

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 25 JULY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Phillips (Chair), Robins (Deputy Chair), Simson, Allcock, Appich, Atkinson, Bagaeen, Barnett, Bell, Brennan, Brown, Childs, Clare, Davis, Deane, Druitt, Ebel, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gibson, Grimshaw, Hamilton, Heley, Henry, Hill, Hills, Hugh-Jones, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Lloyd, Mac Cafferty, Mears, McNair, Miller, Moonan, Nemeth, Nield, O'Quinn, Osborne, Peltzer Dunn, Pissaridou, Platts, Powell, Rainey, Shanks, C Theobald, Wares, West, Wilkinson, Williams and Yates

PART ONE

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

12.1 There were no declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda.

13 MINUTES

13.1 The Mayor informed Members that the minutes for the annual meeting showed the membership of the Planning to include Councillor Simson and in fact her appointment followed shortly after and therefore the minutes needed to be amended to reflect the situation on the day of the meeting.

13.2 The amendment to the Minutes of 22 May 2019 was agreed.

13.3 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of Full Council held on the 28 March 2019 and Annual Council held on 22 May 2019 (as amended) were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

14 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

14.1 The Mayor gave the following communication:

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Parking Services Group who picked up the award for Best Report at the 'Parking Annual Report Awards by Councils' event held at the Houses of Parliament last week. It is the third time the council has won the award. The annual awards which are organised by PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) recognises the local authorities who have published the best reports

on their parking services, as part of their civil enforcement reporting. Can I ask team members along with Councillor Pissaridou to come up to accept the award?

Secondly, I wanted to say and for new councillors in particular – the full council meeting requires people to respect the Chair and listen, not to chat. This requires your discipline. I hope to strike a balance between allowing debate and also getting through the agenda as quickly as possible.

In the new Mayoral year over a hundred engagements have taken place up to the 25 July, encompassing arts/creative, business, communities, equalities, young people, schools and graduation ceremonies.

The Mayor's charities are working well together preparing for the gala dinner at the Royal Pavilion on the 27 September. Support from councillors for all the charity events taking place in the Mayoral year will be much appreciated as all proceeds from the events will go to the charities.

Blatchington Mill School will hold a competition in the autumn and the winning student(s) will be selected to attend full council on the 25 October to read a poem.

Can I also draw Members' attention to the wonderful Moulsecomb Forest Garden Nature Trail, which is one of the city's best kept secrets. I would encourage all councillors to visit.

15 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 15.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 15.2 Ms J Holloway presented a petition signed by 159 people concerning the closure of Temple Street to non-residential traffic.
- 15.3 Councillor Gibson presented a petition on behalf of Mr C Cusins signed by 87 people concerning no masts on Barclay House.

16 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 16.1 The Mayor reported that six written questions had been received from members of the public.
- 16.2 The Mayor invited Mr Hawtree to come forward and address the council.
- 16.3 Mr Hawtree asked the following question; As we know that a Budget Amendment this year brought £121,000 back into the Libraries service, would Councillor Knight please tell us how this money is being allocated?
- 16.4 Councillor Knight, replied: The £121,000 put back in to the library's budget, to help safeguard the future of library services, is being used in various ways. £62,210 has been put in to the staffing budget and has allowed 60 extra hours a week for frontline staffing across the library service. The remaining £58,790 has yet to be allocated but proposals for its use include the following:
- Helping to finance a thorough and detailed consultation process to inform the libraries plan 2020/2024 because we want to make sure that the needs of our communities are reflected and embedded in that plan.
 - Investing in the development of our library service offer to communities based on the outcomes of the consultation process and the final libraries plan.
 - Developing our new Business and Intellectual Property Centre which I understand will provide the space, access to research and reference materials as well as the expertise of our own Economic Development team. This will enable us to support local people who want to set up their own business and need extra help. This centre will build on the work already being undertaken by the British Library.
 - Improving the library's digital offer. Our library portal already gives people access to e-books, audio books and online newspapers as well as a wealth of digital information, reference material, archives and academic journals. All of which are freely available to all citizens, in many cases, in their own homes and we hope to build on the success of this vital service.
 - The library service maintains its commitment to the purchasing of books and although there is already a separate budget for this, some of the additional funding could be used to supplement this if the need arose.
- 16.5 Mr Hawtree asked the following supplementary question, This £121,000, which we owe to former Councillor Sykes for bringing this back into the budget, over 4 years; £484,000. Can you ensure that this matter is brought to the Policy and Resources Committee to judge the best use of that money, as should also have been the case of the Carnegie Library works, which never came to P&R and is now overscheduled by 1 year.
- 16.6 Councillor Knight, Deputy Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee replied, Yes, I will take on board your comments and make sure what you said goes to the relevant committee.
- 16.7 The Mayor invited Mr Furness to come forward and address the council.

- 16.8 Mr. Furness asked the following question, Councillor Childs, you recently tweeted about the Department for Education's "fetish for privatisation." Could you please elaborate on this terminology by informing us of this Administration's position on the privatisation of our schools?
- 16.9 Councillor Childs, Chair of Children, Young People and Skills Committee replied, The view of the administration is that academisation entails a transfer of state school from democratic oversight of the local education authority to a private company. In most cases, such privatisation is undertaken without the consent of local voters or parents of children attending the school. The premise behind the academisation of schools is given to be school improvement through a change of status despite the privatisation has a negligible impact on school improvement and performance, the Department of Education and the current and previous administrations have persisted with their project for reasons of ideological obsession and dogma.

The academisation of schools is damaging to school improvement. Recent research shows that local authorities improve schools twice as fast. The diversion of public funds for children's education to be diverted to a CEO pay and we have the disgusting sight across the border in East Sussex where the local authority supports the academisation of schools. And the Academy Trust who pay two of their executives £200,000 a year for running 12 schools, driving in to Peacehaven community school in BMW's paid for by money meant for children.

They undermine the ability of the local authority to strategically plan and provide services to schools and the most vulnerable and they undermine local democracy by taking away oversight of parents and local people. Moulsecomb Primary School is a case in point where this school is already rapidly responding to improvements being made and the data this year will demonstrate that. We have the local authority which is one of the best for school's improvement in the country. Yet despite this, the regulations continue to push for the school to be taken in to the private sector.

In Brighton & Hove we will not stand by and allow our schools in the public sector to be removed and be handed to private companies. We will give our parents a voice and continue to work with all of our schools and family of schools to ensure that those state schools remain Brighton and Hove Schools.

- 16.10 Mr Furness asked the following supplementary; Seeing Councillor Childs as you seem to exhibit a fetish for private education yourself by other tweets regarding Roedean School and I gather you are now off to pastures new very shortly, I am informed by your erstwhile colleagues that you are avidly producing pamphlets, one while we are actively conducting this question which is very rude, that pamphlet on radical education; can you confirm that the name of that pamphlet will rejoice in the name of hymns for hypocrites?
- 16.11 Councillor Childs replied, I have no idea of the pamphlet to which you refer, and I challenge your assertion of hypocrisy. I've already issued a public statement regarding my daughter's attendance to Roedean School. Privatisation of an existing state asset which belongs to the public realm and handing it over to a private company is, in my view, a distinct and separate matter.

- 16.11 The Mayor invited Ms Paynter to come forward and address the council.
- 16.12 Ms Paynter asked the following question; Our newly elected Labour Administration has 10, almost all new, Councillors representing Hove & Portslade wards - not one of which sits on Planning. It is the first time no Hove or Portslade representative has been put on it that I recall. Can you confirm that not one of them sought a place on the 10-Member Planning Committee?
- 16.13 Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council replied; The Labour Party has 3 places on Planning Committee and I'm delighted to say that 3 Councillors were very keen to fill those roles. The nominees were agreed at the Labour Group Annual General Meeting and those discussions are confidential. This is a regulatory committee and we make decisions based on national and local planning policy. These decisions are made regardless of political party membership because members have to be politically neutral.

In terms of ensuring that the views of Hove residents are represented at Planning Committee, Ward Councillors can call any planning application to be determined at committee and are able to speak and make representation to the Planning Committee in support of their residents.

- 16.14 Ms Paynter asked the following supplementary question; Local knowledge is not properly accounted for or valued by Councillors and I think when all of you are considering what Planning Committee or any other Committee you are going to be on, you should really think about how well local knowledge is being represented on any one committee especially on planning and I'm wondering if any of the Labour Councillors representing Hove or Portslade Wards even live in Hove or Portslade. Do they?
- 16.15 Councillor Platts replied; I'm very pleased to say that one of the Councillors on the planning committee did previously live in Hove and Portslade and yes we have got members representing Hove and Portslade who actually live there.
- 16.16 The Mayor invited Ms. G Foote to come forward and address the council.
- 16.17 Ms. G Foote asked the following question; Will Brighton & Hove City Council follow the lead of Glastonbury & Frome Council & adopt the Precautionary Principle regarding 5G masts & associated infrastructure due to the detrimental effect EMF is having on not only human life, but bees, insects & plants as I'm sure they want to protect the public & environment from exposure to harm?
- 16.18 Councillor Moonan, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board replied; In the interests of time I do have another question that is similar from Ms Levene. I'm just going to give one answer that is going to cover both questions. Glastonbury Town Council has approved a motion that opposes the roll out of 5G in the Parish until further information is produced by a local 5G advisory Committee. It is not proposed that Brighton & Hove adopt this approach.

Glastonbury Town Council does not determine such planning applications, so their position is not comparable to ours as a decision maker when it comes to planning proposals. Given the legislative and policy background we have to adhere to we are

unable to adopt a similar approach to Glastonbury and our decisions would be open to challenge if we took such matters into account.

Nationally, Public Health England provides the expert advice on public health matters associated with radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, or radio waves, used in telecommunications. Public Health England advise that the current exposure of the general public to radio waves is well within the international health-related guideline levels that are used in the UK. These guidelines are from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and underpin health protection policies at UK and European levels.

When 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area the overall exposure to radio waves is expected to remain low relative to guidelines and as such there should be no consequences for public health. Public Health England state that they are committed to monitoring the evidence applicable to this and other radio technologies, and to revising its advice, should that be necessary. UK network operators implementing 5G are committed to complying with the current guidelines.

Whilst local planning authorities do have some limited ability to influence the roll out of mobile technology those powers are limited by central government regulations. But the planning system does require that any new installations accord with the ICNIRP guidelines.

16.19 Ms Foote asked the following supplementary; Can our Council assure us that 5G technology and its infrastructure is safe and are they aware that the EU Council recommendations made back in 2011? These are very different from the outdated guidelines being quoted from Public Health England (PHE), ICNIRP and the World Health Organisation which incidentally all have disclaimers in their terms and conditions. Can the Council check the validity of such organisations? If Councillors follow the Nolan principles and stop the precautionary principle, which you have stated is not possible, this then protects Council from being accountable for the potential disaster this technology will bring about both biologically and environmentally to our City.

16.20 Councillor Moonan, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board replied; Currently we are obliged to follow PHE advice, if you have any other evidence I would be very happy for you to send that to them and I will forward to our Public Health Department for consideration.

16.21 The Mayor invited Ms Levene to come forward and address the council.

16.22 Ms Levene asked the following question; Can Brighton & Hove Council assure its citizens that they will be safe & insured once the roll out/deployment of 5G takes place?

In the event of harm to wildlife, insects, bees, trees, children, adults & elderly. Will the council be accountable for any harm that results and be responsible for any health & housing needs that follow, should 5G bring harm to humans or damage to any other organic life or property in our City?

16.23 Councillor Moonan, Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board asked Ms Levene to refer to the response she gave to Ms Foote's question which covered the same issues.

