

16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 101

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2014/15

AUTHOR: MARK IRELAND

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That this report for the calculation of the council's tax base for the year 2014/15 be approved.
- (2) That it be agreed in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax B (England) Regulations 2012, the amounts calculated by Brighton & Hove Council as its council tax base for the year 2014/15 shall be as follows:-
 - a. For Brighton and Hove whole – 81,359.20 (as detailed in appendix 1)
 - b. For the Royal Crescent Enclosure Committee – 30.10 (as detailed in appendix 2)
 - c. For the Hanover Crescent Enclosure Committee – 40.70 (as detailed in appendix 3)
 - d. For the Marine Square Enclosure Committee – 65.40 (as detailed in appendix 4)
 - e. For the Parish of Rottingdean – 1,467.50 (as detailed in appendix 5)
- (3) That it be agreed for the purposes of Section 35(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the expenses of meeting the special levies issued to the council by the Enclosure Committees shall be its special expenses; and
- (4) That it be agreed the Enclosure Committees and Rottingdean Parish are to receive an approximately £5,000 council tax reduction grant in total to ensure that they are no better or no worse off as a result of the introduction of the council tax reduction scheme for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.7.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The council has a statutory duty to agree the council tax base for the following year before the end of January.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The calculation of the council tax base is determined largely by regulation and is based on the best information available at this time. Options relating to the council

tax reduction scheme and changes to discounts and exemptions were considered and agreed by full Council in December.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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- (i) any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision or,
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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 102

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: BUSINESS RATES RETENTION
FORECAST FOR 2014/15

AUTHOR: MARK IRELAND

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the agreement of the final business rates forecast and the NNDR1 2014/15 form be delegated to the Executive Director of Finance & Resources in consultation with the Chair of this Committee for the reasons given in paragraph 1.2.
- (2) That it be noted based on the latest data the amount forecast to be received by council in 2014/15 from its share of local business rates and Section 105 compensation grants is £54.765m which is the same as the forecast used in the December budget update report.
- (3) That any underspend on the current discretionary business rates scheme identified in paragraph 3.20 is used to fund the one-off review of the compiled rating list set out in paragraphs 3.21 and 3.22 be agreed;
- (4) That a review is also undertaken of the current discretionary scheme now that there is a significant overlap between our scheme and proposals announced in the Autumn Statement and revised proposals are brought back to a future meeting of this Committee be agreed; and
- (5) That it be noted the business rates computer software system will need to be replaced during 2014/15 as Civica will cease supporting the current system for the reasons given in paragraph 3.25 and provision will need to be made in the 2014/15 budget to fund a new system and the one-off costs of implementation.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The council has a statutory duty to agree a business rates forecast for the following year by the end of January.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The completion of the NNDR1 is prescribed in the completion guidance notes from CLG. The council could choose not to spend one-off resources on an in depth review of the business rates register but this would mean that any inequities in the register that have occurred since 1990 will not be addressed in line with good practice and that potential additional income would not be generated.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:

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CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 103

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: LIFE EVENTS FEES AND CHARGES
FOR 2014/15

AUTHOR: PAUL HOLLOWAY

THE DECISION

RESOLVED: That the fees and charges for Life Events in Appendix 1 (Bereavement Services) and Appendix 2 (Registration) be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Proposals for increases in fees and charges in Life Events services for the forthcoming new financial year 2014/15.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

This benchmarking exercise has identified real potential for increasing our fees and charges across both the Bereavement and Registration Services. Both have excellent reputations for providing high quality customer focussed services and there is a need to maximise income generation. The exercise has demonstrated that increases in fees and charges can be achieved, whilst remaining extremely competitive with our neighbours and other service providers nearby.

The increase in fees and charges will allow Life Events services to realise income targets for 2014/15. A mid year review will provide information on the impact of these proposed increases.

Comprehensive analysis of service provisions has established that these increases will work towards cost recovery, as well as allow opportunities for business development and improvement.

Where possible, fees and charges still allow for customer choice and lower cost services are available, continuing to be charged at competitive prices.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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Groups represented on the Council.

