

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

4.30PM 17 JULY 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL



AGENDA



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Council Meeting

Title:	Council
Date:	17 July 2014
Time:	4.30pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Brighton Town Hall
Members:	All Councillors You are summoned to attend a meeting of the BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL to transact the under-mentioned business.
	Prayers will be conducted in the Council Chamber at 4.20pm by Father John Wall
Contact:	Mark Wall Head of Democratic Services 01273 291006 mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	<p>Public Involvement The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public.</p> <p>Please note that the Public Gallery is situated on the first floor of the Town Hall.</p> <p>If you wish to attend and have a mobility impairment or medical condition or medical condition that may require you to receive assisted escape in the event of a fire or other emergency, please contact the Democratic Services Team (Tel: 01273 291066) in advance of the meeting. Measures may then be put into place to enable your attendance and to ensure your safe evacuation from the building.</p>
	The Town Hall has facilities for people with mobility impairments including a lift and wheelchair accessible WCs. However in the event of an emergency use of the lift is restricted for health and safety reasons please refer to the Access Notice in the agenda below.
	An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter and infra red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.

This Agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

AGENDA

11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- (a) Disclosable of pecuniary interests not registered on the register of interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

12 MINUTES**1 - 36**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of:

- (a) The last Ordinary Council meeting held on the 8th May 2014 and
- (b) The Annual Meeting held on the 15th May 2014 (copies attached).

Contact Officer: Mark Wall

Tel: 29-1006

Ward Affected: All Wards

13 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

To receive communications from the Mayor.

14 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

Petitions will be presented by Members and/or members of the public to the Mayor at the meeting; having been notified in advance by the due date of the 14th July 2014.

15 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A list of public questions received by the due date of 12noon on the 10th July 2014 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum at the meeting.

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16 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

A list of deputations received by the due date of 12noon on the 10th July 2014 will be circulated separately as part of an addendum at the meeting.

17 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

37 - 40

Petitions to be debated at Council. Reports of the Monitoring Officer (copies attached).

(a) Preston Park Toilets – Lead Petitioner Francis Incorvaja

Contact Officer: Mark Wall

Tel: 29-1006

18 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

41 - 42

A list of the written questions submitted by Members has been included in the agenda papers. This will be repeated along with the written answers received and will be taken as read at the meeting as part of an addendum circulated separately at the meeting.

Contact Officer: Mark Wall

Tel: 29-1006

Ward Affected: All Wards

19 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

43 - 44

A list of Councillors who have indicated their desire to ask an oral question at the meeting along with the subject matters has been listed in the agenda papers.

Contact Officer: Mark Wall

Tel: 29-1006

Ward Affected: All Wards

6.30 - 7.15PM REFRESHMENT BREAK

Note: A refreshment break is scheduled for 6.30pm although this may alter slightly depending on how the meeting is proceeding and the view of the Mayor.

20 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Call over (item 21) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.

(b) To receive or approve the reports and agree with their recommendations, with the exception of those which have been reserved for discussion.

(c) Oral questions from Councillors on the Committee reports, which have not been reserved for discussion.

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21 AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

45 - 60

Extract from the proceedings of the Audit & Standards Committee meeting held on the 24th June 2014, together with a report of the Executive Director for Finance & Resources (copies attached).

Contact Officer: Mark Dallen

Tel: 29- 1314

Ward Affected: All Wards

22 NOTICES OF MOTION.

61 - 70

The following Notices of Motion have been submitted by Members for consideration (copies attached):

- (a) **Blood Donations.** Proposed by Councillor Phillips.
- (b) **Rail Season Tickets.** Proposed by Councillor Robins.
- (c) **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.** Proposed by Councillor Sykes.
- (d) **Support for A27 Action.** Proposed by Councillor G. Theobald.
- (e) **Centenary Fields.** Proposed by Councillor A. Norman.

23 CLOSE OF MEETING

The Mayor will move a closure motion under Procedure Rule 17 to terminate the meeting 4 hours after the beginning of the meeting (excluding any breaks/adjournments).

Note:

1. *The Mayor will put the motion to the vote and if it is carried will then:-*

- (a) *Call on the Member who had moved the item under discussion to give their right of reply, before then putting the matter to the vote, taking into account the need to put any amendments that have been moved to the vote first;*
- (b) *Each remaining item on the agenda that has not been dealt with will then be taken in the order they appear on the agenda and put to the vote without debate.*

The Member responsible for moving each item will be given the opportunity by the Mayor to withdraw the item or to have it voted on. If there are any amendments that have been submitted, these will be taken and voted on first in the order that they were received.

- (c) *Following completion of the outstanding items, the Mayor will then close the meeting.*

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2. *If the motion moved by the Mayor is **not carried** the meeting will continue in the normal way, with each item being moved and debated and voted on.*
3. *Any Member will still have the opportunity to move a closure motion should they so wish. If such a motion is moved and seconded, then the same procedure as outlined above will be followed.*

Once all the remaining items have been dealt with the Mayor will close the meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Provision is made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Mayor will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1988. Data collected during this web cast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy (Guidance for Employees' on the BHCC website).

Therefore by entering the meeting room and using the seats around the meeting tables you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the public gallery area.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Head of Democratic Services or the designated Democratic Services Officer listed on the agenda.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Mark Wall, (01273 291006, email mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

ACCESS NOTICE

The lift cannot be used in an emergency and Evac Chairs are not suitable due to limitations of the escape routes. **For your own safety please do not to go beyond the Ground Floor if you are unable to use the stairs.**

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available for you to use should you wish to watch the meeting or need to take part in the proceedings e.g. because you have submitted a public question.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused

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- **You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;**
- **Do not stop to collect personal belongings;**
- **Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and**

Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 9 July 2014



Penelope Thompson CBE
Chief Executive

King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 8 MAY 2014****COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Cobb (Chair), Randall (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cox, Daniel, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, 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, West and Wilson.

PART ONE**108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 108.1. Councillor Carden declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 118 (b) Academies - Notice of Motion, as his grand-daughter attended Hove Park School;
- 108.2. Councillor Hamilton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 118 (b) Academies – Notice of Motion, as his grandson attended Hove Park School;
- 108.3. Councillor Mitchell declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 113 Deputation concerning Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust and Item 116 (c) Member Question on Stanmer Park; as she was a Trustee and would therefore leave the Chamber and take no part in the consideration of either Item;
- 108.4. Councillor West declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 113 Deputation concerning Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust and Item 116 (c) Member Question on Stanmer Park; as he was a Trustee and would therefore leave the Chamber and take no part in the consideration of either Item;
- 108.5. The Mayor stated that Councillor Morgan had informed her he was likely to be late for the meeting and had asked that a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 114 (a) Save our Deans – Petition for debate; as he lived close to the area in question and he would therefore leave the Chamber and take no part in the debate or voting thereon.
- 108.6. No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

109. MINUTES

- 109.1. The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 27 March were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings; subject the following amendments:
- (i) Paragraph 95.5 to include that Councillor Kitcat offered to meet with Mr. Jones and
 - (ii) Paragraphs 99.22 and 99.24 should be amended to reflect the spelling mistakes and the words 'resent' and 'extensible' replaced by 'recent' and 'extensibly' respectively;
 - (iii) Paragraph 104.6 to read, "Councillor Phillips noted that Academies were able to select their intake which could be why there is a gap in attainment levels and sated that both as an elected Member and teacher she was opposed to them in the city."

110. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 110.1. The Mayor reminded the Council that it was in purdah and therefore should be mindful of the position during any debates in the meeting;
- 110.2. The Mayor then drew Members' attention to Item 114(A) on the agenda which related to the petition debate regarding the 'Save our Deans' campaign. She noted that a planning application in relation to this matter was expected and therefore Members of the Planning Committee need to be mindful of their position should they choose to speak in the debate so as to not compromise their role on the committee;
- 110.3. The Mayor then drew Members' attention to the clarification paper from the Monitoring Officer in relation to Item 117 on the agenda, following the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 1st May, which has been circulated with the addendum papers;
- 110.4. The Mayor informed the Council that she had also agreed to take an additional item concerning the Area Panel Boundaries and Housing Management Consultative Sub-Committee, which has been referred for information from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held last Thursday. The extract from the minutes and the report had been circulated with the addendum papers and were listed as Item 117(A).
- 110.5. Finally, the Mayor noted that there were only two reports listed for consideration and therefore she did not see the need for a call over.

111. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 111.1. The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.

111.2. Mr Hooper presented a petition signed by 48 residents concerning Stanmer Village requesting that no bid be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Parks for People until an agreement had been reached with residents on future parking in the village.

111.3. The Mayor noted that there were no other petitions to be presented.

112. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

112.1. The Mayor noted that no public questions had been received for the meeting.

113. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

113.1. The Mayor reported that two deputations had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Knight as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.

(a) Council Owned Properties in Stanmer Village

113.2. Mr. Knight thanked the Mayor and stated that;

“I’m here on behalf of a number of Stanmer Village households most of whom are here today. We are tenants of the council owned properties leased to the Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust on September 28th 2005 for 20 years, the board of which includes two elected council members, a partner of the Trust’s managing agent and a partner of their solicitor’s firm. One of the many requirements of the lease agreement is that the Trust keeps the properties in good repair and condition, but we do not believe that the trust is fulfilling this obligation. As the council granted this lease we feel this is a matter for which the Authority has a responsibility, and are asking for it to investigate our claims.

We also maintain the trust is not fulfilling its own stated objectives to pursue a policy of:

- conservation and improvement of cottages in Stanmer Village, and
- letting to local people whom it is hoped will contribute to the Village community

We have compiled a report which runs for some 50 pages including emails, photographs, and letters of support from various ranking officials. It shows very poor condition of properties at the start of tenancies, and consistently substandard repairs. A newly let cottage was in such poor state of repair that as a last resort, the new tenant called an officer from the council’s Environmental Health. The house was uninhabitable and it deeply saddens all of us here that she got nowhere and has moved out of the village. The damp and cold in these properties has, we feel, been a contributing factor in the ill health of at least three children in the village. We have raised the issue of non-sustainability, energy inefficiency and need for insulation on numerous occasions.

We are also concerned about rental Increases in breach of Tenancy Agreements. A clause, in all of our leaseholds says that rental increases must be in line with the Retail Price Index. When my wife and I were recently querying a proposed rental increase of 15% in a new 12-month lease, we were issued, with a Notice of Eviction. This still

stands, despite a petition of support signed by the entire Stanmer Village community including the businesses.

There's also a universal feeling of insecurity, references are consistently made to other prospective tenants who are interested in our admittedly very beautiful homes, then the higher rental at which our homes would be advertised should we not accept the Trust's new terms. When questioning a 20% rental increase, a tenant who'd lived in the village for 30 years was told the increase was non-negotiable and if she did not wish to pay it, they would serve notice. There is also in this dossier, a record of the email which also told them that should they actually discuss this with fellow villagers the trust would be forced to take action.

This report outlines the dubious regard to the listed nature of the buildings. In the farmhouse, the Trust stated an unsafe fireplace was a listed feature to the building which couldn't be removed unless I would consider a 10% rental increase. They also said I was welcome to do the work myself because I was not aware of this listed nature of the item. My neighbour's complaint regarding the classic iron-work guttering which was replaced with cheap ill-fitting plastic guttering, which continued to leak, resulted in the Trust emailing all tenants to say maintenance of guttering was our responsibility despite a clause in our agreement's suggesting otherwise.

Despite many direct requests, or indirect cc'ing on email correspondence, the Trustees have, until the last few days as this deputation approached, consistently refused to engage with tenants on any specific complaints we have made. We are also very concerned that the Council's elected Members on the Trust can support rental increases of 15-20% on these Council properties, given their backing to the recent motion put forward by Green Councillor Bill Randall, supported by Labour's housing spokesman Chaun Wilson, which calls for a cap on private rental increases.

Councillor Summers recently met with us to discuss our concerns about the management of our properties and then raise them officially in a letter to the Trust on our behalf requesting a meeting. The response is here in this report, it ignores our request and maintains that as a charity all the income it receives from tenant's rents aside from a small amount spent on administration is spent on maintaining the properties and making rental payments to this council. However the most recent accounts available from the Charity Commission show that actually less than 50% of their income is spent on maintenance and rent, and the amount spent on repairs in 2013 was 50% lower than the previous year, yet their management fees costs increased by 13%."

