

# **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

## **COUNCIL**

**4.30pm 26 MARCH 2015**

### **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Fitch (Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb (Deputy Chair), Cox, Daniel, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, 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, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wakefield, Wealls, Wells, West and Wilson.

#### **PART ONE**

##### **64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 64.1 Councillor Wells declared an interest in Item 79 on the agenda, Housing Strategy 2015, as he was a Board Member of Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes which was affected by the strategy.
- 64.2 Councillor Bowden declared an interest in Item 70(a) on the agenda, which was a petition regarding live music venues in the city and was due to be debated; as he was the Chairman of the Kemptown Carnival. He also declared an interest in Item 79 on the agenda, Housing Strategy 2015, as he was a Board Member of Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes which was affected by the strategy.
- 64.3 Councillor Farrow declared an interest in Item 79 on the agenda, Housing Strategy 2015, as he was a Board Member of Brighton & Hove Seaside Homes which was affected by the strategy.
- 64.4 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

##### **65 MINUTES**

- 65.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings;
- 65.2 The minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> February and the 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

**66 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

- 66.1. The Mayor noted that the council had been informed of the sad news of the deaths of former councillor Bernie Jordan and his wife Renee whose funerals were held on 30 January. He also noted that Bernie was made an Honorary Alderman in September 2014 in recognition of his service to the council and asked Members to stand and join him in a minute's silence as a mark of respect for a departed colleague.
- 66.2. The Mayor stated that he was aware that this was the last full Council meeting for a number of our Members, many of whom have long and distinguished service to the city and their wards. As such he wanted to wish them well for the future and to say that he would be inviting them to a small reception in the Mayor's Parlour to commemorate their time as councillors for Brighton & Hove.
- 66.3. The Mayor then noted that he had a number of awards to present and stated that he would like to offer the Council's congratulations to Brighton & Hove City Council Parks Project Team along with landscape contractor Gavin Jones who through a successful collaboration on The Level Restoration Project had been awarded the prestigious BALI award. The award was recognised and prized by members of the Institute as representing quality, professional excellence and accountability. He then invited Mr. Phil Hall from Gavin Jones, Rob Dumbrill and Claire Morgan from the City Parks Team to come forward with Councillor West, as Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee to collect the award.
- 66.4. The Mayor then stated that he wanted to offer the Council's congratulations to the Mobile Play Project Team who had won the coveted National Award for Best Playwork Team. It was a great recognition of the valuable service they offer to children and families across the city throughout the year. Whatever the weather the team was out in community locations offering active, challenging and creative play opportunities to children. He then invited Paul Waller, Kurt Birkenbeil, Duncan Hipkins, Carol Patten and Rose Dixie to come forward with Councillor Shanks, as Chair of the Children & Young People Committee to collect the award.
- 66.5. The Mayor stated that he would like to offer the Council's congratulations to the City Regeneration team for winning the Driving Growth Award at the Local Government Chronicle Awards. The award was given in recognition of the work that has been done to grow the economy of the city and to secure funding for investment as Greater Brighton. He wished to thank Nick Hibberd for his work in this area and in his absence, invited the Chief Executive to come forward with Councillor Jason Kitcat, as the Leader of the Council to collect the award.
- 66.6. The Mayor then offered the Council's congratulations to the Transport Team for winning the Smarter Travel Awards 2015 for the Most Improved Journey to Work for the Lewes Road Improvement Scheme. He invited Martin Heath and Stacey Amy to come forward with Councillor Davey, as the Lead Member for Transport to collect the award.
- 66.7. Finally, the Mayor stated that he wished to congratulate Councillor Jason Kitcat on receiving the Judge's Special Award for 'Contribution to Local Government' at the

recent LGIU's Councillor Achievement Awards. He then invited Councillor Kitcat to come forward to collect the award and to address the Council.

- 66.8. Councillor Kitcat thanked the Mayor and stated that, "It has been a huge privilege and honour to serve on this council for the past eight years and as your leader for these past three years. I believe I leave the city and our council are in a better condition than it was four years ago.

We don't always agree, nor should we, it is in debating our differences that we have represented our city as the tough decisions have been made.

But I am in no doubt that you are all here because you want to make a difference. I very much hope that continues with whoever the next 54 councillors of this city will be in May. I also hope that the good grace and humour with which we usually treat each other can continue – our common passion for the city, in putting city before politics is what should unite us.

The next council faces an incredible prospect, bittersweet in many ways. Budget cuts continuing beyond what any modern councillor has experienced. No councillor would have wished to deal with such significant and unrelenting budget pressures. Yet at the same time few could have dreamed that finally devolution could be moving so quickly after such a long wait. Juggling those two changes will I'm sure be challenging, exciting and hugely important for our future.

As your leader I have had the privilege to attend a number of events and conferences in the UK and Europe which have always left me with a clear impression: Brighton is a global city, one which has a fantastically good and strong reputation around the world. Every mayor I have met knows Brighton and most have visited. Treasure this, few cities our size have anything like the reputation or recognition we do.

Also we are all fortunate to have an incredible cadre of officers working for us. True public servants who work so hard with such passion, integrity, creativity and talent. Let's keep nurturing them and showing our appreciation.

I'm extraordinarily grateful for the privilege you have bestowed on me in being your leader these past few years. I have done my best to serve this city and the council in all that I have done. Any achievements and progress I have made for our collective endeavour has only been possible due to one person who very fortunately is here with us today: My wife Ania who through her endless love, advice and support has made me able to do what I have done. Thank you.

Colleagues, I wish you all the best, thank you once again. Good luck for the future. In me you will have a lifelong champion for the great city of Brighton & Hove."

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

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

- 67.2 Mr. Jenner presented a petition signed by 153 residents, requesting the provision of one-way traffic measures at West Blatchington Windmill.
- 67.3 Ms. Bridgewater presented a petition signed by 1,369 residents requesting a pedestrian crossing for Freshfield Road.
- 67.4 Ms. Gilbert presented a petition signed by 997 residents, concerning the protection of Longhill Close woodland.
- 67.5 Ms. Booker presented a petition signed by 1,055 people requesting that the Mazda Fountain be saved.
- 67.6 Councillor Marsh presented a petition signed by 200 residents, concerning the provision of bus services in Coombe Road and Meadowview.
- 67.7 The Mayor thanked the petitioners and noted that each petition would be referred to the relevant committee for consideration.