16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 104

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PROCUREMENT
STRATEGY 2014-2017

AUTHOR: MARK IRELAND

THE DECISION

RESOLVED: That the proposed new Corporate Procurement Strategy 2014-2017 as attached as Appendix 1 be agreed.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

This report sets out an updated Corporate Procurement Strategy for agreement containing objectives, an assessment of where we are now, aims and specific actions planned for the next 3 years to be updated in future on a rolling annual basis.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Strategy has been drafted taking account of best practice in other councils and will be refreshed (by Officers) annually to ensure that it reflects current law and the most up to date thinking.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 105

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

COUNCIL DECISION

SUBJECT: REFRESH OF THE SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY STRATEGY 2014-2017

AUTHOR: SIMON NEWELL

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee note the new format for the published document (and the refreshed website) and the new Partnership name - Brighton & Hove Connected.
- (2) That the Committee endorse the refreshed strategy set out in appendix 1 and recommends the Strategy to Council for approval and adoption.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

The current strategy only covers until end 2013 therefore this refresh presents the strategic direction of the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership for the next three years.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The current strategy was only ever intended to span to the end of 2013/14. Therefore there will be a gap in strategy cover if no refresh takes place. The existing strategy is now out of date and no longer directly relevant.

The strategic partnership is no longer statutorily obliged to have an overarching strategy but a local decision has been made to retain one. This is because the strategic partnership is committed a coordinated approach for the city.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 106

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: BRIGHTON MARINA ACT 1968:
APPLICATION FOR A WAIVER
REGARDING WATER DEPTH

AUTHOR: BOB BRUCE

THE DECISION

RESOLVED: That, on behalf of the council, it be agreed to grant consent under section 55(1) of the Brighton Marina Act 1968, in respect of the changes to the depth of the water in parts of the harbour to Brighton Marina associated with the implementation of the planning permissions BH2006/01124/FP and BH2012/04048 and that such consent shall be evidenced by the form of Agreements set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

That consent may be given under section 55(1) of the Brighton Marina Act 1968 to change the depth of water in parts of the harbour to Brighton Marina.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Application for consent sets out cogent reasons for granting the statutory consent and entering into the agreements accordingly. These include

- the protective provision in section 57(4) BMA predates construction of the Marina and its operation; many years later it is clear how the Marina and harbour operates and how navigation is safely managed.
- when the council granted planning permission in 2006 and 2013, it took into account the environment impact assessment, which concluded that the development would have no deleterious impact on navigational issues.
- the MMO have granted a marina licence, having considered all relevant considerations, including navigational safety.
- the Statutory Harbour Authority (Brighton Marina Company Limited) and the marina operator (Premier Marinas (Brighton) Limited), who has a long sub lease of the harbour area, are satisfied that there are no adverse issues arising from the proposed consent and agreements.

The purpose of section 57(4) BMA is to safeguard navigation and given the circumstances, particularly the granting of planning permission and the MMO licence, the grant of BMA consent should be given and the appropriate agreements with The Brighton Marina Company Limited, The Outer Harbour Development Partnership LLP and The West Quay Development Company Partnership LLP, set out in Appendix 2, entered into.

To grant consent would be consistent with previous decisions of the council and other public bodies and there are no known grounds for refusing the application.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:

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CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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- (xi) any requirement for earlier implementation of the decision or,
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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 107

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: 251-253 PRESTON ROAD BRIGHTON -
DISPOSAL

AUTHOR: RALPH LONG

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That approval be given to the disposal of the property on a 150 year lease to Southern Housing for a target capital receipt subject to planning and variation depending on the number of new houses permitted for development on the site.
- (2) That the detailed terms to be settled by the Executive Director of Finance & Resources and the Head of Law.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Disposal of long lease.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Alternative options were looked at that took into consideration the possibility of other well being economic, social and environmental benefits for the City. However having worked through the cost benefit analysis and business case with Housing and Children's Services there is no evidence that savings would be generated to support the business case for accepting a possible shortfall in the capital receipt. There is also the risk of these options not achieving best consideration and requiring Secretary of State consent which may not be forthcoming and could delay the process.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 108

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: BUS SHELTERS CONCESSION
AGREEMENT

