

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**4.30pm 19 JULY 2012**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

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

**PART ONE**

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1.1 Councillor Smith declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Items 7(c), and 20(b), concerning Bowling Clubs as he was a non-playing member of Woodingdean Bowling Club.
- 1.2 Councillor Wells declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Items 7(c) and 20(b), concerning Bowling Clubs as he was a non-playing member of Woodingdean Bowling Club and also noted that reference was made to empty homes on page 174 of the agenda papers and he was Non-Executive Director of Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes.
- 1.3 Councillors Wakefield and Summers declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest as members of the Board of Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes Ltd, in view of the reference to empty homes on page 174 of the agenda papers.
- 1.4 Councillor Hamilton declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Items 7(c) and 20(b), concerning Bowling Clubs as he was an active supported of Portslade Bowling Club.
- 1.5 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

**2. MINUTES**

- 2.1 The minutes of the various meetings listed below were approved as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Mayor:

- (a) the Budget Council meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012;
- (b) Special Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012;
- (c) the last Ordinary Council meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012;
- (d) the Special Council Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012;
- (e) the Annual Council Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

### **3. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

- 3.1 The Mayor informed the meeting that he intend to take Items 7(c) Petition for Debate and 20(b) Notice of Motion from the Conservative Group together when Item 7(c) on the agenda was reached, as both the petition and the notice of motion related to Bowling Clubs;
- 3.2 The Mayor then stated that he had agreed to take a late item, concerning the Annual Audit Report which had been referred to the council by the Audit & Standards Committee and was listed as Item 11(A) in the addendum that has been circulated. He also noted that a further Part Two report on the Bus Service Network had been referred to the meeting for information following the Policy & Resources Committee on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and was listed as Item 22(A) on the addendum and had been circulated to Members only as it was a Part Two item;
- 3.3 The Mayor stated that he wished to convey the Council's condolences to the family of Glenn Mishon who had passed away recently after a long battle with cancer. He noted that Members would be aware Glenn had been a part of the fabric of Brighton and Hove and had been a supporter of many good causes in the city;
- 3.4 The Mayor then welcomed Dr. Mike Wilkinson to the meeting and asked the Council to join him in thanking Dr. Wilkinson for his commitment and service as the Independent Chair of the previous Standards Committee over the last 6 years. He noted that with the provisions of the Localism Act coming into force recently, he had taken the decision to stand down and would not be sitting on the Audit & Standards Committee.
- 3.5 Councillor Littman stated that he had worked with Dr. Wilkinson for the past year and had found him to be very helpful and able to provide an insight into a number of matters that had come forward to the Standards Committee. He wished him well and thanked him for his support at the committee and as part of the working group that had reviewed the new standards regime;
- 3.6 Councillor A. Norman stated that she had been very pleased to work with Dr. Wilkinson and noted that he had always been extremely well prepared for each meeting and had presided over a number of complaints against Members with integrity.
- 3.7 Councillor Lepper stated that she appreciated all the work that Dr. Wilkinson had undertaken over the years and felt that the council had been extremely luck to have him on the Standards Committee as an Independent Member and Chair. She regretted the changes in legislation which had led to him having to come off the committee and stated that he would be missed and it showed just how important and valuable independent members were for Standards matters;

- 3.8 The Mayor thanked the councillors for their comments and presented Dr. Wilkinson with a certificate and gift as a mark of thanks for his services to the council and the Standards Committee;
- 3.9 The Mayor then noted that it was the last Ordinary Full Council meeting for the current Chief Executive, John Barradell and the Strategic Directors for Resources and Communities. He stated that he wished to thank them on behalf of the council for all their work and support during their time with the authority and to wish them well in their new roles. He was sure that the Chief Executive would find the City of London to be very different from Brighton & Hove and hoped that he found his time with the council had put him in good stead and that he would keep a watchful interest as a resident on how things develop at the authority and in the city.
- 3.10 The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor for his kind words and stated that it had been a privilege to have worked for Brighton & Hove and with a number of talented people across the council and partner organisations, all of whom sought to make Brighton and Hove a better place. He wished to thank the Mayor and his predecessors that he had worked with, as well as the Leaders of the Council all of whom brought their own unique qualities to the role of Leader and shared the aim of serving the city and the council in the best way that they could.
- 3.11 The Mayor stated that he was very happy to inform council that the Overview & Scrutiny Team had won the Innovation Award in this year's Centre for Public Scrutiny Awards, for their work on the Travellers Review. It showed how well regarded the team were and the benefit of having overview & scrutiny in the council structure. He was also pleased to inform the council that the Democratic Services Team had been one of 5 short-listed teams for the Municipal Journal's Team of the Year. Although they were not overall winners, to have been short-listed at national level was a great achievement and he wished to thank them on behalf of council for all their work and support, much of which took place without formal recognition;
- 3.12 The Mayor then stated that he wanted to congratulate all those involved in the Council being named the top local authority in the country for tackling homophobia and homophobic bullying in schools by Stonewall. Stonewall has described as exemplary the work the council did jointly with its good practice schools and local charity the Allsorts Youth Project. Young people from Allsorts have delivered training to council and school staff and provided anti-homophobic bullying sessions in secondary PSHE lessons. He then invited Councillor Mac Cafferty as Deputy Leader, along with Sam Beal from Children's Services and Maria Lamont from Allsorts to come forward to receive the award;
- 3.13 Finally the Mayor noted that he had been to a number of engagements since taking the role, ranging from celebrating Jubilee events, lighting the beacon, attending a Mayor's dinner in Chichester, a Royal Visit, People's Day, Pride events to receiving the Olympic Torch last Monday at the Cricket Ground.

#### **4. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.**

- 4.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. He 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.

- 4.2 Councillor Simson presented a petition signed by 96 residents requesting the reinstatement of the No. 52 bus service from Woodingdean;
- 4.3 Councillor A. Kitcat presented a petition signed by 15 residents from Boyces Street requesting that it be closed to traffic for safety reasons;
- 4.4 Councillor Mitchell presented a petition signed by 88 residents, concerning the level of parking charges in Whitehawk Road.
- 4.5 The Mayor noted that no further petitions were due to be presented.

## **5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- 5.1 The Mayor reported that 7 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Tilley to come forward and address the council.
- 5.2 Mr. Tilley thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; "With the introduction of bus key cards, bus journey information is electronically stored. An analysis of this journey information would greatly aid the understanding of current and future public transport service usage. It is requested that the Council produce a timetable for publishing monthly individual bus journey data as Open Data?"
- 5.3 Councillor Davey replied; "Thank you for your question. Whilst the Council is supportive of Open Data initiatives bus journey information on services operated commercially is the property of bus operators. However, we will pass on your request to the bus companies.

The public transport industry is gradually moving towards more use of smartcards and, as they are introduced by bus operators on supported services, we will endeavour to make use of the additional data supplied by the smartcards. It should be noted that smartcards are not a stipulation of the supported bus services contracts which start in September."

- 5.4 Mr. Tilley asked the following supplementary question; "I note the Government's policy of delivering services digitally by default and providing open data by default, Brighton Council's provisioning of public digital services and open data needs improvement. It's taken some of my colleagues 3 or 4 emails of chasing to get answers to digital access questions. People require information like parking revenues, visitor's numbers, and council attendance. Many cities nationally or internationally have a digital convenor, that person acts a centre point for open strategy, open data, digital inclusion etc... It is requested that the Council please consider restructuring its service to enable such an appointment of a digital convenor."
- 5.5 Councillor Davey replied; "You have taken this well out of the realms of my responsibility but I will pass this on to colleagues who have heard all of that."

- 5.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Tilley for attending the meeting and putting his questions and invited Mr. Campbell to come forward and address the council.
- 5.7 Mr. Campbell thanked the Mayor and asked the following question “Is the current Green administration anti business or just inept as a result of their lack of practical commercial experience?”
- 5.8 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, “No.”
- 5.9 Mr. Campbell asked the following supplementary question of Councillor Mac Cafferty, “Is it appropriate for councillors to use Twitter and other social media to promote themselves and their particular political agenda as councillors but then to block those who don’t necessarily share their point of view and so stifling legitimate political debate?”
- 5.10 Councillor Mac Cafferty replied, “Who I follow or who follows me on Twitter is entirely a personal matter.”
- 5.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Campbell for attending the meeting and putting his questions and invited Mr. Kemble to come forward and address the council.
- 5.12 Mr. Kemble thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, “Does the Council recognise the Hackney Carriage Trade as part of the City’s integrated transport system?”
- 5.13 Councillor Davey replied, “Yes we do, it features strongly in the local transport plan. The taxi operators now have a taxi forum which sits under Licensing rather than with Transport but also taxi representatives attend the transport partnership meetings, for example we had a workshop on the station gateway project a couple of weeks ago; we were very pleased to have a taxi representative there and also spent a long time talking to taxi representatives at the tourism alliance recently so yes absolutely we do.”
- 5.14 Mr. Kemble asked the following supplementary question, “As the Council has publicly stated it does recognise the Hackney Carriage Trade as part of the City’s integrated transport system, will the councillor agree to install a taxi rank on land owned by the City Council from Ridgeway, Falmer to provide a service to the Amex stadium?”
- 5.15 Councillor Davey replied, “I think that’s been presented in the past, I don’t know the history of that, however I would suggest that you put that proposal forward in the usual way so that it can be considered by the officers.”
- 5.16 The Mayor thanked Mr. Kemble for attending the meeting and putting his questions and invited Ms. Turner to come forward and address the council.
- 5.17 Ms. Turner thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, “Could the Council please tell us what plans they have in mind for a large separate and augmented public art gallery in Brighton and Hove?”
- 5.18 Councillor Bowden replied, “Having a large and separate public art gallery in the city is something that is an ambition of this administration. Given the current state of public

sector finance, it would not be an easy thing to achieve on our own or in the short term. We do have a number of successful public art galleries in the city already; Fabrica which gets very large attendance figures across the year, the University of Brighton, Phoenix and of course the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery as part of the Royal Pavilion Estate. We also have a number of temporary visual arts festivals and exhibitions throughout the year – the Open Houses was phenomenally successful again this year and had an extra programmed element called HOUSE, Brighton Photobiennial launched earlier this week and will be on in October, the Brighton Digital Festival will be taking place again this Autumn to name but some.