- 16.24 Ms Levene asked the following supplementary; In 2011 the European Parliament Council linked an increase in illness and death to electromagnetic frequency. Since then and with 4G we have seen a mass increase in cancers, brain tumours, heart disease and stroke as well as certain infants and elderly death. Many of us have seen friends and family die well before their time, in the event that the untested and uninsured 5G is rolled out and enforced by way of smart meters, lampposts, masts and other street furniture, will Councillors accept liability whilst waiting for high levels of scientific and clinical proof before taking action to prevent the well-known risk which could lead to very high health and economic cost?
- 16.25 Councillor Moonan replied; This is an incredibly technical area, we follow Public Health England advice, I would be happy to look at any other evidence you've sent but you must appreciate this is extremely technical so cannot provide any further response at this stage.
- 16.26 The Mayor invited Mr Jenkins to come forward and address the council.
- 16.27 Mr Jenkins asked the following question; The Council, the Landlord, owe the duty of knowledge and the duty of care, for the Landlord's own property, Stanmer Heights. Stanmer Heights has been falling into chronic disrepairs, for more than twenty months with holes in the roofs, cables dangling from the walls, derelict satellite dishes, an aerial down on the roof, a derelict bin in a bin area, the gathering place's gas meters' cabinet doors falling off, and much more.

Please will the Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee, formally create, an All-Encompassing Care Plan for Stanmer Heights, please?

- 16.28 Councillor Allcock, Chair of Housing and New Homes Committee, replied; We take the maintenance of all our homes across the city very seriously and recognise the importance of looking up the inside and outside of homes and estates. In light of resident feedback around improving the look and feel of estates, we have recently set up a new Environmental Improvements budget of £500,000 per year to address concerns residents have about the outside of homes, blocks and estates. This is in addition to our investment repairs, planned and made to works in our estate development budget. I would encourage you to continue to work with us through this project and put forward your ideas at Stanmer Heights. We confirm in the details and meetings across the city to consider ideas residents have with officers and Councillors and will provide details of the meeting for Hollingdean and Stanmer shortly.

This would be a good way to engage with the wider community around improving the area, it is important to note that you don't have to wait until the meeting to submit your ideas, you can do that now and our team will begin working on anything that they can start with as soon as possible. At the same time, I appreciate that some of your concerns around repair areas that we can pick up now and I encourage you to report repairs to us either through phoning the repairs help desk or by emailing if that's easier. I've also asked officers to follow up on the repairs that you've highlighted in the question today as well as the guttering and overflow problems you emailed me with yesterday and have asked them to make sure they are addressed.

16.29 Mr Jenkins asked the following supplementary; Can I ask the chair of the Housing Committee, for an appointment for a walk about in Stanmer Heights within the next 7 days so that he may see all the repairs required.

16.30 Councillor Allcock replied; I will certainly try to do it within the month of August.

17 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

17.1 The Mayor reported that four deputations had been received from members of the public.

17.2 The Mayor said that the first deputation concerned the Mental Health Pledge, and invited Ms T Fogelman as the spokesperson to come forward and address the council.

Ms Fogelman thanked the Mayor and said that the deputation was a request for the Council to commit to collaborating with us to create a pledge to young people in Brighton and Hove, that will outline the experience they can expect when engaging with Mental Health Services in our city. We are asking for this issue to be referred to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, which would allow us to start a working relationship with the relevant health organisations that would allow us to create this pledge. The pledge would be a document of accountability of Mental Health Services in our city. It would aim to ensure a consistent and person-centred approach was offered to young people at every point of access, and set a minimum standard to be adhered to when engaging with young people around mental health. The pledge would be young person centred and designed by listening to the voices of young people of Brighton and Hove, and written in conjunction with the CCG, Primary Care Trust, local mental health charities and other relevant health authorities. The pledge would be created in partnership with service providers and lead by the young people of our city. This would involve focus group sessions with schools, youth groups, after school clubs and the universities. In working in conjunction with health organisations and the young people of our city we can ensure that the pledge is practical, informed by real lived experiences and can be implemented by relevant health services.

17.3 Councillor Moonan, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board said that the deputation addressed a very important issue. A pledge such as this would need to be agreed by all the parties and would be happy to receive the deputation at the next meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 10 September 2019. All members of the Deputation would be invited to the meeting.

17.4 The Mayor thanked Ms Fogelman for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation, and said that the persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the next Health & Wellbeing meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

17.5 The Mayor said the second deputation concerned the Urban Fringe and invited Ms B Hobbs as the spokesperson to come forward and address the council.

17.6 Ms Hobbs thanked the Mayor and said that the deputees object to the approval of the planning application for buildings which would devastate wildlife at Coldean, and we

wish to safeguard this essential wildlife habitat and local green space at Coldean, now and for future generations. We the undersigned petition Brighton and Hove City Council to remove the Coldean site from the list of allocated sites in the Urban Fringe allocations in the City Plan Part 2, and instead designate it a Local Nature Reserve and Local Green Space (as described in the National Planning Policy Framework) as soon as possible, so it remains protected wildlife habitat, now and for future generations. There are alternative large empty buildings around Brighton (e.g. at Brighton General Hospital) which the council could turn into affordable homes (800 in the case of Brighton General Hospital) therefore it's clear that to make affordable homes it is completely unnecessary to build on the green space and wildlife. The land was notified as a Local Wildlife Site in 2017 in recognition of its woodland and grassland habitats. The proposal would mean destroying woodland and felling trees to build a new entrance road which would split the strip of woodland that runs parallel to Coldean Lane in two, with devastating effects on the wildlife. It would also mean building on the field, obliterating lots of wildlife, their homes and foraging ground. The woodland and field include many plant species and are essential habitat for wildlife sandwiched between Varley Halls and very busy, fast roads, many of whom are legally and policy protected species, such as bats, hedgehogs, lizards, slow worms, badgers, foxes, rabbits, butterflies, lots of invertebrates who massively contribute to the environment, and many different birds, including owls, and others. Some of the birds breed and make nests in the trees and on the ground, and 3 (song thrush, tawny owl and dunnoek) are listed as having severe red and amber conservation status. The woodland is Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland and provides critical habitat for wildlife. Splitting the woodland in two would cut vital connectivity and put the wildlife at very high, frequent risk of road traffic accidents.

Localised areas of the field (about 1 hectare of it) have an affinity with Calcareous Grassland, and there is 'good potential to create new areas of native species rich calcareous grassland where chalk substrates can be exposed and seeded' (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, PJC, 2018). Lowland Calcareous Grassland is a Habitat of Principal Importance and classified as Priority Sussex Habitat. Within Sussex, this type of habitat is mostly found within the South Downs; it has reduced rapidly in recent years and is now only an estimated 3% of the South Downs. The Sussex Biodiversity Partnership aims to maintain and expand the range of Lowland Calcareous Grassland in Sussex. Moreover 'there is an area of lowland calcareous grassland immediately north of the site' and 'any development of this site would also likely result in adverse impacts on any areas of lowland calcareous grassland habitat adjacent to the site, e.g. through increased surface run-off and increased disturbance/trampling/littering from potential increases in recreational use of the area' (PJC, 2018). So, the proposed development would destroy not only Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland but also be likely to negatively impact the Lowland Calcareous Grassland (i.e. Habitat of Principal Importance and a Sussex Priority Habitat) on next door land.

Increased vehicle movement and parking on local roads would be expected, and traffic on Coldean Lane would get substantially more clogged up, polluting the air even more and putting human residents, especially school children, at risk. It is well documented that green space is vital for people's physical and mental health. The visual impact of the proposed buildings would be unpleasant as they would replace a green view of nature with high blocks of flats and concrete.

Today, wildlife in this very densely urbanised area of the U.K. are increasingly endangered by destruction of their habitats. Globally, land mammal mass is made up of 96% humans and the farmed animals (Attenborough, 2019), and insects and ecosystems who we rely on are massively threatened by climate change, so we must stand up for wildlife now or there will be none left. If we do not, soon it may be many human lives in the UK imperilled due to climate change and because we have not protected wildlife there will no longer be an ecosystem left that can support us. At present, the land provides precious sanctuary for wildlife - this is a space to cherish, protect and stand by.

- 17.7 Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee, said the requirement to look at the City's brown field sites and parts of its urban fringe was clearly established in the City Plan Part One. The City's housing needs were assessed at 30,000 new homes by 2030, which meant that brown field sites on their own could not fully meet the City's housing needs. The situation is that even with some development on urban fringe sites we would still only be able to meet 44% of the city's housing needs. The option of providing more expected housing on some city brown sites such as the Brighton General Hospital would mean that we could meet more of the housing needs. However, a significant overall shortfall this does not prevent the need for some developments to be in parts of the City's urban fringe. The Part One Plan identifies potential for around a thousand new homes in parts of the City's urban fringe, but this amounts to just 7.5% of all urban fringe land, and so 92% remains protected. Some sites had been identified as having potential for some development have been carefully assessed, taking into account impacts on landscape, open space, ecology and archaeology. These assessments indicate the robust measures that will be required on many sites to avoid harm, but these developments could also offer benefits alongside new housing. In terms of recent planning applications, the impact of residential development in Coldean on the biosphere would be carefully considered and taken into account.
- 17.8 The Mayor thanked Ms Hobbs for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation and said that the persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the next meeting of Tourism Development & Culture Committee.
- 17.9 The Mayor said the third deputation concerned Night Shelters and invited Mr J Deans as the spokesperson to come forward and address the council.
- 17.10 Mr Deans thanked the Mayor and said that on 26 January 2017 Councillor Tom Druitt put a motion to full council, all councillors voted 100% to give the community an empty council building to run as a night shelter this was in response to John Hadman's petition and huge support from public. a number of buildings were found empty in the two years but on every occasion some excuse was given to fob off the public. Another recently was suggested, and we were told it's not suitable. No building arrives suitable for a night shelter it is made suitable then inspected and any changes made to comply with health and safety. This has to happen, and councillors need to support this deputation fully this time and see this through. The total sum spent by council using the Brighton Centre which is Council Owned is in excess of £250,000 this could have been avoided had council engaged with public. I now ask for a vote of confidence and support in taking this forward.

Charities, organisations and individuals joined together creating Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition with clear plans to help solve the homeless crisis they have produced a Homeless Bill of Rights as you will hear today Charities like the one I represent Sussex Homeless Support and others have stepped up to deliver a lifesaving service at a time with many dying in the streets and even more in Emergency accommodation. Whatever it takes to turn the tide on this homeless crisis we are prepared to do but we need the support of our councillors, many believe they voted you into a position to lead us, some believe to represent us, but I and even many more want you to fight for us, we will support you regardless of political party and hopefully together work towards a solution. I therefore ask again to support the original motion and allow Homeless Charities access to empty buildings.

- 17.11 Councillor Brennan, Deputy Chair of Housing & New Homes Committee, said that she was concerned with plight of the homeless in both the city and the country which had been caused by the housing crisis, which was a result of a lack of government investment in housing and services. Underfunded and overburdened services in health and social care add to the desperate situation many people find themselves in. Rough sleeping has nearly tripled since 2010, but these figures mask the true scale of the problem as the government numbers are well known to be flawed and had under counted the true number of rough sleepers. Through my voluntary work on the street and my membership of local campaign groups I have suffering myself, including countless attacks on rough sleepers in this city. In 2017 following the Council motion that this scheme referred to, officers of the Council worked with all parties to look at empty buildings to be used as night shelters. Numerous buildings were assessed, which included privately owned properties. At that time the most suitable property available was the Brighton Centre. A shelter opened at this venue from December 2017 to March 2018 and was run by the Council. Further work was carried out to find further suitable properties and by the Summer of 2018 without alternative venues available, the Brighton Centre was used once again and was run by the Brighton Housing Trust. I am now pleased to announce that as part of a range of services for rough sleepers that this administration in partnership with the Green Group, we will provide an assessment centre which will be available to both the homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, and who have a connection with the City to be accommodated and supported. We are about to sign a lease on a property and so can open the centre this Winter to work closely with the range of statutory services and community groups etc. A night shelter is also planned to be opened in time for Winter and will include instant access which is something many people have been campaigning for. In addition the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol, will include a more flexible approach to ensure that rough sleepers are offered shelter in extreme weather and heavy rain conditions. There was concern that some rough sleepers did not feel comfortable accessing the provision in the city and said that they should be treated with dignity and respect and the aim was to meet their needs and listen to what they had to say.
- 17.12 The Mayor thanked Mr Deans for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation and said that the persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the next meeting of Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee.
- 17.13 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Brennan on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.

17.14 The Mayor said the fourth deputation concerned Youth Strike Action and invited Ms U Kreiger as the spokesperson to come forward and address the council. The Mayor noted that there was a Notice of Motion on 'Support for Youth Strike and Other Climate Change' (Item 30 (4)) and so that item would be brought forward to have one debate on the issue. Each item would be taken in turn.