AUTHOR: NEIL FEARNLEY

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the procurement of the bus shelters concession agreement with a term of 10 years from 6th September 2014 to 5th September 2024 and the option to extend by a further three years to 5th September 2027 be approved;
- (2) That delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director Environment, Development and Housing:
 - (a) to carry out the procurement of the concession agreement referred to in 2.1 above including the award and letting of the concession agreement; and
 - (b) to grant an extension to the concession agreement referred to in 2.1 above of three years should he/she consider it appropriate at the relevant time.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Approval for procurement of a new Bus Shelters contract for the installation, maintenance and cleaning of bus shelters and the right to advertise on them.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The option to bring the whole service in-house was considered with the Council taking responsibility for bus shelter provision, maintenance and cleaning as well as the coordination of advertising. This option was discounted due to the large capital investment required to transfer the bus shelters from Clear Channel or to replace with the Council's own shelters across the city. There would also be a requirement to establish a new management team and potentially TUPE staff across from Clear Channel. Managing advertising on this scale is not part of the Council's core business and would require recruitment of specialists in this field. Taking into account the potential costs of establishing such specialists and the positive feedback on the way the service has been delivered by external suppliers, it was considered more beneficial to continue with this concession arrangement.

Consideration was also given to splitting the concession agreement into separate contracts for installation, maintenance, cleaning and advertising. This could provide greater opportunity for smaller companies to be involved. This option was discounted as there would not be clear accountability for ownership of the whole service and would require more in-house resource to manage the various contracts.

It is considered that the proposed concession arrangement provides the best opportunity for delivering a successful service from which the Council has the potential to receive an ongoing income to support the Council's budget.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:

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CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 109

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND
POLLING PLACES

AUTHOR: CLAIRE WARDLE

THE DECISION

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposals for polling districts and places be as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report. In particular:
- (2) That the polling place for AU, Rottingdean Coastal ward, be changed from Saltdean Primary School to St Nicholas Church Hall, Saltdean Vale.
- (3) That the polling place for EY, Queens Park ward, be changed from Carlton Hill Primary School to Millwood Community Centre, Nelson Row.
- (4) That the polling place for FW, Hanover & Elm Grove ward, be changed from Fairlight Primary School to the Children's Centre, St Leonards Road.
- (5) That the polling place for HZ, Patcham ward, be changed from Hollingbury Methodist Church Hall to Hollingbury Library, County Oak Avenue.
- (6) That the polling place for IY, Withdean ward, be changed from Dorothy Stringer High School to the Cassidy Centre, St Mary's Church.
- (7) That the polling place for KS, St Peters & North Laine ward, be changed from the Clarendon Centre to the BMECP Centre, Fleet Street.
- (8) That the polling place for NV, Goldsmid ward, be changed from Somerhill Junior School to the Ajax Hall, Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue, Eaton Road.
- (9) That Cottesmore St Mary's RC School be retained as the polling place for NY (Goldsmid ward) and OZ (Hove Park ward).
- (10) That the Pavilion in Wish Road be used as a double polling place for SW and SX polling districts in Wish ward.
- (11) That the Electoral Services & Local Land Charges Manager, on behalf of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, be authorised to take the measures, as required by law, to bring the changes into effect.
- (12) That the Committee delegates to the Returning Officer following consultation with the Group Leaders and respective ward councillors, the designation of alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available at any particular election.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

Full review of polling districts and polling places in Brighton & Hove.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Analysis and consideration of alternative venues has been taken into account in line with the principles outlined in paragraph 1.3 in proposing the various changes to polling venues.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



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16 January 2014

This record relates to Agenda Item 110

RECORD OF POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE DECISION

SUBJECT: COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2014-2015

AUTHOR: MARK WALL

THE DECISION

RESOLVED: That the proposed timetable of meetings for 2014/15 be approved.

REASON FOR THE DECISION

To consider the proposed schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2014/15 (see appendix 2) based on the current meetings timetable.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The proposed timetable for 2014/15 maintains a similar cycle of meetings to those in 2013/14, but takes into account the local council elections scheduled for May 2015.

Proper Officer:

Date: 17 January 2014

Mark Wall, Head of Democratic Services

Signed:



CALL-IN FOR SCRUTINY

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