long period of time, I can assure you that staff have done their best to keep residents up to date with any information that they have available.

.../2



The lift replacement programme is now underway and this lift is scheduled to be replaced in 2012-2013.

I do hope this information is of assistance.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Randall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Councillor Bill Randall**  
Leader of Brighton & Hove City Council