However – the success of these does go to show the incredible appetite for visual arts in particular in the city and we would like to do more. We do have plans for greater use across the Museum and Art Gallery buildings and of course we would like to repeat the success we have had with the contemporary art commissions in the Royal Pavilion itself. Additionally, we do recognise the central importance of digital culture in the city and the role it plays in creating jobs here and adding to the city's reputation.

In summary, there is a lot of very successful visual arts practice in the city, both traditional and more contemporary. We would like to build on this and we do still harbour ambitions for an art gallery, perhaps with a photographic and digital focus delivered in partnership with the leading organisations that we have based here.”

- 5.19 Ms. Turner asked the following supplementary question “If a private party were to try and open an art gallery, in what way could the Council assist them?”
- 5.20 Councillor Bowden replied, “If someone came to me with lots of money and wanted to open a gallery I'd be the first to welcome them. It's finding the space; and if they came to us you'd find they may be looking at an open door so if you know someone come and talk to me afterwards.”
- 5.21 The Mayor thanked Ms. Turner for attending the meeting and putting her questions and invited Mr. Lowe to come forward and address the council,
- 5.22 Mr. Lowe thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, “With 70% of monitoring sites in Brighton and Hove recording illegal levels of nitrogen dioxide and the likelihood of the EU issuing a multimillion pound fine next year for breaching safety guidelines will the administration get tough on monitoring perpetual road works thereby insuring that they are completed within the shortest time frame in order to negate such build ups of noxious gases from stationery vehicles caught in the queues?”
- 5.23 Councillor West replied, “Throughout every year it is necessary for a considerable number of road works to be carried out within the city. These include highway maintenance, new schemes or developments and utility companies renewing or maintaining their installations. There are also several major events which have to be worked around. Quarterly meetings are held, with representatives from the council, utility companies and developers, in order to plan and co-ordinate future works around the city. A monthly city centre liaison group is also in place. With its own works, the council delivers co-ordinated packages of maintenance works and transport improvements to minimise disruption and maximise the public benefits when completed.

Utility works are regularly monitored on site by the council. So far this year, the council has raised fines of over £30,000 on the utility companies for overrunning works, with fines of £96,000 raised last year. The council is currently examining the possibility of a permit scheme, which enables a greater level of co-ordination and advance planning. A report on the business case will be presented to the Transport Committee later this year.

The Council records NO<sub>2</sub> levels above the limit value across less than 2 % of the city's area. The majority of monitoring sites are located in 'hotspots' adjacent to busy transport corridors. It would be an unwise use of council resources to spread monitors across areas of the city where there is little traffic. The temporary nature of road works and events mean they are unlikely to have an impact on long-term pollution, but the measures I've mentioned, help ensure road works are carried out efficiently and any pollution, even temporary, is minimised. Two of the council's main transport goals are to reduce carbon emissions and improve public health. In the long term, this will be achieved through a range of different measures and projects designed to increase the range of sustainable transport choices for everybody; and by using innovation and technology to reduce congestion and improve air quality, and therefore residents' health. The Administration's commitment to developing and delivering these measures is demonstrated by the allocation of significant levels of capital investment totalling tens of millions of pounds we are committed to sustainable improvements over the next 3 years."

5.24 Mr. Lowe asked the following supplementary question, "So far Councillor West, with excessive parking charges costing businesses a fortune, attempting to reduce bus services mainly park and rides I could go on. Should the city be hit with an EU fine or these pollution levels continue will you and your partner in bio-crime, Councillor Ian Davey, resign forthwith?"

5.25 Councillor West replied, "One of the key points on parking charges is that we have altered the charges across the city. One of the reasons for this is that we want to reduce the parking pressure in the city centre which is contributing to our pollution so we would actually like people to spread a little bit further along and to use other areas to boost the economy in those other parts of the city and that would be very welcome by those areas.

What my colleague, Councillor Davey, has just reminded me as well is that we have very recently seen a high increase in bus patronage which has gone up 5% so that is a good piece of news. If you wish to correspond with me about any of your further points then that might be the easiest way to tackle them."

5.26 The Mayor thanked Mr. Lowe for attending the meeting and putting his questions and invited Mr. Warmington to come forward and address the council.

5.27 Mr. Warmington thanked the Mayor and asked the following question, "In answer to a public question to this Council meeting a year ago, the Administration undertook to investigate an all-operator Oyster-style travelcard for public transport in Brighton & Hove. As several developments in the last year have made this all the more desirable, what steps has the Council taken to give this serious consideration?"

- 5.28 Councillor Davey replied, "I'm not sure that I agree that we did undertake, to investigate or operate an oyster toll or travel card but we did say multi operated ticketing. The introduction of a city wide travel card accepted by all public transport operators serving Brighton and Hove is a complex issue that will require co-operation and significant investment by all local transport operators as well as by the City Council. As I'm sure you're probably aware, it isn't in our gift to tell any public transport operator what to do or how to run their business. There's a big difference between London where London's oyster card is similar to what is called the quality contracts model which comes under the 2008 Local Transport Act whereby the local authority, in this case transport for London, tenders every route and no commercial operation is actually allowed.

This makes the use of single oyster cards style much easier to apply however the introduction of quality contracts system in Brighton and Hove would require a full public enquiry and their will be powers of objection from the public and existing public transport operators and as you may well be aware I don't think there's any quality contract system anywhere in the country outside of London at the moment.

I'm aware that the Transport Minister's recent statement supporting the introduction of multi operator smartcards outside London. He made the statement following the competition's commission's findings. I understand the Transport Minister has made a statement and proposes new legislation for transport authorities to mandate such schemes so I look forward to hearing further guidance from the Transport Minister and from central government.

In the meantime what I'm going to do is ask officers to prepare a short briefing paper on multi operated ticketing for the October transport committee, I think it would be a really good opportunity to look and see what else is happening in other places in the country and see what lessons can be learned. So that can be presented at the October transport committee and I think there's a strong possibility that the November transport partnership will look at public transport so we could also bring it to that partnership meeting as well."

- 5.29 The Mayor thanked Mr. Warmington for attending the meeting and putting his question. He noted that Ms. Paynter was not present and therefore the final question could not be put and a written response would be sent to her instead.

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

- 6.1 The Mayor reported that three deputations had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Goss as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 6.2 Mr. Goss thanked the Mayor and stated that, "On 3 March, the City Sightseeing Bus, operated by the Brighton and Hove Bus and Coach Company, was re-routed down the east side of Sussex Square and Lewes Crescent, from Eastern Road down to Marine Parade. The Company obtained a summer 2012 permit for the re-routing from the Office of the Traffic Commissioner from 3 March. The buses run daily at half hourly intervals from 10.35am to 6.35pm, that is 17 journeys per day, from 28 April till 16 September, then with reduced frequency until end September. This deputation is from the residents and requests the Council to take the necessary steps to prevent the bus



being routed through Sussex Square/Lewes Crescent once the current permit has expired.

Sussex Square and Lewes Crescent, along with Arundel Terrace and Chichester Terrace, form the Kemp Town Estate, which has a Grade 1 listing. The Estate is a beautiful and cherished part of Brighton and we as residents want to share it with our Brighton community. We believe, however, that riding on a double decker bus, of up to 18 tons fully laden, which is travelling at speed through the Estate is not the way to enjoy, preserve and share its beauty and atmosphere. We believe that the bus is endangering the Estate's inhabitants. Many of the buses run empty or nearly empty, which is not good in terms of fuel use and maintenance, climate change and the environment. Scheduled bus services have never before run through the Estate.

We believe the Estate should be kept as a relaxed pedestrian area which all can share. We very much welcome visitors but believe strongly that the Estate can best be enjoyed on foot. For those unable to explore it on foot, the best way to get a good view of the buildings and gardens in their entirety is from the bus on Marine Parade or Eastern Road. The viewer does not gain much in addition from seeing just a few of the houses up close. We are also concerned that the bus will set a precedent in changing the road from being mostly residential to one with broader commercial use which will be very detrimental to the Estate.

This deputation by the residents has the full support of the Kemp Town Society. We will present to the Council at its meeting on 19 July an accompanying petition from local residents. The Brunswick and Adelaide Residents' Group, (covering Adelaide Crescent, Brunswick Square - which is also Grade 1 listed - and Lansdowne Place), also supports this Deputation. Tour buses passed through Brunswick Square at one time but no longer do so.

We understand that the Council's Conservation Advisory Group (CAG), at their 24 April 2012 meeting, discussed the re-routing of the bus through the Estate and that the Group agreed that it should write to the bus company expressing its concern and that the KTS should raise this concern with its members. We understand that CAG's concerns are similar to those raised in this deputation.

We were also heartened to hear of the strong action taken by the Bath Council in 1998 when the safety and environment of the Royal Crescent in Bath (in particular the historical cobbled roadway) was endangered by sightseeing buses. The Council there arranged a public enquiry which resulted in the closure of one end of the Crescent to prevent through traffic. We also understand that the closure has yielded unexpected benefits to the Crescent from enabling visitors and residents to enjoy a peaceful and relaxed primarily pedestrian environment in the Crescent."

- 6.3 Councillor Davey replied, "The authority has very limited power to force a bus company to change a route. I've been given a copy of a letter from the Conservation Advisory Group to Mr French just a couple of days ago on this matter. What I suggest is that we pass the petition on to the bus company and I'll put a covering letter in with that and it will come to the next Transport Committee. If the bus company do not agree to reroute this service, then the issue can be discussed by the committee and if it should be so minded a letter could be written to Mr French, and to the Transport Commissioner

expressing concerns about the route, so I think we can work together on taking this matter forward.”

6.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Goss for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Transport 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.

6.5 The Mayor then invited Mr. Bojczuk as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.

6.6 Mr. Bojczuk thanked the Mayor and stated that,

“The Older People’s Council, with the support of the city’s major stakeholders working with the elderly – AgeUK Brighton & Hove, Pensioner Action, CSV, CVSF-FED, Carer’s Group and Alzheimer’s Society – are seeking the support and commitment of Brighton & Hove Council in making an application to the WHO for Brighton & Hove to become a member of the WHO Age Friendly City Network. The Age Friendly City Network was launched in June 2010 in Geneva with New York as the inaugural city. Since then, 17 cities worldwide have joined the network, with Manchester the only member, so far, from Britain.

