

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**TOURISM, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 22 JUNE 2017**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD, HOVE, BN3 3BQ**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Robins (Chair)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Cattell (Deputy Chair), Nemeth (Opposition Spokesperson), Druitt (Group Spokesperson), Allen, Mac Cafferty, Mears, Morris, O'Quinn and C Theobald

**Other Members present:** Councillors

**PART ONE**

**1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**1a Declarations of Substitutes**

1.1 There were none.

**1b Declarations of Interest**

1.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

**1c Exclusion of Press and Public**

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

**2 MINUTES**

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017 as a correct record.

**3 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS**

3.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

**“First Meeting of the Tourism Development and Culture Committee**

I would like to welcome everyone to the first meeting of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee which has replaced the ED&C committee.

This change was agreed at the Last Full Council to reflect the importance that the tourist and visitor economy have to the overall economic well-being of the City, and the fact that we also have the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee overseeing the city economic growth and regeneration agenda.

I note that we have several new Members to the Committee and would like to welcome you on board and hope that you will find this to be an interesting and engaging committee. I would also like to take the opportunity to welcome the appointment of the new programme director for arts, culture and tourism, Val Birchall, who is joining us from 1 July, and who I know will make a very positive contribution to the work of the committee.

I will now highlight some notable events and activities that have taken place since the last committee meeting or are forthcoming, but I will ask for the full details to be recorded in the minutes.

Highlights from Visit Brighton are marketing initiatives promoting the city as a “London Plus” destination, a 50,000 print run of a Shopping, Eating and Drinking Guide, and a double-page spread in BBC Good Food magazine. We had the largest number of events in the country for English Tourism Week. We have had 5 major conferences confirmed in the last 2 months. We exhibited at IMEX in Frankfurt in May and will exhibit at the important UK Meetings Show In Olympia in July. Members of Visit Brighton and myself attended the Brighton and Hove hoteliers meeting on 10th May, and were able to update the association on these Visit Brighton activities.

Other important events for the committee to note are that the Trustees have been appointed to the Shadow Board for the Cultural Trust for Brighton and Hove into which the management of Royal Pavilion and Museums will move next year. The members of the shadow board are; (Chair) Glynn Jones, Jane Weeks, Michael Beddingfield, Tim Aspinall, Julian Crampton representing the Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation, Danny Homan representing Brighton Dome and Brighton Festival, councillors Phelim Mac Cafferty and Ann Norman and myself. The trustees all have experience of serving as trustees for cultural organisations including the museum sector and in some cases of working in museums.

The Royal Pavilion & Museums’ exhibition Fashion Cities Africa was shortlisted in the best temporary or touring exhibition category for the Museum and Heritage 2017 awards, which was a chance to celebrate the RPM’s excellent work.

On 25 May I attended the opening of the Museum Mentors Artist Showcase in Museum Lab at Brighton Museum which ran until 30th May. Museum Mentors is a Royal Pavilion & Museums project, funded by Arts Council England, which supports up to 30 adults from the local community who manage challenges associated with disability. A special event was held on Friday 5th May to mark the opening of the new section of the Royal Pavilion Garden. The historic Royal Pavilion Garden is the only fully restored Regency garden in Britain. Originally designed in the first quarter of the 19th century, it is inspired

by nature and informal in style, with both native plants and those brought back by plant-hunters from overseas. The garden is maintained on organic principles, and a recent development has enabled RPM to make the garden more sustainable. Please read the minutes for the details of this work which has been developed by Head Gardener Robert Hill-Snook, supporting project lead Kris Wilding. Kris is one of RPM's Functions Stewards, who is participating via the nationally-recognised Workforce Development Programme for front-of-house staff.

There are a couple of other items to note for the committee.

### **Major Projects Update**

As we are now the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee we have not included the major projects update in the report for this committee. In practice reports on major projects always go to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for decision. However, I am happy to hear your views and suggestions on how we can keep members of this committee updated on major projects and so I will arrange a meeting with the committee spokespersons to decide between us on the best way to achieve this.

But in the meantime I would like to note that the new Volks Station has now been winched into place, the zip-wire is planned to open in time for the school holidays and the i360 has won three awards including Project of the Year from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and has also just been named as one of the UK's best new buildings by RIBA. I would also like to note the re-opening of the Saltdean Lido and congratulate the CIC on their achievement.