17.15 Ms Kreiger said that she was here to ask the Council to support the demands of the youth strikers. She said that by the end of her speech over 326 million kilos of CO2 would have been emitted into the atmosphere, which would affect our planet now and in the future. Today was one of the hottest days recorded in the UK and with the recent extreme weather the country had declared a climate emergency. In an emergency you alerted everyone, contacted the emergency services and then took action so the situation or crisis did not worsen. If the government were the emergency service, you try as hard as you could to let them know of the situation as they were the ones who could fix it, and had the money, the resources and the power to makes laws. But what do you do if when you tell them and they either don't believe you or agree to declare a climate emergency and then say they'll do something about it in 2050? This did not make any sense as united science agrees that in 11 years' time an irreversible chain of events will be triggered, and the only way we can stop that is by acting now. We must become carbon neutral by 2030. If there was a chance for my generation and others to have a planet which was habitable then we have to act right now. It was important that the City implement their own Green New Deal and set their own carbon neutrality dates.

The Youth Strike would like to ask for the council to support the demands of the youth strikers and students. These demands were -

1. Save the future - The Government declare a climate emergency and implement A Green New Deal to achieve Climate Justice.
2. Teach the future - The national curriculum is reformed to address the ecological crisis as an educational priority
3. Tell the future - The Government communicate the severity of the ecological Crisis and the necessity to act now to the general public.
4. Empower the future - The Government recognise that young people have the Biggest stake in our future, by incorporating youth views into policy making and bringing the voting age down to 16.

17.16 Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council, welcomed the deputation. She said she recognised the climate crisis we were facing and said the Authority would have an action plan by 2020 with the aim for the City to be carbon neutral by 2030. A City Assembly would be formed to take this matter forward. She said she would write to the Secretary of State for Education to request the reform of the National Curriculum to address the climate crisis as an educational priority. With regard to lowering the voting age to 16, the Council would write to the Home Secretary to request that that happened as young people should have more say on their future.

17.17 The Mayor thanked Ms Kreiger for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation and said that the persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the next meeting of Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee.

18 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

18.1 The mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the Council meeting. She had been made aware that there were two such petitions for today's meeting.

(1) Adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights for Brighton & Hove

18.2 The Mayor invited Mr B Hughes to come forward to present the petition which asked the Council to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights for Brighton & Hove.

18.3 Mr Hughes said that there were 2580 signatures to the petition. He said the Homeless Bill of Rights was launched by the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless in November 2017 and had since been adopted by seven European cities. In October 2018 the Housing Coalition launched the Homeless Bill of Rights in the City, all three Brighton & Hove MPs and some local Councillors gave their support to it. The petition called on the Council to adopt the Bill of Rights which would make Brighton & Hove the first city in the UK to do so.

18.4 Councillor Allcock, Chair of the Housing and New Homes Committee, responded to the petition and thanked Mr Hughes for bringing it to the Council. He said that he would first like to remember the late Mr Steve Parry who was a local housing campaigner and Chair of Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition who regularly sought to hold the Council to account. The Homeless Bill or Rights was central to Steve's beliefs and was part of his legacy. Councillor Allcock said that the home was central to all our lives but for too many people the housing pressures they faced was getting worse not better. The country had a housing crisis and the dramatic rise in homelessness across the UK was symbolic of a national policy failure and was a sign that as a society we were allowing people to fall through the cracks. Brighton & Hove was in the top ten local authorities for the number of rough sleepers, but there were many who were sofa surfing or sleeping in tents etc. According to Shelter there were 320,000 homeless people in the country in 2018. The Council was responsible for picking up the pieces, but significant cuts and a lack of power to intervene in the housing market meant that the Council was frustrated in what it could do. He said he was keen for the Housing Committee and the Council to consider adopting the Homeless Bill of Rights as an important statement of principle and commitment to working for the rights, equality and dignity of our homeless residents.

18.5 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Allcock on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.

18.6 Councillor Heley said that scale of the crisis in the City continued to worsen and it should be a priority for all councillors to eradicate homelessness. Adopting a bill of rights seemed an obvious and practical way of showing a commitment to ending the crisis as well as being a mechanism to support those residents who were homeless. It would provide a further framework for the Council's work over the next few years, and as Councillors we must support the Homeless Bill of Rights.

18.7 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Heley on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.

18.8 Councillor Mears said the Conservative Group welcomed the sentiment behind this. The City did have a crisis with the number of rough sleepers and the problems needed to be

addressed, but she did not want to encourage more people her with expectations that the we may not be able to deliver. The City could not deal with the current demand for housing. There were over 17 organisations working in the city on homelessness and rough sleepers, and as a Council we needed to ensure that we understood all the implications in the Charter before signing it, including the legal and financial issues. The Council also needed to understand the impact on businesses with a large number of tents across the City. The Conservative Group agreed with the recommendation for the Charter to be considered by the Housing Committee, but the Council needed to understand the implications of supporting this Charter and the possible impact on the budget for other areas.

- 18.9 Councillor Allcock said he would ask officers to bring a report to the next meeting of the Housing & New Homes Committee to consider adopting the Homeless Bill of Rights.
- 18.10 The Mayor thanked the petitioner and confirmed that the petition would be referred to the next meeting of the Housing & New Homes Committee.

(2) Stop the Theft of Brighton General Hospital Site: Keep it Public!

- 18.11 The Mayor invited Mr T Galvin to come forward to present the petition which related to the development of the Brighton General Hospital site and noted that there was an amendment from the Green Group to the recommendations.
- 18.12 Mr Galvin said that the Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust planned to sell the Brighton General Hospital and develop a new Community Health Hub. Brighton General Hospital Action Group believe that this public land must remain a public asset for the people of Brighton and Hove. The Action Group believed that this site redevelopment offered the opportunity to address some of the much needed and urgent health, social care and housing needs in the City and were concerned that the current proposals were inadequate. Mr Galvin said that there were 1800 signatures to the petition.
- 18.13 Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council, said that as the Chair of the Policy Resources & Growth Committee she welcomed the interest in how local land should be used and agreed that the land should remain a public asset for the City. She noted that the NHS Community Foundation Trust had undertaken public consultation in 2018 on the site, and suggested that Mr Galvin write to her setting out how the consultation on the future of the site could be more meaningful and she would then write to Trust to support his campaign. Such a letter could also be an opportunity to request a meeting to discuss the purpose of the proposals as that was more of an issue for the Trust rather than the Council. The Trust and the Council were working together to find practical ways to address local housing needs. The Health Hub would need to be self-funding due to there being no NHS capital funding. My intention was to stay in touch with both yourself and the NHS Trust to ensure the voice of the community was heard.
- 18.14 Councillor Gibson proposed an amendment to add two further recommendations which would speed up and reinforce the action which had already been taken. The Council had discussed the housing crisis in the City, the affordability of housing and the number of those in temporary and emergency housing. The additional recommendations included a request that the Policy & Resources Committee commission a report to explore options to buy the General Hospital site including obtaining a preferred buyer

status. That report would consider how to embed the acquisition of the site under the departmental plans detailed in the forthcoming corporate strategy and how to maximise the amount of council housing at the lowest possible rents once health provision needs had been addressed.

18.15 Councillor Platts formally seconded the amendment.

18.16 Councillor Mears said that she understood the sentiment behind the petition. This was a large site and the NHS needed the site to improve medical facilities but there was also a demand for housing. Officers had been in discussions with the NHS on the future of the site for some time. The amendment asked for the Council to explore the possibility of purchasing the site, but Councillors needed to be conscious of the cost of doing that and said that the pot of available money was getting smaller and it was important to ensure that the right things were being delivered for the City. The Conservative Group would be supporting the amendment as there did need to be a fuller discussion around the possibilities for the site.

18.17 Councillor Platts the Council did want to purchase the site if it were available and to keep it as a public asset.

18.18 Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked for clarification on the number of signatures to the petition. Mr Galvin confirmed it was 1800. Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked that that be noted as the agenda stated it was 2,475. The Mayor agreed.

18.19 The Mayor asked if Council agreed the amendment and it was confirmed it was agreed.

18.20 The Mayor thanked the petitioner and confirmed that the petition (as amended) would be referred to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

19 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

19(a) Callover

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

Item 19 – Review of the Constitution

Item 24 – Review of Members Allowances

Item 27 – Purchase Options for Short Term Temporary Accommodation

Item 28 – Madeira Terrace Restoration – Petition Response and Next Steps

Item 29 – Report of East Sussex Fire Authority

19(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

19.2 The Democratic Services Manager confirmed that Items 19, 24, 27, 28 and 29 had been reserved for discussion; and

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

Item 23 – Appointment of Chair, Deputy Chair and Opposition Spokesperson and Proposed Allocation of Seats for The Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee

Item 25 – Greater Brighton Economic Board – Admission of New Member to the Board

Item 26 – Appointment of Lead Member Roles

19(c) Oral Questions from Members

19.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

20 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

20.1 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 prior to the meeting as detailed below:

(1) Councillor: Ebel

20.2 The council is currently replacing the old seafront bins with new ones. After the transition period, what is the council intending to do with the old seafront bins? Can the old bins be re-purposed and placed across the city in places where there is a need for additional bins? Is there any consultation planned for the future use of the old seafront bins that the public and the councillors can engage in?

Given that there are many overflowing bins across the city and that many residents have to walk long distances to reach their nearest bin, it would be a positive step to re-allocate the old seafront bins quickly to ease one of the city's most pressing issues.

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

The bins that are to be removed from the seafront will be reused elsewhere. Only bins that are unusable i.e. beyond repair will be thrown away. For additional bins, we would need to consider the locations of where they are to be placed to ensure they can be incorporated into existing routes for emptying.

We are not intending to carry out a consultation on the future use of seafront bins. If residents and councillors have suggestions, we welcome their ideas. Litter bins are provided at regular intervals depending on the footfall in an area. If residents and councillors have suggestions, we welcome their ideas.

For the concrete bins on the seafront, these will be repurposed as flower pots as we cannot move them.

(2) Councillor Ebel

- 20.3 In the last few months we have been contacted by several residents who are concerned about the welfare of the animals used for racing at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium.

How many incidents where animals were injured or have died as a result of the sport have occurred at the Brighton and Hove Greyhound Stadium in the last year?

Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee.

The local authority does not have responsibility for the care or welfare of greyhounds at Corals stadium. Racing tracks are monitored by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. They write the guidelines for the industry nationally and ensure welfare standards.

As the regulator for greyhound racing in Great Britain, they are responsible for the welfare of all registered racing greyhounds – from registration to retirement.

Each year they publish national injury and retirement data for licensed stadia, of which Brighton and Hove is one. They advise that injury rates continue to be the lowest independently verified figures in the world and, they state on their website ‘through our Greyhound Commitment, which was launched in 2018, we are determined to reduce these still further.’

They also state that independent Veterinary Surgeons are present at all GBGB licensed tracks to check the health and wellbeing of every greyhound both before and after racing, and to provide emergency care in the event that any dog needs it.

Data from their website states that in 2018 426,139 runs and of these 4,963 were injured and 242 were fatalities. However the data available is not broken down to specific tracks.

(3) Councillor Hills

- 20.4 My residents want to know answers to the following:

- (a) When improvements to recycling in the city will be made.
- (b) When will the range of items collected be widened to include recyclable plastics other than bottles?
- (c) When might their recycling be collected weekly?
- (d) When will the waiting list for food waste collections be reduced?

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

(a) When improvements to recycling in the city will be made.

The council has established an Increasing Recycling Project. This includes increasing awareness of reducing, reusing and recycling for residents across Brighton & Hove.

An A-Z has been published on the council website to advise residents on how to reduce, reuse, recycle or dispose of almost 180 different materials. This is a live resource which will be amended as more opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle become available. Videos to support how to reduce, reuse and recycle are being developed and posted on social media.