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

- 68.1 The Mayor reported that five written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Master Keyword to come forward and address the council.
- 68.2 Master Keyword thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; “Why are we 30 years behind other cities? Where is the promised ice rink that for so many years has been campaigned for without progress? With the loss of Queens square Ice Rink activating Local Planning policy SR21 And big plans for redevelopment of Churchill square it’s an ideal time to build the promised ice rink as part of the black rock development. Let’s turn negatives into positives and give the people of our City an Ice Rink. When are we finally going to get one? If Not Why Not as I have to update the Queen of my progress.”
- 68.3 Councillor Bowden replied; “There are no current proposals for a permanent ice rink in the City, unfortunately ice rinks are extremely expensive, you’d have to save up an awful lot of pocket money to run one and they’re not only costly to build, they’re really costly to operate. In recent years a huge amount of effort went in to try and provide a permanent ice rink on the black rock site, sadly the developer that was funding this project wasn’t able to make the scheme financially viable despite the obvious benefits of such a facility the previous black rock project shows just how difficult it is to provide an ice rink. The priority for the city of the black rock site is now a new entertainment and conferencing venue, that’s already gone out to market and we are talking with funders and some developer partners about that. It’s going to be extremely important for businesses and the whole of the city and it will include new housing which is much needed. It is envisaged that some ice events will take place as they do currently in the Brighton Centre, and I’m sorry I can’t give you a more positive answer. We will still have the pavilion ice rink in the gardens which I’m sure you’ve used, in fact I’m sure I’ve seen you there, but it’s going to be watch this space for the moment.”
- 68.4 Master Keyword asked the following supplementary question; “How have you found the money to activate your projects i.e. cycle lanes, 20mph for a traffic car lane and the

Seven Dials roundabout and I nearly forgot to mention the 40 million pound loans to fund the I360 tower. How as a Council did you prioritise the redevelopment of the Queen's square ice rink without taking into account your local policy SR21? Surely it's about time this City Council had a 'can do' attitude and makes it a flagship everybody can be proud of?"

- 68.5 Councillor Bowden replied; "SR21 – you'll have to explain it to me after the meeting what it means. I'm afraid we have to make priorities for sights that come on stream and available and we still have an urgent need for housing, we had a petition earlier on about not building 4 houses on a site in the City that's fine for people who have a house, for the 20,000 people on our waiting lists, they listen in horror when people say, "don't build anywhere". I'm afraid the ice rink at Queen's Square was one of those places designated in the City Plan for housing. The i360, which I did hear through the applause, which was voted on by at least one opposition party, will bring over 1 million pounds into the coffers of the City on an annual basis and is going to create many new jobs. Other sites that you may have mentioned are going to deliver housing and as we talked earlier on, the Black Rock Site will have housing plus a conference and entertainment centre which could include from time to time, ice chequers and ice rinks for people like yourself."
- 68.6 The Mayor thanked Master Keywood for his questions and invited Ms. Culligan to come forward and address the council.
- 68.7 Ms. Culligan thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; "Can Councillor Davey explain the process for enabling a new zebra crossing at the end of Nevill Avenue near the roundabout on Nevill Road to be provided and do you agree with the so far, 215 Facebook petition signatures that agree with me? There's a constant stream of children crossing that road to attend Aldrington, Hove Park, Blatchington Mill, Goldstone and soon to be new Bilingual School near Waitrose. There's nowhere safe to cross on Nevill Avenue. Cars don't always indicate and parents often find themselves having to stop the traffic themselves as to enable safe crossing for their children."
69. Councillor Davey replied; "The Council considers pedestrian safety an absolute priority as do I. We've introduced a great number of crossings over the last 4 years and I'm delighted the road safety has improved across the City dramatically but there is clearly a very long way to go. The process has to be fair and transparent as there are many applications each year. The Council has agreed cross party a method by which pedestrian crossing requests are reviewed and prioritised with safety at the forefront to include both technical and legal factors as well as a range of social factors including; the public perception of danger in crossing the road; How a crossing may bring the community closer together; how it could affect access to key services and green spaces; and potential improvements for mobility impaired people.

He noted that the Council also provides a robust way to assess crossing point requests that helps the Council to target limited financial resources so those crossing locations which are the most important and will bring the greatest benefit. Once a location has satisfied initial assessment criteria it will then be taken forward for a full assessment and then added to the program for consideration for implementation when resources become available. Full details of the current crossing facility are available on the

Council's website. I hope you'll be pleased to hear that an evaluation of the movement of pupils to local schools in the vicinity of Nevill Road, both now and in the future is already in hand through the Council's Safer Routes to Schools Programme and the Road Safety Manager advises that this work includes the review of crossing opportunities on Nevill Road, north of the roundabout junction with Nevill Avenue.

So assessments are currently taking place in this area and hopefully there'll be some outcome of that in the next financial year."

- 69.1 Ms. Culligan asked the following supplementary question; "There are obvious safety concerns at this precarious spot for children to cross and as much as the Green Party have done a great job of reducing speed limits to 20mph in zones I don't think it will make any difference at this crossing point due to the small crossing island being actually part of the roundabout which is tricky enough for drivers to navigate at the best of times let alone including school children trying to cross it at the same time. So how long would it take to install a zebra crossing after it is agreed that it's needed?"
- 69.2 Councillor Davey replied; "That would be a decision for a future Transport Committee, it's not a decision that I could make here and as for a zebra crossing and facilities that will be for the road safety team to assess. It will be a decision for a future committee but within the next financial year decisions will be made on priority for the next financial year."
- 69.3 The Mayor thanked Ms. Culligan for her questions and invited Mr. Duncan to come forward and address the council.
- 69.4 Mr. Duncan thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; "Does the Council agree that the state of cleanliness of Brighton's major access roads (A23 and A27) is appalling and that it will do everything it can to deal with this problem in both the short and long term?"
- 69.5 Councillor West replied; "I absolutely agree, I do think the state of the roadsides around the City are absolutely appalling with litter. This of course is not a phenomenon just for the City, this is an issue around the whole of the UK and the essential challenge is how we address people's behaviour as litterers throwing things out of the windows of their cars which is utterly unacceptable and inexcusable. The Council is responsible for litter clearance along the A27 and A23 within the City boundaries and in previous years we have carried work between April and September during the early morning of Saturdays and Sundays when the traffic volume is light because it's important to do this in day light when volumes are low so at this time of year, before that work gets going, you will always see the worst of the crop of litter because it's not been possible to do this safely through the winter dark months.

However there has been recent new traffic management guidance relating to working alongside highways where the speed limit is in excess of 50mph and in the case of the A23 and A27 that is the case; because of this guidance and because there is no hard shoulder, we have to do lane closures, put up signage, a whole matter of traffic management with lights and signs and this has to be done by competent trained staff to ensure that working is safe and completely compliant. This is a costly matter because it slows the whole thing down and it is rather laborious. We're currently in

discussions with highways agency approved contractors to plan for this work and we're waiting for their response but this is a matter of absolute high priority for us to actually secure the right people to do this work in the safe way that the highways agency stipulating we have to do it. To return to your question, yes, it is absolutely appalling and people need to stop throwing things out of the windows of their cars."

69.6 Mr. Duncan asked the following supplementary question; "Is it possible that the executive responsible for this matter can be asked to report back to the Council to give the assurance that the problem has been tackled and solved and that the public can be advised accordingly?"

69.7 Councillor West replied; "Well I'm absolutely sure that it would be possible to write to members to inform them when a contractor has been appointed and to set out how that work will be conducted and when it will be completed but as far as suggesting he we will be able to solve it the problem is the root of the problem is people's behaviour and that is the matter that needs to be addressed and I do realise that there is a growing campaign; nationally against thing type of thing and I would suggest that this Council would be full square behind that campaign because I would hope in years to come we will be able to see people behaving a much more reasonable way towards their local environment and thoughtfulness to their fellow citizens."