- 113.3. Councillor Littman replied, "The Council is obviously deeply concerned to hear of the numerous and serious issues which are outlined in your deputation. It does need to be said also, that the allegations are rejected by the Trust, their lawyers and their agents. As you know, the Council is not your landlord, we have no choice but to respect the legal rights of the Trust to manage the properties, as they see fit, so long as they remain within the terms of the lease with the council. Nonetheless, we are more than willing to work with all parties concerned to attempt to facilitate an outcome that's acceptable to all. To this end, we have asked officers to work with the trust to review the situation and the longer term future of the arrangements. As far as the immediate

issues of your deputation are of concern, we hope all parties concerned will engage in a constructive dialogue and resolve the process by agreement.”

- 113.4. The Mayor thanked Mr. Knight for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Policy & Resources 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.

Note: Councillors Mitchell and West having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter detailed above withdrew from the chamber and took no part in the discussion thereon.

(b) Claredon Area Recycling

- 113.5. The Mayor then invited Ms. Quinn as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 113.6. Ms. Quinn thanked the Mayor and stated that; “I am making this statement on behalf of the residents of the ‘Claredon’ area comprising Livingstone Road, Shirley Street, Claredon Road, Goldstone Road, Ellen Street and the immediate surrounding area. It represents the views expressed by the overwhelming majority of residents that Matthew Irish and I have spoken to over the last two months, and those who have emailed either Mr Irish or me.

Since last summer there has been an ongoing issue with the collection of refuse and recycling from the above named streets and this has been a cause of considerable anger and frustration for local residents. Residents have become confused about exactly when the refuse and recycling collections take place as there have been a number of changes. What most concerns residents is the fact that many of the communal bins fill up so quickly that residents are left only being able to place their rubbish bags around the base of the communal bins – an entirely unsatisfactory situation as seagulls, foxes, rats and other wildlife then rip into the bags and rubbish is strewn all around the area – a serious environmental health risk – and generally this rubbish is not picked up – it just blows about the streets. The recycling boxes have posed a similar issue with boxes being placed for collection but not being picked up because there is confusion about when they are to be collected. Once again, the rubbish tends to end up getting blown about the streets - this creates a vision of neglect and lack of public resources in a city which should pride itself on its appearance to both residents and visitors. Now there are communal recycling bins, but local residents are concerned that once again these will fill too quickly and recycling material will be left around the base of the bins – and thus nothing will have been resolved.

The residents are urging the council to provide clear information about the times of collections – perhaps this could be posted on the bins themselves? They are also urging the council to provide for more street cleaners to pick up the litter that arises from the refuse and recycling bins - to ensure that this area does not look run down and neglected, as it does at present.”

113.7. Councillor West replied; “As you say, you’re referring to issues over the past year and we have experienced disruption in collection services for a number of reasons. Firstly, we have had to resolve the historic issue of pay fairness for all staff in the council, and this is a matter that has been held over successive administrations and unfortunately, collection services were impacted through the period of negotiation with staff unions, but I am very glad to say we successfully resolved an outcome. We then had to implement massive changes that resulted from that deal to the collection services across the whole of the city, and this was a massive change for City Clean, the biggest change they have had to undertake. But it also allowed us to create service improvements at the same time, like the introduction of bank holiday collections which has helped to resolve confusion for a lot of residents on an ongoing basis with when their collections would be.

Following our successful pilot funding bid, we have also introduced communal recycling, which you mentioned, we’re rolling that out, the roll out is coming towards to the end now. But this is a new scheme and it will be for over 30,000 households and it was supported at committee by all the parties on the Council, including your own labour party.

Another big change, this is another big change for City Clean to implement at the same time as other things, but it will result in less cluttered streets and higher recycling rates, and our pilot showed that recycling results in Brunswick & Adelaide went up by 70% with this easier to use scheme. One of the benefits of communal recycling is that it allows residents to drop off their recycling at their convenience, which is why we don’t advertise collection dates, which is a criticism I noticed in your deputation.

You also mention the frequency of emptying your bins and whether they’re getting over filled. With all new schemes, as the patterns of usage emerge, we actually tweak our emptying frequency, so this is to be expected, but in a normal case, we would be emptying the bins often enough. The bins with missing lids that you have mentioned are due to be repaired shortly as part of our ongoing schedule of refurbishment of these bins. Can I finally say again that I apologise for the problems you and other residents have experienced, but I do understand from Ward Councillors colleagues that have been to and inspected the area that they say to me, it is now neat and tidy. I do note that we haven’t actually had any complaints from yourself or Mr. Irish, but if you do actually experience problems, the best thing to do is to let us know and then we can deal with them directly ourselves.”

113.8. The Mayor thanked Ms. Quinn for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability 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.

114. PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

114.1. The Mayor stated that the council’s petition scheme provided that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at a Council meeting. She had

been notified of one such petition which had sufficient signatures to warrant a debate and therefore would call on the lead petitioner to present their petition before opening the matter up for debate.

- 114.2. The Mayor then called on Mr. Wedd to present the petition concerning the proposed development on land known locally as 'The Vale Meadows' adjoining Rottingdean and Ovingdean by Lightwood Developments.
- 114.3. Mr. Wedd thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition sought to secure the greenfield site so as to protect the area and maintain the natural separation of Rottingdean and Ovingdean and to prevent such developments as proposed by Lightwood Developments. He stated that over 1,600 people had signed the petition and he hoped that the council would recognise the potential impact such a development would have on the area and amenities. He suggested that there were other more suitable areas which could be used to meet the demand for housing such as Shoreham Port and under-used employment land; but in the meantime hoped that the council would be mindful of the level of opposition to the proposed development and refuse any planning application of this nature.
- 114.4. Councillor J. Kitcat thanked Mr. Wedd for presenting the petition and noted that the area had not been identified in the City Plan and that the Planning Committee would take into consideration any objections that were made to a planning application.
- 114.5. Councillor Hawtree noted that the National Planning Policy Framework had put the council in a difficult position and that he had received a number of emails in regard to the proposal for the meadows. He believed that any planning application would be considered very carefully by the planning committee.
- 114.6. Councillor Smith stated that he supported the petition and felt that any such development would lead to similar ones coming forward for other areas in the city known as the 'Deans'. He was unsure why the area in question had been left out of the South Downs National Park and believed that the opposition to the proposal was likely to get larger and hoped that the unique area would remain as it was.
- 114.7. Councillor Mears noted that Meadow Vale had originally been included in the boundary of the National Park but appeared to have been removed as it had become associated with Longhill School playing fields. She believed that this was something that needed to be looked into and clarified. She also felt that there were a number of similar areas on the fringes of the city that should be protected and that future housing developments should be directed to brownfield sites and/or consideration given to height levels in the city. It was an important issue and one she hoped that the council could get right.
- 114.8. Councillor Mitchell congratulated Mr. Wedd on his presentation and noted the strength of feeling that existed amongst the local community in relation to the matter. She suggested that it would be appropriate for the petition to be referred to the relevant Planning Officer so that it could be taken into account as an objection to the existing proposal.

- 114.9. Councillor G. Theobald stated that he believed the key was to get the City Plan approved so that any such proposals could be prevented from coming forward. He had raised his concerns with the Minister and urged the council to get the City Plan agreed with the Planning Inspector and should they turn it down, he was prepared to take it to the Minister.
- 114.10. Councillor Kitcat noted the comments and that the Conservative Group had previously voted against the draft city plan. However, he felt that the petition could be noted and referred to the planning officers so that it was taken into account as part of any consultation and objections raised, should an application be submitted to the Planning Committee.
- 114.11. The Mayor then put the recommendation to the vote.
- 114.12. **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Planning Case Officer to be included with any other information that forms part of the consultation responses to a planning application that is submitted by Lightwood Developments in respect of The Vale Meadows for consideration by the Planning Committee.

115. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- 115.1. The Mayor reminded Council that written questions from Members and the replies from the appropriate Councillor were taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum which had been circulated as detailed below:

(a) Councillor Cox

- 115.2. "With the welcome sight of the fountain in Victoria Gardens at last back in working order, what plans does the Council have for restoring the much more beautiful fountain in the Old Steine Gardens to its former and fully working glory in time for summer?"

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

"Both the Victoria Fountain at the Old Steine and the Mazda Fountain in South Victoria Gardens are operational and have been since Easter. When the winds are high or there is persistent heavy rain the gardeners turn them off for a while to prevent water spraying everywhere and annoying the public. It is possible that Councillor Cox was there during one of these periods.

Pre-season commissioning works are done in early April each year and the fountains operate from around Easter until October and are drained down for the winter for safety reasons. They are sometimes turned off during the Brighton Festival if their operation interferes with whatever event is being held in the immediate vicinity."

(b) Councillor G. Theobald

- 115.3. "Brighton & Hove has a caravan site at Sheepcote Valley with 215 pitches, 124 of which are hardstanding. Will Cllr. West tell me why travellers who set up unauthorised

encampments in the city's parks are not directed to this site where all other visitors wishing to camp in the city would be expected to go?"

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

"Thank you for your question. Officers have informed me that the power to direct Travellers to a site is a power available to the police under S62a of the Criminal Justice and Public Order act 1994. It is not a power granted to the Local Authority. The Local Authority can, as a landowner, request that the police use their powers under s62a to direct Travellers to a site. Under s62a (6) this must be managed by a Local Authority within whose area the land is situated or a registered social landlord. In the case of Horsdean the site is run by the Local Authority. The Caravan Club site at Sheepcote Valley now called Brighton Caravan Club is part of or associated with the Caravan Club and therefore not run by the Local Authority and is not a registered social landlord. The provision of S62a therefore does not apply and Travellers cannot be directed there.

Additional information below:

S62a

(5)The officer must consult every local authority within whose area the land is situated as to whether there is a suitable pitch for the caravan or each of the caravans on a relevant caravan site which is situated in the local authority's area.

(6)In this section—

- "caravan" and "caravan site" have the same meanings as in Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960;
- "relevant caravan site" means a caravan site which is—

(a) situated in the area of a local authority within whose area the land is situated, and
(b) managed by a relevant site manager;

- "relevant site manager" means

(a) a local authority within whose area the land is situated;

(b) a registered social landlord;

- "registered social landlord" means a body registered as a social and lord under Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Housing Act 1996."

116. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

116.1. The Mayor noted that notification of 8 oral questions had been received and that 30 minutes was set aside for the duration of the item. She then invited Councillor G. Theobald to put his question to Councillor Davey.

116.2. Councillor Theobald asked:

“Buried on page 118 of the 2012-2013 budget papers was a saving in highways to the effect that no new yellow lines or signs would be allowed outside of control parking zones in the city. This has become a real bone of contention for residents in my ward and I suspect in the other outlying wards in the city who have had perfectly legitimate requests for new lines turned down by the Council. Will Councillor Davey confirm if this blanket policy remains in place in the light of the fact that several areas outside control parking zones now appear to be being considered for new parking restrictions?”

116.3. Councillor Davey replied:

“Well I’m sure you spotted that at the time but the work of developing new traffic regulation orders is time consuming and expensive, as I’m sure you’re aware. Traffic regulation orders have to be advertised in the newspapers, which are quite expensive, officer development time and then there’s the consideration of responses, the signing of lines and then the maintenance of lines. And as you know, the Council is under extreme pressure from central Government cuts and budget freezes imposed by partly your opposition, so yes it does remain exceedingly difficult to develop extra facilities elsewhere in the city, but the Council take a pragmatic response and where there are serious road safety issues of very heartfelt responses on very serious matters from residents supported by Councillors, such as the Roedean coach parking matter, we will do our absolute best to respond but we have to bear in mind that those are expensive and the Roedean coaching matter is costing several thousand pounds.”

116.4. Councillor Theobald asked the following supplementary question:

“It’s interesting that Councillor Davey talks about cuts and how painting yellow lines are expensive, it doesn’t seem to be too expensive to paint 20mph mile signs all over the place. But, as the Council has been given a record local transport plan funding allocation for this year of £7.5 million on top of numerous other generous grant awards from the Government, such as better bus areas, local sustainable transport fund and national parks funding, will Councillor Davey now commit as part of the LTP4 process to put this before the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee, with a recommendation to reverse what appears to be a blanket policy which unfairly penalises residents living in areas living outside of the city centre.”

116.5. Councillor Davey replied,

“Well I thought you would have understood by now that there’s a big difference between capital one off funding, that the LTP is and revenue funding. But the capital funding budget that you agreed at P&R, just a few weeks ago, is being spent on capital renewal for the city and to make up for the lack investment from your administration, which cut millions and millions and millions out of the transport capital budget. Under invested on the seafront and leaving a dreadful legacy for this administration to pick up, so you agreed the budget that we put before the P&R committee and few weeks ago to address the legacy you left us and I’m very glad that you supported it at that time, so thank you.”