### **Voluntary management of estate agents and lettings boards in the Lewes Road Area – Pilot**

And finally I would like to update you about an important issue on which residents have campaigned. In November last year the committee agreed that there should be a year long pilot scheme for the voluntary management of estate agents and lettings boards in the Lewes Road Area. I can confirm that the pilot scheme has now commenced and it will be focused in the Coombe Road Area.

The main focus of the Pilot is a Voluntary Code of Good Practice promoting replacement of standard boards with internal window adverts or size-limited wall mounted boards.

In terms of implementation - all estate and letting agents known to be working in the area have been contacted about the scheme and asked to take this approach. Officers have been working with Strategic Housing Partners including the Southern Landlords Association on the scheme; and the pilot has been supported by the Brighton & Hove Estate Agent Association and the Universities and Rent Smart group. There has also been work with residents as well with officers going to the next Coombe Road Area Local Action Team meeting to encourage community involvement. To raise awareness of the pilot scheme – a dedicated [webpage](#) has been launched which sets out how to

get involved. There will be ongoing work with agents on the pilot scheme through the course of the year in an effort to ensure the success of the scheme

### **VisitBrighton updates:**

#### **Marketing updates:**

- We have partnered with London Visitor and London Planner magazines giving Brighton monthly coverage promoting the city as a key 'London Plus' destination. Each magazine has a circulation of 100,000 and they are stocked in hotels and train stations in the capital.
- The VisitBrighton Blog has now been moved into the main site which will help improve the search engine optimisation of www.visitbrighton.com. Partners are welcome to contribute as guest bloggers.
- The Shopping, Eating & Drinking Guide was released with an initial print run of 50,000, this has been positively received.
- Our German PR agency generated 630,601 euros worth of PR, the UK AVE figure which is: £460,770. Highlights include a double-page spread in BBC Good Food magazine as well as features in Psychologies; Red and Town & Country magazines.
- In the last three months we have hosted 14 journalists as well as an additional 25 international journalists during the ExploreGB event.

#### **English Tourism Week:**

- Great opportunity for different bodies to work collaboratively to promote the city.
- Over the course of the week there were 92 events and 55 special offers. This was the largest amount of any destination, including London! This fact was highlighted by VisitEngland.
- The ETW Twitter competition #BrightonLuckyDip had approximately 1.3 million impressions – this is the number of times the # was seen – and over 100 entries.
- Increased exposure across the city for the VisitBrighton brand particularly on the Ship Street bus and at Brighton Station.
- VisitEngland promoted offers and events on their website; social media and PR.

#### **Conference Wins – confirmed in the last two months;**

- Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals Annual Conference: 8-11 July 2018 (x600 delegates)
- UNISON Health Conference: 4-8 April 2020 and 2024 – x2 year deal (x500 delegates at each conference)
- UNISON Women's Conference: 17 – 20 February 2021 (x500 delegates)
- UNISON LGBT Conference: 17-21 November 2021 (x450 delegates)

- British Association for Supported Employment: 8 – 9 November 2017 (x300 delegates)

### **Forthcoming Activity**

- VisitBrighton and the Brighton Centre are exhibiting on the VisitBritain stand at IMEX in Frankfurt over the dates of 16-18 May 2017

IMEX in Frankfurt is one of the key exhibitions in the meetings and events industry and brings together conference organisers and planners from all across the globe. We will be in attendance to raise the profile of Brighton and its diverse leisure/business offering to new and existing clients.

- VisitBrighton will be exhibiting at the UK Meetings Show in July 2017. This will be our 4th year in attendance at the Show in Olympia and this year we will be joined by our venues partners: AMEX Stadium, Hilton Metropole, Brighton Dome, The Grand and Jurys Inn The Waterfront.

This is a key domestic MICE trade show and one that has a proven track record in generating new business for the city.

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### **Cultural Trust – Formation of the Shadow Board – appointment of Trustees**

Trustees have been appointed to the Shadow board for the Cultural Trust for Brighton and Hove into which the management of Royal Pavilion and Museums will move next year. The members of the shadow board are; (Chair) Glynn Jones, Jane Weeks, Michael Beddingfield, Tim Aspinall, Julian Crampton representing the Royal Pavilion and Museums Foundation, Danny Homan representing Brighton Dome and Brighton Festival, councillors Phelim Mac Cafferty and Ann Norman and myself. The trustees all have experience of serving as trustees for cultural organisations including the museum sector and in some cases of working in museums.

