

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 13 FEBRUARY 2020

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Platts (Chair) Yates (Deputy Chair), Mac Cafferty (Opposition Spokesperson), Bell (Group Spokesperson), Allcock, Clare, Gibson, Moonan and Shanks

PART ONE

121 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

121.1 Councillor Simson was present in substitution for Councillor Miller.

(b) Declarations of Interest

121.2 Councillors Allcock, Gibson and Shanks declared a pecuniary interest in Item 133 'Fees and Charges 2020/21' as they or their partner had an allotment and the charge for an allotment was within the report. The Councillors left the meeting during consideration of that item.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

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

121.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items contained in part two of the agenda.

122 MINUTES

122.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

123 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

123.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

Hello and welcome to this meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee. I'd like to inform those present that this meeting will be webcast live and will be capable of repeated viewing.

Coronavirus

As of Thursday 13 February, there has been no new confirmed cases of Coronavirus (now called Covid-19) across Sussex.

The numbers of confirmed cases in the UK remains at nine, with five of those cases being connected to people from our city.

This is a tough time for Brighton & Hove so I want to reassure people that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of everyone in our city is our primary concern.

A constant dialogue is taking place with the relevant authorities and the council is working in collaboration with and is being guided by, Public Health England and the NHS to ensure that we're giving our communities the right advice.

I understand that people feel anxious and they feel they need to have information about who is being tested and who has been asked to self-isolate, but we need to remember that the people involved have a right to privacy; and there are very important and necessary patient confidentiality guidelines that everyone must respect.

Speculation is rife about Covid-19; not everything you read in the media or on social media platforms is accurate.

The release of trusted and accurate information will always be done initially by the Chief Medical Officer. Further guidance will then be issued by Public Health England, the Department for Health and Social Care or the NHS. The local authority will always also support those messages.

Since the five Covid-19 cases were confirmed as being from the Brighton and Hove area, Public Health England has carried out a thorough risk assessment and has traced the movements of the individuals.

Public Health England has contacted people who might have had close and sustained contact with the individuals as a precaution to provide them with health advice about any symptoms in case they become unwell. These individuals have been advised to "self-isolate" which means they should stay at home and avoid contact with other people as a precaution.

It does not mean they are ill and people who have had contact with these individuals do not need to take action.

On advice from the Chief Medical Officer, the government has declared the risk as "moderate" - a level which may sound alarming but it allows government to plan for all eventualities.

Ultimately, that the risk to individuals remains "low".

People living across Sussex who have not been contacted by Public Health England are being advised they should go about their daily routine as usual.

Our schools remain open as are the NHS services across Sussex. Measures are in place to ensure the safety of all patients and NHS staff while also ensuring services are available to the public as normal.

On behalf of the city council I would like to thank everyone who has been working so hard in response to the cases of coronavirus in Brighton & Hove, including local health professionals, Public Health England, councillors and council staff.

I would also like to wish anyone affected by coronavirus a full recovery.

Brighton & Hove continues to be very much open for business.

The city remains a safe place to live, work and visit and we're looking forward to welcoming people from all over the world this weekend.

Unless the impact of Storm Dennis dictates otherwise, our venues and attractions will be open.

And finally please remember the good hygiene advice which is to :

- Always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel. Effective sanitiser gel should have a 60% alcohol content or higher.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel (see above) if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

EU Settled Status

The council is encouraged by the number of people in the city who have so far applied to the EU Settlement Scheme. Latest figures show that 14,970 EU residents out of an estimated 19,000 in Brighton & Hove have applied. We are very happy that so many of our fellow citizens wish to stay in the city, but potentially we still have 4,000 more residents who need to apply. Our EU citizens need to have applied by 30th June 2021 in order to continue living in the UK. We will continue to raise awareness of the scheme in the city and urge all our residents to ensure their family, friends, colleagues know about the scheme and please look at the council Brexit page to see what support and advice is available.