116.6. Councillor Marsh asked:

“The Government has put on hold, for the moment, the role out of universal credit because the pilot has been so abysmal but there is no doubt that it will come and we will have to deal with it in this City. What preparations are being put in place to support residents to apply for universal credit?”

As I’m sure Councillor Littman knows you can only apply online there is no other way of doing it. So I would be very concerned for the 40% of my ward who still do not have access to the internet because they can’t afford it, to those people who have sensory difficulties, language difficulties who are older, like me and find twiddling buttons quite difficult who are ill etc. What I want to know is what we are doing, what plans are in preparation to support residents for the eventual online applications of universal credit?”

116.7. Councillor Littman replied:

“The problems with universal credit have become quite clear from the attempted role out the 2013 date has been put back to some time between 2015 and 2017. As far as financial inclusion is concerned, because that’s really the topic that we’re talking about, we are funding money advice and community support because the free legal representation has been withdrawn, we’re investing in the Brighton Housing Trust and CAB, recognising the fact that most of the people who are reliant on welfare are women and children with the Government’s welfare changes most especially the benefit cap hitting these groups negatively, particularly women.

We’re also funding the Brighton Women’s Centre to run a money advice service targeted at women and lone parents. We’re providing funding to the Federation of Disabled People to ensure that disabled residents are supported regarding the particular issues that they face.

We’ve set up a Banking Forum which will be officially launched next month which engages banks with us in financial inclusion work. We’re working with a wide range of partners from the YMCA to Quaker Social Action to Slice Bread a National Financial Inclusion Consultancy. We’re looking to widen this work even further talking to organisations such as the Royal British Legion and the Macmillan Cancer Support.

We’ve allocated £100,000 to the East Sussex Credit Union to enable them to provide loans to financially vulnerable people. We’re accessing money advice and skill building. We’re directly supporting the credit union through our HR and Comms teams. We’re working alongside of the Bishop of Chichester to encourage well known people to sign up to the Credit Union.

We’ve spent £355,000 funding a Community Banking Money Advice Debt and Education Service for financially vulnerable residents. It looks like the partners we will have in that work will be the Brighton and Hove CAB, the Money Advice Community Support, the Whitehawk Inn, Hangleton and Knoll, the Bridge, Unemployed Families Sensor Project and Toynbee Hall.

All of this work will help ready those who are on benefits, need benefits to survive; for the role out of universal credit. Finally on the point that you are making about digital

inclusion; with these partners and others across the City we're helping to increase digital inclusion because as you point out quite rightly, the Government Strategy is to move to digital by default services, we've actually a Guardian Award for our Council Connect Sit Scheme where volunteers in libraries help people to get online."

116.8. Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question:

"How are we going to encourage commercial banks who don't wish to have as customers, people who will be on universal credit and are currently on benefits and don't welcome. How are we going to bridge that gap? Also instead of having benefits deducted at source so that residents can then budget, they will actually have everything just paid in and if they chose at the next stage to run off with it like put it on the horses then what kind of support we're going to provide there to steer people away and to make sure that pay day lenders don't cash in on this new change?"

116.9. Councillor Littman replied,

"The Basic Banking Forum, we're in discussion with, 13 banks. The Launch is next month, we don't know how many banks will actually sign up but that is one way of getting commercial banks in on this the other is the East Sussex Credit Union which we are funding where, as I say, we're giving funding financial advice for a whole range of different organisations at the end of the day what we're trying to do is make sure that the vulnerable people in the City are as financially robust as they possibly can be given the role out of universal credit which I think people on your bench and people on our bench have recognised as an utter disaster about to happen."

116.10. Councillor Summers asked:

"Following on from the deputation earlier, very ably presented by Mr Knight, I would like to ask Councillor Randall, as Chair of the Housing Committee, if he himself is familiar with the Brighton & Hove Estate Conservation Trust and the lease agreement made between the Trust and the Council in 2005, which would have then been under a particular administration of a party in this Chamber beginning with 'L', and if he is familiar, whether he agrees himself in principle that such council housing should be rented out at market rate, bearing in mind his own notice of motion at the last full council, which his own group supported and the other group beginning with 'L' supported and also bearing in mind the brand spanking new costing of living contract that a particular national party has promised to introduce if they form the next government, and that includes stopping families that rent being ripped off and helping them plan for the future with new, long term, predictable tenancies."

116.11. Councillor Randall replied:

"Well I am familiar with the trust that was set up to preserve those houses in public ownership, rather than making it possible for them to pass into private ownership, through the right to buy. I'm more familiar now with the detail of the cases being made by some of the residents about rents. I'm disturbed by what I've heard; we are talking to the trust about it. We did indeed have a motion before the last council meeting where we asking for rent controls, we didn't get to speak about it then, but I would say that I believe we should follow the example of Germany, France, the Netherlands and

some American cities and introduce controls. What we're suggesting is, that the market rent is set at the beginning of a 5 year tenancy and in that 5 year tenancy, the rent should only be increased at the rate of inflation, there should be a cap on that in case inflation too high, as it did under the conservatives in the 1980's, I think it was.

So we don't want the inflation element to get out of hand. I would also say, I was at meeting, a Chatham House rule meeting, with Sir David Montague and others, to discuss his proposals to the Government for the future of the private rented sector and at that meeting, there were large investors saying they would like to see the introduction of some sort of rent control because they are aware, the institute investors, not everywhere is like Brighton, and in some parts of the country rents may go down. They want to see inflation related rent controls to protect their investment. So I am disturbed by what I've heard. We are looking at it and we will come back to you. Thank you very much indeed."

116.12. Councillor Summers asked the following supplementary question:

"We know the deputation is going to Policy & Resources and also that Councillor Randall himself sits on Policy & Resources Committee, so because of that, I would like to ask him if he would agree to look into the arrangements with the Trust, as it now stands in view of particularly, the serious concerns that the tenants have put and consider whether or not the trust is best serving the interest of the people that they're housing and whether or not those interests, basically the interests for them and also wider Stanmer Park context would not best be served if those properties were in fact brought back under the management and responsibility of the Council."

116.13. Councillor Randall replied,

"All I can say is that an officer review has already started, it will come back to P&R and we will look at it then of course. On your last point, I'm not sure. My fear is that the housing in Stanmer Park will pass into private ownership, they will then become rented properties, like more than 20% of the Council properties that have been sold in the City, already have done and I fear it could be a village of holiday homes. Thank you."

Note: Councillors Mitchell and West having declared a personal and prejudicial interest relating to the matter detailed above withdrew from the chamber during its consideration.

116.14. Councillor Cox asked:

"Graffiti blights communities and hampers regeneration. A journey on, for example the number 5 bus, through Western Road and London Road reveals a whole series of buildings which have been scrawled with unpleasant and sometimes offensive graffiti. In particular at rooftop level along the first floor above the shops. What action is the Council going to take to have this criminal damage cleaned up?"

116.15. Councillor West replied:

“I share his concern about the impact that graffiti has in blighting the City and our officers work extremely hard continuously cleaning graffiti off public buildings and working with residents and businesses to get graffiti removed from private premises.

Officers provide advice and quotation to undertake work on behalf of residents in businesses and we also work with community groups on special clean-up projects like the work that is done with the Roundhill Society which Councillor Davey and myself and Councillor Deane are both very familiar because that’s in our ward, where they hold regular clean up days supported by City Clean and we get to tackle the deeper issues that the regular service is unable to achieve and that’s working extremely well with the local community.

The graffiti that you’ve specifically mention as I understand is at a high level and especially challenging to deal with and under our current budget pressures from Government cuts, maintaining an annual clean-up of graffiti like this is hard to achieve but I understand that this particular issue will be addressed by the end of June.

In order to do that we will need to hire the cherry picker and identify the premises owners and serve notice on them in order to attempt to recover the cost so we do need the cooperation of businesses and residents to help us achieve these things and I certainly look forward to this work being done and the full cooperation of those concerned.”

116.16. Councillor Cox asked the following supplementary question:

“I’m particularly concerned about some of the properties which I believe the Council holds the freehold for and is collecting considerable sums of rent in. Just by way of example I think it is particularly bad in Western Road in the heart of the City in Councillor Kitcat’s ward I believe, there is ‘Phones for Us’ and above there is scrawled all cops are a target, anarchist signs and obscenities. It’s been there for at least 3 weeks and I don’t see why we should tolerate it so I urge, in this clean-up Councillor West, perhaps that that particular stuff is cleaned off.”

116.17. Councillor West replied,

“Our policy is to focus on offensive graffiti and we do act as quickly as we can, if it is at a high level and we do need the permission of private premises it can take us longer than we would hope to do so, in order to achieve what we need to do for the City but we do take it extremely seriously.”

116.18. Councillor Pissaridou asked:

“I’m sure that everyone will agree that our parks and recreation grounds are jewels in the city’s crown. Well-loved and well used by our residents and visitors alike. In 2010, money was made available by the previous national government under the Play Builders scheme for improving children’s playgrounds. Brighton and Hove benefited from this and some playgrounds around the city were improved. Unfortunately, the source for this funding suffered in the cuts made by the coalition government, so there are no specific funds set aside to finish the program and a number of playgrounds were left to volunteer groups to find funding for improvement. In our ward, we’re very

fortunate to have dedicated residents who have worked tirelessly to raise funds to improve the parks and children's playgrounds, and have utilised any scrap of spare land for residents to use, whether it be playgrounds or gardening. Stoneham Park is a green flag park, which incidentally celebrated its centenary last year, as you know Madam Mayor.

In the middle of poets corner, and next to primary schools and as you can imagine, Stoneham Park is extremely well used by local residents, with vibrant community groups in the local area looking into improve and enhance the park in years ahead. Will Councillor West work with me and those groups in exploring potential funding options so we can make the most of Stoneham Park as a key asset in our community?"

116.19. Councillor West replied:

"It is absolutely correct that we, as a Council, are able to invest a considerable amount in a number of parks, due to a previous scheme that is now completed. We did make a great number of parks that much better but because we have very many and there's many communities who would like improvements, and we do have to maintain what we have as well, and service pressures make that extremely difficult as we go forward.

In the case of Stoneham Park, I'm extremely glad to say that work has already been going on about how we can actually get funding in to improve the park. I understand that £39,000 of Section 106 money, specifically for play at Stoneham Park has been secured, that there has been a consultation conducted by the friends of Stoneham Park, working with our officers and I have a copy of the report that they produced in March. There is a very interesting list of things that they would like to achieve there, that far exceeds the funding available but the will is certainly there. There are some sort of tensions about how one might wish to change the balance between the amount of tarmac and grass in the park, whether or not dogs should be allowed or excluded and then features that might appeal to teenagers who are not well served, especially girls, so do we need a skate park?

But then there's also for younger children the type of things we've seen at the Level, people's expectations have risen over those, like the musical play areas which are so popular there. So there is a lot to do, and we are certainly working with the community already on that and officers are going to write a proposal brief for the use of that particular funding and then work with the friends on another consultation on whether that plan is good and then continue to work to find other sources of funding in the future.

So it is a very positive position we are in already and I'm very glad that the Councillor has raised this point, and I'm sure she'll be working with the friends on the opportunities ahead of us now."

116.20. Councillor Pissaridou asked the following supplementary question:

"We have worked very hard to get all this funding and to try and match fund but my supplementary question is a little bit wider. From time to time, I have been approached by parents and carers and I think most councillors have, who raise concerns about the safety of some playground equipment in their local parks. Can you provide a statement or can you get officers to draft a statement as to how the equipment is

selected, how it is maintained and what you consider to be the responsibility and liability of the council and of parents to ensure their children's safety?"

116.21. Councillor West replied,

"I do know there is some older equipment in that particular park that is going to be looked at, so there will be assessment on that. Officers do assess the safety of equipment in other places to ensure that they are safe to use. We have a considerable amount of equipment, but that is certainly on their agenda to continue, it is obviously vital importance that equipment is provided and is maintained in a safe state. I won't be shy about this, I think going forward, the council has a difficulty with the level of the government cuts coming down, how we continue to maintain the standards of the things that we have, how we continue to invest in them to replace them and improve them. This is going to be a considerable problem into the future. We really need to see the change of heart from the government about the way it treats the local government and the way local government can serve local people properly."