69.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Duncan for his questions and invited Brian to come forward and address the council.

69.9 Brian thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; "Can you please advise what the Council policy and practice (and the current thinking) is with regards to 'late licences'?"

69.10 Councillor Powell replied; "The late night levy which I believe you are referring to has been talked about since I was elected in 2011. It is not something that we have proceeded with until now and indeed let me stress; we are not looking to proceed with it in this administration. What I can tell you is that my last committee which was a couple of weeks ago, we had a presentation from the Sussex Police and the benefits of the late night levy and it's come at a timely time because it has been rolled out in a couple of cities in the UK mainly Islington and Newcastle where it is working well and businesses have not gone under as a result.

The key bit of course is the funding element with the late night levy, 70% will go to the police so it is not seen by the Council, 30% will come to us and could go some way to funding things like taxi marshals, safety measures, that kind of thing and as I say we have had a presentation about it to a committee but it will be something for the next administration so something to bear in mind."

69.11 Brian asked the following supplementary question; "With specific regard, just to take example, the Brighton Hippodrome; the magnificent theatre sadly closed, for many years in Middle Street, there was late licensing issues many years ago when Live Nation were wanting to open it up as a live venue, it's a magnificent resource underused in the City at the moment, will the Council be supportive of trying to support opening this up as a live venue again given the situation in regards to late licensing?"

- 69.12 Councillor Powell replied; "I cannot speak about the Hippodrome as it falls under Licensing it comes under Planning. What I've studied is that the late night levy which is what your original question was about is being thought of by the Council, by Council Officers, by the Councillors in the next administration and I rather hope that we will look to possibly rolling it out, I can't pre-empt it because I don't know but it will bring in some revenue at a time when finances are very constrained."
- 69.13 The Mayor thanked Brian for his questions and invited Mr. Zenon to come forward and address the council.
- 69.14 Mr. Zenon thanked the Mayor and asked the following question; "As there are no significant financial implications to the Council, what reasoning do they have for failing to enforce the required maintenance of the city's Listed Buildings with their owners or leaseholders?"
- 69.15 Councillor Randall replied; "In brief the Council has a long and creditable record of proactive action where a listed building has fallen in to disrepair and that's evidenced by the annual report on listed buildings at risk the most recent one at which was published in 2014. The Council is regarded as an exemplar of such action by English Heritage. Action does have financial implications, the staff resources are necessary to investigate and serve notices which can be time consuming. In the last calendar year, 78 separate investigations were made in to poor condition and appearance under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act powers although not all of those related to listed buildings. In most cases improvements were agreed through negotiation with the owners however in 2013-14 we did serve 9 separate notices.

Under Section 54 of the Planning Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990, the Council issue notices requiring urgent works to preserve unoccupied listed buildings. This action is generally appropriate for temporary works to stabilise a building and make it weather tight and secure while a long term solution is sought. Usually the owner carries out the required work but the Council may carry out the work itself and recover the costs from the owner. Experience shows that we do not always recover 100% of our costs when this approach is made. Section 48 of the same act allows the Council to serve a repairs notice on any listed building where it considers that reasonable steps are not being taken to preserve it.

However if that notice is not complied with the only power open to the Council is compulsory acquisition under Section 47 and this has significant long term liability and cost implications and would be used in exceptional cases only."

- 69.16 Mr. Zenon asked the following supplementary question; "If the sale does go through, which apparently it is being negotiated as we speak, bearing in mind that it will be an election issue whether you like it or not, can the Council give us an assurance that you will put forward the bill to make should that the maintenance is enforced with the leaseholders and the owners whether it's the current ones or new ones after the election?"
- 69.17 Councillor Randall replied; "As you say, the poor condition stems from a lack of maintenance and repair over a long period of time dating back to when it was still in use as a bingo hall. The current leasehold owners Live Nation have undertaken some



temporary repairs during their ownership to prevent water getting in, to support unstable plasterwork and to keep the building secure and formal action is not being considered necessary.

We are currently in discussions with Live Nation about additional security measures for the site to prevent unauthorised access and we will continue to monitor the condition of the building. However a more comprehensive repair is dependent on the implementation of an approved scheme. You did talk about us taking other action, one of those actions of course are compulsory purchase orders which are; (a) expensive to enforce and (b) very cumbersome to implement.

Finally, if we compulsory purchase that building, we would then be responsible, as a Council, for the maintenance of it and you might have noticed; this council like others in the County is strapped for cash at the moment. We are very concerned that there should be a long term, sustainable future for a very special building with the Frank Matcham work inside which is incredibly important for this City and we will continue to look for solutions to it and work with you and others who are concerned as we are about its future.

69.18 The Mayor thanked Mr. Zenon for his questions and noted that this concluded the item.

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

69.1 The Mayor reported that no deputations had been received from members of the public for the present meeting.

## **70 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**

### **70. (A) LIVE MUSIC VENUES**

70.1. 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. He had been notified of four such petitions 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. He also noted that one of the petitions listed in the agenda had been withdrawn and therefore three remained for debate.

70.2. Mr. Stack presented his petition which called on the council to review its procedures and protocols in respect of noise abatement notices served on live music venues across the city. He stated that the petition had reached two signatures short of 4, 700 supporters and explained that he believed a loophole existed in the law which enabled a person to move close to, nest to and even into the same building as a long established music venue and then use the legal process to reduce the level of noise from the music venue. Such action had even led to the closure of venues across the city and needed to be addressed to protect the city's culture and its live music heritage. He asked that when councillors saw a musician, attended a concert or the fringe festival they should remember the petition and consider the ramifications of not taking an action to protect them.

- 70.3. Councillor Simson stated that the petition had raised an important consideration and that the need for the Environmental Protection Act to be reviewed was supported in principal by the Conservative Group.
- 70.4. Councillor Bowden thanked Mr. Stack for his petition and stated that he believed it had raised an important issue and one that should be explored further and therefore wished to move an amendment to the recommendation contained in the covering report. He proposed that a cross-party task group should be established to review the current practice and report back to the Economic Development & Culture Committee; given the wide ranging and cross-service aspects that needed to be considered.
- 70.5. Councillor Randall formally seconded the amendment.
- 70.6. Councillor Mitchell noted that the Mayor had previously given advice that the petition should be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee as it was responsible for the noise abatement service. She therefore sought clarification from the Monitoring Officer.
- 70.7. The Monitoring Officer informed the council that the petition was primarily concerned with the use of noise abatement orders which came under the responsibility of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee. It was therefore appropriate for the petition to be referred to the committee. Should the council decide to recommend the consideration of establishing a Policy Panel to look at the matter, the committee could take this into account and establish a task and finish panel.
- 70.8. Councillor Mitchell thanked the Monitoring Officer and stated that the Labour & Co-operative Group fully supported the petition and the amendment on the basis that it would be left to the committee to decide whether or not to establish a Policy Panel, which would need to look across all areas of the council's functions relating to live music and venues.
- 70.9. Councillor Bowden noted the information and indicated that he was happy for the petition to be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.
- 70.10. The Mayor noted that an amendment to the recommendation in the report had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried. He then put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was also carried.
- 70.11. **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration along with the establishment of a Policy Panel to review the issues raised in the petition for live music and venues in the city.