### **Museum and Heritage Awards – attendance in London**

There are relatively few prizes recognising excellence in museums in the UK sector. It was a coup for Royal Pavilion & Museums to have its exhibition *Fashion Cities Africa* shortlisted in the best temporary or touring exhibition category for the 2017 awards. This was a ground-breaking show, the first in the UK dedicated to contemporary African fashion, which ran from 30th April 2016 to 8th January 2017 at Brighton Museum, and encompassed international partnerships and collaboration with local BME communities. Sadly it didn't win, but the Awards ceremony in London on 17 May

was a chance to celebrate RPM's excellent work and recognise the extraordinary richness and impact of projects across the UK museum sector.

### **Museum Lab event**

On 25 May I attended the opening of the Museum Mentors Artist Showcase in Museum Lab at Brighton Museum which ran until 30th May. Museum Mentors is a Royal Pavilion & Museums project, funded by Arts Council England, which supports up to 30 adults from the local community who manage challenges associated with disability. Museum Mentors is a place where people, ideas, art, objects and stories connect, and the group's collective aim is to promote diversity, and give value, opportunity, choice and independence to those involved.

Through the temporary display Museum Mentors members were invited to share their creative ideas and artistic responses to the Royal Pavilion, its garden and objects on display in Brighton Museum. Part of the presentation was an opportunity for member Eiffion Ashdown to showcasing a selection of bulldog collectibles from his personal collection of over 4,000 pieces.

### **Opening of the new section of the Garden**

A special event was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 11:00am – 12:00pm.

The historic Royal Pavilion Garden is the only fully restored Regency garden in Britain. Originally designed in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it is inspired by nature and informal in style, with both native plants and those brought back by plant-hunters from overseas.

The garden is maintained on organic principles.

A recent development has enabled RPM to make the garden more sustainable:

- New leaf mould areas have been built, so that they can produce their own mould for fertiliser.
- New compost bins have been built, to process RPM's waste and that of local businesses.
- A wood chipper will be used to process garden waste, meaning this can be re-used within the garden and sold on to other organisations.
- A wormery has been created, along with a propagation area.
- There are three cloches full of plants propagated from the garden, with a view to selling to the public and providing seed propagation opportunities. All sales will be ploughed back into the garden.

This new field of work has been developed by Head Gardener Robert Hill-Snook, supporting project lead Kris Wilding. Kris is one of RPM's Functions Stewards, who is participating via the nationally-recognised Workforce Development Programme for front-of-house staff. This programme has enabled Kris to work one day a week with Robert in developing his skills and leading on a project, alongside studying horticulture at Stanmer Nursery. There is also a dedicated team of garden volunteers who have worked for many years to maintain the garden under Robert's supervision. Without volunteers, RPM would not be able to achieve their aims for the garden.

## Voluntary management of estate agents and lettings boards in the Lewes Road Area – Pilot

You will recall that in November last year the committee agreed that there should be a year long pilot scheme for the voluntary management of estate agents and lettings boards in the Lewes Road Area. I can confirm that the pilot scheme has now commenced and it will be focused in the Coombe Road Area.

The main focus of the Pilot is a Voluntary Code of Good Practice promoting replacement of standard boards with internal window adverts or size-limited wall mounted boards.

In terms of implementation - all estate and letting agents known to be working in the area have been contacted about the scheme and asked to take this approach. Officers have been working with Strategic Housing Partners including the Southern Landlords Association on the scheme; and the pilot has been supported by the Brighton & Hove Estate Agent Association and the Universities and Rent Smart group. There has also been work with residents as well with officers going to the next Coombe Road Area Local Action Team meeting to encourage community involvement. To raise awareness of the pilot scheme – a dedicated [webpage](#) has been launched which sets out how to get involved. There will be ongoing work with agents on the pilot scheme through the course of the year in an effort to ensure the success of the scheme.

### **B&H Hoteliers Association**

Myself and Members of the VisitBrighton team attended the Brighton & Hove Hoteliers Association meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and informed their membership of the work and activity that had been undertaken over the past three months, this included;

- Marketing updates
- Updates and outcomes of English Tourism Week
- Latest Conference Wins for the City
- Forthcoming Activity updates

3.2 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the Chair’s Communications be received and noted.

### **4 CALL OVER**

4.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

### **5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

#### **5a Petitions**

5.1 The Chair stated that he was aware that there was a petition referred from the Council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, however as a report on the matter was due to be brought to the committee in September, he was minded to defer this item so that it could be considered in conjunction with the report. He had been in touch with the lead petitioner who had indicated that they were also happy for it to be considered in September.