116.22. Councillor Mears asked:

"At the recent Housing Committee meeting on the 20th April, we received a report updating the Housing Strategy which will incorporate the Student Housing strategy which was produced under my administration. The final Housing Strategy will be finalised by the end of 2014. The student housing technical background paper in the City plan is very detailed and well worth a read. We also had, in the last few years, a round 1500 purpose built planning permissions for Students and we also show the increase in student numbers over the last few years and the University of Sussex is proposing to expand by a further 5000 student by 2018.

The report also highlights speculative purpose built student housing over the last 3 – 4 years. As a location Brighton is ranked 3rd following London, Kingston as having the best opportunities for student investment. So I'd ask the Chair of Housing how this administration proposed to balance a decline in affordable housing build alongside the increase in student accommodation."

116.23. Councillor Randall replied:

"You are right in saying that there has been a spread of student housing in the City and there are some already built and there are more in the pipeline. Brighton has two Universities and more than 30,000 students as you also said, the University of Sussex has expansion plans and I think you were at the briefing that I went to when we both questioned the housing implications of that and I don't think either of us were entirely satisfied that the University takes them as seriously as they might and it is of concern to me we also have about 5000 family homes now occupied by students.

The Universities of course bring great benefit to our City, in many ways they employ a lot of people directly, they support industries and culture through the City and they give the City a vibrancy which is, in my view, unmatched anywhere else in this County but there is that problem about housing and we of course would like to build more affordable housing but as Councillor Mears will also know that the possibility of doing

that in the future in the real sense of the word and the sense of social housing; it's getting more and more difficult.

We're going to open the Open Market Scheme soon which of course started under Councillor Mears' Administration, we're going to have a celebration there we might also have a funeral procession because there are 27 social rented housing units in there produced by housing associations and they might be the last that will be produced at social housing rents in this City. Hyde housing association have 3 more schemes on site at the minute one at the station, one at Hove Park and one over the Tesco store in St. James' Street, there is not one rented flat or house of any description in any of those schemes it is all shared ownership or outright sale.

Now in my view housing associations which is what registered providers are were not set up to provide housing for sale but they're doing it because the subsidy system has been changed so radically by this Government it's becoming impossible to do anything else. You can't build subsidised housing for people on low incomes without a subsidy and this present Government has taken away most of the subsidy and makes it very difficult for us. I'm sure that Councillor Mears will have a further question for me on this but I'm really disturbed about this, we are not building for the people at the bottom of the pile who need help.

Those flats that are being built have a market in the City, people will be prepared and glad to pay 80% of market rents, those who can afford it, and rents are very high in this City but those on low and modest incomes are priced out of the market. I put the question to Tory Minister at the conference, I couldn't get an answer, I put it to Councillor Mears, who will house the poor?"

116.24. Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question:

"As we know the waiting list is nearly 19,000; with the lack of affordable housing coming forward from this Green Administration, although the Chair of Housing will probably say it's everyone's fault but their own. There is a big debate to be had in this City through planning around housing association builds and shared ownership because the point about rented accommodation needs to be dealt with right at the very beginning. The administration needs to be a lot firmer on what it has coming through planning for rented not just shared ownership.

And bearing in mind that the Final Housing Strategy will not be finalised until the end of 2014 can the Chair of Housing confirm that there will be a meaningful debate on student housing in the City as I have requested in the past sooner rather than later and not just wait for another strategy to be introduced?"

116.25. Councillor Randall replied,

"Well the debate is ongoing as part of the renewal of the Housing Strategy and I'm always interested to hear what Councillor Mears has to say on this because I know she has a genuine concern about housing."

116.26. The Mayor noted that the time set aside for Members' oral questions had expired and therefore she had decided to bring the item to a close and the remaining two questions would be held over to the next ordinary meeting of the council.

117. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

117.1. Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report which had been referred from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on the 1st May 2014. He was pleased to note that it had been fully supported at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting and drew Members attention to the clarification paper from the Monitoring Officer that had been circulated as part of the addendum papers. He also welcomed the partnership working with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and believed it would lead to better outcomes for residents in the city and therefore commended it to the Council.

117.2. Councillor K. Norman noted the changes detailed in the clarification paper and that there was a significant changes to how the council would procure services and welcomed the move forward to joint working with the CCG.

117.3. Councillor Wealls referred to paragraph 8.2 of the report and stated that he felt it was a sensible move but noted that the addition of 4 voting co-optees to the Children & Young People Committee would have an impact on how education matters were dealt with in the future.

117.4. Councillor Littman noted that the Council were being asked to agree the proposals as detailed in paragraphs 7 to 11.4 rather than 6.7 as was shown in the extract from the proceedings of the Policy & Resources Committee.

117.5. Councillor Randall welcomed the report and noted that matters had gone full circle with health functions coming back under the remit of the local authority. He also referred to paragraph 7.7 of the report and welcomed the recognition of the importance of the Arts in influencing the health & wellbeing of people.

117.6. Councillor Meadows stated that she had previously served on the Health & Wellbeing Board and noted the changes meant that it had become a very powerful body. Having been told it was the route that the council had to follow, she would wait with anticipation to see how well it worked but expressed concern over the democratic arrangements in relation to the committee system that the council had adopted.

117.7. Councillor J. Kitcat noted the comments and stated that the changes had resulted from deliberative debate between councillors and health colleagues. He also noted that the council had five Members in line with proportionality and that most other cities of a similar size only had 1 representative on their Health & Wellbeing Boards. He also noted that the Health & Wellbeing Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been retained. He accepted the point raised by Councillor Wealls but noted that previous Children's Committees had had co-optees and stated that it was important to have relevant representatives on the appropriate committees. He also suggested that the arrangements could be kept under review as part of the regular updates to the Constitution.

117.8. The Mayor then put the recommendations to the vote.

117.9. RESOLVED:

- (1) That the proposals set out in paragraphs 7 to 11.4 and appendix 2 to the report be agreed;
- (2) That the proposed changes would come into effect immediately after the Annual Council meeting on 15th May 2014;
- (3) That the Chief Executive be authorised to take all steps necessary, conducive or incidental to the implementation of the proposals, including entering into section 75 Agreements;
- (4) That the intention to provide system leadership, achieve greater joint commissioning and integration of services between the Council and the CCG be noted;
- (5) That it be agreed to keep the effectiveness of the arrangements under review; and
- (6) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel regarding allowances for the Lead Member for Adult Social Services as set out in paragraph 9.2 of the report be agreed.

117. (A) AREA PANEL BOUNDARIES AND THE HOUSING MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

- 117.10 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report which had been referred from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on the 1st May for information following a request from the Conservative Group. He noted that the proposals agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee had followed a large amount of work with tenants and meant that there were a number of avenues for tenant involvement even with the removal of the Consultative Sub-Committee.
- 117.11 Councillor Peltzer Dunn referred to pages 19-21 of the addendum papers which outlined the record of the debate at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting. He accepted that there had been a consultation process with tenants and that the view that 4 Area Panels should be established taken on board. However, he believed that tenants had expressed a view at Area Panels and the last meeting of the Consultative Sub-Committee that the Sub-Committee should be retained. He supported this view and had been opposed to the sub-committee's abolishment as it had taken on board the wider views of tenants' across the city.
- 117.12 Councillor Wilson stated that she believed there were a number of opportunities for tenants to influence and engage with the council and that an element of duplication had been removed. She also drew Members' attention to the excellent report of the newly established Tenant Scrutiny and hoped that it would develop further.
- 117.13 Councillor Mears noted that the Housing Revenue Account meant that tenants' rents paid for consultation and that tenants representatives on the Consultative Sub-

Committee had not been actively involved because they felt that they had not been listened to. She believed the loss of the sub-committee was a serious step which meant that tenants' views could not be expressed and taken into consideration; and queried how this would be accounted for.

- 117.14 Councillor Randall stated that the proposals had been considered by the Constitution Working Group and Leaders Group. He acknowledged that Councillor Peltzer Dunn had been consistent in his opposition to the loss of the sub-committee; however the 4 Area Panels would receive information and be able to comment on reports going to the Housing Committee. There were also 2 City Assemblies each year, various sheltered housing groups, the high-rise action group, tenants associations and tenant scrutiny all of which could engage with councillors and the council.
- 117.15 The Mayor noted the comments and that the report had been referred for information and therefore moved that the report be noted.

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

118. NOTICES OF MOTION.

(a) Food Banks

- 118.1. The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Gilbey on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Daniel.
- 118.2. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This council acknowledges the key role that foodbanks, operated by FareShare Brighton, play in helping those in food poverty across the City.

With recent statistics showing a 38% increase in the usage of these foodbanks in 2013, This Council resolves that a report be brought to the next Policy & Resources Committee to outline what options the authority has to further support foodbanks in the City, building on the recent collections of non-perishable food items at Council Customer Service Centres.”

- 118.3. The motion was **carried**.

(b) Academies

- 118.4. The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Shanks on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Phillips.
- 118.5. Councillor Pissaridou moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group which was seconded by Councillor Lepper.
- 118.6. The Mayor noted that the Labour & Co-operative Group's amendment had not been accepted by Councillor Shanks and asked for the electronic voting system to be activated and put the amendment to the vote which was **lost** by 12 votes to 31.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Bennett		X		Mitchell	√		
Brown		X		Morgan	√		
Buckley		X		A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips		X	
Deane		X		Pissaridou	√		
Duncan		X		Powell		X	
Farrow	√			Randall		X	
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus		X	
Hawtree		X		Shanks		X	
Hyde		X		Simson		X	
Jarrett		X		Summers			-
A Kitcat		X		Sykes		X	
J Kitcat		X		C Theobald		X	
Lepper	√			G Theobald		X	
Littman		X		Wakefield		X	
Mac Cafferty		X		Wealls		X	
Marsh	√			Wells		X	
Meadows	√			West		X	
Mears		X		Wilson	√		
				Total	12	31	1

118.7. The Mayor then asked for the electronic voting system to be activated and put the following motion to the vote:

“This council is opposed in principle to academy status as advocated by current and previous national governments and is therefore concerned that one of our secondary schools, Hove Park, is considering opting to become an academy.

This council believes that government policy to privatise education removes the ability of the local authority to fulfil its statutory duty of planning school places and supporting school improvement.

We recognise the improvements that have been made in all our schools, and support parents and unions in calling for our community's schools to remain under the democratic aegis of the local authority."

118.8. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** by 17 votes to 14 votes with 12 abstentions.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Bennett		X		Mitchell			-
Brown		X		Morgan			-
Buckley	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel			-	Phillips	√		
Deane	√			Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell	√		
Farrow			-	Randall	√		
Fitch			-	Robins			-
Gilbey			-	Rufus	√		
Hawtree	√			Shanks	√		
Hyde		X		Simson		X	
Jarrett	√			Summers			-
A Kitcat	√			Sykes	√		
J Kitcat	√			C Theobald		X	
Lepper			-	G Theobald		X	
Littman	√			Wakefield	√		
Mac Cafferty	√			Wealls		X	
Marsh			-	Wells		X	
Meadows			-	West	√		
Mears		X		Wilson			-
				Total	17	14	12

(c) Planning

118.9. The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Mac Cafferty on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Davey.

118.10. The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to write to the CLG Minister, Eric Pickles and Planning Minister, Nick Boles;

- (1) Insisting they respect our communities and local democratic decision-making on planning matters;
- (2) Expressing our deep-seated concerns with the legal changes and the proven impact on Brighton and Hove including how communities are being locked out of planning decisions;
- (3) To insist government amend the NPPF by removing the presumption in favour of so-called ‘sustainable development’ at all costs;
- (4) Give our communities and elected Councillors the power to prioritise our City Plan and our own planning policies;
- (5) Call upon the city’s MPs to join with us in lobbying ministers to hand back planning to the city’s communities served by it and the city’s environment protected by it.”

118.11. The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** by 32 votes to 14 votes.

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
Bennett		X		Mitchell	√		
Brown		X		Morgan	√		
Buckley	√			A Norman		X	
Cobb		X		K Norman		X	
Cox		X		Peltzer Dunn		X	
Daniel	√			Phillips	√		
Deane	√			Pissaridou	√		
Duncan	√			Powell	√		
Farrow	√			Randall	√		
Fitch	√			Robins	√		
Gilbey	√			Rufus	√		
Hamilton	√			Shanks	√		
Hawtree	√			Simson		X	
Hyde		X		Summers	√		
Jarrett	√			Sykes	√		
A Kitcat	√			C Theobald		X	
J Kitcat	√			G Theobald		X	
Lepper	√			Wakefield	√		
Littman	√			Wealls		X	

Mac Cafferty	√			Wells		X	
Marsh	√			West	√		
Meadows	√			Wilson	√		
Mears		X					
				Total	32	14	

119. CLOSE OF MEETING

119.1. The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 8.05pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 15 MAY 2014****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

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

PART ONE**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1.1 There were no declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

2. MAYORAL REPORT 2013/14

2.1 The Mayor introduced the report which detailed the activities of the Mayor during the civic year for 2013/14 and stated that she had had a wonderful and enjoyable year. She noted that there was a slight error in the report which should have listed 'City Coast Church' at paragraph 3.5 bullet point 15 and stated she was pleased to inform the council that approximately £30,000 had been raised for her mayoral charities.