New on-the-go street waste and recycling bins are being rolled-out along the sea front from Hove Lagoon to Saltdean. This new bin will enable beach and seafront users to recycle plastic, cans and glass. The bins will have distinct colours that will become our recycling colour coding system across the city in the future. This should help to increase recycling rates and reduce levels of contamination by avoiding confusion. If these bins are well received and successful in helping us to recycle more we could look to extend their roll out across the city and in parks as funds allow. The rollout of recycling wheelie bins has started following the wheelie bin audit and it is hoped this will increase the capacity for residents to recycle more.

(b) When will the range of items collected be widened to include recyclable plastics other than bottles?

In Brighton & Hove we recycle all plastic bottles and it is not currently known when or whether other plastics will be collected. Other plastics, commonly known as PTTs, such as Pots and Tubs and Trays are made from a much cheaper grade plastic than bottles including PET (polyethylene terephthalate), PP (polypropylene), PS (polystyrene) and PVC (polyvinyl chloride). There is currently a market for PP and this makes up about 22% of PTTs. However, there are no clear end-markets for the remaining 78% of these types of plastics.

Developing the capacity to sort these different materials into marketable and non-marketable would require considerable investment at the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Hollingdean.

Further to this, there is a risk that once collected and sorted, exported plastics are being diverted to landfill elsewhere in the world. Although we may not collect PTTs to recycle and our recycling rate is fairly low at 30%, we know for sure where all the plastics we collect go, and we know they do not end up in landfill here or in a poor country.

(c) When might their recycling be collected weekly?

We are currently starting a review of the service and assessing the structure of collection rounds. The frequency of collections will be developed as part of this piece of work and recommendations will be made to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee, for approval.

It is acknowledged, there are positive reasons to move to weekly recycling, such as improving the city's recycling rates and initial research indicates councils across the country have moved to this model. However, the review will determine the options to be proposed, with a report being presented to committee early next year.

(d) When will the waiting list for food waste collections be reduced?

We do not offer a food waste collection service but fruit, vegetable peelings and coffee grounds can be included in garden waste bins.

We are currently working to increase capacity of garden waste collections, however do not have a defined timescale for when this is likely, due to current service pressures.

The council encourages residents to compost at home and provides subsidised compost bins and food waste composters. Since 2007, over 20,000 compost bins have been sold through the council's scheme, further information of which is on the [council's website](#). The council also funds 37 community composting schemes in the city in partnership with Brighton & Hove Food Partnership.

(4) Councillor Davis

- 20.5 Since its introduction to our city the 20mph limit has helped to reduce fatalities and accidents but it could have a much bigger effect. Car ownership increases every month and with that drivers are using our rat run side streets like race tracks. I receive regular complaints from residents in my ward about the dangers and problems caused by speeding motorists.

What work is the Administration pursuing with Sussex Police to ensure 20mph is enforced?

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

Brighton & Hove City Council worked closely with Sussex Police during the implementation of the city wide 20mph limit and only implemented the limits where it was supported by them however, it was on the understanding that there would be no expectation of further enforcement of those limits over and above what was already being done. This is still the case so there is a reliance on the Council continuing to influence further enforcement through its role as a member of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership and on the general public to help report incidents of anti-social driving generally through a Police website www.operationcrackdown.org

If it is found that via this medium there are repeat offenders then they will be targeted by Sussex Police and ultimately could have their vehicle destroyed.

(5) Councillor Hugh-Jones

- 20.6 I understand the Council recently awarded its Public Toilet Cleansing and Maintenance Contract to a new contractor, Healthmatic Limited. A ward resident has raised a number of issues specifically about the toilets in Blakers Park, i.e. that they:
1. Are frequently closed during the winter months (resulting in children defecating in the nearby bushes)
 2. Staff who do visit are not reporting problems (including damage to the fabric of the building)

3. Contain offensive graffiti (including a swastika) and tags
4. Are filthy.

Given these concerns could you tell me

- (a) What system is in place to manage and monitor the performance of the new contractor and
- (b) Whether the level of service has been deliberately cut out of financial considerations?

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

The new public toilet contract commenced in 2017. Blakers Park toilets are not open during the winter months; they are open from Good Friday to 30 September as per the contract. Cleaning staff visit twice a day and it is inspected twice a month. We are not aware of any particular issues. The Contract Manager recently made a spot visit and the site was in a clean condition.

We have reported the graffiti to the graffiti removal team and will have it removed as soon as possible. I am sorry that you found these toilets in a poor state. We will be raising this with the contractor and will be carrying out further inspections.

The service level is managed via monthly contract meetings and ad hoc inspections. The level of service has not been cut recently.

(6) Councillor Clare

- 20.7 Would the Administration like to congratulate Love George Street and the Red Box Project Brighton on their successful roll out of 'red boxes' to all schools in Brighton and Hove?

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

I would like to thank Councillor Clare for giving me the opportunity to express the Administration's thanks and appreciation for the work that has been carried out by Red Box and its sponsors, one of whom is 'Love George Street'.

By way of background, The Red Box Project is a community-based, not-for-profit initiative, which aims to support young people throughout their periods by providing red boxes filled with free period products to local schools. 'One child in ten cannot afford sanitary products and situation that has worsened as a result of central government policy to impose austerity on our poorest communities. Lack of access to sanitary products can lead to a loss of education, loss of confidence, loss of dignity and the loss of self-respect'. Research shows that girls miss school because they do not have access to sanitary products. Love George Street is among those organisations who have supported the campaign by hosting red 'donation Boxes' at locations in the area.

This initiative was discussed at the Full Council meeting in July 2018, when the administration lent its support to the initiation of the Red Box scheme in Brighton & Hove. Since then we have been delighted to see the growth of this scheme and we are very pleased that we now have donation boxes across the city and a Red Box in every school in Brighton & Hove. Work has also been going on at a national level and the government has pledged to supply sanitary products to all Primary and Secondary schools across the UK in early 2020.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this important scheme that makes such a difference to young people in our city.

(7) Councillor Clare

- 20.8 The road layout around the floral clock roundabout leading into St Johns Road is at an angle which is dangerous to both pedestrians and road users alike due to the angle of entry. In addition, the business owners by the entrance would like some additional space for outdoor seating and for the location of the recycling point to be moved.

What could be done to make this area safer and more friendly to all who need to access it?

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

A site visit was carried out earlier this year with colleagues from Cityclean joining a member of our Road Safety Team to discuss the issue of the communal bins at this location. At this time a Restaurateur also joined in who owned one of the restaurants adjacent to the communal bins.

At this meeting the issue of the number of bins was brought up and also the siting of them was discussed. Our colleagues from Cityclean explained that there was a need for all the bins as they not only take waste but also recycling. It was felt that putting the bins on the centre island was not appropriate as anyone using them would have to cross a busy carriageway and not everyone has the necessary road sense to do so safely whereas it has to be assumed that anyone taking a hire bike would have. The location itself was purpose built quite a long time ago and over this period, from a road safety and cleansing view, has worked very well.

It is further understood that the proprietor of the restaurant would also like the parking reviewed and he has been advised to contact colleagues in Parking Infrastructure to look into this.

The issue of the physical layout of the entrance has also been looked at but, as you are probably aware, we have very limited budgets now available to us, so we have to prioritise where we spend our funds. At the moment we have a high-risk site ranking system where we prioritise spending based on the number and severity of collisions around junctions. I am pleased to say that this junction does not feature on this list as there have been no injury causing collisions in the past three years, however, because it has such a good record I am afraid that we cannot allocate any of our scarce resources at this time.

I realise this is not the answers that your constituents would want but trust that it does explain why there is little that we can do.

(8) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Community safety

20.9 Will the Administration lead for community safety write to the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner asking:

- when the precept increase from council tax bills this year will be used to recruit police and PCSOs, as promised, and
- will we have PCSOs attending community Local Action Team meetings as routine once again?

Reply from Councillor Knight, Chair of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities & Equalities Committee

Thank you for your question. As you probably know, on 08 February 2019 the Police and Crime Panel agreed the proposals of the PCC to increase the council tax precept for 2019/20 by £24 (14.47%) on a band D property. This increase is within the referendum limits set by Government.

The PCC report states that this will provide more funding to support more officers and a better policing service and the additional resource will enable:

- 100 more Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) - to prevent and respond to crime, including more named PCSOs to ensure a consistent point of contact for local communities. This additional resource to enable:
- 50% more PCSOs out in communities, increasing visible policing support, including in rural areas.
- Greater capacity to work with partners and leverage their support to address local issues.
- Better engagement through social media with dedicated 'digital' PCSOs keeping vulnerable people safe online.
- More capacity to support vulnerable people and minority communities– addressing hidden crime.
- Improvement in local police/public relations and an increased capability to gather community intelligence.
- Improved ability to solve problems – deterring crime and tackling anti-social behaviour.
- 50 More Police Officers and 50 more specialist staff to be deployed as follows:
- To prevent more deaths and serious injuries on our roads, through recruiting additional roads policing officers and collision investigators.

- To improve the first point of contact with the public. Investing in more Contact Centre and social media engagement staff to improve its service for both 101 and 999 calls, as well as online engagement; and
- specialist police investigators for public protection, serious violence, high harm and digital crime.

As over 5 months has now elapsed, it would be very good to know what progress has been made with recruiting these additional (and vital) staff. I am happy to write to the PCC to ask how many officers have already been recruited and/or deployed and the anticipated timetable for completing the process.

I will also ask – as I would also like to know - if this additional resourcing will mean that there will be a commitment to routinely having a police presence at community Local Action Team meetings, once again.

(9) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Preston Twin elms

20.10 Given the significant loss to the city's elm collection with the necessary destruction of one of the 'Preston Twin' elms, when will the Administration be reinstating online reporting forms for the public to report elms suffering Dutch Elm disease? When a resident in my ward reported a suspected elm with the disease just weeks ago on Brunswick Road, the facility to report wasn't possible at the time. This still isn't available. Brunswick Road has now lost four elms in quick succession. What evidence is there that the Dutch Elm disease has struck harder this year than last and for the past five years?

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

We have over 300 online forms across the council. IT&D and the digital communications team are currently auditing all of these forms. We are aiming to rationalise and combine similar forms so they are easier for us to manage, and re-design all forms so they are user friendly and more accessible to people with disabilities.

In the meantime, we've included an email address to allow residents to report elm trees suffering Dutch Elm disease on the webpage.

We have already recorded more infection sites this year than the average for the previous 4 years and we anticipate that by the end of the season infection sites will be significantly higher than any of these years.

2015 – 95 sites
 2016 – 89 sites
 2017 – 84 sites
 2018 – 120 sites
 2019 – 108 sites (so far)

(10) Councillor Mac Cafferty - Construction projects

- 20.11 Further to the shock news that the construction firm performing the works at the restored Corn Exchange has folded, how is the council ensuring that any replacement firm isn't given carte blanche to finish the works at significantly increased cost to the council and public purse. What internal auditing is the council conducting in its other construction projects to ensure we minimise similar problems.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee

The council has reacted quickly to this situation in order to put steps in place to ensure that the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange is delivered successfully. The site has been secured and the Design Team are currently undertaking a review of works that have been completed to date and are thoroughly documenting the project. This will inform any specification of works that will be required to complete the project and will be carefully costed by the Quantity Surveyor in order to ensure any future costs are controlled. Specialist support with experience of dealing with this type of situation has also been appointed to advise the council.

The council is keen to avoid this type of situation. It is routine procedure to undertake financial checks on the financial standing of potential contractors as part of the procurement process. In addition, where a company is contracted to deliver large and/or high-risk projects, the financial status of that company is regularly monitored. Checks are carried out by appropriately trained officers and by use of external credit check agencies.

(11) Councillor Theobald

- 20.12 When is the dreadful state of the carpark opposite Hove Town hall going to be tidied up?

The piece of land in front of the car park is overgrown and full of weeds. Also grass and weeds are growing along the walls and paths.

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

Officers in Parking Services have arranged for a contractor to remove the weeds and will be ensuring these areas are included as part of our specification for the cleaning contract that we shall be going out to tender for later in the year.

(12) Councillor Theobald

- 20.13 When will the children's playgrounds in the City that are in need of refurbishing and upgrading going to be improved? Equipment in Hove Park and Patcham has been out of order for some time. Is there not a rolling programme for children's playgrounds? Section 106 money is infrequent, and action needs to be taken now.

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

There is not a rolling programme for children's' playgrounds and has not been for a long time due to the budget available for this work.