Our application will mark the start of a programme designed to build age friendliness and active ageing into Brighton & Hove city policies and so become a city fit for all ages that promotes active ageing and independent living well into old age.

This requires a commitment to undertake a base line age-friendly status study, then to plan for and commit to improvements over the following 3 years. We feel that Brighton & Hove already fulfil many of the required criteria and working to improve age friendliness will tie in with the council’s existing sustainable community plans and friendly neighbourhood strategies.

We propose that the council vote to accept our motion to apply to join the age friendly city network and to work to include age friendly principles into council policies.”

6.7 Councillor Jarrett stated that he was happy to support the OPC in their application and noted that a number of aspects of the programme would tie in with existing council priorities and others may require budget support and further reports to committee.

6.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Bojczuk for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. In view of the request for the council’s support he then moved that Council expresses its support for the Older People Council’s application to join the WHO Age Friendly City Network.

6.9 **RESOLVED:** That the Council expresses its support for the Older People Council’s application to join the WHO Age Friendly City Network.

6.10 The Mayor then invited Ms. Hill as the spokesperson for the third deputation to come forward and address the council.

6.11 Ms. Hill thanked the Mayor and noted that since the deputation had been submitted, a number of the points of concern had been addressed by the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, however she felt it was still appropriate to outline the deputation,

“When cuts were announced in early June to twelve subsidised bus services affecting large parts of the city, there was a public outcry. Cuts to the 81 and 52 mean no weekday evening service in Goldstone Valley, and no direct service at all from Ovingdean to the city centre. Sunday evening services will be thinned out from September to May, leaving no bus services at all on Elm Grove or Queens Park Road after 6pm on a Sunday for nine months of the year. Two school buses will cease, the 74 and the 96, serving Patcham, Hove Park and Blatchington Mill schools.

A petition in support of the 52 raised over 300 signatures in just a few days, and was presented at the Policy and Resources committee meeting on June 14th. At the same meeting, schoolchildren argued passionately in support of their school buses and amendments were proposed. However, the decision went ahead.

Since then, word has continued to spread. From Fiveways to the race course, from Woodingdean to Hove Park, over 1,600 signatures on the ongoing petition started by Brighton and Hove Labour demonstrates how much people value the city’s bus service. Many can’t understand why the Green Party controlled Council, so keen to get people out of their cars, would want to see the bus service reduced. People have pointed out that not everyone can cycle, and that many cannot drive or afford taxis. The elderly, those with disabilities, and young people are the most affected.

Targeting low usage services as a cost-saving exercise is short term. Those living far from the city centre with no car need a comprehensive bus service. Who would move to Goldstone Valley now without a car, knowing that there are no buses at all on a weekday evening, or Ovingdean, which is no longer linked directly to the city centre? Reducing the service causes a downward spiral, where rising car ownership drives down bus usage even more, making services ever more expensive to run, and at the same time increasing congestion, damaging air quality and enlarging our carbon footprint.

Following the support demonstrated by the petition and in the pages of the Argus, and after a meeting between Labour councillors and Brighton and Hove Bus Company, it now appears that the operator may be willing to reinstate the Sunday evening services, and we understand that there is a possibility that the Council will continue to fund the two school buses.

We welcome this, and thank the Council for responding to public opinion in this positive way. However, we would also like to ask that the funding of the 52 and 81 services be continued, by reconsidering other transport and sustainability budgets. It is difficult to justify spending on projects which may or may not deliver environmental benefits in the longer term, by cutting existing services which are helping people to live sustainably now.

Some have called Brighton and Hove a protest city, and people certainly have a right to voice a protest when services that they contribute to, and on which they rely, are withdrawn. We hope the Council is prepared to listen to the views of the people about their valued bus service, and to reconsider their decision.”

- 6.12 Councillor J. Kitcat thanked Ms. Hill for the deputation and acknowledged the importance that bus services played in the city’s economy and for residents. He stated that there was a need to review the provision of school transport and this had been identified as part of the previous budget process. He also noted that the decision taken at June meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee had resulted in a number of routes being maintained by the bus company without subsidy and had generated a saving of £1m to the council. He also noted that at the recent meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee it had been agreed to provide subsidies for a number of other routes which meant that almost all routes would now continue to operate.
- 6.13 The Mayor thanked Ms. Hill for attending the meeting and stated that in view of the next item on the agenda and the fact that it was intended to open the debate to include Items 21 and 21(A), the issues raised in the deputation were likely to be addressed at that point. He noted that this was the final deputation and therefore concluded the item.

## **7. PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**

### **7(A). SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Mayor stated that under the Council’s petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of an e-petition concerning Subsidised Bus Services.

- 7.2 The Mayor invited Ms. Hill to present her petition.

- 7.3 Ms. Hill thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,789 people had signed the combined paper and e-petition which read as follows:

“We the undersigned petition the council to continue the current funding of subsidised bus services in Brighton and Hove.

Bus services exist so that people can get around without the need for a car, and reducing subsidies will make it more difficult to reduce car ownership and usage. The proposed cuts will mostly affect those who cannot afford a car, cannot walk far, or cannot pay for a taxi. We urge the council to find the modest sums required to continue bus subsidies from other projects and avoid this backwards step.”

- 7.4 Ms. Hill stated that she hoped the council would find a way to ensure that the bus services were maintained and that a solution would be found for the No.52 service that served Woodingdean.
- 7.5 The Mayor noted that there were two amendments to the report’s recommendations and stated that he would therefore call on Councillor Robins to move the Labour & Co-operative Group’s amendment followed by Councillor G. Theobald to move the Conservative Group’s amendment.

- 7.6 Councillor Robins moved the Labour & Co-operative amendment which sought to add further recommendations to the report.
- 7.7 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the amendment.
- 7.8 Councillor G. Theobald moved the Conservative Group amendment which also sought to add further recommendations to the report.
- 7.9 Councillor A. Norman formally seconded the amendment.
- 7.10 Councillor J. Kitcat noted that all parties had voted for the budget in February which had included revisions to the bus services and noted that had the amendment moved at the June Policy & Resources Committee been carried, the £1m saving achieved since then would not have been made. Having set out the council's position the independent operators had chosen to maintain a number of services on a commercial basis and following the information presented at the last Policy & Resources Committee, it was possible to subsidise a number of the other routes so that they were available. There was a need to look at the school routes and to find a more flexible alternative to simply continuing with the subsidy in view of the falling numbers of pupils.
- 7.11 Councillor Mitchell stated that she believed it was appropriate to lobby for the retention of services and noted that the previous Labour Administration had worked closely with the bus company to improve services and provision such as accessible bus stops and real time bus information.
- 7.12 Councillor Davey stated that he could not support the proposed amendments as elements would require retendering of the contracts and this could not be achieved within the required timescales of the Traffic Commissioner.
- 7.13 Councillor Mears suggested that the current Administration had placed ideological views above the interests of the city. She noted that the owner of the Big Lemon had contacted ward councillors to say that buses would be sourced to meet the requirements of the contract, but she suggested that this should have been done in the first place. She also questioned the process which had resulted in the report to the July P&R Committee which identified an error in the contract award that had resulted in the No.52 service being awarded to the Big Lemon and a saving that was used to subsidise other services. She hoped that an explanation would be forthcoming on how such an error could have been made.
- 7.14 Councillor G. Theobald stated that he would be seeking further discussions to see if the full route for the No.52 service could be supported as it was the only service that enabled residents of Woodingdean to get in to the centre of the city and to the main hospital. He hoped that the Conservative amendment could be supported as there was a need to ensure that contract requirements for low-floor buses and through-ticketing could be met by the provider.
- 7.15 Councillor West referred to the One-Planet Living project and noted that the council and the city needed to reduce their carbon footprint and water-usage and that the funding allocated for the project would enable savings to be generated and then used to support

other services such as the bus routes. The decision to adhere to the procurement process had been vindicated as a saving had been achieved and services maintained.

- 7.16 Councillor Brown stated that the retention of the No.81 service had been welcomed by residents of Hove Park Ward as they would have been left with no service at all.
- 7.17 Councillor Simson referred to the No.52 service and queried whether in reviewing the contract the number of students from the Language School using the service had been taken into account, as this was on the increase, but was likely to go down if the restricted route was the only one available. She also noted that it would cost bus users more as they would have to purchase a second ticket once their journey ended at the Marina and therefore it was likely to discourage more people from using the service. She believed that there was a clear need for a full No.52 service that covered Woodingdean and Ovingdean and did not require having to change at the Marina.
- 7.18 Councillor Peltzer Dunn queried why there had been a need to discover an error in the award of the contracts to provide a solution to the situation that had been created and why so many people had been put through a period of worry only to find that there had been no need to do so.
- 7.19 Councillor Smith stated that he believed residents of Woodingdean, Ovingdean and Rottingdean had been treated as second class and denied equal accessibility to a service that enabled them to get to the centre of town or to the hospital. He did not believe that many would be willing to change at the Marina and therefore it was likely that more people would enter by car and thereby increase numbers in the city.
- 7.20 Councillor Jarrett stated that the budget proposals had been voted on by all Groups and it was normal practice for a successful contractor to have the necessary equipment in place at the time the contract came into operation and not before.
- 7.21 Councillor Kitcat stated that he was pleased to see that two new operators would be providing services within the city and that they would meet the contract requirements in regard to their fleet. He believed that the procurement process had shown that a number of routes could be maintained on a commercial basis and this would not have been the case had the decision in June been to retain all the subsidies as they were.
- 7.22 The Mayor noted the comments and thanked Ms. Hill for attending the meeting and presenting the petition. He then put the Labour & Co-operative amendment to the report's recommendations to the vote which was carried. He then put the Conservative amendment to the report's recommendations to the vote which were carried.
- 7.23 The Mayor then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried.
- 7.24 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That in view of the decision taken at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 the petition be noted;

- (2) That the Council welcomes moves from Brighton & Hove City Council and Brighton & Hove Bus Company that enable the 21B, 22, 24, 26, 27, 81A, 81, 74 and 96 bus services to continue running be welcomed;
- (3) That officers be requested to report to the Policy & Resources Committee at its next meeting confirming the completion of contracts to run the 81, 81A, 21B, 96 and 74 services;
- (4) That, in addition to (2) and (3) above, officers be recommended to seek to identify the necessary funding and continue discussions with the bus companies with a view to running a direct service, with through ticketing, connecting Woodingdean and Ovingdean to the city centre and to report back to the Policy & Resources Committee with an Urgency meeting taking place if necessary due to the short timescales;
- (5) That officers be requested to seek to ensure that any new contract approved for the service 52 contains a requirement (if it doesn't already do so and subject to legal and procurement advice) for wheelchair accessible buses to be used on this route and that it is integrated into the 'Real Time' bus information system or a suitable alternative system and to report back to the Policy & Resources Committee on the outcome of the contract negotiations.