2.2 The Mayor then moved that the mayoral report for 2013/14 be noted.

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

3. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR OF BRIGHTON AND HOVE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15

3.1 The Mayor invited nominations for the position of Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the municipal year 2014/15.

3.2 Councillor Brian Fitch was proposed by Councillor Lepper and seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

- 3.3 Councillors J. Kitcat and Theobald supported the nomination of Councillor Fitch as Mayor for 2014/15.
- 3.4 The Mayor moved that, there being no other nominations, Councillor Brian Fitch be duly elected Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the forthcoming municipal year of 2014/15.
- 3.5 **The motion was agreed.**
- 3.6 The Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 4.55pm in order for Councillor Fitch as the incoming Mayor to be robed and to take the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Councillor Fitch in the Chair

- 3.7 Councillor Fitch reconvened the meeting at 5.05pm and then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 3.8 The Mayor then thanked the Council for his appointment,

“Councillors: ladies: gentlemen: honoured guests, friends & family thank you all for being here today on this memorable occasion and mindful of the need for efficiency for helping me to do two things at once.

Not only does this meeting herald the start of my mayoralty but it also marks the beginning of the end of my time as an elected Member. As most of you know this is my final year as a Councillor so I am delighted to have the opportunity to go out on a high. With an electoral record as long as mine, it's nice to have a degree of certainty for the future.

It is also my pleasure to have as my first duty as Mayor, the opportunity to thank Councillor Cobb for the way she has fulfilled her obligations as Mayor over the last year. I know it was a long held dream of hers to hold this office and I hope Denise your dream came true.

I know that your fellow Councillors experienced no nightmares thanks to your deft chairing of council meetings and on their behalf, I thank you for the verve and vigor you demonstrated in representing the council to residents and our city to the country at large.

I intend my Mayoralty to reflect a pair of very personal themes my long held values of peace and harmony a duo not often reflected in politics, but which will underpin my approach as Mayor and which I hope will help keep the waters calm in this electoral year. I think they are especially pertinent as my mayoral term coincides with a year of commemorative events marking the start of World War One. I will be attending many events in the coming year that will reflect on the wartime experiences of Brighton, Hove, Portslade and the wider area and in doing so I will be viewing them through the lens of peace and harmony in the hope that we learn from the past.

And with peace and harmony in mind I would like to thank Father John for agreeing to act as my chaplain for the year. We will be working together to ensure the passion and wisdom of our faith communities is reflected during my mayoralty.

My charities this year reflect both personal passions and concerns of the city at large and I hope that the Argus Appeal, the Martlets' and Brighton Housing Trust will benefit from your support as well as mine. I'm grateful to colleagues and friends who have agreed to act as my charity committee and I look forward to your support in our fundraising activities.

I am delighted that my wife Norah has retired a year early and will be able to act as Mayoress to my mayor; it's a thrill for us both and we are looking forward to a year filled with fun and activity. We are both keen to get out and make the most of this fantastic opportunity, representing and promoting Brighton & Hove and acting as ambassadors for all the wonderful things the city has to offer. In this respect, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Norah to you all and ask her to come forward to receive the Mayoress' chains.

There is however a tinge of sadness to this afternoon's events because my parents Win and Stan, a man who served Brighton Council for many years and Tim and Sheila Buckley, Norah's mum and dad, are not here to celebrate a moment that we know would have made all of them very proud.

Looking to the future I am delighted to have my daughter Jane present as well as my step-children Mike and Mary who are here as well as 3 of our four grandchildren – Sarah, Naomi and Luke. John is sorely missed but his university finals take precedence today.

I think and hope it's going to be a brilliant year. Thank you."

4. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR

- 4.1 The Mayor called on Councillor Mears to move a vote of thanks for the retiring Mayor, Councillor Cobb.
- 4.2 Councillor Mears moved a vote of thanks to Councillor Cobb as the retiring Mayor for her services during her term of office. She stated that Councillor Cobb had had an incredible year, and congratulated her on her achievements as Mayor. She also noted that amongst her many engagements she had walked across hot coals in her bare feet, something that no other Mayor had done.
- 4.3 Councillor Geoffrey Theobald formally seconded the motion and stated that Councillor Cobb had been an excellent Mayor and an innovative one in bringing electronic voting to the chamber. He also thanked her for her calm and even-handed approach during debates and council meetings and welcomed her back to the Group.
- 4.4 Councillor Jason Kitcat offered his thanks on behalf of the Green Group to Councillor Cobb in her role as Mayor and congratulated her on her achievements for the city and her charities.

- 4.5 Councillor Morgan thanked Councillor Cobb on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group for her role as Mayor and stated that she had chaired meetings of the council with clarity and humour. He was sure that her dancing video had gone viral on you-tube and her walk across hot coals would be difficult to follow.
- 4.6 The Mayor noted the comments and put the motion to the vote.
- 4.7 The motion was **carried**.
- 4.8 The Mayor presented Councillor Cobb with a commemorative badge in recognition of her year of office.
- 4.9 Councillor Cobb thanked the Council for the comments and stated that she had had a wonderful experience and it was one she could have only dreamed of. She would treasure it and all the different aspects of the role that had come with it.
- 5. APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF BRIGHTON & HOVE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014/15**
- 5.1 The Mayor moved that the Council appoint Councillor Denise Cobb as Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming municipal year.
- 5.2 The Motion was seconded by Councillor J. Kitcat.
- 5.3 The Mayor noted that there were no other nominations, and therefore sought the Council's agreement to Councillor Denise Cobb being duly elected as Deputy Mayor of Brighton & Hove for the forthcoming municipal year 2014/15.
- 5.4 The motion was **agreed**.
- 5.5 Councillor Denise Cobb made and signed her declaration of Acceptance of Office as Deputy Mayor and was presented with her badge of office by the Mayor.
- 6. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**
- 6.1 The Mayor informed the council that Father John had agreed to be his Chaplain for the duration of his mayoralty and reminded Members that the three Mayor's charities for the coming year were; 'The Argus Appeal', 'The Martlets' and 'Brighton Housing Trust'.
- 6.2 The Mayor also reminded Members that the civic service was due to be held at All Saints Church on Sunday 18th May at 10.00am and that everyone was welcome to attend.
- 6.3 Finally the Mayor noted that his first engagement was to attend the unveiling of a Blue Plaque at Brighton Town Hall in honor of Henry Solomon who was appointed the first Chief Officer of Brighton Borough Police on the 18th May 1838. He was to this day the only Chief Officer to have been fatally wounded in his own police station and he would recommend a tour of the Police Museum at the Town Hall.

7. APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 2014/15

- 7.1 The Mayor invited Councillor Davey to propose the appointment of the Leader of the Council.
- 7.2 Councillor Davey proposed that Councillor Jason Kitcat be appointed as the Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2014/15.
- 7.3 Councillor Buckley formally seconded the proposal.
- 7.4 The Mayor noted that there were no other nominations and put the motion to the vote which was agreed.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED:** That Councillor Jason Kitcat be appointed as the Leader of the Council for the municipal year 2014/15.

8. APPOINTMENTS 2014/15

- 8.1 The Mayor moved the appointments of Councillors Buckley and Davey as Deputy Leaders of the Council for the forthcoming municipal year 2014/15 be agreed.
- 8.2 The motion was **carried**.
- 8.3 The Mayor moved that Councillor Geoffrey Theobald be appointed as the Leader of the Official Opposition for the forthcoming municipal year 2014/15, in recognition that he was the Leader of the Conservative Group which had the largest number of Members of the two minority groups represented on the council.
- 8.4 The motion was **agreed**.
- 8.5 The Mayor moved that for the municipal year 2014/2015 the following appointments to the positions as agreed by the various Groups represented on the Council be noted:
- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| (i) Convenor of the Green Group | Councillor Jason Kitcat |
| (ii) Leader of the Conservative Group | Councillor Geoffrey Theobald |
| (iii) Leader of the Labour & Co-operative Group | Councillor Warren Morgan |
- 8.6 The motion was **carried**.

9. REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, FORUMS, PANELS AND OUTSIDE BODIES 2014/15.

- 9.1 The Mayor noted that the next item on the agenda concerned the review of the political balance and appointment of committees, sub-committees, forums, Lead Members, Champions Roles and outside bodies. The Mayor then put the recommendations as detailed in the report and the various appendices to the vote:

- (i) The allocation of seats as detailed in the report and in appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (ii) For the municipal year 2014/2015 the following Committees and Sub-Committees be constituted and appointed to hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and the number of Members and allocation of seats to the Party Groups (apart from co-opted Members) as detailed in appendix 1 to the report and as specified below be agreed:

Committee/Sub-Committee	Seats	Green	Conservative	Labour	Independent
Policy & Resources	10	5	3	2	
Children & Young People	10	4	3	3	
Economic Development & Culture	10	4	4	2	
Environment, Transport & Sustainability	10	5	3	2	
Housing	10	4	3	3	
Audit & Standards	8	2	3	2	1
Licensing*	15	6	5	4	
Planning	12	5	4	3	
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	10	4	3	2	1
Health & Well Being Overview & Scrutiny	8	3	3	2	
Personnel Appeals Sub	3	1	1	1	
Total	106	41	35	28	2
<i>Licensing 2003 Act* - has the same membership as Licensing and does not come into the equation for the allocation of seats</i>	15	6	5	4	

- (iii) That the membership of the committees and sub-committees as detailed in appendix 2 to the report and set out below be agreed;

Policy & Resources Committee – Councillors J. Kitcat (Chair), Sykes (Deputy Chair), Hamilton, Lepper, Morgan, A. Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Randall, Shanks and G. Theobald.

Children & Young People Committee – Councillors Shanks (Chair), Littman (Deputy Chair), Brown, Gilbey, A. Kitcat, Lepper, Pissaridou, Powell, Simson and Wealls.

Economic Development & Culture Committee – Councillors Bowden (Chair), Hawtree (Deputy Chair), Brown, Deane, Morgan, Randall, Robins, Smith, C. Theobald and Wealls.

Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee – Councillors West (Chair), Deane (Deputy Chair), Buckley, Cox, Daniel, Davey, Janio, Mitchell, Robins and G. Theobald.

Housing Committee – Councillors Randall (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Daniel, Farrow, Kennedy, Mears, Peltzer Dunn, Rufus and Wilson.

Audit & Standards Committee – (8 Councillors and 2 Independent Members) Councillors Hamilton (Chair), Janio, Lepper, Littman, A. Norman, Phillips, Smith and Summers.

Independent Members - Dr D. Home and Dr. L. Meleyal.

Licensing & Licensing (2003) Committee – Councillors Powell (Chair), Duncan (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Cobb, Gilbey, Hyde, Jones, Kennedy, Lepper, Marsh, Phillips, Robins, Rufus, Simson and C. Theobald.

Planning Committee – Councillors Mac Cafferty (Chair), Jones (Deputy Chair), Carden, Cox, Davey, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hyde, Littman, Phillips, C Theobald and Wells.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Mitchell (Chair), Janio (Deputy Chair), Bowden, Brown, Davey, Hawtree, K. Norman, Powell, Summers and Wilson.

Health & Well Being Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Rufus (Chair), C Theobald (Deputy Chair), Bennett, Bowden, Cox, Marsh, Meadows and Sykes.

Licensing 2003 Sub-Committee (3 from the parent committee with designated reps) – Councillors Powell (Chair), Simson and Lepper.

Personnel Appeals Sub-Committee – (3 from a pool of Members with designated reps) Councillors Powell, Cox and Marsh as appointees and the Pool of Councillors being Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Deane, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Jarrett, Jones, Lepper, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, A. Norman, K. Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pissaridou, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Sykes, C. Theobald, G. Theobald, and Wealls.

Community Safety Forum – Councillors J. Kitcat (Chair), Barnett, Carden, Daniel, Deane, Mac Cafferty, Pidgeon, Robins, Simson and Wakefield.

Health & Wellbeing Board – Councillors J. Kitcat (Chair), Jarrett, Morgan, K. Norman and G. Theobald.