The council has been dependant on external funding or funding transferred from underspends elsewhere to replace playground equipment. The equipment replaced with funding from the government's Playbuilder scheme is now coming to the end of its life.

Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee has recently approved additional one-off funding for playgrounds which, coupled with external funding, will go a long way to alleviate the immediate problems but as we will continue to be dependent on budget top ups from other sources the issue is likely to reoccur.

(13) Councillor Druitt - Pesticides:

- 20.14 The council's recent commitment to phase out the use of pesticides within three years is to be welcomed wholeheartedly. However, in the council's press release of 27 June Cllr Pissaridou is quoted saying "we should achieve in excess of 95 per cent reduction in the use of glyphosate by the council this year as compared to last year".

If this is the case, why can't we go all the way and reduce it by 100%? What is the 5% that will still be treated with glyphosate and why can't it be managed any other way?

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

It is a big step for the council to stop using Glyphosate although there are plenty of examples of small-scale pesticide free areas it is not an approach that is common for Highway Authorities. We will be using a variety of techniques to keep weeds down, but we may still have problem weeds in some areas. There are no specific plans to use Glyphosate on any areas however we are keen to ensure that we do not misinform the public so with an element of doubt the option to use a small amount of Glyphosate has been kept open. We are happy to provide details on when and where any Glyphosate is used should this prove necessary.

(14) Councillor Druitt - 5G

- 20.15 Due to the public interest in 5G and a number of concerns raised by residents that that there may be health risks associated with the technology can the council satisfy councillors that the science of 5G is well understood and the technology does not pose any health risks to residents?

Reply from Councillor Moonan – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

In our role as the body who promotes Economic Development in the city, the Council is always striving for ways to improve digital connectivity. This is particularly important given the fact our economy has such a strong specialism in the Creative, Digital and IT sectors. This means looking to promote the most up to date and effective mobile and wireless technologies as well as for trying to achieve as much fibre connectivity into homes and work premises as we can achieve.

Public Health England takes the lead and provides the expert advice on public health matters associated with radiofrequency electromagnetic fields, or radio waves, used in telecommunications.

Therefore, in response to this question, the Council's Public Health team has liaised with Public Health England to obtain the latest information and guidance and to seek their advice on whether there are any health risks for the public.

Public Health England advise that there are now many 2G, 3G and 4G base stations installed throughout the environment providing services to users of mobile phones and other devices. Measurements show that exposures of the general public to radio waves are well within the international health-related guideline levels that are used in the UK. These guidelines are from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) and underpin health protection policies at UK and European levels.

In relation to the implementation of 5G user devices and networks, this technology is at an early stage. The highest frequencies being discussed for future use by 5G are around ten times higher than those used by current network technologies, up to a few tens of GHz. Current technical standards that draw on the ICNIRP guidelines will apply to the products that are developed and the UK network operators are already committed to complying with the ICNIRP guidelines.

Exposure to radio waves is not new and health-related research has been conducted on this topic over several decades. In particular, a large amount of new scientific evidence has emerged over the past few years through dedicated national and international research programmes that have addressed concerns about rapidly proliferating wireless technologies.

The main focus of recent research studies has been on exposure to the types of radio signals used by current communications technologies and at the frequencies they use, up to a few GHz. Fewer studies have been carried out at higher frequencies but the biophysical mechanisms that govern the interaction between radio waves and body tissues are well understood at higher frequencies and are the basis of the present ICNIRP restrictions. The main change in using higher frequencies is that there is less penetration of radio waves into body tissues and absorption of the radio energy, and any consequent heating, becomes more confined to the body surface.

Public Health England advise that it is possible that there may be a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves when 5G is added to an existing network or in a new area; however, the overall exposure is expected to remain low relative to guidelines and as such there should be no consequences for public health.

Public Health England state that they are committed to monitoring the evidence applicable to this and other radio technologies, and to revising its advice, should that be necessary.

Within Brighton and Hove mobile operators are starting the process of rolling out new 5G infrastructure. Whilst local planning authorities do have some limited ability to influence the roll out of mobile technology those powers are limited by central

government regulations. But the planning system does require that any new installations accord with the ICNIRP guidelines.

A fuller technical briefing note is available and will be sent round to all Councillors.

(15) Councillor DrUITT - Trees

- 20.16 As we all know, urban trees have a huge number of benefits; they are crucial habitats for wildlife, they improve air quality and mental health and are critical assets in the fight against climate change. I'm delighted that the council is bidding for funding from the government's Urban Tree Challenge Fund to plant more trees in Brighton & Hove and wonder if the council can give more information on where these will go, how allocations will be made and whether this initiative can be accompanied by a comprehensive Tree strategy for the city?

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

The Administration does agree on the importance of urban trees and is committed to reversing the decline in our street trees.

The Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee recently agreed one-off additional funding of £200,000 into street tree planting. It is hoped that this, along with money being spent on trees as part of the Valley garden scheme, can be used to draw in external funding to plant even more urban trees.

We have also successfully negotiated significant sums for street tree planting from developers in the City.

(16) Councillor Osborne

- 20.17 Is there a charge levied to your phone network for calling the parking enforcement team? If so, how much is this charge?

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

There isn't a charge levied on the parking enforcement telephone number. All numbers that start with 03 are charged at the same rate as standard landline numbers. If your phone tariff offers inclusive calls to landlines, calls to 0300 numbers will also be included.

(17) Councillor Osborne

- 20.18 When parking permits are started in an area is there a plan to protect those on low incomes/benefits that still require the use of their car? Has there been a consideration for a more gradual implementation to ease the transition or additional schemes to

encourage the uptake of more sustainable forms of transport when the permits are brought in?

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

There are currently no plans to offer concessions to those on low incomes / benefits, however, parking permits can be bought in three month quarterly instalments rather than a yearly fee. The resident parking permits offer good value for those owning a vehicle to prioritise parking in areas where resident have voted in favour of a resident parking scheme. The parking surplus from parking schemes is used towards transport improvements such as improving other forms of sustainable transport which can be viewed in our award winning annual parking report.

(18) Councillor Shanks

20.19 What is the council doing to progress development on derelict sites in the city? In my ward alone, we have Buckingham Road and Portland road both are brownfield sites ideal for housing. Will the council look at using CPOs to acquire these sites and others like it throughout the city and develop them for social housing?

Reply from Councillor Allcock – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

Improving housing supply, in particular the supply of low cost rented homes is a priority for the council. We continue to look at the range of initiatives available to deliver additional affordable housing in the city.

We make use of brownfield sites within our ownership to progress our New Homes for Neighbourhoods programme, which has delivered 184 homes to date. This includes the delivery this month of 12 new homes at Kensington Street on the site of a former car park in the heart of the North Laines.

A number of additional schemes are in progress including at Oxford Street, Buckley Close, Selsfield Drive and Victoria Road making use of valuable brownfield sites in the city.

The city council has a statutory requirement to prepare, produce and maintain a Brownfield Land Register which is updated annually. This register provides details of sites, its current planning status and whether the site is in public ownership or not.

A number of sites already have planning consent including the two sites mentioned 34 homes are due to be delivered at 76-79 & 80 Buckingham Road (Planning decision August 2018) with a further 12 homes at 123-129 Portland Road (Planning decision April 2017). Development of brownfields sites can be difficult with problems to overcome with many sites ranging from contamination to complex mixed ownership.

The council has a track record of using Compulsory Purchase Orders to bring empty property dwellings back into use, and there could be options to acquire sites subject to the council meeting the test for when an order should be used.

(19) Councillor Deane

20.20 Will this Council sign-up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, which was launched on the 12th July?

Reply from Councillor Platts – Leader of the Council

I am pleased to support this initiative which would complement the council's commitment to maximising social value and sharing wealth in the city.

As stated in the declaration, paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be. Not when considered against the huge array of public services it helps fund – from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.

There is evidence that a significant proportion of public sector tenders are won by companies who seek to manage tax liabilities, for example by offshoring.

Action is needed, however, current law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.

By signing up to the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, the council would:

- lead by example on its own tax conduct.
- demand greater transparency from suppliers.
- call for more meaningful powers to tackle tax avoidance amongst suppliers when buying goods and services.
- Support calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

The Procurement Advisory Board will be asked to consider the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, and then a recommendation will be taken to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee.

21 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.1 The Mayor noted that 9 oral questions had been received. The Mayor stated that 30 minutes were set aside for the duration of the item.

21.2 Cllr Mac Cafferty asked the following question, This week we mark the 50th anniversary of humanity landing on the moon. I've been in contact with Cityclean of Brighton about the necessary replacement of old and broken communal bins in the Brunswick area now for over 50 weeks. Will the Chair of Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee assure me that it's not going to take 50 years?

21.3 Councillor Pissaridou, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee gave the following response, No. it will not take that long again.

- 21.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked the following supplementary question; The last time I raised the issue was at the last Council in March and, the then, Councillor Mitchell informed me that there was an issue about capacity of the bins. The lack of action because it had to be done, “in a planned way.” We have had a parallel decision about smaller glass bins being rolled out which wasn’t part of any plan. I’ve now written to Cityclean about the relocation of 4 communal bins in my ward, 2 on Western Street and 2 in Wilbury Road. I have now sent over 30 emails in the course of the past 24 months, wrote a question to Full Council over a year ago and another Full Council on March the 28th, I’m to understand there will be a longer-term review. Will Councillor Pissaridou please instruct officers to move these communal bins?
- 21.5 Councillor Pissaridou gave the following response, Through the modernisation program, we are completing a communal bin audit which will capture all data relating to refuse recycling and glass bins across the city including street name, ward, nearest landmark, geolocation, capacity, condition etc so we will be covering yours. Photos will also be taken to capture locations; the data will be used to determine whether there is enough containment in a particular vicinity to manage future change requests as well as to be used on the website for residents to find their nearest communal bin.

We are also drafting a number of standard operating procedures to ensure our approach to managing the following, are clear and consistent:

- Sighting communal bins
- Managing a request to move a bin
- Managing a request for another bin
- How to roll out communal bins.

Requests and complaints continue to be sent to Cityclean and some of these are taking longer than usual to address for which we apologise. This is because through the modernisation program, Cityclean is seeking to ensure appropriate and consistent practices are followed for all the communal bins across this city, this means the service cannot automatically make the requested changes, rather the service is reviewing the current arrangements for each enquiry before adding more containment on streets or moving bins to different locations.

- 21.6 Councillor Theobald asked the following question, The roundabout forms the entrance to our City for motorists entering our city on the A23 and its deplorable state gives a very poor impression of the City for visitors. Residents continually complain to me and other Councillors about the appearance, former Councillor Gill Mitchell in her last response on the subject last year, assured me that improvements would be very soon in the new year. That was the same response that I’ve had for the last 4 years. When will work on this start?
- 21.7 Councillor Pissaridou, Chair of Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee gave the following response, As agreed at the June ET&S Committee on the 20th June, City Transport and City Parks will be working with Highways England and a landscape sponsor to improve the A27 / A23 gateway roundabout by the end of the year. City Parks anticipates the roundabout will be cleared and levelled by late September. Following this a 2-meter perimeter of tarmac embedded with gravel is to be added to the inner edge of the roundabout. The tarmac ring will reduce the maintenance of the

roundabout by removing planting areas that would struggle in these polluted locations. The tarmac ring will also mean that future landscape contractors will work further from the road, thus improving their safety and wellbeing. This component of the scheme should be complete in November.

A planting design for the roundabout will be developed in November, this will be implemented by the landscape sponsor in November/December. More ambitious proposals for the roundabout which might include, lighting or sculpture may become considered in the New Year. The concept behind these changes seeks to make the island safe by limiting driver's views so that they only focus on the oncoming traffic.