#### **(B) SAVETHE BRIGHTON HIPPODROME**

- 70.12. The Mayor noted that the item had been withdrawn.

#### **(C) PRESTON PARK CYCLE TRACK**

- 70.13. Mr. Rivett presented the petition which had 3,641 signatures of support for the retention of the cycle track in Preston Park. He noted that it was the oldest track in the

country and that without support it would see the end of competitive cycle track racing in the city. He therefore urged the council to consider how the required maintenance of the track could be achieved and how it could be supported for the future.

- 70.14. Councillor West thanked Mr. Rivett for the petition and stated that he applauded the interest in the track and the amount of support that had been generated by the petition. He had visited the track recently and seen the need for improvements to be made if it was to reach the required safety standards. He therefore wished to propose that the recommendation in the covering report be amended to request that officers bring a full report to the next meeting detailing options to fund the required improvements and to maintain a competitive facility.
- 70.15. Councillor Powell formally seconded the amendment.
- 70.16. Councillor Lepper welcomed the petition and stated that the Labour & Co-operative Group fully supported its objective. She hoped that the report requested would identify the means to fund the improvements and support the track for future generations.
- 70.17. Councillor G. Theobald stated that he fully supported the petition but queried whether any assistance had been sought from the British Cycling Association; as it may be that grant funding would be available to help meet the cost of the required improvements to the track. He believed there was an opportunity for partnership working and supported the amendment.
- 70.18. Councillor West stated that he was aware that the British Cycling Association had made an offer of some funding and stated that he hoped officers would hold further discussions with the Association so that a detailed report could be brought to the next committee meeting.
- 70.19. The Mayor noted that an amendment to the recommendation in the report had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried. He then put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was also carried.
- 70.20. **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Economic, Development & Culture Committee for consideration along with a report from officers detailing options to fund the required improvements and to maintain a competitive facility.

#### **(D) KING ALFRED INDOOR BOWLING**

- 70.21. Mr. English presented a petition signed by 1,612 people calling on the council to review its plans for the provision of indoor bowling facilities, to ensure that a fully functional facility was provided as part of the redevelopment of the King Alfred sports centre. Mr. English stated that there had been a lack of consultation in regard to the proposed downgrading of the facilities from 6 to 3 lanes and a lack of understanding in regard to the impact such a reduction would have on indoor bowls across the city.
- 70.22. Councillor Bowden thanked Mr. English for attending the meeting and presenting the petition. He stated that the King Alfred Project Board which had cross-party representation had taken advice from Sports England and received representations from the business community and the Local Economic Partnership as part of the

process of drawing up development plan for the redevelopment of the King Alfred. Having done that the council now had two preferred bidders and was awaiting their detailed proposals for consideration and whilst a 3 lane indoor bowling facility was listed as the minimum specification, it did not mean that the potential developers would not exceed that requirement in their plans. He was sure that the two bidders were fully aware of the level of interest in the redevelopment of the King Alfred and that they would take into account current levels of provision in relation to activities such as indoor bowls. He also noted that there would be a further consultation exercise once the two preferred bidders were announced.

- 70.23. Councillor Hamilton stated that he had not been aware of the proposed reduction from 6 to 3 lanes for the indoor bowls facility and noted that during the league season 3 lanes had to be set aside for league matches. He therefore hoped that an enhanced provision would be outlined in any of the proposed developments as otherwise it was likely to result in the loss of a club at the King Alfred.
- 70.24. Councillor Cox noted that indoor bowls could be played by people of all ages and they could compete against each other on a level playing field. He also suggested that the space set aside for an indoor bowls facility could be used for other activities when it was not being used for bowling and suggested that the potential developers would be aware of the support for a suitable and viable facility. He therefore hoped that the need for at least a 6 lane facility would be taken into account in any redevelopment proposals.
- 70.25. Councillor Bowden noted the comments and stated that the issue had been raised rather late in the development stage but he hoped that the potential developers would take the matter into consideration when they put their plans forward.
- 70.26. The Mayor noted that the recommendation was to refer the petition to the Economic Development & Culture Committee for consideration and put the recommendation to the vote, which was carried.
- 70.27. **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Economic, Development & Culture Committee for consideration.

## 71 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

71.1 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:

### 71.2 (a) Councillor Cox

“Why is there a 15p surcharge when a motorist pays by phone for parking?”

What assistance can the Council give to small businesses who employ people to visit homes in controlled parking zones to help them with the mechanics of their employees paying by phone? Would it be possible to issue a small business in such circumstances with a business card which allows all their employees to pay by phone using the same card?”

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

“There is a 15p service charge to cover the cost of the service and card handling fee.

For customers who have the need of several users on their account, there is a Corporate Account option. This allows a PayByPhone account to be created by an administrator. They can then add vehicles and users onto their account. There is one payment card on the account that the users will all use. The administrator can also run reports and receipts from the website as well for all parking sessions processed on their account.

To set up a PayByPhone Corporate Account a business will need to visit: <http://www.PayByPhone.co.uk> and click onto Corporate Account Users.”

**71.4 (b) Councillor A. Norman**

“Licenses for professional dog walkers:

Residents and visitors alike welcome the opportunity to walk their dogs responsibly and safely in our city parks but some have reported that their walk has been spoilt by the unsociable actions of a few of our professional dog walkers who may be walking several dogs on any one occasion. Is it perhaps time to follow the lead of the Royal Parks where a license has to be sought for professional dog walkers which is enforceable should any problems arise.

If you wish to use our parks for professional dog walking purposes you should be licensed. Operators are licensed to ensure that:

- the parks and wildlife are protected;
- access to and use of public open space is maintained for all visitors;
- professional dog walkers are complying with current health and safety and best industry practise for the safety and enjoyment of their dogs and staff;
- all professional dog walkers have to be fully insured and hold liability for participant's safety;
- professional activities that are undertaken in the city parks should help to contribute to the costs of its infrastructure and income derived from licenses for professional dog walkers should be earmarked for the City Parks service.”

**71.5 Reply from Councillor Powell, Chair of the Licensing Committee.**

“The Royal Parks run a licencing scheme made under The Royal Parks and Other Open Spaces Regulations 1997. These regulations do not apply to Brighton and Hove City Parks and professional dog walking is not a licensable activity.

Brighton and Hove City Council runs a voluntary scheme that professional dog walkers sign up to. The Council was the first to create such a scheme and 30 dog walking companies have signed up to it. The scheme requires companies to comply with current health and safety laws, best industry practise, the City's Dog Control Orders and the Animal Welfare Act. It also requires professional dog walkers to be fully insured.

Details of the scheme can be found on our web pages.

The Council's Animal Welfare Team will investigate all allegations of bad practice and any incidents should be reported to the team to follow up. The Animal Welfare Team can be contacted on 01273 294266."