Other key points:

- You need to have applied **BY** 30th June 2021 in order to stay in the UK and access healthcare, work etc
- These figures were released on 6th Feb 2020 by the Home Office and represent applications received up to 31st December 2020.

- 19,000 figure is an ONS estimate and we are still trying to find a more accurate figure. This is a national issue.
- Next figures will be released in May 2020

City clean dispute

Colleagues will recall that members of P&R were updated on progress in relation to a dispute between GMB and the Council within the City Clean service. I am delighted to confirm that we have made very positive progress in our discussions with GMB, and this week the council and GMB signed an agreement which resolves the dispute and lifts the threat of industrial action.

The agreement provides us with a positive way forward in resolving some long-standing issues, and importantly an agreed way forward to improving the working culture and industrial relations into the future. We will be using our local consultative committee to provide a structure for discussing and resolving issues that arise in a constructive way as we continue to resolve performance and service issues. We are looking forward to working together on the future direction of the service, and ensuring we deliver a much-improved refuse, recycling and street cleansing service for our residents. I want to take this opportunity to thank both officers and union colleagues for their part in securing the agreement.

124 CALL OVER

124.1 All items were reserved for discussion.

125 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

125 (a) Petitions

125.1 There were none.

125 (b) Written Questions

125.2 There were none.

125 (c) Deputations

125.3 There were none.

126 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

126 (a) Petitions

126.1 There were none.

126 (b) Written Questions

126.2 There were none.

126 (c) Letters

126.3 There were none

126 (d) Notices of Motion

126.4 (i) Madeira Terrace

The Committee considered the Notice of Motion which was referred from Full Council held on 30 January 2020.

126.5 The Chair said that the recommendation agreed by Full Council was that this Committee request that a report come to its meeting in March 2020. However, as the first project meeting and the Advisory Panel were being held in March and April it was suggested that it would be preferable to call for a report to come to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 30 April 2020.

126.6 **RESOLVED:** The Committee requested that a report come to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting being held on 30 April 2020.

126.7 (ii) Fuel Poverty

The Committee considered the Notice of Motion which was referred from Full Council held on 30 January 2020.

126.8 The Chair noted that Full Council resolved that this Committee call for a report to a future meeting of the Committee.

126.9 **RESOLVED:** The Committee requested that a report come to a future meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

127 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET, CAPITAL & TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2020/21

127.1 The Chair said that as Item 127 and Item 130 both related to the budget that they would be discussed at the same time.

The Committee considered the report of the Acting Chief Finance Officer which set out the General Fund Revenue Budget proposals for 2020/21 and the Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Investment Strategy for 2020/21, and the report of the Executive Director Housing Communities & Neighbourhoods which presented the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue and capital budget for 2020/21. The Acting Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Director Housing, Communities & Neighbourhoods introduced the two reports.

127.2 The Chair said that there were six amendments to the report from the Green Group and noted that Amendment 5 also related to Item 133. There was another proposed

amendment to Item 133, and so if amendment 5 were agreed it would be conditional on the amendment to Item 133 also being agreed.

127.3 The Chair asked Councillor Gibson to propose the amendments:

127.4 Councillor Gibson said that the first amendment was investing to save, and the cost of employing specialist managers would be funded from savings made. Experience suggested that every £1 spent could generate savings of £4.50.

Amendment 1

Amend the General Fund budget to reflect the change below:

- *Retain two specialist contract management posts, at a cost of £0.090m*
- *These posts are planned to be self-funding from the savings they generate by focussing on procurement and contract management primarily within Health and Adult Social Care, city clean, transport and highways and housing mechanical and electrical.*

127.5 Councillor Gibson said the second amendment sought to provide a capital budget for the purchase of supported housing subject to a business case

Amendment 2

Amend the General Fund budget to reflect the change below:

- *Increase borrowing by £3m to provide additional General Fund capital funding in 2020/21, at an estimated financing cost of £0.117m; over 50 years;*
 - *Based on a viable business case, use the £3m General Fund (GF) capital funding to purchase accommodation for use as supported housing delivery, reducing spend on leasing with other landlords and thereby a) reducing the financial pressure on the GF ASC budget and b) enabling funding of the financing costs from GF savings*

127.6 Councillor Gibson said that the third amendment was to remove the subsidy to Councillor's parking at Norton Road and The Lanes car parks, and the savings be used to fund short breaks for carers of disabled children.