5.2 **RESOLVED** - That the position be noted.

**5b Written Questions**

- 5.3 The Chair noted that two public questions had been received and invited Mr Hawtree to come forward and to put his question to Committee.

**Provision of Daily Newspapers in Libraries**

- 5.4 Mr Hawtree asked: "Would Councillor Robins please tell us what publicity methods will be used to inform readers that, after so long an absence, daily newspapers return to the Carnegie and other libraries, and explain why there has been this woeful lapse?"
- 5.5 The Chair replied: To advertise to customers that the newspapers are now back there are announcements on our website (newspapers page), Twitter and Facebook, and there are also notices in all the libraries concerned.
- 5.6 There has been a problem with the provision of hard-copy newspapers to Hove Library and some community libraries which are supplied from Hove and we are sorry for the inconvenience that this has caused customers. Please be aware that this is a common problem for public libraries who are all dependent on the willingness of local newsagents, and that a number of libraries elsewhere in the country have had to stop providing newspapers altogether for this reason.
- 5.7 Newsagents have become reluctant to supply newspapers to libraries as it can be difficult for local newsagents to submit regular invoices and wait for payment, and they are also reluctant to issue itemised bills which are needed for corporate credit card payments. It is no longer feasible to ask staff to collect the papers for libraries on their way in to work as we no longer use petty cash.
- 5.8 A number of local newsagents in Hove and Tesco's were approached, but all of them have either declined to supply us, or did not reply when the manager was contacted. Eventually a supplier was found from further away but time was needed to get them set up on the council's finance system so we can pay them and to arrange transport and access as they have to deliver before any staff are on site.

Throughout this time anyone could still read the papers in all the affected libraries every day they were open by using our free online resources - and they can even use their library membership card and PIN number to read these papers online for free at home if they want to.

- 5.9 By way of a supplementary question Mr Hawtree asked whether in the light of references to Library Provision contained in the recently published Labour Party Manifesto the level of charges to borrowers could/would be reviewed.
- 5.10 The Chair explained that this was reviewed annually and that it was anticipated that a report providing information on usage levels and the level of charges which were appropriate would be brought forward to the scheduled January meeting of the Committee.

**Need to Incorporate Significant Bookable Community Space Within King Alfred Redevelopment**

- 5.11 The Chair referred to a question which had been received from Ms V Paynter and invited Ms Paynter to come forward and to put her question to the Committee.
- 5.12 Ms Paynter, asked: “Does BHCC recognise the need to incorporate significant bookable community space within the King Alfred redevelopment to replace what Hove has already lost over and above what will also be lost in demolishing the street-access 400 seat ballroom?”
- 5.13 The Chair replied: The loss of existing community facilities is an important planning issue and this will be considered as part of the consideration of future development proposals for the King Alfred site. The council’s priorities for the site are to secure the replacement of new indoor public wet and dry sports facilities which will provide for the local Hove communities and to the wider mix of facilities in the city. Alongside this, other ancillary leisure and health uses are supported together with the provision of new homes. This is reflected in Policy SA1 in the adopted City Plan.
- 5.14 As part of the procurement exercise, leading in January 2016 to the appointment of the Preferred Developer, bidders were invited to put forward additional uses which they considered would complement the sport and leisure uses and the Preferred Developer’s scheme includes community space.
- 5.15 By way of a supplementary question Ms Paynter referred to the capacity figures at different council venues including the King Alfred Leisure Centre and the need for more bookable spaces asking whether an audit had been carried out by the council and if not, whether it would be possible for consideration to be given to doing one.
- 5.16 The Chair explained that whilst funding to carry out such an exercise were limited that could certainly be looked at as part of the City Plan Part 2 subject to the requisite funds being available if it was considered appropriate to do so.
- 5.17 The Chair noted that there were no further items listed under Public Involvement.

## **6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

- 6.1 The Chair noted that five written questions had been received from Councillor Nemeth and that these were listed on the agenda.