7.25 The Mayor then moved that the reports listed at Item 21 in the agenda and 21(A) in the addendum should be noted.

7.26 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the report (Item 21) be noted.
- (2) That the report (Item 21(a)) be noted.

Note:

7.27 The Mayor then adjourned the meeting for a refreshment break at 6.30pm for a period of 45 minutes.

7.28 The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 7.15pm.

**7(B). TRAVELLERS, HORSDEAN SITE**

7.29 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of an e-petition concerning Travellers and the proposed Horsdean site.

7.30 The Mayor invited Councillor G. Theobald to present the petition.

7.31 Councillor Theobald thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,611 people had signed the combined paper and e-petition which read as follows:

“We the undersigned, object to Brighton & Hove City Council’s plans for a static Traveller site at Horsdean on the South Downs National Park in Patcham.”

- 7.32 Councillor G. Theobald stated that the petition was growing by the day and it emphasised the point that residents of Brighton and Hove objected to the proposed static Traveller site at Horsdean, which was also in the National Park. He noted that a transient site already existed and the addition of a permanent site adjacent to this was not appropriate or conducive to social cohesion. He therefore wished to move an amendment to the recommendation which would prevent the establishment of a permanent site within the National Park.
- 7.33 Councillor Peltzer Dunn formally seconded the amendment.
- 7.34 Councillor West stated that there were 23 pitches provided on the transient site and the creation of an adjacent permanent site would lead to an economy of scale. He noted that it was difficult to manage the unauthorised encampments that emerged in the city and having a permanent site should help to reduce the number of occurrences. He also noted that the previous Conservative Administration had recognised the need for a permanent site and secured funding for the provision of a site. He also noted that the recent cross-party scrutiny review on Travellers had recommended the provision of a permanent site. The proposed site would have to meet the relevant planning authority’s requirements and a consultation process was taking place and he believed that it was the best option for all concerned.
- 7.35 Councillor C. Theobald stated that she did not feel it was appropriate to have everyone based on site and expressed concern over the possible contamination of the water table. She did not believe that a proper consultation exercise had taken place and was concerned that the existing transient site remained under-occupied even with groups setting up elsewhere as they did not want to pay for the use of the site.
- 7.36 Councillor Jarrett suggested that the best way of managing the unauthorised encampments was to have people on the permanent site and thereby enable better use of the transient site.
- 7.37 Councillor Wakefield welcomed the proposed creation of the permanent site and suggested that it would be regarded as treating Travellers with common decency and respectful of their human rights.
- 7.38 Councillor Jones suggested that the permanent site would enable its own community to be established and for those on the site to then be able to access services etc...
- 7.39 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that he was disappointed to see the petition given that the strategy to provide a permanent site had come from the cross-party scrutiny review. The previous Conservative Administration had left the situation unresolved for four years and the proposed site would meet national standards.
- 7.40 Councillor Hyde stated that the matter was an important issue and noted that there were currently twenty vans parked at Saltdean which was causing residents concern.



- 7.41 Councillor Mitchell stated that the council had a policy to provide a permanent site and the Labour & Co-operative Group had supported Horsdean subject to public consultation. She also noted that the Conservative Administration had secured funding and this was something that the current Government had chosen not to reduce and therefore she wondered where the Conservative Group would suggest for a permanent site.
- 7.42 Councillor West noted that three sites had been short-listed and that Horsdean had come out as the preferred site and therefore he could not accept the proposed amendment.
- 7.43 The Mayor noted that an amendment had been moved by Councillor G. Theobald and put it to the vote which was lost.
- 7.44 The Mayor then put the recommendation as listed in the report to the vote which was carried.
- 7.45 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be referred to the Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 for consideration.

#### **7(C). BOWLING CLUBS**

- 7.46 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of a petition concerning funding provisions for Bowling Clubs in the city. He also reminded the council that he would be taking Item 20(b), Notice of Motion as part of the debate, along with the two amendments to the report and an amendment to the Notice of Motion.
- 7.47 The Mayor invited Councillor Farrow to present the petition.
- 7.48 Councillor Farrow thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,627 people had signed the petition which read as follows:

"We the undersigned call on Brighton & Hove City Council presently governed by the Green Party, to debate their intention to reduce by £100,000 the subsidy to City Parks/Bowling Clubs throughout the City.

We call on the Council to debate this issue at their Council Meeting in July 2012.

City Parks are in discussion with each Bowling Club, individually, in Brighton and Hove over how each club can operate with reduced subsidy. If the proposed reduction is implemented it could mean Clubs would have to increase their charges by 200% or face possible closure."

- 7.49 Councillor Farrow stated the size of the petition showed the strength of feeling in regard to the proposed loss of subsidies to the various Bowling Clubs. He stated that the clubs provided their members and others with the ability to enjoy a sport, socialise and exercise, all benefits that should not be discouraged. The proposed reductions could

see fees increasing by as much as 200% and it was very likely that a number of clubs would simply fold.

- 7.50 Councillor Farrow then moved an amendment to the report's recommendation on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group to refer the petition to the Economic Development & Culture Committee and to request a report on the options to support the clubs and to invite a representative from the clubs to address that meeting.
- 7.51 Councillor Fitch formally seconded the amendment and stated that he believed the bowling clubs were being badly treated with no account in the proposed reductions being made of the size or the finances of each individual club. He suggested that the matter needed to be considered by the committee with clear options being presented and all clubs informed of the proposals beforehand.
- 7.52 Councillor Brown moved the Conservative Group's amendment which also sought to refer the petition for consideration by the Economic Development & Culture Committee.
- 7.53 Councillor Mears formally seconded the amendment.
- 7.54 Councillor Brown moved the Notice of Motion on behalf of the Conservative Group and stated that she had serious concerns about the scale of costs that the clubs would be faced with. She accepted that there was a need for savings to be made but felt that the current proposals should be withdrawn and discussions held with the clubs to find a solution that could be achieved over a longer period. The clubs were already suffering because of the increased parking charges and having the increased level of fees imposed would see a number of them fold.
- 7.55 Councillor Mears formally seconded the motion and stated that the clubs were the only outlet for a number of elderly people who wished to remain active and to be able to socialise. She believed the situation went against the Sports Development Team's publicity which aimed to encourage more people to participate in sport across the city. The increase of over 200% in fees for many of the clubs was too much and meant that they would not be able to cover their costs even with increases to membership fees. She noted that past Mayors had supported bowls in the city and that previously there had been a Mayor's tournament and hoped that such support would continue.
- 7.56 Councillor West moved an amendment to the notice of motion on behalf of the Green Group and stated that he wished to thank Councillor Farrow for bringing the matter to debate. He stated that the council was facing unprecedented costs which needed to be tackled and this had not been helped by the decision to freeze council tax. He recognised the health and wellbeing benefits from playing bowls, but noted that across the city membership was falling and some degree of rationalisation may be beneficial. The council maintained twenty greens in the city not all of which were used on a regular basis.
- 7.57 Councillor Phillips formally seconded the amendment.
- 7.58 Councillor West stated that the proposals had been raised with the clubs who had had time to adjust to the situation and there had been constructive discussions with officers with a variety of options being considered. He wished to thank the clubs for their co-

operation and stated that there was no intention to prevent people from playing bowls, however there was a need to make use of the available facilities and to encourage people to take the sport up so as to increase memberships. He stated that discussions with the clubs would continue with proposals then being brought to committee for consideration.

- 7.59 Following a point of order, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Economic Development & Culture Committee held the delegated responsibility for the bowling greens and therefore should the council decide to refer the issue, it would be to that committee. However, he also noted that dependant upon the budgetary considerations resulting from any decision by the committee; it may then require the matter to be referred to the Environment & Sustainability Committee or Policy & Resources Committee.
- 7.60 Councillor Smith stated that the council had supported bowls in the city for as long as he could recall and did not understand how the clubs were being singled out in regard to subsidies. He noted that people were able to use the swimming pools, beaches and other such facilities without reference being made to these being subsidised. He therefore did not understand why bowls was being referred to in this way and hoped that a solution could be found whereby the clubs could continue to function.
- 7.61 Councillor Hamilton stated that he believed there were a large number of people involved in playing or supporting the clubs and that a solution needed to be found that enabled them to continue to enjoy their sport. He noted that the Corporate Plan for 2012/13 included an objective to increase sport and sporting activity in the city and yet it appeared to be the opposite with the current proposals. He therefore believed that the current proposals should be reviewed.
- 7.62 Councillor Barnett noted that the Olympics were due to begin shortly which would heighten interest in sport, and yet the council was seeking to reduce a sporting facility. She stated that the Hangleton & Knoll Bowling Club had expressed their concern over its future if the proposals were implemented and asked that further consideration be given to the matter.
- 7.63 Councillor Phillips stated that she had met with representatives from St Anne's Wells who understood the need for the review of fees and were looking at how to manage the club so that it could continue. It was a great example of being involved in the process and she hoped would see a positive outcome. However, the council was in a difficult position because of the level of Government cuts that were being imposed and the need to maintain front-line services and she hoped that the amendment would be supported.
- 7.64 Councillor Jarrett stated that St. Anne's Wells club was a good example of a club that had recognised the pressures faced by the council and were willing to look at how they could continue with a lower level of support from the council.
- 7.65 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that a large number of people enjoyed the game and queried whether provision would remain for members of the public to simply choose to play on the public lawns. He accepted that aspects of the amendment could be supported but overall it did not achieve the aims of the actual notice of motion and therefore he would oppose it.