Amendment 3 – General Fund

Amend the General Fund budget to reflect the changes below:

- *Remove the subsidy to Councillors' parking at car parks at Norton Road, Hove and The Lanes, Brighton, releasing £0.033m in recurrent funding;*
- *If this proposed change is accepted by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) and approved by Council, apply the £0.033m funding to provide short breaks for carers of disabled children.*

127.7 Councillor Gibson said that the Winter Maintenance Reserve, which currently stood at £650k, had rarely been spent and the fourth amendment said that the provision in that reserve should be reduced. The savings could be spent on providing support for homeless people, cycle storage and to tackle fuel poverty.

Amendment 4 – General Fund Reserves

Amend the General Fund budget to reflect the changes below:

- *In the light of failure to spend the Winter Maintenance Reserve in previous years, reduce the provision by £0.296m*
- *Allocate the £0.276m released over 2 years, to provide funding for 12 additional Housing First Placements for homeless people in 2020/21 and 2021/22*
- *Allocate £0.010m to fund secure covered cycle storage feasibility and demand assessment*
- *Allocate £0.010m for a Warmer Homes feasibility study, to explore options for a funded, council-led programme (especially insulation) to tackle fuel poverty*

127.8 Councillor Gibson said that the fifth amendment was to increase parking charges and that money could be spent on creating a Sustainable Urban Drainage officer, a Biodiversity officer and a Tree officer.

Amendment 5 – General Fund

The following is conditional on the Green Group amendment to Item 133 being agreed:

If the amendment to Item 133 regarding the increase to car park fees is agreed, it would raise an estimated £0.123m recurrent income. Of this:

- *Use £0.052m to create a SUDs (Sustainable Urban Drainage) officer post*
- *Use £0.047m to create a biodiversity officer post*
- *Use £0.024m to create 0.5 FTE Tree Officer post to facilitate tree planting in parks.*

127.9 Councillor Gibson said that the sixth amendment was to provide three legal officer posts to assist with the home purchase programme, to pursue landlords who had failed to achieve the Energy Performance Certificate and to support additional work arising from the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 201

Amendment 6 General Fund and HRA

1. By capitalising the legal costs from the HRA capital programme for related capital schemes, restore a legal officer post at a cost of £0.060m pa to meet the extra demands of the expanded HRA home purchase programme in 2020/21 and housing supply ambitions to achieve 800 additional council homes by 2023.

2. Use in-house legal team to pursue action against landlords who have failed to achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating E by April 2020 by creating a legal post within the service at an estimated cost of £0.060m pa

The related fine income resulting from this action will be reflected in the General Fund Housing Service, estimated to be £0.060m. This income will release general fund resources of £0.060m to fund the additional post in Legal Services.

3. Use £0.060m HRA revenue funding to restore a legal officer post, to support additional work arising as a result of the 'Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018. This will be funded in 2020/21 from a contribution from the HRA working balance and then funded on an ongoing basis as part of future budgets.

127.10 Councillor Mac Cafferty seconded all the amendments.

127.11 Councillor Yates said that since this committee last looked at the budget proposals there had been a significant number of changes. The Council had received £404k less in Adult Social Care funding than expected, and other costs and pressures had increased, and this had only been partly balanced off due to the review of the East Sussex Pension Scheme which had reduced our outgoings by £825k a year. Some of the saving plans in the Corporate Plan had been reviewed in light of the Council's political position in services it wanted to deliver, and that had resulted in changes to a number of services. There had been a partial removal of £61k of savings against officers working in the Equalities Team, the complete removal of the saving in Violence Against Women and Girls services, and the reduction of £500k to some of the savings which were applied to services for those living with adult learning disabilities. There were also large investments, with £7m going to adult social care and children's social care and £1m for city environmental management. There were also smaller pockets of money with £10k going to a viability study into the future of Madeira Terraces, £5k to look at a park and ride schemes, £20k to look at community wealth building, £200k to address the Council's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality, £50k to deal with winter weekend shelter, £50k to improve private sector housing, £100k to address the acute pressure from income from our golf courses and £40k to address the attainment gap for children who were disadvantaged.