### **American Express Hove, History Boards**

- 6.2 Councillor Nemeth asked: “What progress has been made since the last meeting of this committee, and prior to the submission of this question, in contacting American Express, or carrying out alternative investigations, with regard to the restoration/replacement of Hove’s local history signage (that was kindly sponsored by American Express some years back)?”
- 6.3 The Chair provided the following written response: Two approaches have been made to the Public Affairs and Communications Team of American Express requesting them kindly if they would like to re-sponsor the Hove Heritage signs. To date no response has been received from them indicating that they would like to re-sponsor. A further

approach to American Express will be made to ascertain if they wish to continue to sponsor the Hove Heritage signs. A cost analysis has been sought from Brighton & Hove City Councils Print and Design department and it is estimated that the cost of refurbishing each Heritage sign will be in the region of £1,500 per sign. There are estimated to be approximately 14 Heritage signs in Hove which would mean the cost of refurbishing all of the signs would be in the region of £21,000. As there are many Heritage signs in Hove and whilst it is acknowledged that they are much loved by residents and any decision for the Council to fund their replacement would need to be made at the relevant budget committee in the event that we are unable source sponsorship for the Hove Heritage signs.”

6.4 By way of a supplementary Councillor Nemeth asked

6.5 The Chair responded

### **Planning Delay**

6.6 Councillor Nemeth asked: “How many ‘old’ planning applications are still set aside from new applications and how much slower on average are they being answered? How many of these old applications have there been each month over the past six months? What are the oldest and newest of the old applications which are live currently?”

6.7 The Chair provided the following written response: “The Planning Service is improving and there are a number of modernisation projects underway that aim to make all aspects of the service better – however it will take time to complete implementation these priorities and projects. One of these projects has been to introduce direct allocation of planning applications to case officers from 1 February. I can therefore confirm that all planning applications are now allocated to case officers soon after registration. I can also confirm that both the ‘old’ (pre February) and ‘new’ (post February) applications are being dealt with concurrently by case officers. In the case of ‘new’ applications – these are being determined within the eight week period, unless there is good reason to agree an extension.

6.8 In terms of the numbers, in January of 2017, before the introduction of additional resources and directly allocating planning applications - there were 327 applications that had not yet been allocated to a case officer. All applications are now allocated and will be determined as soon as possible. In terms of the statistical information requested – we do not include analysis relating the rate of determination of old applications over the past six months in our current weekly performance monitoring, so we would need some more time to collate this information. You ask about the oldest and newest of the ‘old’ applications. As with all local planning authorities there are a very small number of older applications that may have been submitted as long ago as 2015 – these are often majors or complex which is why they can be subject significant delay. The majority of the ‘old’ applications remaining were submitted between November 2016 and January 2017 and therefore include the newest of the ‘old’ applications. These numbers are diminishing and I can assure you these will be dealt with as soon as possible alongside the ‘new’ applications.”

6.9 By way of a supplementary Councillor Nemeth stated that he remained of the view that further measures still required to be taken in order to address this issue.

6.10 The Chair replied that there was nothing further which he could add.

### **Tennis Courts in the City**

6.11 Councillor Nemeth asked: "Please describe in detail what role the Chairman has had, in his role as head of sport for Brighton & Hove, in developing the Administration's plans to completely change the way in which all public tennis courts in the city are funded and managed."

6.12 The Chair provided the following written response: "Whilst this committee oversees the overall strategic approach to sports and leisure across the city, the operational management of the tennis courts is through the City Parks service. I can confirm that consultation and engagement with representatives of the city's tennis community, clubs and coaches along with the involvement of the Lawn Tennis Association is continuing. As a member of the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee, Cllr Nemeth will be aware that an update report on the Open Spaces Strategy, including tennis court management, is going to that committee in four days' time."

### **King Alfred**

6.13 Councillor Nemeth asked: "Has the Chairman had any involvement at all in the King Alfred major project in his role as head of major projects for Brighton & Hove?"

6.14 The Chair provided the following written response: "As with other strategically significant major projects, the King Alfred development is overseen by the Leader of the Council and is within the remit of the Strategic Delivery Board, a cross-party group of which Cllr Nemeth is a member. The Strategic Delivery Board receives a written update on major projects at every meeting, and I am aware the King Alfred has been the subject of detailed updates in recent months. Updates have also formed part of the business of our predecessor committee (ED&C), again as a standing item, through which I am briefed ahead of such meetings. I also receive regular briefings from the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture and Ward Councillors are briefed at key stages of the process as required."

6.15 By way of a supplementary Councillor Nemeth asked that further updates be provided as requested considering that it was very important that the Committees' locus in supporting sport across the city was not diminished. He was also concerned that with the Committees' change of name important areas of its work were not lost sight of.