- 7.66 Councillor J. Kitcat noted the comments and stated that there was a need to take account of level of use of the greens which was limited to a period of 4-5 months and therefore a way forward needed to be found that was fair across all sporting facilities. The figures that had been referred to were approximations and no decision had been taken as yet, the intention had been to consult and to then bring forward proposals for consideration.
- 7.67 Councillor Brown stated that the proposals had caused the clubs concern about their futures and it appeared that the council was not listening which was why the notice of motion had been presented.
- 7.68 Councillor West stated that there was a need for a balanced approach and to seek to find a viable solution that would provide a better future for the clubs, which was why the amendment had been put forward.
- 7.69 The Mayor stated that he would put each amendment to the petition report first and then the amendment to the notice of motion and the notice of motion itself. He therefore put the Labour & Co-operative Group's amendment to the vote which was carried. The amendment having been carried, the Mayor noted that the Conservative Group's amendment became obsolete and therefore put the report's recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried.
- 7.70 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition be referred to the Economic Development & Culture Committee Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 for consideration;
  - (2) That a report be requested for presentation to the Economic Development & Culture Committee at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September setting out options for the future support to Bowls Clubs for consideration in advance of council budget setting; and
  - (3) That the Chief Executive be requested to ensure a representative of the city's Bowls Clubs is invited to attend and address the Economic Development & Culture Committee at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> September to set out their key concerns.
- 7.71 The Mayor then put the Green Group amendment to the notice of motion to the vote which was lost.
- 7.72 The Mayor then put the following notice of motion as listed in the agenda to the vote:
- "This Council recognises that the sport of bowls is enjoyed by many residents of Brighton & Hove, particularly older residents for whom it is an important way of keeping physically and mentally fit and of maintaining social interaction in later life.
- Therefore, this Council notes with concern proposals by the Administration to reduce the budget for the maintenance of bowling greens and other costs associated with running the city's 14 bowls clubs by 60%, or £94,000, in 2013/14. A reduction in funding on this scale will make it virtually impossible for many clubs to survive. Furthermore, putting up

membership fees to cover the increased costs would simply make bowls unaffordable for many older residents who are already struggling financially due to, amongst other things, the prolonged low interest rates on savings.

Therefore, this Council urges the appropriate Committee to:

- (i) Withdraw its proposals for drastic across the board cuts in support for the city's bowling clubs;
- (ii) Seek a compromise solution that enables all clubs that wish to do so to continue operating, whilst exploring ways in which they can become more autonomous and less reliant on Council funding in the future;

And

- (iii) Requests officers to bring forward a report to the Economic Development & Culture / Policy & Resources Committee(s) later in the year with concrete proposals about how this can be achieved."

**7.73 The motion was carried.**

## **8. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

8.1 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 Pissaridou**

8.2 "Can the lead Member for transport confirm the position regarding parking on Bolsover Road Hove?"

Although five years ago the residents opted to stay out of CPZ R, they have de facto been included in it. They have, and are, able to buy parking permits, and visitor permits, and until very recently all maps showed that Zone R included Bolsover Road. Thus the residents have parked on the very wide pavements (3.15m and 2.9m) with the tacit agreement of the Council. Now that the engineer has reported on the construction of the pavement, showing I believe that the foundations do in fact differ from the norm in that the top layer is tarmac, the second layer some sort of thick concrete, and finally the hard core base. (I understand that all this is of car park quality). As the residents have parked their cars on the pavements for some considerable time (15 years at least) without damage to the pavements or their vehicles then it would seem that the underlying construction is sound. Can you therefore now have white lines painted on the pavements to formalize this arrangement? Officers have agreed that because of the width of the pavements there are no obstruction problems.

The alternative proposed would be parking on one side of the road only which would drastically reduce the number of spaces to approx 37. (Residents calculate that a minimum of 60 spaces are needed).

Residents also agree with officers that Bolsover Road should be limited to one-way traffic only and ask that this be put into operation as soon as possible. Bolsover Road residents have now got an active and focused Residents Association and are working together to provide a better community for their children and families and the above changes will go a long way to achieving this aim.”

**Reply from Councillor Davey, Chair of the Transport Committee**

- 8.3 “Bolsover Road is not in the Area R Controlled Parking Zone Traffic Order or included on the list of eligible streets, which is the basis for permit issue, so any permits will have been issued in error.

Neither are there any designated parking bays or signs indicating that Bolsover Road is within the Area R CPZ.

I do not agree with your interpretation of the engineer survey results; the position is that the widened footway is not suitable for parking. The conclusion was that, with the exception of one small area next to a former vehicle access, the footway is not designed for vehicle overrun.

It is true that tarmac footways do stand up to vehicles driving and parking on them much better than concrete slab ones, but this does not mean they were built for that purpose. Tarmac is just more flexible and withstands a heavy load better.

The key issue is whether the council officially regulates parking on the footway. If we marked out a white line the footways would have to be upgraded and the existing utilities under the footway entrenched further. The cost of this work could be about £80,000 which cannot be justified on a single residential road in the current financial climate.

I see the best solution as re-consulting Bolsover Road on residents parking control and this is being considered as part of the Citywide Parking Review. The request to make Bolsover Road one way can be considered as part of the scheme and, if approved, would be funded as part of its implementation.”

**(b) Councillor G. Theobald**

- 8.4 “As he will be aware, at the Budget Council meeting in February it was agreed to bring forward additional savings of £228k in the Human Resources budget for this financial year. Could the Leader of the Council, therefore, update me on how these savings are progressing and on any wider plans to either share the HR function with other councils/public sector bodies or to commission the service externally?”

**Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council.**

- 8.5 “Human Resources are using two approaches to identify additional savings from the service. The first is to continue to improve the performance of the iTrent HR and payroll system and to deliver further areas of transactional activity through manager and staff self-service. The system performance has just been improved by 25% because of migration to a new server.

The second approach is a 'system thinking' review, which seeks to streamline processes and procedures to improve efficiency and reduce costs.

Additional savings of £57k are required for this financial year and a further £171K for 2013/14. Work is progressing to allow us to achieve these savings and meet the action plan jointly agreed between the Chair of the Audit Committee and myself.

There are no wider plans at this time to either share the HR function with other councils/public sector bodies or to commission the service externally."

**(c) Councillor Wells**

- 8.6 "Will the Chair of the Housing Committee please confirm what the average council house rent currently is for each size of property (i.e. number of bedrooms) in the city and the corresponding average private sector rents?"

**Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Chair of the Housing Committee.**

- 8.7 "The following table shows the average weekly Council (HRA) rents for 2012/13 for different sizes of property and compares these to the average market rents – the source for the market rent data is given below."

<b>No Bedrooms</b>	<b>Average 2012/13 Council Housing Rent per week £</b>	<b>Market Rents (*) (per week) £</b>
0	59.11	128.34
1	67.74	177.04
2	76.55	252.25
3	89.02	313.28
4	95.37	380.88
5	110.39	data not collected
6	116.29	data not collected

(\*) Source: Housing Strategy Team sample monitoring of Latest Homes magazine 2012 Q2 Apr-Jun)

**(d) Councillor A. Norman**

- 8.8 "What plans do the administration have to support residents who would like to follow the example set in Bristol where temporary street play closures are set up at the request of residents so that children can play safely together in a closed residential road for a specified time."

**Reply from Councillor Davey, Chair of the Transport Committee**

8.9 “Thank you for your question.

I have also received questions about this from interested residents. Our Highway team have looked at the trial and Bristol, and believe that we can do something here.

The play streets closures would be similar to resident street parties where we ask for agreement from the people living and working in the street. There are other requirements that residents must observe, for safety and access reasons. So we could not allow this on main thoroughfares or bus routes. Access for residents and businesses would also have to be maintained, and residents would need to have adequate signage to warn drivers of the closure.

There are some more details we need to work out but we should be able to do this quite quickly. We will also be presenting a policy to Transport Committee in November on all our different types of events that take place on the highway and can include Play Streets in this.

The team would need to assess and advise on each request. Please bear in mind that it is a very tiny team, and so it will take time to look at each application.”

**(e) Councillor Brown**

8.10 “Will the Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee please inform me when the cross-party working group to look at the future of the King Alfred Leisure Centre site will start meeting?”

**Reply from Councillor Bowden, Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee.**

8.11 “A proposal will be brought to the September Economic Development & Culture Committee meeting to establish this important working party as soon after that as possible. I have discussed the membership make up with leaders of the Conservative and Labour & Cooperative parties and agreed with them their representatives which will be made public in the September meeting.”

**(f) Councillor Morgan**

8.12 “Can the Chair of the Transport Committee give figures comparing revenue from pay and display parking on Madeira Drive and King’s Road between the start of April and the start of July 2012 with the equivalent period in 2011?”

**Reply from Councillor Davey, Chair of the Transport Committee.**

8.13 “In 2011, during the months of April, May and June, revenue from Pay & Display parking on Madeira Drive and Kings Road totalled £200,905.

During the same months in 2012, revenue from Pay & Display parking in the same areas totalled £309,823.



It is also worth noting that despite the fact that it rained on 47 days during the same period in 2011 compared to 27 days of rain in 2012, visitor numbers to attractions such as the Royal Pavilion, Preston Manor and the city's museums are up by more than 5% compared to last year."

## 9. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 9.1 The Mayor noted that notification of 7 oral questions had been received and invited Councillor Geoffrey Theobald to put his question to Councillor Bowden.
- 9.2 Councillor Theobald thanked the Mayor and asked, "As a business man yourself, Councillor Bowden, and the Chair of the Economic Development and Culture Committee you will, I am sure, sympathise, with the plight of local traders in the city who are suffering this year as a result of the parking charge increases imposed by your administration in April. I'm wondering therefore, what input you had in to the debate that must have taken place amongst your administration colleagues prior to the decision made to increase the charges?"
- 9.3 Councillor Bowden replied, "First of all I'd like to widen it because if we just stick on parking it's a one trick pony and this city is far more about other things than parking and the recent figures released by the council on their own estate, the museums and the royal pavilion where in the period we're talking since the parking charges came in, have gone up by 10,000. Now that's through smart marketing and that's what we are working with the Chamber of Commerce on Right the Way, the initiative that we've work funded and helped them to promote.