- 21.8 Councillor Theobald asked the following supplementary question, Can you assure you me this really will happen this time?
- 21.9 Councillor Pissaridou gave the following response, You have my assurance. The welcome bed has died due to the pollution. The welcome bed will be maintained with the existing flowers finishing in October, after this period City parks is due to remove the structures, including the box hedge around it, but they will plant some other flowers again.
- 21.10 Cllr Heley asked the following question; Since the passing of the climate emergency motion in December which commits the Council to ensure that Brighton and Hove are carbon neutral by 2030, could the Chair of Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee please explain to Full Council what has happened since.
- 21.11 Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council, gave the following response, The City Council declared its recognition of the ongoing climate and biodiversity emergencies at Full Council in December. The Chief Executive wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating the Council's concern and requesting Government funding for Climate action to be made available. A circular economy route map has been developed to adapt innovative ways of keeping products materials and resources at their highest value and minimising waste, helping to significantly reduce carbon emissions. The initial focus is on the built environment and construction and visitor economy.

The Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel is developing energy and water plans to help meet the growth requirements of the City region in a sustainable way including moving towards zero carbon energy system. The Council recently established a sustainability and carbon reduction investment fund of £500,000 for capital projects to reduce carbon emission, adapt to climate change and build resilience, protect and enhance biodiversity and develop a circular economy. Initial project ideas for potential development include an energy efficiency revolving fund to deliver ongoing energy reduction projects across the corporate estate, an electric bike share pilot and expanding the network of electric vehicle public fast charging points.

On the 11th July Policy, Resources & Growth Committee approved £565,000 in capital borrowing in 2019/2020 to install solar voltaic panels on to corporate buildings. The council is also looking at how it can increase the sustainability specification of new council homes it delivers directly to ensure these projects help the city move toward the carbon neutral target.

The Labour party announced its commitment to making the city carbon neutral by May 2030 and planning for City Assembly has started. The work will be cost cutting priority of a new corporate strategy. We will involve residents and stakeholders in supporting our city to become carbon neutral, for example through the biosphere and the Greater Brighton Infrastructure Panel. This could provide an opportunity for local experts, residents and local businesses to put forward potential climate action ideas.

I am pleased so many people have already been in touch proactively, wanting to be involved.

- 21.12 Councillor Heley asked the following supplementary question, We now only have 18 months to halt the worst of climate change according to IPCC. Will we have a fully costed plan by the time of the budget in February and also considering the high level of concern that our residents have about the progress about this climate emergency motion, what communications are the Council planning to inform members of the public?
- 21.13 Councillor Platts gave the following response, We have committed to producing a plan by June 2020. We will do our best to incorporate whatever we've got into the budget for 2019/20 and the plan that comes in June 2020 will be a 10 year plan up to 2030. As far as communications go, I'm hoping that that will come out of our City Assembly and all of our work with stakeholders.
- 21.14 Councillor Fishleigh asked the following question, Will the Chair of the Planning Committee agree to set up a cross-party working group to examine how the advice provided to the Planning department by the District Valuers Service can be supplemented by information from other sources?
- 21.15 Councillor Hill, Chair of the Planning Committee gave the following response, I recognize that a number of Councillors have expressed an interest ensuring that we get best possible advice on development viability and I'm one of the other members that have also expressed an interest in this topic. I'm committed to ensure that we are maximizing the level of affordable development achieved through the planning system while also making sure that the city is a viable place for developers.

I have therefore asked the Head of Planning to prepare a scoping report which will include research on what we currently do, how comparative authorities get viability advice and make some recommendations for the best options in the future. Councillors will be engaged through the existing cross-party Members Working Group which already exists, and officers will need to consult development industry as well. I will ask for a report on this to be taken to the TECC committee later this year.

In the meantime, officers will be arranging training on development viability and affordable housing for all Councillors in the Autumn.

- 21.16 Councillor Mears asked the following question, What commitment will this Labour administration be making to support all businesses in the City?
- 21.17 Councillor Robins, Chair of Tourism, Equalities, Communities and Culture Committee gave the following response, We will set up a meeting with yourself and relevant officer to go through the list of KPI's in relevant detail. I can provide a list of highlights such as;

- The chartered institute of public finance and accountancy which set up a comparison of sixteen comparator cities like Southampton, Bournemouth, Bristol, Southend on Sea, Portsmouth in order to benchmark how we are doing. In 2018/2019 results show fairly positive year in terms of growth in the number of businesses in Brighton and Hove with a marginal rise of 2.09 the equivalent of 285 businesses in to 2018 compared with a rise of 495 in 2017. Despite the marginal growth, the City is below the green target of 3.93% set in 2018/19 but is marginally above the amber target off 2%. The city, therefore, achieves an amber status for 2018. When we compare this using the CIPRA comparison, Brighton & Hove has performed very strongly with statistical neighbours despite the amber rating and is currently rated top of the 16 comparator areas for average growth. Their comparative rate is 0.14%.
- The number of private sector jobs in Brighton and Hove grew by 1044 to 114,658 in 2017 giving the KPI result of 0.76%.

21.18 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, Can the administration confirm that they do not support the comments by the then Deputy Leader of the Council and the then Chair of Children's Committee at the 11th July PR&G on home to school transport stating, "he does not support lavish public contracts for petty local bourgeois monopolies". This question originally directed to the Leader of the Council who was at the meeting and chaired the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee on the 11th July.

21.19 Councillor Robins gave the following response, I don't know how I can respond, I'm not the Chair of the CYPS. I chair the new TECC committee not the CYPS.

21.20 Councillor Davis asked the following question, For too long the roads surrounding our schools have been intolerable. The health and safety of our children is being endangered by the onslaught of vehicles, the residents of our fine schools are facing a daily battle with pavement parking, idling cars and aggressive drivers. Our head teachers and their staff are having the valuable time taken up in dealing with this problem and associated implications. What are the administration's plans to tackling this problem?

21.21 Councillor Childs, Chair of Children, Young People & Skills Committee gave the following response, I'm aware of this serious issue with schools. There is excessive pollution and at times extremely dangerous situations arise with double parking etc. every school does have a transport plan with the aim of encouraging more sustainable ways of parents bringing their children to school to reduce pollution and improve health and wellbeing. There is signage in place at every school and there are patrols that go to schools to try and police this issue. There are no current plans, however I'm aware of the seriousness of the issue and would welcome working with my Green colleague to try and look at how we can further address this issue.

21.22 Councillor Davis asked the following supplementary, When can this administration adopt a successful School Street Strategy like the innovative toolkit Hackney Council have introduced?

- 21.23 Councillor Childs gave the following response, I'm happy to work with our Green colleagues to introduce one and discuss one as soon as possible.
- 21.24 Councillor Clare asked the following question, Could the Chair of ET&S Committee give me information on suppliers of our communal bins and sustainability impacts in procuring them?
- 21.25 Councillor Pissaridou, Chair of Environment, Transport and Sustainability gave the following response, Our communal bins and spare parts are procured from Italy via a third party. We have a number of communal bins on order as well as spare parts for a number of months despite with being confirmed with delivery dates, we still haven't received the goods. We are phoning the company daily and last week were talking with the CEO of the company and have been assured that new bins and replacement parts are now on route from Italy.
- 21.26 Councillor Clare asked the following supplementary, What preparations are Council putting in in the event of no-deal Brexit to procure bins if they are still supplied from Italy?
- 21.27 Councillor Pissaridou gave the following response, Although we get them from Italy now, in future we would like to change the bin system, so we are less reliant on one supplier.
- 21.28 Councillor Nield asked the following question, Would the Leader of the Council agree that, in light of the UN Security Council report in to war crimes in Yemen providing clear evidence that Brighton's own EDO MDM Arms Manufacturer has provided for bombs targeted at civilians in an attack which the UN has found to violate international humanitarian law, it is now time to call time on the bomb factory?
- 21.29 Councillor Nancy Platts, Leader of the Council, gave the following response, The UN found the attack violated international humanitarian law. UK policy is not to license arms sales where there is clear risk they might be used in serious violations of international humanitarian law. I wish that the EDO MDM factory was not based in Brighton or anywhere in the UK for that matter as I am personally opposed to the UK arms trade however that is outside our powers as a local authority.
- I will be writing to the Secretary of State to call for an enquiry in to this incident and whether the EDO MDM should have their license revoked. I welcome the support of any Councillor in this chamber who would like to join me in signing that letter.
- 21.30 Councillor Shanks asked the following question, Could I have an update on the take up of primary school places across the city for September coming?
- 21.31 Councillor Childs, Chair of Children, Young People & Skills Committee gave the following response, As you may well be aware, we're currently going through a dip demographically speaking of 4 and 5 year olds. In 2020 the numbers are projected to be 2588 and they will drop, if predictions are correct, in 2021 and 2022 leaving the surplus of places between 350 and 650. We are continuing to work and plan to try and keep schools open throughout the period of the dip because demographics change and there

are plans to extend housing within the city and other factors can quickly impact those numbers.

We will work together with other political organisations on the cross-party school working group and I believe we are meeting next week; school places and how we will best manage this to avoid impact on schools will be one of the areas that I hope we can discuss. We have avoided the creation of 3 very small classes with the impact they would have with certain schools.

Three other schools have had their numbers reduced and two others having undergone assessment have not. We are mindful of the pressure that surplus places create on schools and as a local authority we have done our best in terms of the funding we've had to support schools through ways such as license deposits and providing support where possible.

21.32 Councillor Shanks asked the following supplementary question, What is the strategy?

21.33 Councillor Childs gave the following response, There are no plans to close any of the schools in Brighton & Hove and to do so would be quite short sighted because as we know demographics can shift quite quickly particularly if housing projects are planned. In terms of planning, officers are already looking at how pupil admission numbers can be reduced in 2021 but obviously as a local authority those powers of democratic control were removed by Conservative Government many years ago but certainly we will continue to work with other political organisations at the Cross Party Working Group next week so we can talk more about what our plans are to try and keep all our schools open.

22 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION - JULY 2019

22.1 The Mayor noted that the following officer amendment had been received (changes in bold):

13. *School Organisation Working Group – Terms of Reference*

5. *Membership of the Working Group will consist of **3 6** elected members, nominated by group leaders.*

15. *Cross-Party Youth Group – Terms of Reference*

4. *Governance and decision making*

*The Children, Young People and Skills Committee is the council Committee which is responsible for education, children's health and social care services, public health for children and young people, including services to young people up to the age of 19 **or in some cases the age of 25.***

7. *The Working Group meetings are to be held every 3 months for 1.5 hours and will **generally** start at 5.30pm **or as agreed.***

- 22.2 Councillor Platts moved the report and said that Councillor Moonan (Chair of the Constitutional Working Group) would speak on it.
- 22.3 Councillor Moonan thanked the Members of the Constitution Working Group and officers for their work and highlighted some of the issues they had considered. With regard to Oral Questions, it would be preferable if they could be more specific as that would ensure the answer clearly addressed the issues raised. There had been a high number of Working Groups, and sometimes it wasn't clear what they had been formed to consider. Now Working Groups would report back to the parent committee on a regular basis and would either be established as a 'task and finish' or as a permanent group. The current Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities (NICE) Committee and the Tourism, Economic Development & Culture (TD&C) Committee would merge and a new committee called the Tourism, Equalities, Communities and Culture (TECC) Committee would be established.
- 22.4 Councillor Littman thanked his colleagues on the Constitutional Working Group and welcomed the report. However, whilst he agreed that the NICE Committee should end, and its delegations moved elsewhere, he was concerned that there may be too much work for the TECC Committee which could be unsustainable. He felt that the changes to the committees was being rushed and that the ground work had not been done fully enough and the possible negative impact on our third sector colleagues.
- 22.5 Councillor Yates said that one of the important changes was the reintroduction of Project Boards for some of the major projects in the city, which would allow Ward Councillors to be involved in schemes affecting their wards.
- 22.6 Councillor Moonan wanted to reassure the voluntary sector partners that changes to the NICE Committee would not mean that there was less emphasis or value to their input, and the functions of that committee would be continued in the new TECC Committee.
- 22.7 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the proposed changes to delegations to Planning Committee as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of the report be approved;
 - (2) That the proposal to clarify the mechanism for responding to written questions from elected Members at Council Committees (and sub-committees) set out in paragraph 4.5-4.7 of the report be agreed;
 - (3) That the review of Committee functions as set out at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 including the establishment of a new Tourism, Equalities, Communities & Culture Committee and the discontinuation of the Orbis Joint Committee (as set out in paragraph 4.26) be agreed;
 - (4) That the changes to Council Procedure Rules to reflect the approach to reporting by sub committees to parent committees as set out at paragraph 4.20 of the report be agreed;

- (5) That it be agreed to invite both East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service and the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to present an Annual Report to Full Council as set out at paragraph 4.21 of the report;
- (6) That decisions to commit the Council to the principles or membership of alliances, charters and pledges should be reserved to Full Council and that this approach be kept under review and any impact on Council business assessed as set out at paragraph 4.22 of the report;
- (7) That the Council Procedure Rules be amended to ensure a consistent definition of "Council meeting" as set out at paragraph 4.23 of the report;
- (8) 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 & Growth Committee and by Full Council, and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend and re-publish the Council's constitutional documents to incorporate the changes; and
- (9) That the proposed changes come into force immediately following their adoption by Full Council.