- (iv) That in having regard to (iii) above, those Members listed as Chair and Deputy Chair of the respective Committees, Sub-Committees and Forums as detailed in appendix 2 to the report be agreed;
- (iv) (a) That with regard to (iii) above and subject to (b) and (c) below, all Members of the Council be appointed as Substitute Members of each Committee of the Council in accordance with Standing Orders.
 - (b) That no Member may act as a Substitute Member of the Planning Committee or the Personnel Committee unless he/she has received the appropriate training to enable them to serve on the respective Committee.
 - (c) There are restrictions on membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees as set out in the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure rules.
- (v) That in having regard to (ii) above, an Urgency Sub-Committee for each Committee be approved in accordance with Procedure Rule 22;
- (vi) That the appointments of Lead Members and Champions as detailed in appendix 3 to the report and specified below be agreed:
- (vii) That the appointments of representatives to the list of Outside Bodies as detailed in appendix 4 to the report and specified below be agreed:

Lead Member for Adult Care & Health – Councillor Jarrett
Lead Member for Children & Young People – Councillor Shanks
Lead Member for Communities & Equalities – Councillor Randall
Lead Member for Transport – Councillor Davey

BME Champion – Councillor Littman
Disability Champion – Councillor Powell
Faith Champion – Councillor Summers
Heritage Champion – Councillor Randall
LGBT Champion – Councillors Mac Cafferty / Phillips
Trans Champion – Councillor Mac Cafferty
Women's Champion – Councillors Buckley / Wakefield

	Name of Organisation	Term of Office	Nominations 2014/15
1	Admissions Forum	Annual	Buckley Wealls
2	Adoption & Permanence Panel	Annual	Littman/Shanks (Job Share)
3	Age Concern	Annual	Jarrett and K. Norman

4	Arts Commission	Annual	Bowden, A Kitcat, Mac Cafferty, Brown, C Theobald Fitch
5	Brighton Dome & Festival Limited	Annual	Bowden Fitch
6	Brighton Housing Trust	Annual	Wakefield
7	Brighton & Hove City in Bloom Community Group	Annual	Rufus, West, Barnett, K Norman, C. Theobald and Pissaridou
8	Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation	Annual	Deane
9	Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership	Annual	Bowden G. Theobald
10	Brighton & Hove Estates Conservation Trust	Annual	To be appointed by the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on the 12 th June 2014
11	Brighton & Hove Food Partnership Board of Directors	Annual	Sykes
12	Brighton & Hove Foster Panel	Annual	Littman/Shanks (Job Share)
13	Brighton & Hove Foyer	Annual	Duncan
14	Brighton & Hove Music Trust	Annual	Mac Cafferty, Shanks, A Norman
15	Brighton & Hove Seaside Community Homes Ltd	Annual	Buckley, Davey Wells Farrow Duncan
16	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Council of Governors	Annual	Duncan
17	Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project	Annual	Duncan
18	Citizen's Advice Bureau	Annual	Pissaridou
19	City Engagement Partnership	Annual	Randall, Wakefield, Simson Marsh
20	City Sports Forum	Annual	Bowden, Phillips

			Smith Robins
21	City Sustainability Partnership	Annual	Sykes, West Janio, Mitchell
22	Coast 2 Capital Local Transport Body	Annual	Davey
23	Coastal West Sussex Strategic Planning Board	Annual	Mac Cafferty
24	Cornerstone Community Centre Board of Management	Annual	Sykes
25	East Sussex Pension Fund Investment Panel	Annual	Sykes Wealls
26	Eurocities Network	Annual	A Kitcat
27	Fair Trade Steering Group	Annual	Deane, Littman
28	Fed. Centre for Independent Living	Annual	Powell
29	Healthy City Partnership	Annual	Jones, K. Norman
30	INTERREG	Annual	Randall
31	Local Government Association	Annual	Buckley, J Kitcat G Theobald Morgan
32	Local Housing Allowance & Universal Credit Steering Group	Annual	Randall
33	Members Advisory Group on Grants (MAG)	Annual	Rufus Simson Hamilton
34	MIND	Annual	Jarrett
35	Patrol Adjudication Joint Committee (Appointee also sits on the Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee)	Annual	Davey
36	Police & Crime Panel <i>Additional Rep</i>	No Max <i>1-Yearl</i>	Duncan <i>Daniel</i>
37	Pre-School Learning Alliance (South)	Annual	Buckley

38	Race Ground Trustees	Annual	Deane, Duncan, Kennedy, West (Board) Brown, C Theobald Lepper (Board), Marsh
39	Resource Centre	Annual	Davey
40	Shoreham Port Authority LA Liaison Committee	Annual	Bowden Peltzer Dunn
41	South East England Employers	Annual	Rufus, Cox, Marsh
42	Southern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee	Annual	West
43	The Sussex Deaf Association	Annual	Duncan
44	The Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation	Annual	Bowden
45	United Nations Association	Annual	Duncan
46	University of Sussex Court	Annual	Shanks,
47	West Pier Trust	Annual	Buckley

9.2 The motion was **carried**.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

10.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and invited them to join him at the Pavilion for refreshments and closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.25pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

Subject:	Preston Park Toilets. Petition Triggering Full Debate		
Date of Meeting:	17 July 2014		
Report of:	Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 29-1006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,400 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its next meeting.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"I, Francis Incorvaja, the petition organiser on behalf of myself and over 1,400 undersigned, petition the Council to arrange and implement the full refurbishment of the male/female/disabled public toilets adjacent to the Rotunda Café in Preston Park.

In support of the petition, we submit the following information:

Preston Park is the City's largest urban park and one of its flagship parks. It is frequented by thousands of people every week and used for some of the City's major events.

In close proximity to the subject public toilets (toilets) there are children play areas, tennis courts and bowling green, vegetable gardens, the rose garden, the wild flower area and the pond, as well as the vast open space. Visitors to these areas generally use the toilets.

In just over four weeks over 1,400 people have signed the petition and it is considered the number would significantly grow if the petition was held for longer or had been subject to greater publicity.

The toilets have not been subject to any significant repairs or refurbishment for over 13 years and with such high usage are seriously dilapidated. Families will rather take their children home than use the toilets and mothers refuse to change babies for fear of health issues.

The toilets are subject to broken fittings, dangerous flooring, cracked tiling, mould growth and poor decoration. The decoration (not refurbishment) of the toilets has been within the Park's Management Plan for at least financial years 12/13 and 13/14. Both times it was classed as Low Priority and both times the work had not been carried out.

Irrespective of the Council's budget for the management of its parks, Revenue from the Preston Park controlled parking scheme can only be expended on Preston Park. For the financial year ending 2014 the unspent surplus from the parking scheme was circa £27,000. These surplus funds in themselves will be sufficient to properly and fully refurbish the toilets without reliance on the overall Council's budget.

The Council makes great overtures about the awards it receives for its public toilets but at the same time allows one of its most prominent and widely used assets to fall into disrepair.

Equally, the toilets are for the use of the Café's customers and staff. If the toilets were part of a private business it is likely the Council's Environmental Health Department would insist on the toilets being refurbished including the provision of hot water.

Lead Petitioner – Francis Incorvaja

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting with recommendations.

4. **PROCEDURE:**

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated at the meeting:

(a) Councillor Cox

“How many prosecutions has the Council undertaken for fly tipping in Brighton and Hove each year from -

- 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012?
- 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013?
- 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014?”

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

(b) Councillor Hyde

“Given the significant pressure for development on the city’s urban fringe, how many potential housing units across the city are there that currently have planning permission which have a) yet to start on site, and b) have started on site but have yet to be completed?”

Reply from Councillor Mac Cafferty, Chair of the Planning Committee.

(c) Councillor Simson

“How much money has the ICT department spent on outside consultants/contractors in the last year and how much is this as a proportion of the whole ICT Budget? Can you list the consultants/contractors that the Council has used?”

Reply from Councillor Kitcat, Leader of the Council.

(d) Councillor Simson

“What has been done on the Scrutiny Panel’s recommendations regarding monitoring the service at CAMHs and Seaside View, and putting in place a transparent and comprehensive feedback system for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and their parents?”

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.

(e) Councillor Wealls

“Has the Autism Awareness Award in schools been implemented? What other efforts is the Council making to extend Autism Awareness and Training in the City’s schools?”

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.

(f) Councillor Brown

The Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Scrutiny recommended an Autism Champion to be appointed for the city to champion the interests of ASC children and their families, monitor implementations of the Scrutiny and ensure the appropriate strategies within and external to the Council are consistent and brought together. Has that someone been identified and will it be a remunerated post?

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee.

(g) Councillor G. Theobald

The Friends of Withdean Park spend an awful lot of their own time on the maintenance and upkeep of this wonderful park which, until recently, was home to the national Lilac collection. Unfortunately, a large group of Travellers broke into the park on Friday 27th June causing damage and disruption to residents. Police eventually served notice for them to leave late on Monday 30th June as a result of a number of reports from upset residents of anti-social behaviour. When did the Council initially ask the Police to use their powers to evict the travellers as I have been unable to obtain this information from officers?

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

A period of not more than 30 minutes is set aside for oral questions from Members, at the expiry of which, the Mayor will call a halt and proceed to the next item of business of the agenda. Any Member whose question then remains outstanding will be contacted to determine whether they wish to have a written answer provided or for their question to be carried over to the next meeting.

The following Members have indicated that they wish to put questions to the Leader, Chairs of Committees or Members of the Council that have been appointed to an outside body. The Councillor asking the question may then ask one relevant supplementary question which shall be put and answered without discussion:

(a) Councillor Janio

Subject matter – Sports Facilities

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(b) Councillor Meadows

Subject matter – Open Market

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

(c) Councillor Summers

Subject matter – Travellers

Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council

(d) Councillor Simson

Subject matter – Licensing Panels

Reply from Councillor Powell, Chair of the Licensing Committee

(e) Councillor Marsh

Subject matter – Potholes

Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

- (f) **Councillor Wealls**
Subject matter – Autistic Spectrum Condition Children’s Scrutiny
- Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee**
- (g) **Councillor Wilson**
Subject matter – Universal Credit & Housing
- Reply from Councillor Sykes, Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy & Resources Committee**
- (h) **Councillor Hyde**
Subject matter – Autistic Spectrum Condition Children’s Scrutiny
- Reply from Councillor Shanks, Chair of the Children & Young People Committee**
- (i) **Councillor Barnett**
Subject matter – Unauthorised Traveller Encampments
- Reply from Councillor West, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee**

Council

17 July 2014

Agenda Item 21

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Annual Report of the Audit & Standards Committee - Extract from the Proceedings of the Audit & Standards Committee Meeting held on the 24 June 2014

Date of Meeting: 17 July 2014

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **29-1006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE***Action Required of the Council:***

To receive the item referred from the Audit & Standards Committee for information:

Recommendations:

(1) To note the extract and the report.

AUDIT & STNADARDS COMMITTEE

4.00 pm 24 June 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Hamilton (Chair), Janio, Lepper, Littman (Opposition Spokesperson), Smith, Summers, Phillips and Simson

Independent Persons & Co-opted Members: Dr David Horne and Dr Lel Meleyal

PART ONE**6. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

6.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources, which was presented by the Acting Head of Internal Audit. The report

provided a summary of the Audit & Standards Committee's work, performance and achievements during 2013/14.

6.2 Mr Horne thanked officers for the report. He referred to paragraph 30 of the report and asked if the review of the Code of Conduct and forthcoming training for members of the Committee could be added. Officers agreed.

6.3 Councillor Simson referred to paragraph 21, and requested that consideration be given to providing additional resources for fraud prevention. The Executive Director of Finance and Resources said that the amount of resources available to address fraud were within the internal audit plan. However some of the work of the Corporate Fraud Team was being transferred to the Department for Works and Pension (DWP), and therefore the funding would need to be reviewed.

6.4 **RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Committee had considered the report; and

(2) That the finalised report be referred to Full Council for Information.

Subject:	Audit & Standards Committee Annual Report		
Date of Meeting:	17 July 2014 24 June 2014 – Audit & Standards Committee		
Report of:	Executive Director of Finance and Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Dallen, Acting Head of Internal Audit	Tel: 29-1314
	Email:	mark.dallen@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The draft report at Appendix 1 is a summary of the Audit & Standards Committee's work, performance and achievements during 2013/14. It has been prepared on behalf of Audit & Standards Committee members.
- 1.2 The production of an annual report is recognised as best practice for Audit Committees by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and provides assurance to the Council about the Committee's role in supporting good governance.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Audit and Standards Committee:

- 2.1 Consider the draft report in Appendix 1 and make any amendments or additions.
- 2.2 Refer the finalised report to Full Council for information.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Audit & Standards Committee has been in place since June 2012. Its purpose is contained in the Terms of Reference which is attached as Appendix A to the Annual Report.
- 3.2 Although it is not a statutory requirement for a local authority to have an Audit Committee, its existence is implied by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. In addition, a committee of this nature is recognised as best practice and a key component of good governance in both the public and private sectors.