We're going to work with businesses to show them how to ride the economic plights brought on us by this government and we've heard a lot about that and a lot of shaking of heads that it's nothing to do with us and we can't also de-contextualise this entire debate without thinking about what's happened to the Euro and what's been happening to our bankers. So businesses that can't get money from the banks may have something to do with it, if you want to put it all down to parking charges, well that's a very narrow view. This city was identified by the centre for Cities as one of the super cities most likely to lead the way out of the recession and figures published only this morning in the Argus, no friend of this administration on times, they described the fact that there's 11% reduction in the unemployed in this city, if you like that's an example that the Green Administration policies work.

So there are many other positives, we can't divorce ourselves entirely from what is going on outside and nor would we wish to but I think we have demonstrated that we are a pragmatic party willing to work with government, willing to work and grasp initiatives and put in bids for money to bring jobs and prosperity to the system and this city. Here are some examples, coast to capital local enterprise partnership which has agreed with our proposal to fund the I360 something which was cross party support when it came recently to council and that will bring jobs and re-development to a part of the seafront which is in much need of improvement.

We have heard today from the earlier public questioner about the potential fines to be brought on to this city by the European commission for not meeting air quality standards

and one of the main reasons for that is that we are bounded by the park in the north and the sea in the south so where are all these cars going to go?

We need to manage our transport and the good news from Roger French who's been mentioned in dispatches today is that use of buses has increased by 5% in the last 3 months now that's to be welcomed. All those people who want to see bus routes saved should welcome that because the more people who use it the better and more financially viable they are. So we have listened to what people have said about parking, we have amended the charges, people are putting in FOI requests about how much revenue has been generated. Parking charges are one thing, the city has also been suffering from the worst weather ever, we are a city that is working with local business, we are a city taking advantage of government initiatives and we are working with universities and the Chamber of Commerce to encourage business."

- 9.4 Councillor Theobald asked the following supplementary question, "Would he please comment on the comments that Ellie Trimmingham said and she says, "I have been told by customers with children that they will not come down to the area anymore because they simply cannot afford to park here. Elliott Reggio, boss of maintenance On Tap, "It is the Green's who will not listen, they have failed to take on board the concerns of businesses. We're still angry with the council over the parking hikes coming our way." Councillor Bowden, do you agree with all these businesses, and I've got lists of them who are actually saying that it's from a business perspective, your administration is wrecking their chances?"
- 9.5 Councillor Bowden replied, "No I don't agree with them, the fact is that the portfolio of attractions that we actually control, we've had an increase in numbers in the last 3 months, we've had a record number of tickets sales at the recent Brighton Festival with 40% of the people coming from outside the city, you can't deny these things. I just urge businesses, and I take advantages of these initiatives to get in touch with the Chamber of Commerce, take advantage of the initiative that we are helping to fund and learn how to market their way out of this recession. You cannot keep blaming everything on parking charges, it's just not credible."
- 9.6 The Mayor then invited Councillor Marsh to put her question to Councillor Davey.
- 9.7 Councillor Marsh thanked the Mayor and asked, "The results of the consultation on the Lewes Road traffic plans, Councillor Davey, I believe there were 4000 responses, what I would like to know from you please is how they are going to be analysed and how you are going to act as an administration on the results that you received on that consultation because I want to be assured that the residents and community groups and my constituents who all responded will have their views taken very seriously into account when you roll out the proposed plans whatever they are?"
- 9.8 Councillor Davey replied, "Well it was a very extensive consultation as you know, 30000 documents were sent out and I think there were about 30 exhibitions all along that Lewes Road corridor. I would say unprecedented engagements with the local community. It is actually 4500 responses which has taken some time to count to analyse and that's what's going on at the moment. So over the summer period they will get analysed and a report will be coming forward to the Transport Committee at the start of October, so in mid-September the results will be available for public viewing."

9.9 The Mayor noted that there was no supplementary question and then invited Councillor Wealls to put his question to Councillor Shanks.

9.10 Councillor Wealls thanked the Mayor and asked, "Councillor Shanks will remember the Children & Young People's Committee meeting on June 11 where we discussed the performance gap between children on free school meals and those not on free school meals and the commentary on the report that was presented stated that this gap has stayed the same in 2012/11 since 2006 so there's been no sustained improvement since then. For the record and for everyone's information, children on free school meals in this city, only 26% of them, achieve 5 A's to C's GCSE that compares to 57% of children who are not on free school meals so we have a pretty disgraceful performance gap in this city between the most disadvantaged children and the rest of society.

I want to ask councillor Shanks if she will do everything in her power to help this city reduce this gap and help young disadvantaged people achieve the best possible results please?"

9.11 Councillor Shanks replied, "Yes I agree with you that that's an appalling gap, it's happening throughout the country, that the poorest children in our communities do least well academically for a variety of reasons mainly because they are the poorest children in our communities. Our schools are working hard on this and that's one thing we're monitoring, often some of our schools do very well with those children and I know that Councillor Wealls has been instrumental in getting us to look very hard at the value added that our schools bring and that is something that's going to go into our admissions because a lot of children; although the gap is wide, some schools do better than others particularly at primary schools level, some of our primary schools do a lot better than other primary schools with children who have free school meals. It isn't just; that there are children in a particular school like Westdene doing better than Moulsecoomb, some of our schools within similar circumstances and catchment areas, there's quite a disparity between them.

So there is an issue about quality of teaching in some of our schools which a lot of our heads are addressing. Our schools are improving I think we will see an increase in our GCSE results across the city, not enough because there is no way we should be below the national average in our secondary schools. We've got the highest education population in the country, 42% of our population are educated at graduate level so it is really shameful and it is something that I want to see, by the time my term of office finishes, that that has fundamentally changed and I know councillor Wealls will be helping me in that."

9.12 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, "In that case you will also remember that I went to see the Chief Executive of Absolute Return for Kids which is a non profit academy sponsor and remember our kids on free school meals, 26% of them get 5 A's to C's including English Maths; our schools which are in some of the most deprived parts of our country, 60% of their children are on free school meals get 5 A's to C's including English and Maths. 60% that's better than our non-free school meals, at the time I did ask you to meet with the Chief Executive to just chat through ideas with them.

I would like you to share with the Council reasons why you didn't want to meet them, just to share ideas with them or to please change your mind?"

- 9.13 Councillor Shanks replied, "I understand that ARK has mainly taken over failing schools and although a lot of our schools don't do as well as we would want them to we don't actually have failing secondary schools in the city. We're hoping that we can keep our schools as part of our family in the local authority, we don't have schools that have any appetite for becoming an academy in our secondary schools the unions and staff are against this and the parents against it also.

The unions are but so are many parents, teachers, educationalists; I agree with you that ARK may have a good record there are plenty of academy chains that aren't doing so well, Boundstone academy in Lancing has gone back into special measures after becoming an academy. There's plenty of secondary schools that have managed to improve themselves particularly in inner London without becoming academies so I think we can do that within the local authority family and the reason we're able to fund the healthy schools program is because we have still got money in the local authority to share that expertise around the schools which we wouldn't have if all our schools were becoming privatised and becoming academies.

As you know I'm not in favour of the academies program I don't think this will be a benefit to Brighton and Hove and I don't think parents and teachers in the city support academies."

- 9.14 The Mayor then invited Councillor Robins to put his question to Councillor Davey.

- 9.15 Councillor Robins thanked the Mayor and asked, "On page 18 of the Local Transport Plan there's a paragraph which says, Tourism brings real benefits to local people providing nearly 16,000 jobs to the city's thriving culture industries. The city faces competition from home and abroad as a tourist destination in both the leisure and business tourism market. It also faces competition from developments and improvements to the tourism and retail offer from nearby towns, such as Crawley, Eastbourne, Lewes and Worthing.

Can you tell us how much it costs to park on the seafront in Eastbourne and Worthing or how much town centre parking is in Crawley and Lewes and how do they compare with Brighton?"

- 9.16 Councillor Davey replied, "I'm not sure why you're asking me; the price of parking in Worthing, Eastbourne and Crawley I'm sure you could have found it out for yourself. What I've been provided with is on the seafront in Eastbourne it costs 80p per hour, Worthing £1.20 per hour, town centre in Crawley it costs 80p per hour and Lewes it costs £2.00 per hour.

There are many different prices in Brighton and Hove including city centre car parks which are £1 for the first hour during the week and at the eastern, southern and western ends of the seafront it is £1 for the first hour and then less for subsequent hours so there's a broad range of prices there. Independent research shows that people base their choice of destinations on a whole range of factors, the cost of parking is not a

primary consideration and I would say that this city has never been known for cheap parking, not under the previous administration or the administration before that.

What is more important is to attract visitors and I think this city has long learned this, is for quality of the attraction and the destination much rather than the cost of parking. People come here because of the culture, because of our fantastic restaurants, for the shops on the seafront, for lots and lots of reasons. Evidence for the research clearly indicates the proper parking policy measures support the economy rather than hamper it. The introduction of paid parking results in a higher turnover creating space for more customers. Reduced long term parking charges, the use of parking bays releases the use of parking bays for visitors etc.

Visitor numbers, as we've heard already, to attractions such as the Royal Pavilion, Preston Manor and the city's museums are up by more than 5% compared with last year and even the aquarium on Madeira Drive has reported record attendances this year. We have serious air pollution problems in some areas which affect people's health and serious traffic congestion with cars queuing miles out of town on summer weekends."

9.17 Councillor Robins asked the following supplementary question, "I think that you did know the cost of certain parking, let's take 3 hours on Eastbourne seafront which is £2.60. 3 hours on Worthing seafront is £3.60, 3 hours on Brighton seafront £10. 3 hours on in Crawley county mall, £3.50 unless you go on a Sunday when it's £2 full day, Lewes needle makers is £2.20 for 3 hours Brighton Laines is £12 for 3 hours. 3 hours on weekends in the Laines is £15, if you accept, as you must do, that parking charges are at least one of the factors determining whether people visit Brighton and spend money then you must see that we're not competing with the local competitors, Lewes, Worthing, Eastbourne and Crawley and you must agree that this puts some of the 16000 jobs in jeopardy?"