23 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSON AND PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF SEATS FOR THE TOURISM, EQUALITIES, COMMUNITIES & CULTURE COMMITTEE

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

24 REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

24.1 Councillor Platts moved the report and said that Councillor Yates would introduce it.

24.2 Councillor Yates said that at Budget Council in February 2019 a £38k saving against the provision of car parking permits for councillors had been agreed, and as required the matter had then been passed to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for their consideration. The IRP had now reported their findings and made recommendations. He said that the IRP had spent considerable time looking at the issues raised in the amendment and therefore their recommendations should not be overturned, and he would not therefore be supporting the amendment.

24.3 The Mayor said that there was an amendment from the Green Group, and asked Councillor Davis to introduce it.

24.4 Councillor Davis said that there was currently a climate emergency which needed to be addressed on every level, and the Council should set an example by reducing the car usage by Councillors. The Council was struggling with significant cuts and savings needed to be found. He said that the City had an increasing homeless problem, the use of foodbanks was rocketing, and crisis centres were in funding freefall and asked if this was the image we wanted to set our residents. If members of the public had to pay for parking when attending the Town Hall then why shouldn't Councillors.

- 24.5 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Davis on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 24.6 Councillor Hills seconded the amendment.
- 24.7 Councillor Yates agreed that there was a climate emergency but saying that Councillors should pay to use a car park doesn't demonstrate a commitment to reduce car usage, but a commitment to look like they wanted to reduce mileage. There were 54 Councillors and not all took advantage of the parking permit, and there over four thousand employees at Council
- 24.8 Council voted on the amendment and it was not agreed.

24.9 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to provide that for those councillors opting to take a car park pass for Norton Road and the Lanes car parks, a monthly contribution equivalent to that applied for councillors taking a bus pass (currently £23.09 for 2019/20), be deducted from their monthly Basic Allowance payment;
- (2) That the car park permit issued to councillors for Norton Road should be for Mondays–Fridays only; and
- (3) That the intention of the Independent Remuneration Panel to undertake a review on the establishment of maternity / paternity / adoption leave policy for councillors (in so far as it relates to allowances) and to report back in the autumn be noted.

25 GREATER BRIGHTON ECONOMIC BOARD – ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER TO THE BOARD

25.1 RESOLVED:

- (1) That Arun District Council should join the Greater Brighton Economic Joint Committee;
- (2) That the other changes within the Greater Brighton Economic Board Heads of Terms as detailed in the report be agreed;
- (3) That it be noted that the changes to the membership and Heads of Terms were dependant on the decisions of all the Local Authorities represented on the Joint Committee agreeing that the new members be appointed, and the Board take a formal decision that the new members were appointed; and
- (4) That amendments to the Board's Heads of Terms be agreed and the Monitoring Officer be instructed to amend the Council's constitution to reflect these amendments once they had been formally approved by all the constituent authorities and the Greater Brighton Economic Board.

26 APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBER ROLES

26.1 **RESOLVED:** That the following additional appointments of Lead Member roles for 2019/20 as designated by the Leader of the Council be approved:

- (i) Lead Member for Equalities – Councillor Grimshaw
- (ii) Lead Member for Homelessness – Councillor Brennan

27 PURCHASE OPTIONS FOR SHORT TERM TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

27.1 This item was referred to Full Council by the Green Group and Councillor Gibson explained the reasons for the referral. Councillor Gibson said that the report highlighted some important principles and he wanted to suggest some expansions to those principles. A Notice of Motion which was passed in December 2017 called for short term temporary accommodation to be brought in-house. The benefits of bringing the service in-house were that buying the accommodation would provide an asset for the Council, there was more control over the conditions and standards and the housing benefit could be retained by the Council rather than private landlords. He suggested that this model should be used for other residential provision and particularly in supported housing. Resources were tight but there had been a similar scheme with the extra care scheme at Brookmead which had saved the Council a lot of money, and he hoped that other similar provisions could be explored.

27.2 Councillor Mears said that this had been debated at Budget Council and Housing Committee meetings and wanted to highlight some concerns with the report. At the Housing & New Homes Committee in June 2019 it was confirmed that there was no such thing as short-term emergency accommodation and this report talked about 'emergency accommodation'. There was a letter from the Housing Minister stating that there was no change with the Right to Buy receipts until the Government review was completed. Therefore, until informed otherwise that money could be used to buy social rented housing. However, this scheme allowed for 30% of right to buy receipts to be used for the capital project, which was not allowed. Housing must be a priority as there were people in temporary accommodation who had been there for ten years or more, and so more housing was needed not more temporary emergency accommodation.

27.3 Councillor Allcock said he respected Councillor Mears' comments, but said that the report had already been agreed. He said that purchasing the property would mean it was Council controlled, which would allow for better planning for accommodation and which would ensure that the standards which were aspired to could be met. With regard to emergency accommodation the Council were looking for flexibility and owning property would allow it to be reconfigured and hopefully move into a position where it could become a permanent home.

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

28 MADEIRA TERRACE RESTORATION - PETITION RESPONSE AND NEXT STEPS

28.1 This item was referred for information to Full Council by the Green Group. Councillor Rainey said that the Madeira Terraces was historically significant and helped to give Brighton its historic status as a tourist destination, and progress on its restoration was important to everyone. There had been a report at the last meeting of the Tourism Development & Culture (TD&C) Committee following a petition at an earlier meeting of

Full Council. The terraces had fallen into disrepair over the last few decades with no visible restoration work having been undertaken. The Council's report recommended starting the procurement process for the design and engineering works to restore 30 of the 151 arches. She said that at the TD&C Committee she had put forward an amendment which included a requirement in the contract that the use of innovative renewable technology such as solar panels and rainwater harvesting should be made a priority to reduce costs in the long-term and help the city to meet its commitment to achieving a carbon neutral status by 2030, and that a report be brought to the next meeting of TD&C outlining the proposals to use crowdfunded funds to progress plans for the development of an initial three arches. That report should contain options for which three arches should be progressed and developed, including an option that the three arches directly outside Concorde 2 be leased to them. The amendments were agreed at the TD&C meeting. The restoration of the arches would benefit all residents and visitors.

- 28.2 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Rainey on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 28.3 Councillor Nemeth said that the costs did need to properly evaluated to ensure that there that were no overruns as happened with Shelter Hall. The lessons from Valley Gardens should be learnt where detail overshadowed general principle and the whole scheme being brought into disrepute. It was important to agree the vision for the Arches, which I have been advised is still to be agreed, and it would be important to have full consultation at an early stage.
- 28.4 Councillor Robbins (Chair of TD&C Committee) said that he and the Leader of the Council would be meeting with the campaigners to look at what could be done and when it could be done. The Council were keen to move forward on this matter.
- 28.5 **RESOLVED:** That the matter be noted.

29 REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

- 29.1 Councillor Hamilton said that six Councillors were on the East Sussex Fire Authority (ESFA), and it would be preferable if in future a full report on the work of the Authority could be provided.
- 29.2 Councillor Peltzer Dunn echoed Councillor Hamilton's comments and said that the ESFA did so much for the city, that only having their AGM report was inappropriate and a in future a full report of their work should be provided.
- 29.3 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

30 THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

(1) A Safe Home Campaign

- 30.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Williams on behalf of the Labour Group and seconded by Councillor Evans.

- 30.2 Councillor Williams said the Domestic Abuse Bill received its first reading in the House of Commons last week, but the Bill did not include a recommendation by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse, which called for people who were homeless as a result of fleeing their home following domestic abuse to get priority need in settled housing. A key barrier to people leaving abuse is a lack of access to safe secure housing. Many survivors were put at risk of homelessness as they were not considered to be in priority need for social housing by their local councils. With the prospect of no alternative many survivors had no option but to return to their abusers or face homelessness. People who applied for housing following domestic abuse were obliged to pass a vulnerability test, which required supplying extensive evidence and having to recount their abuse a number of times. Instead a referral from a relevant organisation such as Rise should suffice. Rise, which supported this motion, advised that 22% of the support provided last year was on housing issues. Women's Aid reported that demonstrating vulnerability could be very traumatic and near impossible for some people, and 53% of women they supported nationally were prevented from making a valid homelessness application by their local authority. Studies also revealed that 16% of homelessness men suffered from domestic violence and St Mungo's reported that domestic abuse was a direct reason for homelessness for a third of their clients. When making applications for housing, many domestic abuse survivors were found to be intentionally homeless under S191 of the Housing Act 1996. Extending automatic priority need to survivors would remove the need to prove extra vulnerability. It was very important to have this amendment, and it would make the Domestic Abuse Bill more meaningful and would change the culture on how survivors were dealt with when being made homeless and would also alleviate the pressure on housing officers who had to assess the claims.
- 30.3 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Williams on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.4 Councillor Evans seconded the motion. In England 61% of homeless women and 16% of homeless men were survivors of domestic abuse. However only 2% of those accepted as being in priority need for social housing were accepted because of domestic abuse. In addition, one in six refuges had closed in the last nine years because of austerity cuts. Approximately 725 women and around 30 men a year were killed by their partners, with thousands more hospitalised. On average there would be 35 assaults before the violence was reported to the police, and around 400 people committed suicide within six months of attending hospital because of their injuries. Of the 750 plus deaths a year, 75% occurred in the first six months of separation which meant that at the very moment that survivors were brave enough to flee under current, and planned, legislation survivors had to jump through hoops to provide enough documents to provide evidence to satisfy the vulnerability test or sleep on the street or go back to the abuser. This situation was wrong, and we needed to do everything we could to change it.
- 30.5 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Evans on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.6 The Mayor noted that there was an amendment from the Green Group and asked Councillor Clare to move the amendment.

- 30.7 Councillor Clare supported the Motion and said that the buck stopped with the Government by not providing adequate local authority funding. The Labour administration's recent planned cuts to the Violence Against Women/Girls budget had been reversed, but there were still cost pressures to services and information from third sector providers was that case load was increasing and they needed more funds to provide their services. The spend per capita was falling, and the Green Group therefore proposed that the Council explore ways to protect per capita funding for local Violence Against Women and Girls programmes.
- 30.8 Councillor Shanks formally seconded the Motion.
- 30.9 Councillor Knight said she had worked for many years as a defence lawyer and much of that time worked with domestic abuse perpetrators and those who had survived the experience. Domestic abuse does not occur over night but over time with behaviour becoming more controlling and violent. Critical in the process is instilling in victims that no one would believe them which was a powerful inhibitor. Domestic abuse was a hidden crime and most people in the Chamber would know someone who had or was being abused. To expect staff to have to ask a person about the abuse when that person was afraid and vulnerable and ask them to provide a level of evidence, which many could not do, was not only oppressive but was inhumane and immoral and only reinforced the message that no one believed them. I would hope that Members would support this Motion, which would send a clear message to those who were thinking about escape that the Council would be there for them and would believe them.
- 30.10 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Knight on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.11 Councillor Mears thanked fellow Members for their speeches and in particular Councillor Evans who reminded everyone that men also suffered from domestic abuse and said that the Conservative Group would be supporting both the Notice of Motion and the Green Group amendment.
- 30.12 Councillor Grimshaw said that in 2001, pregnant and with three children, she went to Bartholomew House to ask for help having fled domestic violence from her partner. She said that she only had the clothes that she was wearing, having been locked out of her house, and rather than going to her mother's house again she decided that she and her children had suffered enough and was determined to make changes. The Council provided bed and breakfast accommodation and shortly afterwards was placed in a one-bedroom flat sharing facilities with other families. She said at that point her baby was due and was sleeping on a sofa bed and feeling very low. Her abuser asked her to come home and said everything would be alright, but she knew that was not true and that the abuse would start again. Shortly after giving birth she was given the keys to her own home and said that she was overjoyed with happiness was able to lock the front door, felt safe and had control back in her life. That had been a turning point in her life and she was now free to make her own decisions and allow her to be person she wanted to be. She said that she was standing her in this Chamber only because she was believed and supported and given her own home. It was important to support this Motion to ensure that everyone subjected to domestic abuse had the chance to be free as she had.