3.3 Important benefits of an Audit and Standards Committee include:-

- Developing and communicating the council's governance arrangements;
- Increasing public confidence in the council's control, risk and governance arrangements;
- Emphasising the importance of internal and external audit and risk management; and
- Providing a framework for developing and establishing codes of conduct and robust arrangements for investigating complaints about member conduct.

4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 The Audit & Standards Committee is an essential element of good financial governance, the costs its work programme including officer support and training is met from existing budgetary provision.

Finance Officer Consulted *James Hengeveld* *Date: 02/06/14*

4.2 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report. Submitting an annual report to full Council on the Committee's activities is good practice in terms of accountability.

Lawyer Consulted: *Oliver Dixon* *Date: 29/05/14*

Equalities Implications:

4.3 There are no equalities implications arising.

Sustainability Implications:

4.4 There are no sustainability implications arising.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

4.5 There are no crime and disorder implications arising.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

4.6 There are no direct risk and opportunity management implications arising.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Audit and Standards Committee Annual Report 2013/14

Background Documents

1. Reports to the Audit and Standards Committee June 2013 to March 2014



AUDIT & STANDARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Councillor L. Hamilton, Chairman

Foreword by the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee



This is the second year of the Audit & Standards Committee, merged from the former Audit Committee and Standards Committee.

I am pleased to present the Audit & Standards Committee's Annual Report for the 2013/14 financial year. The report demonstrates how the Audit & Standards Committee has successfully achieved its objectives contained in its terms of reference, developed its role and continued to make a positive contribution to the Council's governance and control environment.

Our terms of reference give us a wide remit including advising and reviewing all the Council's arrangements for internal audit, internal control, risk management, financial management, standards and corporate governance. The Committee has an important role in ensuring public money is spent wisely and in accordance with the Council's priorities.

The Committee has a role in reviewing the work and performance of internal audit and external audit. These reports provide information to provide assurance to the public that the council is complying with the law, that the council has an effective control framework in place and it provides quality services in line with corporate priorities.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank both the Committee members listed and the officers that support the Committee's work for their contributions. Again the members of the Committee have been both supportive and provided constructive challenge to ensure our governance processes are effective and transparent. This has been assisted by our two independent persons on the Committee.

I would also like to thank EY the Council's external auditors, for their support and regular attendance at meetings.

I have continued to enjoy leading the Committee and working with officers to further enhance the Council's governance arrangements. I am looking forward to 2014/15. With the ongoing financial pressures on the Council for this year the need for an effective Audit & Standards Committee remains.

Cllr Les Hamilton

Introduction

1. This report provides an overview of the Audit & Standards Committee's (the Committee) activity during the financial year 2013/14. It is produced in accordance with latest best practice and details the work and outcomes of the Committee in 2013/14 and that the Council is committed to working effectively, delivering quality services and operating to the highest standards of governance.
2. The Committee's role underpins the Council's governance processes by providing independent challenge and assurance of over the adequacy of risk management, internal control (including Internal Audit, External Audit and counter fraud), ethical standards, and financial reporting frameworks.
3. The Council's Standards Panel is a sub-committee of the Audit & Standards Committee, and determines allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct, on a reference from the Monitoring Officer.
4. A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference for the 2013/14 financial year is shown at Appendix A.
5. Meetings are held in public and papers are available on the Council's website. The meetings are generally scheduled around the key dates for council business such as the statement of accounts, audit planning process and the annual governance statement.
6. To meet statutory requirements for Standards and to give the Committee additional expertise, two independent persons were appointed during the year with a financial and inspection background.

Committee Work Programme and Membership

7. During the 2013/14 financial year there were five meetings of the Committee. All had full agendas and in total considered 59 reports.
8. The work programme covers the Committee's main areas of activity which is continually reviewed and amended to reflect changes in policies, priorities and risks. A summary of the work undertaken during 2013/14 is shown in Appendix B.
9. The Committee membership consists of eight Members and two independent persons, as follows:

Membership of the Audit & Standards Committee 2013/14

Membership	Role
Councillor Les Hamilton	Member - Chair
Councillor Ann Norman	Member - Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Lizzie Deane	Member
Councillor Ollie Sykes	Member
Councillor Jeane Lepper	Member
Councillor David Smith	Member
Councillor Andrew Wealls	Member
Councillor Christina Summers	Member
Dr David Horne	Non-Voting Co-Optee
Dr Lel Meleyal	Non-Voting Co-Optee

10. A work programme was agreed in June 2013 for the Committee's main areas of activities.

Training & Development

11. In order to be effective members of the Committee should have a clear understanding of their role in relation to standards, internal control and governance issues, Internal and External Audit, risk and opportunity management and the operation of these frameworks across the council.
12. In April there was a briefing session for Committee Members on the Audit Commission's "Protecting the Public Purse" fraud analysis and a second session on the Better Care Fund. A Statement of Accounts training workshop for members was also held.
13. During the year the Committee specifically requested reports on Whistleblowing, Member Complaints and Settlement Agreements.

Core Activities 2013/14

14. The Committee's Terms of Reference contain a number of functional responsibilities and these have been summarised into seven core activity areas. The Committee's work and outcomes in each of these areas are shown below:

Internal Audit Assurance

15. Internal Audit is a key component of the Council's governance framework and to provide assurance on the council's control environment. This Committee has a responsibility for ensuring that Internal Audit is effective in the provision of that assurance role.

During the year the Committee has:

- Reviewed and approved the Internal Audit Strategy & Annual Plan for 2013/14;
- Received regular Internal Audit progress reports from the Acting Head of Audit which detail work undertaken highlighting significant control issues particularly with Limited Assurance Reports.
- Considered the Acting Head of Audit's Annual Report and Opinion.
- Reviewed and considered the annual review of the system of Internal Audit.
- Reviewed the alignment between Internal Audit and External Audit as well as to risk management work;
- Supported the Internal Audit service with regard to the escalation of control concerns and to ensure management is responsive to recommendations made and agreed.

External Audit Assurance

16. The External Audit function is provided by EY. The provision of effective External Audit is an essential part of accountability for public funds, providing an independent opinion on the financial statements as well as arrangements for securing value for money across the council.
17. During the year the Committee has:
 - Considered EY's Annual Audit Plan;
 - Considered progress reports against the audit plan and sector information updates;
 - Considered and reviewed the audit fee and Audit Fee Letters;
 - Received and considered the Annual Governance Report;
 - Received the Annual Grant Certification Letter and
 - Received and considered the Annual Audit Letter for 2012/13.

Risk Management

18. During the year the Committee:
 - Received and considered the Strategic Risk Register updates;
 - Considered the outcomes of the Risk Management Programme;
 - Received the Annual Risk Management Report and
 - Received and undertook detailed scrutiny of risk maps relating to specific strategic risks.

Governance Framework

19. A key role of the Committee is its work in supporting an effective governance framework for the management of the council. This includes supporting corporate policies and frameworks that promote good governance, as well as the control assurance work carried out by Internal Audit.

20. During the year the Committee:
- Reviewed the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement.
 - Received and considered reports on the following areas of corporate governance
 - Settlement agreements
 - Whistleblowing policy (2 reports)
 - Promoted and communicated the importance of effective internal control and governance across the council and of the need to ensure audit recommendations for improvement are implemented.
 - Considered updates on the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement actions.
 - Reviewed proposed issues for inclusion in the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement

Counter Fraud

21. During 2013/14 a Corporate Fraud Team was established and this Committee received and considered updates on its performance and outcomes during the year. These updates were incorporated in the Internal Audit progress reports and included:
- Regular updates on fraud investigations, including Housing Benefit and Tenancy fraud;
 - Considered the outcome of counter fraud activity as part of the Annual Internal audit Report and Opinion 2012/13;
 - Monitored and supported the actions of officers in particular those by Audit & Business Risk to counter fraud;
 - Updates on the results of the latest National Fraud Initiative (NFI) data matching exercise ;
 - A workshop of the outcomes of the Audits Commission's national study "Protecting the Public Purse" that included details of national trends and comparative data about potential fraud risks to the Council;
 - A presentation on the role and contribution of the NAFN (National Anti Fraud Network) service that is hosted by the Council.

Financial Management and Reporting

22. During the year the Committee:
- Considered and approved the Annual Statement of Accounts, asking a number of questions on the content;
 - Considered the External Auditor's report on the accounts and Council's response to comments; and
 - Received periodic reports for information, on the Council's budget performance (TBM) asked questions and helped to inform the approval of end of year Statement of Accounts.
 - Considered Treasury Management Mid and Year End review reports.

Standards

23. In January 2014 the Committee resolved, having reviewed the effectiveness of its own functions, to set up a cross-party working group to consider the procedure for dealing with member complaints. The procedure had by then been in force for over 12 months and, although fine-tuned in the meantime, was in need of a more comprehensive review to ensure fitness for purpose. Further, a Standards Panel hearing in December 2013 had highlighted certain difficulties with the procedure, for which corrective action was needed.
24. The Standards Procedure working group, comprising 4 Members and both Independent Persons (one of whom was Chair), met three times and reported back to the Committee in March 2014. The group reaffirmed the overriding principles of the procedure were:
 - (i) To engender public confidence in the process and outcome
 - (ii) For panels to reach findings fairly and independently
 - (iii) A presumption of openness in panel hearings
25. The group's key recommendations can be summarised as:
 - (i) All parties to a complaint to be discouraged from seeking to publicise the matter before the Monitoring Officer has formally considered the complaint.
 - (ii) Members to co-operate with informal resolution where this method of settlement has been agreed.
 - (iii) Status of Standards Panel to change from sub-committee to panel.
 - (iv) Independent Person to Chair the Panel
 - (v) Panel decision to be owned collectively by all its members
 - (vi) All members of Audit & Standards Committee to be trained on Standards Panel procedure at least once a year.

The Committee agreed all these recommendations. Policy & Resources Committee approved the change of Panel status in May 2014. The revised procedure came into effect immediately.

26. A review of the Code of Conduct for Members was outside the working group's terms of reference. They did, however, recommend that a review be undertaken later in 2014. The Committee agreed, and a review has been scheduled for the autumn.

Other Activities

27. During the year the Committee also undertook a review of its own effectiveness, the outcomes of which were reported at the January and March meetings in 2014. The review included a workshop and self-assessment against best practice.

28. The results of the review were discussed and included the following actions to be considered during 2014/15.
- Review approach to assessing satisfactory performance by the committee;
 - Review committee's approach to Value for Money;
 - An annual review of Members training needs.
29. The Committee also considered a report on the ICT Code of Connection.

Looking Forward

30. The Committee will continue to develop its role and build on current status. For 2014/15 it will:
- Continue to review governance arrangements and improvements; ensuring they are robust with a focus on change and the challenges facing the council;
 - Ensure the effectiveness of the council's response to existing and key risks emerging including financial pressures and transformation;
 - Support the work of Internal and External Audit and ensure appropriate management responses to recommendations made;
 - Ensure the council maintains and further improves the standards in relation to the production of accounts;
 - Ensure the council continues to manage the risk of fraud and corruption;
 - Equip existing and new Members to fulfil responsibilities by providing training, briefings and good practice guidance;
 - Provide effective oversight of the arrangements for addressing identified shortfalls in the council's control environment
 - Keep up to date with developments and respond as required to changes in the Public Audit Agenda.

Audit & Standards Committee Terms of Reference**Explanatory Note**

The Audit functions of this Committee relate to the Council's arrangements for the discharge of its powers and duties in connection with financial governance and stewardship, risk management and audit. The Committee makes recommendations to the Council, Policy & Resources Committee, Officers or other relevant body within the Council.

The Standards functions of this Committee seek to ensure that the Members, Co-opted Members and Officers of the Council observe high ethical standards in performing their duties. These functions include advising the Council on its Codes of Conduct and administering related complaints and dispensation procedures. In addition to the Councillors who serve on the Audit and Standards Committee, the Committee includes at least two independent persons who are not Councillors. They are appointed under Chapter 7 of the Localism Act, or otherwise co-opted, and act in an advisory capacity with no voting powers.