9.18 Councillor Davey replied, "I don't agree."

Note:

9.19 Councillor Fitch moved a motion in accordance with procedural 17.2 to terminate the meeting at 22.15 in view of the fact that the meeting had been in progress for 4 hours.

9.20 Councillor Marsh formally seconded the motion.

9.21 The Mayor noted that a motion to terminate the meeting at 22.15 had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried. He therefore stated that unless the business before the meeting was conducted by such time, he would look for a motion to be moved to close the meeting at 22.15hrs.

9.22 The Mayor then invited Councillor Barnett to put her question to Councillor Wakefield.

9.23 Councillor Barnett thanked the Mayor and asked, "Is the Chair of Housing Committee aware that the council tenants in this city who are convicted of serious criminal offences such as drug dealing are sent to prison for a period of years in some cases; are arranging for friends or family members to live in that social housing whilst they are

behind bars? Does she agree with me that this is completely unfair for those law abiding citizens who are stuck on the waiting list with little prospect of being housed?"

- 9.24 Councillor Wakefield replied, "Indeed the council housing is held for people whilst they are in prison. If they are paying their rent on time, that's usually something the court actually says. If there is unlawful subletting going on, it's referred under the council's counter fraud strategy to the audit and business risk team who investigates. Members of the public can also report suspected unlawful subletting via the council's confidential counter-fraud telephone line and email address. I do agree that we have a very long waiting list and if people are in a house that do not have the right to be in that house then I'm very happy to ask officers to act on that."
- 9.25 Councillor Barnett asked the following supplementary question, "I have it in my own ward, where they have friends and family living there and the benefits are paying for their rent. Will you please assure me that you will look in to this issue as part of the forthcoming review of the council housing allocation and will you also join me in signing a letter to the Minister Grant Schapps asking him to put a stop to this practice?"
- 9.26 Councillor Wakefield replied, "I think the best thing to do is, if you have information on this, is to let me and the officers have it then I am really pleased to ask them to act on it for you."
- 9.27 The Mayor then invited Councillor Hyde to put her question to Councillor J. Kitcat.
- 9.28 Councillor Hyde thanked the Mayor and asked, "The Leader of the Council will be aware that a year ago almost to the day, full council passed a notice of motion instructing the administration to prepare and sign up to an Armed Forces Community covenant in time for remembrance day 2011. He will also be aware that this received the full backing of the local Royal British Legion, will he therefore please explain to me why it has taken him and his colleagues to so long even start discussing the covenant let alone signing it?"
- 9.29 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "There has been a lot of work done in the year in fact meeting representatives from the MOD and others and the draft covenant has been prepared. We're working to find other partners in the city and I know that Mr Mayor has been having conversations as well with potential partners to sign up to the covenant so it's a broader set of people engaged with that and a report will be coming to the first meeting of Policy & Resources in Autumn so that we can have an official signing ceremony ahead of the remembrance day commemorations in November 2012.

So we are progressing on that, it was a very complicated piece of work and we've also been awaiting some of the detail from the government about how this will actually work so it will progress and you have our word on that councillor."

- 9.30 Councillor Hyde asked the following supplementary question, "At the Cabinet meeting last October, the Green administration agreed to submit a bid for funding by March this year to the Ministry of Defence to support the work on an Armed Forces Community Covenant in Brighton and Hove, my understanding is that this bid has yet to be submitted. So I ask the Leader of the Council, could he give his personal commitment to the Armed Forces community in the city that this and the signing of the covenant will

be done now as a matter of urgency? I'm particularly interested to see if the bid has been submitted."

- 9.31 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "The work is ongoing on that and we won't be able to submit it until we actually have the partners signed up to the covenant but as soon as that signing happens then we will be able to progress. It's a rolling program so there's not a deadline which you miss it's when there's the agreement across partners that you can apply for it. So that will happen, I look forward to your support for the partners and us signing to it in the autumn."
- 9.32 The Mayor then invited Councillor Mears to put her question to Councillor Wakefield.
- 9.33 Councillor Mears thanked the Mayor and asked, "Following on from how the Housing Minister's Grant Schapps new statutory guidance on Social Housing Allocations Central Local Authorities can the Chair of Housing tell me, following from the Park Review which took place earlier in the year, she will be undertaking a full policy review of the allocation policy?"
- 9.34 Councillor Wakefield replied, "It will be in the autumn that we will be looking at the allocations policy."
- 9.35 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, "In the Green's budget for Adult Social Care set in February 1.6million of savings was identified mainly by taking 30 sheltered housing units for extra care. Can the chair of Housing say how she proposes to deal with this within the allocation policy bearing in mind there are already 500 plus tenants on the waiting list who have applied for sheltered housing and with our ageing population will in all probability increase?"
- 9.36 Councillor Wakefield replied, "It may be best if you have a more full response jointly from myself and Councillor Jarrett because it does come in his portfolio area, but what I want to reassure you is that I am aware of that but it's not necessarily HRA houses that will be used for those people so it will not necessarily affect those other people on the waiting list."
- 9.37 The Mayor noted that there were no more questions and therefore the item had been concluded.

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

### **10.1 (a) Callover**

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

- Item 11 - Annual Report of Overview & Scrutiny
- Item 11(A) - Audit Annual Report
- Item 12 - Treasury Management Policy Statement (Incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy) 2011/12 – End of Year Review
- Item 14 - Annual Performance Update of the Council's Corporate Plan 2011/12
- Item 15 - City Performance Plan 2011/12 Report

- Item 16 - Changing the Age Range of Three Primary Schools in Portslade – Final Decision
- Item 17 - Proposed Options for the Provision of 3 Junior Forms of Entry in Portslade – result of Consultation.

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

- 10.4 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 11, 11(A), 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17 had been reserved for discussion; and that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 13 - Corporate Plan Update 2012/13
- Item 19 - Appointment of Acting Chief Executive
- Item 21 - Supported Bus Service Network – Exempt Category 3
- Item 21(A) - Supported Bus Service Network – Update – Exempt Category 3

### 10.5 (c) Oral Questions from Members

- 10.6 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions on items that had not been reserved for discussion.

## 11. ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 11.1 Councillor Mitchell introduced the report and stated that it had been an excellent year for the overview & scrutiny process with some notable reviews being undertaken and recommendations taken forward. She wished to thank all the witnesses, partner agencies and the scrutiny team for their work and support during the last year. The challenge ahead was to work within the committee system and to ensure that overview & scrutiny remained a key part of that decision-making process.

- 11.2 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and proposed that it be noted.

- 11.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Annual Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee be noted.

### 11.A AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

- 11.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## 12. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT (INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY) 2011/12 - END OF YEAR REVIEW

- 12.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report and stated that he wished to thank all the officers involved in putting the report together and their extraordinary work in managing the council's financial affairs.

- 12.2 Councillor A. Norman stated that the officers worked within extremely challenging circumstances and she wished to pay tribute to their management and noted that the council's finances were in good order.



- 12.3 Councillor J. Kitcat noted that the government required the council to ensure its investments were made at a minimal risk and that the number of institutions available for investment had reduced. However, he was confident that officers were doing the best they could for the benefit of the council and he hoped that there would be an opportunity to expand the level of investments in the future.
- 12.4 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and proposed that it be noted and the annual investment strategy approved.
- 12.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Annual Investment Strategy 2012-13 as set out in paragraph 4.11 of the report be approved.

### **13. CORPORATE PLAN UPDATE 2012/13**

#### **13.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the progress made on the Corporate Plan 2011/12 commitments as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be noted;
- (2) That the new Corporate Plan commitments for 2012/13 as detailed in appendix 2 to the report and their adoption be approved;
- (3) That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the Corporate Plan to incorporate the changes in (2) above and other presentational changes.

### **14. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2011/12**

- 14.1 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report and stated that good progress had been made against the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and he recommended it to the council.
- 14.2 Councillor Wealls welcomed the report and referred to the issue of educational achievement for which the country as a whole was falling down the league table and Brighton & Hove was below the national average. He also noted that the target for those eligible for school meals was not ambitious enough and suggested that consideration should be given to talking to other providers to find out how they were able to meet higher targets.
- 14.3 Councillor Jarrett stated that it was important to recognise targets could be unrealistic and suggested that whilst ambitious targets could be set, it was not worthwhile setting them if they were beyond achievement.
- 14.4 Councillor Shanks stated that she felt the targets set were fair and that the council would be working with the schools to improve on areas.
- 14.5 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that he shared the view that targets should be ambitious but felt that the data did not back up the Government's approach and that more creativity was required if progress was going to be made.

14.6 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and proposed that the recommendations be agreed.

14.7 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the progress made against the performance measures ('Measures of Success') in the Corporate Plan, set out in appendix 1 to the report be noted; and
- (2) That the annual performance report be approved.

15. **CITY PERFORMANCE PLAN 2011/12 REPORT**

15.1 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report and stated that the indicators were moving in the right direction especially given the challenging economic climate.

15.2 Councillor Mears referred to page 202 and figures for alcohol related hospital admissions and suggested that more needed to be done to address the problem. She also noted that since 2004 the number of affordable homes made available had declined and that the release of Ainsworth House remained stalled which was a shame as it would be beneficial if it could be made available.

15.3 Councillor Wealls stated that he wished to pay tribute to the work that was being done in the maintained schools but asked if discussions could be held with other providers to see if improvements could be made.

15.4 Councillor Duncan stated that he shared the concerns expressed over the number of alcohol related admissions and noted that the Licensing Committee was working with partners to look at ways of addressing the issue.

15.5 Councillor Peltzer Dunn referred to page 204 and CPP5.4 and asked for clarification in relation to how the target was affected.

15.6 Councillor Wakefield stated that she was disappointed that it was listed as red, but was hopeful that this would change over a period of time as measures that were being put in place had an affect.