## **72 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

72.1 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. He informed the Council that Councillor Pissaridou had notified him of her wish to withdraw her question and then invited Councillor G. Theobald to put his question to Councillor West.

### **(a) Travellers and the Use of Injunctions**

72.2 Councillor G. Theobald asked; "Given the seemingly ever increasing problems with unauthorised encampments on the cities sensitive parks and open spaces, many residents have suggested to me that this Council follows the lead of Harlow and Leeds Councils in seeking a court injunction barring travellers from camping on these sites. Does Councillor West agree with those residents many of whom live near him in my ward?"

72.3 Councillor West replied; "The ability to use injunctions on Travellers is actually quite a new power. It's as yet untested in law and there are risks of challenge. What I understand about Harlow compared with Brighton and Hove is that they actually have 44 permanent pitches and that actually puts them in a stronger position to use restricted legal remedies against Travellers on unauthorised encampments. I would therefore hope that Councillor Theobald would be supportive of our endeavour to build a permanent travel site and I was reading his ward newsletter the other day which demonstrated the amount of effort he's put in to challenging encampments in parks in the ward but also continues to oppose the permanent Traveller site that we are trying to develop. So if he wants to be like Harlow he needs to help us build permanent pitches where people can live in dignity instead of finding themselves forced to camp on our parks."

72.4 Councillor G. Theobald asked the following supplementary question; "If Harlow and Leeds have been able to do it there's no good reason why we cannot and Chief Superintendent Nev Kemp, no less a person, is quoted as saying, "an injunction similar to Harlow would make policing unauthorised encampments both easier and more effective. Why doesn't Councillor West, in the period of their dying administration, get the ball rolling so that we can take it forward after May 7<sup>th</sup>?"

72.5 Councillor West replied; “The injunctions are used against individuals, I don’t believe they can be used against encampments as a whole; whole groups of un-named people. We are nevertheless exploring the use of injunctions in an appropriate way; what that opportunity offers to us and we’re also looking at public space protection orders as well but as I say the only real answer to the problems that this City faces and the Travellers themselves and their communities is the provision of more proper provision. I would also add to this Councillor, your party and the Labour Party’s resistance to us actually establishing a temporary site for when we have to close the transit site in order to develop the permanent one. That is going to lead to the likelihood that we will actually see more unauthorised encampments and it will be your fault.”

**(b) Car Parking on Housing Land, Ingram Crescent**

72.6 The Mayor noted the question had been withdrawn.

**(c) Provision of Youth Services**

72.7 Councillor Farrow asked; “Following the setting of the Council budget, will the chair outline for residents the administration’s proposals for the councils and council sponsored voluntary sector youth services across the city?”

72.8 Councillor Shanks replied; “I am really pleased that in the budget we were able to keep the funding for the both the collective funding and for the Councils youth service. For the moment, we are going to be having a review looking at how we work, how our youth worker is across the city and we haven’t got any further reductions in budgets, so I’m pleased with the fact that we’ve been able to preserve that. What we want to do is to look at how it’s working, what works best, how we should best use the resources we’ve got in the most effective way. So that review is going to involve the voluntary sector, our own staff and the youth council.”

72.9 Councillor Farrow asked the following supplementary question; “Does that mean that the existing youth support workers in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean will be able to continue their work in assisting young people across the ward?”

72.10 Councillor Shanks replied; “The 67 centre is used both by our staff but also by the collective on another night, so it’s quite well used and they have a bike repair project and lots of activities, and I do think that is really important for young people to have somewhere to go. We’ve got big issues about mental health in our city for young people as well, so that’s also part of our review to making sure that we’re supporting young people through adolescence, which is often a very troubled time for them.”

**(d) Travellers**

72.11 Councillor Summers asked; “In view of the decision at October’s Policy & Resource Committee not to pursue Hangleton Bottom as a temporary traveller site or in fact any other location that was recommended by officers whilst the current Horsdean site is closed in a month or so for redevelopment. What plans do Councillor West and his administration and the officers have in place to alleviate the effects of ever increasing

encampment on the usual merry go round on sensitive sights with which residents, certainly in my ward, are all too familiar and justifiably weary and resentful of?"

- 72.12 Councillor West replied; "We don't have any temporary plans, that is the problem and that was put to Policy & Resources in September when Members of the opposition chose to reject the only proposal before us which was that Hangleton Bottom was the only identified suitable site and they chose to reject that even though Travellers have actually used that site before and also that the police have been involved in regarding that proposal for Hangleton Bottom to be a temporary site and they regarded that as appropriate. That was the proposal.

Now the position is that we would need planning permission for any other site. So if you conjured up another site, and we did ask what your proposal was at the time, and you haven't come forward with that, even if you did at this late stage, it would still need planning. What we have been doing in the background is we have been talking to our tenant farmers and to private land owners in the area but we have not come up with any suitable alternative. Hangleton Bottom was the alternative and you chose to reject it so you will be responsible for further unauthorised encampments on our parks and open spaces over the period of time while we're developing a permanent traveller site."

- 72.13 Councillor Summers asked the following supplementary question; I have a photo of Hangleton Bottom being used as a temporary site by both the Conservative and Labour administrations in 2007."
- 72.14 Councillor Mitchell raised a point of clarification and stated that "Hangleton Bottom had never been used as a temporary site for Travellers; however it had been used as a tolerated site for Travellers with specific health and welfare needs for specific periods of time."
- 72.15 Councillor Summers stated, "Well I think officers specifically said that Hangleton Bottom could be used this time for a specific period of time while Horsdean was being developed. This was the first thing that the Green Administration had to deal with within half an hour of becoming the administration and it's been the number one issue since certainly in my ward. First of all as far as Labour's concerned, Councillor Morgan has referred to this as not an issue to be used for winning votes because it's a sensitive and difficult issue, well it is. So much so that in fact the Labour manifesto, a Council that works for you, mentions the Travellers zero times. So apparently if they come into administration, they won't be dealing with Travellers at all. The Conservatives have obviously gone out of their way to protect Hangleton bottom and their own wards, they have challenged the administration countless times in 4 years on this issue ad nauseum I have to say. What do you think about the Conservatives, in their manifesto, saying that they will work with the police to enforce the law at all times, well that's really visionary isn't it? There's absolutely no ambition in that at all to tackle it and in the words of Councillor Bowden when he referred to the live music venues, they need to get hold of it by the scruff of the neck and include it properly in their policies.

Councillor West, what do you think about your own manifesto, rejuvenating our city, under equality where you say you will start to work on the permanent Traveller's site and continue to liaise with the friends and families of Travellers and with local communities affected by unauthorised encampments?"



72.16 Councillor West replied; "I think the answer is that Councillor Summers has done very well tonight."

**(e) Housing Functions**

72.17 Councillor Mears asked; "I am concerned that the delegated functions set for Housing Committee by this Council are not being adhered to. Last year we saw delegation given to officers with regard to supporting people. In my view, Members of the Housing Committee were completely side-lined and, to date, have never received a report to Committee for Members to discuss. Can Councillor Randall confirm that he and his Administration are committed to the Housing delegated functions as set out by this Council?"