6.16 The Chair replied that the Committee remained strongly focused on its core responsibilities referring to the fact that the Executive Director would provide a brief update in relation to Major Projects elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Preston Park Cycle Track**

6.17 Councillor Nemeth asked: "Will the Chairman provide an urgent update on the recent repairs that had to be carried out at Preston Park Cycle Track?"

- 6.18 The Chair provided the following written response: "The works to the Preston Park Velodrome have yet to be completed as it had taken longer than anticipated to find a suitable surfacing supplier and road lining contractor due to the highly specialised nature of these works. However, suitable contractors have now been identified and the City Council has been working with the surfacing supplier's engineering team in order to produce a crack infill repair material specifically tailored for velodromes as there was nothing available in the market place to meet the City Council's strict criteria for use on the velodrome. The need to develop this specific material has obviously delayed the works being carried out. However, it is felt this delay is worthwhile to ensure the long term durability of the repairs that will be carried out. Due to the specialist nature of the repair material to be used a trial repair is to be carried out shortly to ensure that all parties are happy with the proposed material and repair method. Following this, extensive crack repairs will be carried out to all of the velodrome and once the crack repairs have been completed a specialist road lining contractor, who has previous experience with velodromes will be coming in to re mark the track in accordance with British Cycling's current guidelines. The complete cost for these works is anticipated to be in the region of £8,000 to £10,000. And the works are expected to be completed during this summer. All works are being carried out in consultation with British Cycling.
- 6.19 The Chair noted that there were no further items listed under Member Involvement.

## **7 INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY PLAN (IDP) - UPDATE**

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Culture in relation to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (Annex City Plan Part One) Update.
- 7.2 It was noted that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan identified the social, physical and environmental infrastructure required in the city to 2030. It was an accompanying Annex to the adopted City Plan and helped to support and deliver key objectives and policies in the Plan. The IDP was an evolving document, and as such was subject to review and required regular updating.
- 7.3 Councillor Druitt enquired regarding the current status of key major projects across the city and the Executive Director explained that work in relation to specifically identified sites was considered an essential element of and integral to infrastructure delivery. The Executive Director provided a brief update confirming that the contract for the Circus Street scheme was nearing completion following which demolition works would commence on site. It was anticipated that the planning application in respect of the Preston Barracks site would be considered by a special meeting of the Planning Committee after the summer recess. Negotiations in relation to the King Alfred site were on-going and the Valley Gardens Scheme was due to be considered at a meeting of the Environment, Transport Sustainability Meeting the following week.
- 7.4 Councillor Druitt referred to the current pressure on school places across the city requesting to know the timescale for applying for CIL educational payments and clarification as to the purposes to which such payments could be put. It was explained that the funding required to set up a new school was greater than could be provided by CIL which could provide up to 20% of infrastructure costs but could run in concert with

other bids. Clarification was also sought in respect of the council's ongoing commitment to renewable energy use and the timeframe for that.

- 7.5 Councillor Mac Cafferty referred to the timescale for Clean Air bids to DEFRA which had closed recently. The ethos underpinning this aspiration was laudable, however achieving them in practice presented a significant challenge.
- 7.6 Councillor C Theobald sought clarification regarding proposed transport infrastructure measures.
- 7.7 Councillor Mears welcomed the report stating however that it was important that Members receive timely updates on progress confirming that she would be speaking to the S106 Officer separately regarding specific projects which she was interested in.
- 7.8 Councillor Morris stated that it was important going forward to ensure that there were suitable spaces to accommodate the large number of diverse events which took place across the city and which were continuing to grow, referring specifically to events associated with Festival fringe events.
- 7.9 Councillor Druitt referred to the overall sum awarded to the council seeking confirmation that works on which that money was to be sent had had been programmed in. The Head of Planning, Policy and Major Projects, Liz Hobden, confirmed that was the case
- 7.10 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee agrees the updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) as an annexe to the City Plan Part One, attached as Appendix A to the report, subject to any minor grammatical or editorial alterations that may be made by the Director of EEC in agreement with the Chair of Tourism Development and Culture Committee.