With regard to the amendments he said that the Labour Group would support them all with the exception of Amendment 3 and suggested that it would be more appropriate for that to be proposed at Full Council rather than this committee. The car park subsidy was part of the Members Allowance Scheme which was considered by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), and had previously been signed off by Full Council and therefore they should consider whether that part of the scheme was removed rather than this committee.

127.12 Councillor Shanks referred to Adult Social Care and was concerned with the £1.55m to cover reductions in the CCG contributions. The Chief Executive said the Authority had been making strong representations to the CCG to get clarity on what the financial position will be next year, and to seek to minimise any budget reductions to ensure that they were prioritising in accordance with the city's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. There

had been some success in getting clarity for the next financial year and that had helped finance officers to anticipate that we will be in a better position than expected. Councillor Shanks asked if the Council made money on garden and commercial waste and whether schools used the service. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that the commercial waste collection had been generating income, but they hadn't met the targets and so there was a shortfall. The service was beginning to grow and was generating income. Some schools did use the service, but he was unsure which ones and so said that a written answer would be provided after the meeting. Councillor Shanks referred to the Youth Employment Service and felt that the EIA on this wasn't clear on what potential problems there could be, and noted that £102k was being taken out of the service and two services were being brought together which she felt did not necessarily go to together. The Executive Director Children Families & Learning said that the proposed savings were due to the merging of the two services. Any savings would be from co-location and management costs rather than a reduction in provision. A formal consultation on that was currently being undertaken and so the outcome of that would impact on potential savings.

127.13 Councillor Mac Cafferty noted cuts to the legal service and said as most of the lawyers at the Council were women, it would have a greater impact on females and so was surprised that that had not been raised in the EIA. The Executive Lead Strategy Governance & Law agreed that Legal Services was disproportionately female, but said that most of the staff who would be affected by the cuts were more likely to be male.

127.14 Councillor Gibson noted that the reserve for new rent support was showing in the HRA report but was not showing in the General Fund Budget report, and asked for reassurance that the reserve was still there. Officers advised that the reserve was not shown in the General Fund report due to a technicality in that as the reserve would be created during the next financial year and spent during the next financial year, there was technically nothing to show. However, it was shown in the HRA report so that Members could see that the intention was there to create it.

127.15 Councillor Clare noted that there would be £5k investment for a Park & Ride and asked how that would be spent. Councillor Yates said it would be for a viability study and would need to be considered by either the ETS Committee or the Climate Assembly.

127.16 The Chair referred to the Amendment 3 and asked the Green Group whether they wished for it to be considered at this meeting or whether they would prefer it go to Full Council. Councillor Gibson confirmed that they would like it to be considered at this meeting.

127.17 The Committee voted on each amendment and decided as follows:

- Amendment 1 – Agreed
- Amendment 2 – Agreed
- Amendment 3 – Not agreed
- Amendment 4 – Agreed
- Amendment 5 – Agreed
- Amendment 6 – Agreed