72.18 Councillor Randall replied; "Yes, the transfer of the management of hostels from supported housing commissioning to Adult Social Care in no way diminishes the role of the Housing Committee which is overseeing the work of these services. Indeed, the Housing Committee remains accountable for the performance of these services. The Committee's delegated powers have not been changed. The Committee will continue to receive reports relevant to the management of these services and remain satisfied that its responsibilities are being adequately discharged including the legal responsibility for spending Housing Revenue Account money.

As we discussed at the last Housing Committee, the same is also true of the administration of Disabled Facilities Grants. Due to a new Government ruling, this funding is now coming through the Better Care Fund and the Health & Wellbeing Board. However, the Housing Committee is still responsible for ensuring its duties under the Housing Act are adequately discharged and will be requesting reports from officers to ensure they are.

As you will also know, we have asked the Housing Associations working in the city to make a contribution towards Disabled Facilities Grants in the future. I have asked for an update on that to be sent to Housing Committee Members."

72.19 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question; "Thank you for your response. At the last Housing Committee Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, Agenda Item 72, the Committee was only asked to note the recommendations regarding the monitoring of the Disabled Facilities Grant by the Health & Wellbeing Board. The delegated functions for Housing clearly state that the Housing Committee is responsible for decisions on loans and grants. Can Councillor Randall confirm that this should have happened and that it is Members and not Officers that should be making decisions, and that Members of committees should be fully briefed on the delegated functions of committees they are appointed to?"

72.20 Councillor Randall replied; "I have sought advice from the Monitoring Officer on the legality of what has happened and he confirms that he supports what has happened. I feel that we do need more clarity between the responsibilities of the Housing Committee, the Adult Social Care Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board is becoming more involved in Housing and is investing in dealing with homelessness and this is the way forward for all of this work we are doing.

We have gone through this before and I as far as I am concerned what has happened is constitutional and is the right way forward in the new ways of working in the Council. However, we do need that clarity about who does what and I hope the new Council see that as a priority and central to what we do.”

**(f) Public Transport**

- 72.21 Councillor Marsh asked; “Would Cllr Davey agree that it is vital and important to provide an adequate and good bus service, particularly for residents in outlying areas such as Meadowview and Coombe Road?”
- 72.22 Councillor Davey replied; “I do agree that bus services are essential across the city and I think we are very fortunate to have the most successful bus service in the country outside of London. Bus passenger numbers continue to grow with 46 million bus passenger trips per year including 17 million along Lewes Road. One of the real benefits of the changes we have brought in is the multi-operator partnership.

The forthcoming multi-operator ticketing has put Compass Travel in the position to step-in where Brighton & Hove Buses may choose to withdraw services which are not commercially viable, as is their right under the 1986 Transport Act. Due to the multi-operator working and the really hard work of Council officers, Compass Travel is able to provide a service for the residents of your Ward.”

- 72.23 Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question; “Yes indeed Compass Travel has stepped in and is going to try and run the service commercially in the daytime. However, it is a different matter on evenings, weekends and Sundays and there is not going to be any supported service after next November. I am pleased that residents will have a service supported by our Transport budget until the end of November but my residents have no guarantee of any bus service whatsoever during the evenings and weekends.

I understand a sum of approximately £25,000 which is what it would have cost to assure the service could run until the next service change in April 2016 was not found to be available. Can Councillor Davey comment on how he can justify that decision?”

- 72.24 Councillor Davey replied; “Thank you very much – It is clear that if you would have voted for our budget proposal for a 5.9% increase then this service would have been protected. Unfortunately under the budget which you voted for this subsidy for the evening and weekend bus service for your residents were removed by your own vote.”

**(g) Traveller Clear-up Costs**

- 72.25 Councillor Barnett asked; “The cost incurred to Council Tax payers so far this year in respect for carrying out evictions from unauthorised Traveller’s encampments, clearing up after them and repairing criminal damage is around £200,000. Will Councillor West please explain to residents why the Council does not seek to recover any of these costs from the Travellers when they go to court to secure an eviction?”

- 72.26 Councillor West replied; “The question is about why we don’t charge people costs for trespass. There are two issues in particular with that. One is that it is a matter of identifying individuals. The more overriding point is that if you charge people for staying on an unauthorised site on your park you can legally be said to be accepting rent for their presence.”
- 72.27 Councillor Barnett asked the following supplementary question; “When I recently met with the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner to talk about this situation, she agreed that it is neither acceptable nor fair. The travellers arrive as a collective group, live as a collective group and generally leave as a collective group. They should therefore take collective responsibility for their behaviour when they are camped on public land. Why does Councillor West continue to bury his head in the sand on this issue?”
- 72.28 Councillor West replied; “Travellers are not always a cohesive family group and sometimes you will have a number of families and sometimes people who are not connected in any way at all. That is not how the law works, you have to deal with individuals and you cannot have collective responsibility in this matter.”

**(h) A23/A27 Litter Clearance**

- 72.29 Councillor C. Theobald asked; “The rubbish beside the A27 and A23 in the city is worse now than I can ever remember. My electors in Patcham complain regularly about this. You said in your response to Mr Duncan’s question that you are waiting for summertime for the work to be carried out. However there is a lot of bridgework carried out at night-time. Lanes are regularly closed on the A23 for maintenance work and the Southwick Tunnel is often closed for works at night there. Why can’t litter-pickers be co-ordinated with these closures?”
- 72.30 Councillor West replied; “I think the difficulty in collecting refuse and picking up litter in the dark is you might have difficulty actually seeing it. We have had five years of Conservative government under which they have not done anything to address the huge cost that Councils have to face from people littering, not just along roadsides but in urban areas as well. They have cut public finances at a Council level so we have precious little ability to address attitudes towards littering or clean up after the people who make the mess.”
- 72.31 Councillor C. Theobald asked the following supplementary question; “I understand this issue about who is responsible for financing this has been taken up by both the Local Government Association and in Parliament by the MP for Mid-Sussex. This certainly needs sorting out in the long-term but in the short-term we are coming up to the main tourist season in the city, will the Leader of the Council pledge to get this mess cleared up before then?”
- 72.32 Councillor West replied; “As I mentioned previously, we are endeavouring to engage an appropriate contractor to complete this work under the conditions that the Highways Agency dictate to protect the safety of workers. I cannot give you an answer as to when exactly we are able to do this work but it will be slower than we have previously been able to do it. Obviously, we will endeavour to get things done as quickly as possible.”

**73 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.****(a) Callover**

73.1 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following Items had been reserved for discussion:

- Item 74 - Response to the Seafront Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel Report;
- Item 75 - Pay Policy Statement 2015/16
- Item 76 - Annual Investment Strategy
- Item 77 - Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Investment Strategy 2015-19
- Item 78 - Local Transport Plan
- Item 80 - Review of the Constitution – March 2015
- Item 82 - The Pupil Premium in Brighton & Hove Schools.

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

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

- Item 79 - Housing Strategy 2015;
- Item 81 - Appointment of Independent Person.