## **8 REVIEW OF THE WASTE & MINERALS LOCAL PLAN**

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of The Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Culture seeking approval of the Committee to commence a review of policies in the adopted East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan.
- 8.2 It was explained that this process was primarily intended to address a specific identified issue relating to the supply of minerals needed to support new development and economic growth in the Plan area. By so doing it was intended that this would ensure that the planning policy framework for waste and minerals remained up to date and was compliant with national policy as set out in National Planning Policy Framework. It was also necessary for a partial review of the Plan to take place in order to determine how the Plan could continue to provide for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates taking into account future demand and the contribution of different supply options.
- 8.3 Councillor O'Quinn referred to the relative speed with which the supplies of certain aggregates appeared to have run down agreeing that in the light of that a review would be timely.

- 8.4 Councillor Nemeth referred to the use of Marine aggregates and the need to maintain close liaison with Shoreham Port Authority in order to ensure that its supplies were maintained. Councillor Mac Cafferty confirmed in his capacity as the council's representative on that body that he was aware that robust mechanisms were in place both to ensure the integrity of the port and to ensure that sensitive areas of the seabed were not dredged. He was aware that activities carried out were licensed and that the appropriate safeguards were in place.
- 8.5 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the purpose and proposed timetable for the review of the Waste and Minerals Local Plan be noted; and
- (2) Agree that a review may be initiated, to commence with a consultation inviting representations about its scope and a “call for mineral sites.”

## 9 BUSINESS RATE REVALUATION AND THE VISITOR ECONOMY

- 9.1 The Committee considered as report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment and Culture which provided an update on the changes that had occurred as part of the recent revaluation of Business Rates and the planned work in support of the visitor economy.
- 9.2 The context for the review was detailed and it was noted that the government had reviewed the Rateable Values for every non domestic property in England and Wales earlier in the year. Rateable Values were usually evaluated every five years but this had been extended by a further two years with the result that this had not been reviewed for seven years, this had resulted in large increases for some businesses, whilst conversely some businesses had found that their rateable value had fallen. Details of the relief measures available and in place were also outlined as was the potential impact on the visitor economy. In addition the planned support for businesses through the planned discretionary Business Rate scheme was also as set out.
- 9.3 The Chair, Councillor Robins, referred to the fact that the following amendment had been put forward by the Green Group in advance of the meeting and had also been circulated to Members:

“ ***That the Committee notes the importance of the independent business sector to the cultural vibe of Brighton & Hove and the contribution made by the sector to the city's tourism offer;***

***2.3 That the Committee requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture to share the findings of this report with the wider business community partnerships, with particular engagement on the enclosed measures sought from the following bodies:***

- ***Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership***
- ***Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce***
- ***Federation of Small Businesses***
- ***Brighton and Hove Hoteliers Association***
- ***Brighton and Hove Restaurant Association***
- ***Hove Business Association***

- *North Laine Traders Association*
- *Business Improvement District*

*with any feedback from these bodies to be reported to members of this Committee; and*

***2.4 That the Committee welcomes the proposed plans for a new discretionary scheme and requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture issues information to business owners, detailing the nature of, and timescale for, any relief measures available through the Council.***

Proposed by: Cllr: Druitt      Seconded by: Cllr: Mac Cafferty:

“ 2.1 Members are asked to note the report and the work being planned in support of the visitor economy;

2.2 That the Committee notes the importance of the independent business sector to the cultural vibe of Brighton & Hove and the contribution made by the sector to the city’s tourism offer;

2.3 That the Committee requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture to share the findings of this report with the wider business community and partnerships, with particular engagement on the enclosed measures sought from the following bodies:

- Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership
- Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Brighton and Hove Hoteliers Association
- North Laine Traders Association
- Business Improvement District

With any feedback from these bodies to be reported to members of this Committee; and

2.4 That the Committee welcomes the proposed plans for a new discretionary scheme and requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture issues information to business owners, detailing the nature of, and timescale for, any relief measures available through the Council.”

- 9.4 Councillors O’Quinn and Cattell expressed their concern at the approach that had been adopted by central government and the difficulties it had caused for local businesses. Whilst fully supporting the measures which had been put in place they were concerned that the full potential impact of these changes in practice was not entirely clear.
- 9.5 Councillor Morris welcomed the initiatives being undertaken by officers to ensure both that any detriment was mitigated against in the short term and that those eligible for assistance were made aware of its availability.
- 9.6 Councillors Druitt and Mac Cafferty stated that whilst welcoming all that had been undertaken the rationale for their amendments to the recommendations was to seek to

ensure that businesses were aware of the timescales involved, understood the process and that there were overarching arrangements in place.