- 30.13 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Grimshaw on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.14 The Mayor asked Councillor Williams if she accepted the amendment and she agreed. The Mayor asked Council if they were happy to proceed to vote on the amended Notice of Motion and they agreed.
- 30.15 The Mayor confirmed that the Motion (as amended) had been agreed.

(2) Sustainable Adult Social Care Funding

- 30.16 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Appich on behalf of the Labour Group and seconded by Councillor Moonan.
- 30.17 Councillor Appich said the underfunding of Adult Social Care had recently been highlighted in a Panorama television programme. The Government's Green Paper which had been announced over two years ago had failed to materialise, and the Local Government Association (LGA) has asked for its publication within 10 weeks. The LGA have indicated that at least £3.6b in additional funding was needed nationally by 2025, which would be an increase similar to the 3.4% annual increases in the NHS budgets announced recently. Nationally councils had lost 60p in every pound of government grants over the last ten years, and this Council had had to make budget cuts of £68m over the last four years, and further cuts of £40m were expected over the next four years. However, demand for adult social care had increased, with an aging population with the 65+ age group expected to increase by 25% by 2030. Of that increase the National Office of Statistics projected a 20% increase in the 85+ age group in the City by 2030, up to 7100. Brighton & Hove had a much higher percentage of those aged over 85 compared to other authorities. In addition, a high number of citizens are living with multiple health conditions, with 51,000 having two or more issues. Given the situation it was important to focus on preventative care, and failure to address this would store up future problems for the NHS and social services across the city. Our adult social care is already under funded compared with other similar authorities. The 3% maximum increase in council tax currently only raises around 60% of the money we were projecting to require for social care next year, which means that extra pressure would be put on other services. The adult social care service had already had to prioritise and was now dealing with increasingly complex cases and which was taking up an increasingly large share of the budget. Prevention and early intervention as described in Health & Wellbeing Strategy was economically efficient and the Council urgently needed adequate funding to be do that.
- 30.18 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Appich on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.19 Councillor Moonan said that the Council had assisted many people including around 4,300 residents with long term adult social care support, 700 in Nursing Homes and had issued around 30,00 pieces of daily living equipment for the most vulnerable people in the city. All services were delivered to a high standard by staff. However, there was a huge strain to the system with ever increasing pressure on our budgets as people were living longer, and the number with long-term complex needs and who needed a high

level of support was getting larger. Sustainable savings had been made, and the service had been modernised but that was a finite process and our Council was approaching a situation where services were at risk if appropriate funding were not available. She therefore hoped that the Government would take notice of this Notice of Motion and sort out adult social care funding.

- 30.20 Councillor Bell said that the Conservative Group would be supporting the Motion. He requested that there be an Adult Social Care Committee which would allow Councillors to look at the issues and agree a proper budget process.
- 30.21 Councillor Shanks said that the Green Group welcomed the Motion and agreed that more funding was required. She said she that there should be democratic accountability and as adult social care was the Council's biggest budget there should be more scrutiny. Currently the Health & Wellbeing Board covered adult social care, and she suggested that that be reviewed.
- 30.22 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Shanks on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.23 Councillor Powell said that the Green Group welcomed the Notice of Motion. Adult social care was in crisis and it had been reported that within the NHS Trust there was a current shortage of 100,000 staff, which was one in eleven posts. The current situation with Brexit would impact on EU workers in the care sector. Ten years of austerity and budget cuts had impacted on the system, and it was unfair to punish sick and disabled people.
- 30.24 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Powell on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.25 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been agreed.

(3) Economic Impact of Brexit and Settled Status for EU Citizens

- 30.26 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Hugh-Jones on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Ebel.
- 30.27 Councillor Hugh-Jones proposed the Notice of Motion. She asked Council to note that it referred to James Brokenshire as the Minister for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) but that had recently changed, and it was now Esther McVey who was the MHCLG. In November 2018 a briefing paper from the UK Trade Policy Observatory predicted the impact of a no deal Brexit would be equivalent to the loss of 2021 jobs in Brighton Pavilion, 829 in Kemptown and 1100 in Hove, a total of 3,950 jobs. The Chancellor of the Exchequer recently said that a disruptive exit from the EU would cost the UK economy £90b. The Brexit scenario testing conducted by the Council in November 2018 identified that a no-deal Brexit would lead to business closures due to loss of staff with businesses facing recruitment and retention problems. The new Prime Minister has made it clear that he is prepared to take the UK out of the EU on a no-deal basis. The earning thresholds imposed on those wishing to come to this country from outside the EU prevent recruitment in sectors where it is most needed. Between 2012/13 and 2017/18 the Council received approximately £1.7m in EU funding, which was £340k per year. The Government is now proposing to give unitary authorities £210k

over two years to help prepare for Brexit i.e. over three times less. Going forward Brighton & Hove may no longer benefit from EU funding, and this would impact on key priorities identified for promoting economic growth through the European Development Fund, research and innovation, supporting small and medium enterprises and creation of a low carbon economy – all areas where Brighton & Hove could potentially take a lead and which would have a devastating impact on our ability to create a low carbon economy. The Government says it will cover the loss of funding but that guarantee does not go past 2020 and that is why I urge Councillors to support the Notice of Motion.

- 30.28 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Hugh-Jones on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.29 Councillor Ebel seconded the Notice of Motion. She said that she was one of the 20,000 non-British EU citizens in the city, and since Britain voted to leave the EU the Government had required EU citizens to register under the Settled Status scheme. This involved registering your personal details on a dedicated website and scanning your ID using a special App which was currently only available on Android phones. Only 6% of EU residents had registered for settled status so far, which demonstrated that there was a high level of uncertainty linked to the process. We therefore request that the Council promotes partnerships to coordinate immigration advice available to EU nationals in the City and applied for Central Government funding to ensure the facilities were in place so every EU citizen in the City were able to register for settled status before the deadline.
- 30.30 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Ebel on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.31 Councillor Appich spoke in support of the Motion. She said that she was an EU citizen and had come to this country in 1977 and was given indefinite leave to stay in 1979. The EU ran a session in Brighton a few months ago on settled status. That session was oversubscribed, and from comments made from those who attended there was a great deal of confusion in terms of how settled status schemes worked. I believed I wouldn't have to do anything as I had been given leave to stay, but that was not the case. The 20,000 EU citizens in the City needed support, as well as other organisations in the City such as schools who would benefit from advice.
- 30.32 Councillor Henry said that the current deal was not what the referendum suggested nor what Theresa May suggested but what Boris Johnson wanted. He said that this would be bad for the City and so welcomed the Motion. In Hove alone there were 10,000 entrepreneurs and small businesses who would be negatively impacted by a no-deal Brexit. The University of Sussex analysis concluded that there would be a negative impact on employment particularly in education, employment and health with around 4,000 jobs at risk. He welcomed the request for the Chief Executive to work on contingency plans to safeguard jobs.
- 30.33 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Henry on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.34 The Mayor noted that it was agreed to change the name in the Notice of Motion from James Brokenshire to Esther McVey.
- 30.35 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been agreed.

(4) Support for Youth Strikes and Other Climate Action

- 30.36 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Clare on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Osborne
- 30.37 Councillor Clare said that the Council had declared a climate and biodiversity emergency and, on what is set to be one of the hottest days on record, the IPCC now say that we don't have eleven years to solve climate change before its irreversible, but we have eighteen months. It was therefore important to take action and to take action now. When I attended the Youth Council yesterday the issues they were considering were the same issues which I was considering on climate change when I was on a Youth Council. There had always been a tendency to ignore or patronise young people as they didn't have a say at the ballot box but now was the time to listen to them and the Youth Strike demands reflected that. We ask that young people are involved in policy making and given a chance to vote. As a Council we should write to the government to ask for that because if you can die for your country and pay taxes you should be able to vote for who leads it. With regard to ecological education young people should be given the information to solve our climate crisis in innovative ways. The Council is responsible for its residents and we need to make sure that our actions are sustainable and that we take action on the climate now, and we want to support residents who are doing the same. Consideration should be given to having a car free day to raise awareness of air pollution in the City and which would then ensure those who were striking had clean air to breathe. As one of the largest employers in the City we should be supporting those who to take action on the climate emergency. We should be working with schools to ensure that young people are allowed to take part in climate change demonstrations and that that is done safely and attendance monitored correctly. We need to push for the government to take action as well as taking steps ourselves. We want climate action and we want it now.
- 30.38 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Clare on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.39 Councillor Osborne seconded the Motion. He said that the climate crisis was here, and action needed to be taken now. The Motion was to back the strike action in September, as strikes were one of the most powerful actions and had a long history of instigating change. The Motion backed the demands of the Youth Strike Action by writing to the Government and asking the Council to work with schools in establishing a protocol and enabling those who wish to strike to do so in a safe way. We want the Council to allow staff who wish to strike to do so without fear of disciplinary proceedings. The Council was one of the biggest employers in the City and supporting the strike would back up their words. The Green Group were advocating for a car free day, so people could strike and walk, cycle or take public transport in clean air. This Motion was about 'doing' rather than 'saying' and thinking about the future.
- 30.40 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Osborne on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.

- 30.41 Councillor Childs said he welcomed and supported the Notice of Motion. He said that history had shown that only when people took a stand through campaigning or strike action that real change would be brought about. He said we should now stand together as politicians and take action on the issues which affected everyone. The City had declared a climate emergency and the Council were working on a ten-year plan to bring carbon neutrality by 2030. The Council would work with all parties to agree a protocol, in consultation with schools, for strike days and to look at ways in which we could allow employees of the Council to participate in the general strike. The Authority had a number of statutory duties to safeguard the children, to provide education, maintain attendance at school and to maintain services for the most vulnerable citizens. However, it would be possible to meet the demands of the Motion and put our City at the forefront of the climate struggle.
- 30.42 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Childs on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 30.43 Councillor Brown said that the Conservative Group supported the young people's concerns on climate change and their wish to demonstrate but could not support their actions in leaving school to strike without permission. She said that as a Council we would be failing in our duty of care to them. Parents had the right to be confident that their children were safe at school, and when they were leaving without permission as they did earlier in the year, it became a serious safety issue. The Council must ensure that children attend school, and parents could be fined if they were taken out of school for a holiday and yet this Notice of Motion is encouraging children to take unauthorised leave of absence. There were other ways children could show their concern over climate change in their own time. The Council had declared a climate emergency, and so we should be doing more such as looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint. We are supportive of the young people and their concerns on climate change, but we should not be endorsing them striking during the school day.
- 30.44 Councillor Pissaridou said we had an enormous responsibility as the future of humanity and biodiversity on the planet depended on what we did in the next ten years. This Council had one of the strongest mandates on climate change in the country. There was an enormous amount to do within a small period of time and the Council needed to change the way it governed and acted and needed to create the spaces and platform for collective leadership and community action. The Council should intervene in every single area that currently creates emissions, harms biodiversity and weakens our resilience to the impacts of climate change. There was no time for lengthy consultations or dithering and we needed a Test, Learn and Review approach. The Council should learn from other cities in the world such as Edinburgh and Paris who have trialed banning combustion engine cars on certain days, but also be able to lead with a conviction that what is good for tackling climate change was also good for our economy, our health and helped to strengthen social bonds. 2020 was the most crucial of years for our climate and biodiversity with major decisions which needed to be taken on raising our global ambition. Let's make Brighton a case example on which the world can learn.
- 30.45 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Pissaridou on her maiden speech on behalf of the council.

30.46 Councillor Bell said he agreed with much of what had been said but could not support children not attending school. Children should be educated on climate change, but the Council should not give them an excuse for not being in school.

30.47 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been agreed.

31 CLOSE OF MEETING

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

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2019