**(c) Oral Questions from Members**

73.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions in relation to the items that had not been reserved for discussion.

**74 RESPONSE TO THE SEAFRONT INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY PANEL**

74.1 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the response to the Scrutiny Panel's report and stated that the future of the seafront and the challenge to maintain it should not be underestimated. She thanked the Panel Members for their work on the review and looked forward to the future report on the seafront infrastructure that had been agreed as part of the response to the Panel's recommendations.

74.2 Councillor J. Kitcat noted that the matter had been well debated at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting and the importance of the seafront to the city's infrastructure and success was recognised. He hoped that the recommendations would be addressed and that further improvements would be made.

74.3 Councillor Brown thanked everyone involved with the Scrutiny Panel and stated that there was a need to regenerate the seafront. The panel had noted that there were areas of success with aspects having had investment, but there was a need to continue that work and to identify a regular income stream to support the necessary work into the future. It was a huge challenge and one that the council needed to tackle collectively.

- 74.4 Councillor Smith stated that the seafront was the lifeblood of the city and needed to be cared for. Whilst some aspects had seen improvements such as the arches and band stand, others remained neglected and there had been disappointments with potential developments not progressing. Although it would not be whilst he was a councillor, he hoped that he would see the investment required put into the seafront and potential development opportunities come to fruition.
- 74.5 Councillor Bowden stated that it was an excellent scrutiny report and he welcomed the recommendations. It was estimated that it would cost £100m to bring the seafront up to scratch and everything possible to ensure it was brought up to standard would be undertaken e.g. the Brighton Centre would remain open until the venue at Black Rock was built. He also hoped that the redevelopment of the King Alfred would also be progressed and noted that preferred bidders were due to be announced.
- 74.6 Councillor C. Theobald stated that she wished to congratulate the Scrutiny Panel on its report and noted that further investment was being made with the development of the i360. However there was a need to invest in the remaining arches and she hoped that resources would be identified that could be set aside to support improvements to the seafront.
- 74.7 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.

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

## **75 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16**

- 75.1 Councillor Sykes introduced the report which detailed the council's pay policy for 2015/16 and noted that it was the fourth edition of the policy that the council was required to publish. He therefore moved that the policy be approved and adopted by the council.
- 75.2 Councillor Duncan stated that he was disappointed by the information provided under the equalities implications paragraph and suggested that greater transparency could have been provided in terms of the pay grades within the council. He suggested that there was a need to give further consideration to the levels of pay and to bring them into closer alignment across the organisation.
- 75.3 Councillor Sykes stated that the equalities impact assessment that had been undertaken showed that the council was ahead of other authorities in this regard and noted that the council had met its objective of having a ratio of 10:1 in terms of top to bottom for pay.
- 75.4 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to a vote which was carried.
- 75.5 **RESOLVED:** That the pay policy statement 2015/16 as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be approved and adopted.

**76 ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2015/16**

- 76.1 Councillor Sykes introduced the report which outlined the Annual Investment Strategy for the Council and moved that it be approved by the council.
- 76.2 Councillor Duncan stated that he was disappointed by the strategy which he felt lacked vision and expressed concern over the fact that it continued to include establishments such as HSBC for investment purposes. He suggested that it would be better to create a local investment fund that could be used to support the creation of housing and maintain facilities such as public conveniences around the city.
- 76.3 Councillor Sykes noted the comments and stated that whilst he had some sympathy with Councillor Duncan's views, there was a need to invest funds across various establishments and officers had a very good track record. He therefore supported the recommendations listed in the report.
- 76.4 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to the vote which was carried.
- 76.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Annual Investment Strategy 2015/16 as set out in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

**77 BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2015-19**

- 77.1 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report which set out the council's corporate plan and medium-term financial strategy 2015-19. He noted that the corporate plan outlined the overall direction for the council over the coming four years, detailing its vision, principles and priorities. The medium-term financial strategy complimented the corporate plan and detailed the strategic investment for services whilst seeking to address the financial challenges ahead for the council. The population was growing and this placed increasing pressures on the city whilst the council had less income and was having to reduce its staff and services. However, he hoped that the corporate plan could be supported and recommended it to the council.
- 77.2 Councillor G. Theobald welcomed the report and stated that he fully supported the corporate plan which now reflected the arguments that he had been putting forward for the last four years e.g. to become more efficient and enable citizens to play an active role in providing services etc.
- 77.3 Councillor Morgan stated that he wished to support the comments of Councillor Kitcat and to thank him for the work he had done and those officers involved in bringing the corporate plan forward and developing a flexible strategy that could be adopted following the elections in May.
- 77.4 Councillor Wealls welcomed the report and noted that it proposed the commissioning of youth services and the diversity of school provision, aspects that the Conservative Group had argued for and yet had been previously resisted by the Administration.

77.5 Councillor Kitcat noted the comments and stated that the council had had to take out £70m worth of efficiencies and would need to work with partner organisations and the third sector if the needs of the citizens of the city were to be met. He therefore hoped that the council would endorse the plan.

77.6 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to a vote which was carried.

77.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Corporate Plan 2015-16 be approved.

## 78 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2015

78.1 Councillor Davey introduced the report and stated that he wished to thank the officers involved in putting the plan together. He stated that it highlighted how important transport was to the city and the investment that had been achieved with successful bids for resources. He also believed that an important measure of success was how people travelled in the city and he noted that Brighton and Hove had one of the lowest figures for car use. It was also the highest outside of London for bus use and car sharing, all of which helped to reduce the level of emissions. There was more to do and he hoped the work would continue and commended the plan to the council.

78.2 Councillor Hawtree stated that he wished to congratulate Councillor Davey on his achievements during the last four years and suggested that the soon to be implemented bike scheme in the city should be referred to as 'Davey's Bikes.'

78.3 Councillor Duncan welcomed the report and acknowledged the work of Councillor Davey. However, he believed that more could be done and needed to be. The level of bus and train fares was increasing and this needed to be addressed if people were going to continue to be able to use public transport. He also felt that more engagement was needed with residents on improvement proposals so that their views and needs could be taken into consideration.

78.4 Councillor Mears welcomed the report but expressed a noted of concern for the new council as there would be a need to take a strategic overview of the city and its transport provision. The tourist trade provided a valuable income to the city's economy and it needed to be protected when changes were being made to the transport infrastructure and major developments came on board. The timing and co-ordination of these would need to be carefully managed, otherwise the city could suffer.

78.5 Councillor Summers stated that an incredible number of achievements had been made across the transport portfolio, whether everyone agreed with them or not, and she wished to commend Councillor Davey for his role in that and to wish him well for the future.

78.6 Councillor West stated that he wanted to add his thanks and appreciation of Councillor Davey's role as the Lead Member for Transport. He and the officers had levered in an incredible amount of funding to the city and delivered a number of projects that benefitted the city as a whole. He had found the plan to be a very good read and it laid the foundation for further improvements across the city and he recommended it to everyone.