15.7 Councillor Cobb noted that the number of local bus paying journeys was under target and queried how many paying passengers were using the services.

15.8 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that if the information on bus passengers was available from the bus company then it would be provided. In regard to the housing mater, the target had been set by the Housing Partnership and there a good number of properties coming forward that would help to improve matters.

15.9 The Mayor noted that the report had been moved and proposed that the City Performance Plan be approved.

15.10 **RESOLVED:** That the City Performance Plan 2011/12 be approved.

**16. CHANGING THE AGE RANGE OF THREE PRIMARY PHASE SCHOOLS IN PORTSLADE – FINAL DECISION**

- 16.1 The Mayor stated that he intended to hold one debate for Items 16 and 17 on the agenda as they were closely related, although he would then take each in turn should there be a need to vote on either matter.
- 16.2 Councillor Shanks introduced both reports and stated that they were both very positive in terms of changes and improvements to the provision of school places in Portslade. She stated the events had progressed and she was pleased to confirm that a site had been acquired that would enable the extension of St. Peter's School and she wished to thank the officers involved in bringing the matter to fruition.
- 16.3 Councillor Hamilton welcomed both reports and the outcomes for the schools in Portslade which he knew was also welcomed by the schools, governors and parents.
- 16.4 Councillor Robins stated that he was pleased to see the outcome and knew that the benefits for St. Peter's School would see a vast improvement for everyone concerned and could not wait for September 2013.
- 16.5 Councillor Jarrett welcomed the reports and stated that the results showed that with time and planning such achievements could be reached and wished to thank Councillor Shanks for her work in taking the matters forward.
- 16.6 The Mayor noted that the reports had been moved and put each to the vote.
- 16.7 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the decision to proceed with each of the three proposals detailed in the report be endorsed; and
  - (2) That the statutory notices be confirmed and changes to the age range to allow for an additional junior form entry and expansion of the premises of St. Peter's Community Infant School, Portslade Infant School and St. Nicholas Voluntary Aided Church of England Junior School from September 2013 be agreed.

**17. PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF 3 JUNIOR FORMS OF ENTRY IN PORTSLADE - RESULT OF CONSULTATION****17.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the preferred option of making St. Peter's Community Infant School, Portslade Infant School and St. Nicholas Church of England Junior School into all through primary schools from September 2013 be endorsed; and
- (2) That the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress the proposal in (1) above be agreed.

**18. STANDARDS UPDATE**

- 18.1 Councillor Lepper introduced the report and stated that changes to the code of practice had been required by the Localism Act and a cross-party working group had been looking at the various proposals before bringing forward the recommended changes. She believed that Members would need to take a more active role in ensuring that they complied with the requirements and wanted to put on record her appreciation of the role and work undertaken by the independent members of the old Standards Committee. They had played an important part in the committee's success and she was disappointed that it was no longer a stand alone committee and that the Standards Board for England had also been removed.
- 18.2 Councillor A. Norman supported the comments and noted that the changes resulting in councillors having to declare disclosable pecuniary interests were a fundamental change and Members should be mindful that failure to disclose was now a criminal offence. She also wished to place on record her thanks to Dr. Wilkinson and the other independent members of the Standards Committee for their contributions over the years.
- 18.3 Councillor Littman stated that he fully supported the comments and had enjoyed his time on the Standards Committee. He also felt that every Member should ensure they were familiar with the code of conduct and wished to thank the officers, especially the Monitoring Officer for their support and guidance on the changes that have come into effect.
- 18.4 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that he had previously had an issue with the Standards Committee and had felt that the old scheme had been flawed and therefore welcomed the reforms. He wanted to thank the Working Group and officers for their work and asked that consideration be given to how the scheme could be made clear for members of the public so that they understood why Members declared an interest and the implications of such declarations.
- 18.5 The Mayor noted the report had been moved and proposed that the recommendations be agreed.
- 18.6 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the adoption of the new Code of Conduct for Members as set out at Appendix One to the report with effect from the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 be agreed;
  - (2) That the adoption of a simplified Complaints Procedure as set out at Appendix Three to the report with effect from the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 be agreed;
  - (3) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to advertise a vacancy for the appointment of two Independent Persons in accordance with statutory requirements and to convene an appointment Panel of Members in accordance with the proposals in paragraphs 3.20 and 3.21 of the report;
  - (4) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to put in place arrangements for training for Members on the new Code and arrangements for the register of Members' interests;

- (5) That the Monitoring Officer be instructed to consult with the Parish Council and to report to the next meeting of the Audit & Standards Committee with details of the Code of Conduct to be adopted by the Parish Council and the arrangements for the register of Parish Council interests;
- (6) That Standing Orders be amended with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012, to require Members with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest to withdraw from the meeting.

## **19. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **19.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the appointment of Catherine Vaughan, to be the Acting Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for the Council pending the appointment of a permanent Chief executive be approved;
- (2) That the appointment be on a salary of £140,000 per annum and that the appointment takes effect from date of the termination of contract of employment of the current Chief Executive.

## **20. NOTICES OF MOTION.**

### **(a) Equal Marriage**

- 20.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Morgan on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Mitchell.
- 20.2 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council notes the current national consultation on allowing same sex marriage between couples in England and Wales.

This Council also notes the considerable social and economic benefit to the city resulting from the Civil Partnership Act 2004, with Brighton and Hove being the most popular place in the UK for civil partnership ceremonies.

This Council believes that same sex couples should now have equal marriage rights under law, and calls upon the Government to:

1. Change the law to allow same-sex couples to get married.
2. Allow religious bodies to conduct same-sex marriages.
3. End the requirement that transgender people divorce before attaining Gender Recognition.
4. Enable mixed-sex couples to register a civil partnership.”

- 20.3 **The motion was carried.**

### **(b) Supporting Brighton & Hove’s Bowling Clubs**

Note:

- 20.4 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda had been considered as part of Item 7(c) and was carried and is listed under that item.

Note:

- 20.5 Councillor Fitch moved a motion under procedural rule 17.2 to terminate the meeting with immediate effect.
- 20.6 Councillor Robins formally seconded the motion.
- 20.7 The Mayor therefore put the motion to the vote which was carried and noted that each of the remaining items would need to be taken and voted on or withdrawn by the mover before the meeting was concluded.

**(c) Asset Review and Community Investment Programme**

- 20.8 Councillor Pissaridou confirmed that she wished to withdraw the motion.

**(d) Traveller Encampments on Sensitive Sites in Brighton & Hove**

- 20.9 Councillor G. Theobald confirmed that he wished to withdraw the motion.

**(e) Air Quality**

- 20.10 Councillor Sykes confirmed that he wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken.
- 20.11 The Mayor put the following motion to the vote:

“This council notes with concern that street level air quality (AQ) in many parts of central Brighton and Hove has not improved significantly since records started in 1996 and that this has adverse implications for the health of residents of our city as well as being detrimental to the experience of visitors. Nitrogen Dioxide in particular is persistently at levels above those considered safe for health in a number of areas, and above those prescribed by EU Directives.

This council notes the report of the Environmental Audit Committee published 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011 stating that evidence for the damage caused by air pollution has grown stronger and that air pollution is the second biggest public health risk in the UK after smoking. It is recognised that young children, the older people and those with existing respiratory illness suffer most from the effects of air pollution.

Furthermore this council notes the recent European Commission (EC) announcement rejecting a request by the UK Government to extend to 2015 the deadline by which Zone 10 (Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton) needs to improve its NOx levels to meet

those specified by the EC, indicating instead that compliance in Zone 10 should be achieved by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. Failure to meet this AQ target could result in heavy EC fines being levied on the UK Government and potentially, by dint of the Localism Act, being handed down to BHCC.

Consequently this council:

- Reaffirms its commitment to reducing traffic-related air pollution, particularly in the worst affected areas;
- Requests the Chief Executive to ask the City's three MPs to write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requesting that she work in partnership with us and other Local Authorities to address the root causes of air pollution, providing any necessary technical and financial support alongside whatever additional traffic management powers that may be necessary."

20.12 **The motion was carried.**

**(f) Cumulative Impact of Welfare Reforms**

20.13 Councillor Wakefield confirmed that she wished the Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda to be taken.

20.14 The Mayor put the following motion to the vote:

"This council notes with deep concern the cumulative impact of the Government's welfare reforms upon the residents of Brighton & Hove. This council acknowledges there is a genuine need to rationalise and simplify the existing welfare state. However this council believes that the Government are using the rubric of 'Welfare Reform' to mask a series of cuts to those in undisputed need, as well as to already squeezed council budgets.

For example the Government has chosen to cut funding for council tax support which is likely to affect some 17,000 of the lowest-income households in the city. In addition to this, the Government has confirmed that their proposed cap on welfare support will hurt at least 400 households in Brighton and Hove.

Meanwhile rather than improving the supply and quality of affordable housing, the Government is pulling the rug out from beneath the many pensioners, people with disabilities and hardworking people on low incomes who rely on housing benefit. Further, this council deplores the Prime Minister's suggestion that young people should see their housing benefit withdrawn altogether.

This council feels that the slashing benefits to meet arbitrary targets rather than considering genuine need is having a devastating effect on the most vulnerable in this city.

Therefore this council urges the Government to reconsider their plans for welfare reform and stop penalising those who are unfortunate enough to be unwell or unable to find work.”

20.15 **The motion was carried.**

## **21. SUPPORTED BUS SERVICE NETWORK**

Note:

21.1 This item had been referred to the council for information and was taken as part of the discussion under item 7(a).

21.2 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **11.A SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES NETWORK - UPDATE**

Note:

21.3 This item had been referred to the council for information and was taken as part of the discussion under item 7(a).

21.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **Part Two Summary**

### **22. SUPPORTED BUS SERVICE NETWORK - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3**

22.1 The item had been referred to the council for information.

22.2 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### **11.A SUPPORTED BUS SERVICE NETWORK - UPDATE - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3**

22.3 The item had been referred to the council for information.

22.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

## **23. PART TWO PROCEEDINGS**

23.1 **RESOLVED:** That Item No's 22 and 22(a) listed in part two of the agenda and the addendum remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

## **24. CLOSE OF MEETING**

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

The meeting concluded at 10.30pm



Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of