9.7 The Executive Director stated that listing the organisations to be contacted whilst helpful could result in omissions and that it would be helpful therefore if offices could be authorised to contact any others as appropriate. Members concurred in that view.

9.8 The proposed amendments were put to the Committee, were carried and then became the substantive recommendations and were voted on and carried.

9.9 **RESOLVED** – (1) That Members are asked to note the report and the work being planned in support of the visitor economy;

(2) That the Committee notes the importance of the independent business sector to the cultural vibe of Brighton and Hove and the contribution made by the sector to the city's tourism offer;

(3) That the Committee requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture to share the findings of this report with the wider business community partnerships, with particular engagement on the enclosed measures sought from the following bodies and any others considered to be appropriate:

Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership Brighton and Hove Economic Partnership  
Brighton and Hove Chamber of Commerce  
Federation of Small Businesses  
Brighton and Hove Hoteliers Association  
North Laine Traders Association  
Business Improvement District

With any feedback to be reported to members of this Committee; and

(4) that the Committee welcomes the proposed plans for a new discretionary scheme and requests the Executive Director for Economy, Environment and Culture issues information to business owners, detailing the nature of, and timescale for, any relief measures available through the Council

## 10 ROYAL PAVILION & MUSEUMS: ACCREDITATION, COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT AND TRUST UPDATE

10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture the purpose of which was to present three documents for Committee consideration and approval in the context of the Museums Accreditation Standard which was administered and approval by Arts Council England.

10.2 A key document which forms part of the Accreditation standard was the Collections Development Policy (this was approved in 2013). This was a document which was approved in 2013 and remained valid. There was now greater emphasis on collections use and sharing in the museums' sector, and the report was intended to brief the Committee on what 'transfer' means in the context of Collections Development and sought approval from Committee for the transfer of four items from the collections.

Following the agreement of the Policy Resources and Growth Committee to the establishment of a cultural trust into which the Royal Pavilion & Museums would transfer, this report provided an update on work to date.

- 10.3 Councillor Allen referred to the items lodged at Preston Manor and also within the Booth Collection. Whilst there were general comments about them he considered that it was important to acknowledge that some of the items within those collections were of national significance. The Head of the Royal Pavilion and Museums explained that the importance of all of the city's museums was recognised, currently each was being focused on and would form the subject of a further update report later in the year.
- 10.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty sought clarification regarding the status of the items to be transferred as he considered that it was important that the integrity of the existing collections should not be diminished as a result of these losses, referring specifically to the mummy noting that the Museum had its own Egyptology section and asking whether this item and any others which were transferred would be replaced.
- 10.5 The Head of the Royal Pavilion and Museums, Janita Bagshawe, explained that it was intended under the terms of the scheme the items would be transferred on permanent loan. None of the items was on display and it was intended that they would be transferred to locations where they could be better conserved and appreciated within more specialist collections. In the case of the mummy its provenance was uncertain although it was believed the body contained within was that of a temple priestess/attendant. It was in a poor state of repair, its wrappings and other ornamentation were not believed to be original. By transferring this item to the British Museum it was being sent to a location where there were the resources and expertise both to conserve it and to research its history further.
- 10.6 Councillor Nemeth enquired regarding whether it would be more appropriate in some instances to sell items and the importance of accreditation. It was explained accreditation was very important in that as well as being highly regarded within the sector accreditation carried with it opportunities to tap into a number of funding streams.
- 10.7 Reference was made the "folly" associated with Portslade Old Manor and the need to promote this hidden gem which it was believed had transferred into the council's ownership when it had become a Unitary Authority. Councillor Mears suggested that should be checked upon as she believed that there had been confusion about its ownership.
- 10.8 Councillor O'Quinn sought clarification regarding the level of charges made for entry to the buildings in the council's care, particularly in relation to school visits, as the number appeared to have reduced. It was explained that this tended to fluctuate, however activities such as the opportunities to role play at Preston Manor were very popular. School parties were charged a fee for the service provided but not for entry.
- 10.9 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee approve RPM's Interim Forward Plan (Appendix A) and Access Policy Statement (Appendix B), for submission to Arts Council England to support RPM's continuing Accredited status;

(2) That the Committee approve the transfer of three items from the collections to the Sussex Archaeology Society and one item to the British Museum; and

(3) That the Committee notes the work undertaken on the establishment of the Cultural Trust.

**11 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL**

11.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of