In the terms of reference of this Committee a "Member" is an elected Councillor and a "Co-opted Member" is a person co-opted by the Council, for example to advise or assist a Committee or Sub-Committee of the Council.

General Audit and Standards Delegated Functions

To review such parts of the constitution as may be referred to the Committee by the Policy and Resources Committee and to make recommendations to the Policy Resources Committee and the Council.

To appoint, co-opt or (in any case where only the Council has power) to recommend the appointment or co-option of a minimum of two independent persons: to give general assistance to the Committee in the exercise of its functions; and to give views on allegations of failure to comply with a Code of Conduct as required by Chapter 7 of the Localism Act.

To have an overview of: the Council's Whistleblowing Policy

Complaints handling and Local Ombudsman investigations

To deal with any audit or ethical standards issues which may arise in relation to partnership working, joint committees and other local authorities or bodies.
To ensure arrangements are made for the training and development of Members, Co-opted Members and Officers on audit, ethical and probity matters, including Code of Conduct issues. 11/09/12

(Source: B&HCC Constitution)

Summary of the Audit & Standards Committee work in 2013/14

Meeting Date	Report	Area
26 th June 2013	Audit & Standards Committee work programme 2013/14	Other Items
	Audit & Standards Committee Annual report 2012/13	Other Items
	Substitution on Audit & Standards Committee	Other Items
	Complaints update	Standards
	Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2012/13	Financial Management and Reporting
	Annual Governance Statement 2012/13	Governance
	EY: progress report 2012/13	External Audit
	Targeted Budget Management provisional outturn 2012/13	Financial Management and Reporting
	Strategic risk review 2013-14 & risk management action plans– updated May 2013	Risk Management
	Strategic risk management action plan focus SR2 Financial Outlook; SR11 Welfare Reform	Risk Management
	Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2012/13	Internal Audit
	Review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit 2013	Internal Audit
24 th September 2013	Settlement Agreements	Governance
	Whistleblowing policy	Governance
	Implementation of member recommendations	Standards
	Complaints update September 2013	Standards
	EY: audit results report 2014	External Audit
	Statement of Accounts 2012/13	Financial Management and Reporting
	Internal Audit Progress Report 2013/14	Internal Audit
	HR and Payroll audit issues update	Internal Audit
	Targeted Budget Management (TBM 2)	Financial Management and Reporting
	Treasury management policy statement 2012/13 - end of year review	Financial Management
	Strategic risk map focus: SR12 Maintaining the Seafront; and SR14 Pay & Allowances Modernisation - Exempt Category 3	Risk Management
	ICT Code Of Connections - Exempt Category 3	Other Items
	Internal audit progress report 2013/14 - Exempt Category 3	Internal Audit
19th November 2013	Complaints update - November 2013	Standards
	The new standards regime - one year on	Standards
	Presentation - the role of the National Anti Fraud Network)	Counter Fraud
	Internal audit progress report	Internal Audit
	EY: annual audit letter 2012/13	External Audit
	EY - audit progress report and sector update	External Audit
	Targeted Budget Management (TBM 5)	Financial Management and Reporting
	Strategic risk register review - October 2013	Risk Management
	Strategic risk map focus: SR 4 Economic Resilience and sustainable economic growth, and sr8 becoming	Risk Management

Meeting Date	Report	Area
	a more sustainable city	
21st January 2014	Review of the effectiveness of the Audit & Standards Committee	Standards
	Complaints update - January 2014	Standards
	EY: annual certification report 2012/13	External Audit
	EY: progress report 2013/14	External Audit
	Internal Audit progress report	Internal Audit
	Annual governance statement 2012/13 - action plan progress update	Governance
	Strategic risk management action plan focus SR16 Wider modernisation of social care; and SR13 Keeping vulnerable adults safe from harm and abuse	Risk Management
	Targeted budget management (TBM 7)	Financial Management and Reporting
	Treasury management policy statement 2013/14 - mid year review	Financial Management and Reporting
	Internal audit progress report - exempt category 3	Internal Audit
25th March 2014	Review of the effectiveness of the audit & standards committee - final report	Other item
	Whistleblowing policy	Governance
	Member complaints update	Standards
	Review of code of conduct complaints procedure	Standards
	EY - 2013/14 audit plan	External Audit
	EY - audit progress report and sector update	External Audit
	EY: housing & council tax benefit claim certification - final confirmation of audit fee	External Audit
	Presentation - Annual Governance Statement 2013/14	External Audit
	Strategic risk map focus: SR15 Keeping children safe from harm and abuse; and SR17 school places planning	Risk Management
	Internal audit progress report 2013/14	Internal Audit
	Internal audit strategy and plan 2014/15	Internal Audit
	Risk management strategy 2014 - 2017	Risk Management
	Targeted budget management (TBM 9)	Financial Management and Reporting
	Presentation: Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 (Exempt Items)	Governance

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****BLOOD DONATIONS**

“This Council resolves:

To request the Chief Executive to write to the Health Minister asking that he review the current blood donor guidelines advising men who have sex with men (MSM) not to donate blood for 1 year (after a risk) on the basis that the window period for HIV testing and most other blood-borne infections is 3 months and for Hepatitis C is 6 months. Therefore the ban of a year for men who have sex with men to donate blood does not accord with current testing guidelines.”

Proposed by: Councillor Phillips Seconded by: Councillor Jones

Supported by: Councillors Buckley, Bowden, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Hawtree, Jarrett, Shanks, Kennedy, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Powell, Randall, Rufus, Sykes, Wakefield and West.

Supporting Information:

This Council notes that at a time when we need more blood donations right across the UK, it is not reasonable that MSM, and indeed women who have had sex with MSM, are being unfairly discriminated against with a twelve-month ban on donating blood. Good science would support a 6 month window period before donating blood, after a possible risk, for all donors

NOTICE OF MOTION
LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE GROUP
FLEXIBLE RAIL SEASON TICKETS

“This council acknowledges the growing number of Brighton and Hove residents who now commute to London or other destinations outside of the City on a part time basis due the growth in working from home and who find themselves financially disadvantaged by the current structure of rail season tickets.

This Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Rt. Hon Patrick McLoughlin, urging him to ensure train operating companies such as Southern introduce rail season tickets that reflect flexible working patterns.”

Proposed by: Councillor Robins

Seconded by: Councillor Pissaridou

Supported by: Councillors Carden, Daniel, Farrow, Gilbey, Hamilton, Lepper, Meadows, Marsh, Mitchell, Morgan and Wilson.

Supporting Information:

It has been estimated by the Campaign for Better Transport that someone commuting part-time from Brighton into central London could save £1,722 a year if flexible season tickets were introduced.

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP)**

“This Council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business and Skills expressing its deep concern at the developing TTIP, the secretiveness of its processes and its potential impact on public services, social and environmental protection, financial regulation and basic democratic oversight. Council is particularly concerned about the potential implications of TTIP with respect to the city of Brighton and Hove, regarding social and environmental effects, and across the spectrum of public services.

Further to this, Council requests assurances from the Secretary of State that the Government will seek full openness to TTIP position texts and that he will endeavour to ensure access to TTIP documentation and development by the UK public including concerned residents of Brighton and Hove.”

Proposed by: Councillor Sykes Seconded by: Councillor Littman

Supported by: Councillors Buckley, Bowden, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Hawtree, Jarrett, Kennedy, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Mac Cafferty, Phillips, Powell, Randall, Rufus, Shanks, Wakefield and West.

Supporting Information:

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a “free trade” deal currently being negotiated by the EU and US. Negotiations began in July 2013 and are still ongoing. The sixth round of negotiations is taking place between 14th and 18th July 2014 in Brussels.

The major focus of TTIP is reducing ‘non-tariff barriers to trade’. In practice, this is likely to mean slashing rules and regulations introduced by democratic processes to address corporate power. The aim of this deal is to facilitate markets for corporations. While proponents argue that this will mean more jobs and growth, there is little evidence for this. In reality, TTIP will mean more profits and power for wealthy corporations, with potentially disastrous consequences for the rest of us. Social and environmental protections we have fought for in Brighton and Hove could be under threat.

Although negotiators are trying to keep this deal as secret as possible, leaked texts and expert analysis show that TTIP will mean the following:

- **Corporate courts:** Through a mechanism known as the ‘Investor-State Dispute Settlement’ (ISDS), TTIP would grant corporations the right to sue governments, if governments make decisions which reduce their profits. This would take place through an international arbitration process that bypasses existing legal systems. In the past, ISDS has been used by tobacco giant Philip Morris to challenge Australia’s decision to introduce blank cigarette packaging, and by US oil company Occidental Petroleum, who won over a billion pounds in a claim against Ecuador.
- **Slashing regulation:** TTIP would place hard-won rules and regulations that protect the environment, workers’ rights, public services and consumer standards under threat by ‘harmonising standards’ between countries. This would mean a race to the bottom in terms of pay and working conditions, environmental protection and food safety standards. It would also give the banking lobby a tool to undo the still inadequate strengthening of financial regulation achieved since 2008.
- **Forcing new unfair trade rules on the poor:** Although TTIP is being drawn up between the EU and the US, if TTIP is agreed, countries in the global south will come under huge pressure to apply TTIP standards to avoid losing trade from the EU and US. The European Commission is upfront about its aim to secure “global convergence toward EU-US standards which could then become de facto global standards” (see here). This is a further assault on the independence and sovereignty of those countries’ economic policy-making.

TTIP will lock in the privatisation of our public services, erode government protection for people and the environment and threaten a new round of unjust economic reforms forced on the poor. In the UK, this would mean locking in the privatisation of the NHS, an easier ride for fracking companies, an attack on workers’ rights and declining standards for food safety, consumer rights and financial stability.

NOTICE OF MOTION**CONSERVATIVE GROUP****SUPPORT FOR A27 ACTION**

“In order further to promote business investment and economic growth in the Greater Brighton area this Council resolves to pledge its support to the newly-formed A27 Action campaign.”

Proposed by: Cllr Geoffrey Theobald

Seconded by: Cllr Graham Cox

Supported by: Cllrs: Barnett, Peltzer Dunn, A. Norman, K. Norman, Cobb, Hyde, Bennett, Smith, Simson, Pidgeon, Mears, Janio, C. Theobald, Wealls, Brown, and Wells.

Background information:

The A27 was identified by the Government in 2013 as one of six choke points seriously affecting the efficiency of the UK's network of trunk roads and, therefore, restricting economic growth. As a result, HM Treasury instructed the Department for Transport to undertake feasibility studies, through the Highways Agency, to determine what might be done to ease congestion and unlock latent economic potential. The A27 Action group was launched on 26th June to support the Government's work and demonstrate to them how congestion on the A27 is blighting communities and stifling investment and growth along the south coast across the whole of Sussex. The A27 is an example of the poor transport infrastructure in the area which threatens to undermine the work of the newly created Greater Brighton Economic Board and City Deal.

A27 Action is already supported by the following local authorities: West Sussex County Council, Arun District Council, Chichester District Council, Adur District Council, Worthing Borough Council and Horsham District Council. MPs: Nick Herbert, Tim Loughton, Sir Peter Bottomley, Nick Gibb, Andrew Tyrie, Simon Kirby and Mike Weatherley. Over 70 local businesses so far plus the Chambers of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business. They are represented on A27 Action by Martin Fausset, MD of Ricardo.

We believe that the support of Brighton & Hove City Council would add considerable weight to the campaign.

NOTICE OF MOTION
CONSERVATIVE GROUP
CENTENARY FIELDS

“This Council supports the Fields in Trust & Royal British Legion Centenary Fields campaign and requests that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee with a view to nominating specific suitable sites in Brighton & Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Ann Norman

Seconded by: Cllr. Tony Janio

Supported by: Cllrs: Barnett, Peltzer Dunn, G. Theobald, K. Norman, Cobb, Hyde, Bennett, Smith, Simson, Pidgeon, Mears, Cox, C. Theobald, Wealls, Brown, and Wells.

Background information:

The objective of the Centenary Fields Campaign is to encourage every local authority in the UK to nominate at least one recreational space to be dedicated as a Centenary Field to commemorate this significant milestone in our shared history and to create a tangible local legacy that will be valued by the local community for years to come.

As well as commemorating the selfless sacrifices made by local residents to ensure the freedom of future generations, this initiative also supports the Armed Forces Community Covenant which the Council signed up to in January 2013.

We would like officers to investigate the suitability of sites, which have already been identified as potential Centenary Fields by the Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion, such as The Chattri, Old Steine Gardens and Easthill Park and also any other sites which might warrant consideration. We request that officers report back with their findings at the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting on 7th October.