- 78.7 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and praised the work of the transport team and the aim to meet the challenges ahead over the next four years. It was disappointing to see the reduction in government funding and the increased need to find match funding for schemes but she hoped that resources could be found to enable the programme to continue. She was concerned about the use of the LTP budget being used for borrowing and whether this would impact on future provision.
- 78.8 Councillor J. Kitcat stated that there was going to be a need for authorities to work together across the region to meet the transport needs. The council had already built up working relations with partners and the bus companies and received support from the universities. These relationships had put the council in good stead and he wished to thank Councillor Davey for all his work and being a transport ambassador for the city.
- 78.9 Councillor Davey thanked everyone for their comments and stated that he had been involved in transport issues for some time and he hoped that the work undertaken with officers would continue to be taken forward. He was concerned that the various party manifestos appeared light on transport aims and hoped that was because the plan highlighted what was required.
- 78.10 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to the vote which was carried.
- 78.11 **RESOLVED:** That the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

## **79 HOUSING STRATEGY 2015**

### **79.1 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the adoption of the Housing Strategy 2015 be agreed;
- (2) That approval of the Housing Strategy 2015 be recommended to Brighton & Hove Connected as part of the Sustainable Communities Strategy; and
- (3) That the Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing be authorised to take all steps necessary and incidental to implement the Strategy.

## **80 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION - MARCH 2015**

- 80.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report which outlined the proposed changes to the constitution and delegations to officers following a review by the Constitution Working Group. He stated that he wished to thank the Members of the Working Group and the officers involved in supporting it for their hard work and advice. He noted that the proposed changes had not gone as far as they could have and that further work would be required but in the meantime recommended the report to the council.



- 80.2 Councillor Mears noted the report and the changes in respect of the Health & Wellbeing Board and the remit of the Housing Committee and sought clarification with regard to the delegated functions for these bodies.
- 80.3 Councillor Duncan stated that the way in which the council worked and operated was very important and yet the report did not really go that far. He noted that there had been an extra budget meeting which had been foreseen and should not have been required if action had been taken to resolve matters earlier. He suggested that powers could be dissolved to a neighbourhood level and a review of how councillors worked and the number of councillors could have been and needed to be undertaken. Such changes would have an impact and would hopefully encourage greater participation in the democratic process.
- 80.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that the Working Group had looked at a number of aspects affecting the constitution and he wished to pay tribute to his two colleagues and to the work of the officers. There was a need to continue the work and he hoped this would follow the elections in May but in the meantime the proposals put forward were appropriate and he hoped would be supported.
- 80.5 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to the vote which was carried.
- 80.6 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the proposed changes to the Council's constitution recommended in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.6 and appendix 1 of the report, relating to Overview & Scrutiny arrangements and policy panels be approved;
  - (2) That the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the changes agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee and Council; and
  - (3) That the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes.

## 81 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

- 81.1 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the appointment of Ms. Diane Bushell as Independent Person and co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Committee be approved; and
  - (2) That it be noted that the appointment is made for a period of 4 years, with the possibility of a 2-year extension at the discretion of the Monitoring Officer after consultation with the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

## 82 THE PUPIL PREMIUM IN BRIGHTON & HOVE SCHOOLS

- 82.1 Councillor Shanks introduced the report which outlined the national context of the Pupil Premium (PP), the achievement of the pupils who were in receipt of PP, what school

leaders were expected to do and how the local authority was supporting and challenging them. She noted that the report had been referred to the council for information and welcomed the opportunity to bring it to Members' attention. She thanked Councillor Wealls for his input in relation to children receiving free-school meals and closing the gap in levels of attainment and asked all councillors who were members of governing bodies to raise the matter at their meetings.

- 82.2 Councillor Pissaridou stated that all Members should be aware of the report and should take the opportunity to read it. She noted that 9 out of 10 pupils receiving pupil premium did not achieve the basic 5 GCSE's and it appeared that there was no significant movement to close the gap. She suggested that there was a need to give schools more autonomy and noted that individual interventions had made the most difference.
- 82.3 Councillor Wealls stated that the gap had widened for five A-C GCSEs from 31% to 37% and yet the target had been to get it to 20%. He hoped that action would be taken to address this and that the need to do so would be recognised by the council.
- 82.4 Councillor Shanks noted the comments and stated that the need to tackle the matter had been identified and with support of all groups she hoped it could be addressed.
- 82.5 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.
- 82.6 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### 83 NOTICES OF MOTION.

#### 83 (a) Female Genital Mutilation

- 83.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Hawtree and seconded by Councillor Powell.
- 83.2 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

"This Council recognises the work done by local public services to prevent the illegal practice of female genital mutilation, and to help those affected by it. It has been estimated that 20,000 girls under the age of 15 in the UK are at risk of it.

We urge this Government to add their weight to the growing international campaign, and work with community groups here and abroad campaigning to stop this barbaric practice."

- 83.3 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** unanimously.

#### 83 (b) GP Surgery Provision

- 83.4 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Morgan.

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

“This Council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Secretary of State for Health asking what is being done to mitigate the consequences of six in ten GPs nationwide considering early retirement and the effects this would have on GP provision in Brighton and Hove.
- 2) Additionally ask the Secretary of State which health bodies in England have responsibility to ensure the adequate provision of GP services.”

83.6 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** unanimously.

**83 (c) ‘Time to Change’ - Pledge**

83.7 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Daniel.

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

“This Council believes that mental health should be given equal priority with physical health as outlined in the government’s mental health strategy implementation framework.

This Council resolves:

- (a) To support Time to Change, the mental health anti-stigma campaign;
- (b) To request that the Health & Wellbeing Board explores the adoption of the Time to Change pledge, better workplace practices and encourage others to do so as well.”

83.9 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** unanimously.

**83 (d) City of Sanctuary**

83.10 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Littman and seconded by Councillor Phillips.

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

“Brighton and Hove City Council recognises and welcomes the good work going on in the city to make it a welcoming, inclusive and supportive community which offers safety to those who need it. As a city we celebrate diversity and recognise that our lives are enriched by those who come here seeking sanctuary.

Brighton and Hove City Council supports the movement to have Brighton and Hove recognised as a City of Sanctuary: a place where people fleeing persecution and violence can feel safe, welcomed, and included.

Brighton and Hove City Council recognises that there is still a great deal more we in the city could do, and will work with partners across the city to take practical steps towards welcoming refugees and asylum seekers to a place of safety, for example through the Vulnerable Persons' Relocation Scheme.

To these ends, the Council supports the principle of Brighton and Hove becoming a City of Sanctuary, and to continue to work with partners across the city, towards accommodating more refugees including those from Syria's ongoing civil war.

The Council also supports working with other local authorities and the Local Government Association to share best practice in this area and further the aims of the wider City of Sanctuary movement.”

83.12 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**83 (e) Setting a Reserve Budget Council Meeting Date**

83.13 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor G. Theobald and seconded by Councillor Peltzer Dunn.

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

“This Council resolves to set a formal reserve date for Budget Council meetings on an annual basis beginning in February/March 2016.”

83.15 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried**.

**84 CLOSE OF MEETING**

84.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and also stated that he wished to thank all the officers who had supported him at the various council meetings during the year. He then closed the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of