127.18 RESOLVED: That the Committee recommends to Council:

- (1) The Administration's proposed budget and Council Tax increase on the Brighton & Hove element of the council tax, comprising:
 - i) A general Council Tax increase of 1.99%;
 - ii) An Adult Social Care Precept increase of 2%;
 - iii) The council's net General Fund budget requirement for 2020/21 of £215.606m;
 - iv) The 2020/21 budget allocations to services as set out in the Budget book at Appendix 1 incorporating 2020/21 savings proposals;
 - v) The reserves allocations as set out in paragraph 3.16 and table 3;
- (2) That Council notes the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy included in the Budget Book at Appendix 1.
- (3) That Council approves the Capital Strategy for 2020/21 at Appendix 2 comprising:
 - i) The strategy for funding the investment in change, including the flexible use of capital receipts as set out in section 6;
 - ii) The capital resources and proposed borrowing included at Annex A of the Capital Strategy;
 - iii) The Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 of £163.169m included within the Budget book at Appendix 1 and incorporating allocations to strategic funds.
- (4) That Council notes the Equalities Impact Assessments to cover all relevant budget options and their cumulative effect as set out in Appendices 6 and 7.
- (5) That Council further notes the budget decision is an indicative resourcing decision to be taken in the context of the explanation in the Legal Implications paragraph 14.3.
- (6) That Council approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as set out in Appendix 3 comprising:
 - i) The Annual Investment Strategy
 - ii) The Prudential and Treasury Indicators
 - iii) The Minimum Revenue Provision policy
 - iv) The authorised borrowing limit for the year commencing 1 April 2020 of £465m.

- (7) That Council notes that supplementary information needed to set the overall council tax will be provided for the budget setting Council meeting as listed in paragraph 9.3.
- (8) That Policy & Resources Committee agrees that the Acting Chief Finance Officer be authorised to make any necessary technical, presentational or consequential amendments to this report before submission to full Council.

128 TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) 2019/20: MONTH 9

- 128.1 The Committee considered the report of the Chief Acting Finance Officer which set out the forecast risks as at Month 9 (December 2019) on the Council's revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2019/20.
- 128.2 Councillor Yates noted that there was a typing error in paragraph 4.4 and it should read that there was a budget pressure of £0.969m rather than £969m.
- 128.3 Councillor Clare noted that there was pressure on Community Care and although pressure funding would be available in the next budget there were also cuts proposed, and asked for confirmation that there would be sufficient funding available. The Director Families Children & Learning said that there would be additional pressure funding for Adult Learning Disability and that would offset some of the savings being made, and confirmed that there would be sufficient funding and the Authority's duty to meet assessed needs would not be compromised.
- 128.4 Councillor Clare noted that there was a £1m overspend at City Clean & Fleet Management, and asked how realistic the budget setting was and whether the problems were likely to persist. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said that there had been an overspend and the report set out why that additional spend had been necessary. Additional pressure funding would be available in the proposed budget for next financial year to address the current relevant underfunding.
- 128.5 Councillor Shanks was pleased to note that there had been a reduction in the number of children in care and asked if that was a national trend. The Director Families Children & Learning said nationally the rate was increasing but there had been a significant drop in the city. The reduction was due to changes to way the Council delivered its social work to families in the city.
- 128.6 Councillor Gibson referred to temporary accommodation and noted that there had been an increase in use of spot purchase accommodation, and asked if that increase was over and above what there was at the start of the year or whether the numbers were now reducing. The Executive Director Housing Communities and Neighbourhoods said that there had actually been a modest underspend and that was because the Council had been able to access the Flexible Support Homelessness grant. There had been a spike in use of emergency accommodation and work was being undertaken to bring that down.
- 128.7 Councillor Moonan said that over the last four years the Council had put over £30m of pressure funding into Adult Social Care. The pressure on the budget was due to of a number of issues, but mainly to the increased level of demand in the city. A cross-party funding solution for adult social care was needed.

128.8 Councillor Mac Cafferty said that there had been discussions on where the S117 funding was going and an attempt to broadly engage the CCG in what the Authority did and the long term arrangements with them, and asked what engagement the Council had had with them as it was impacting on the budget. The Chief Executive said that he had met with the CCG to discuss the impact on the Council's budget. The Council were looking at all areas of spend, there was the S117 funding but there were also others such as the Better Care fund. The Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care said that there was around 430 people in the city who were on S117 funding and they were reviewed on an annual basis. The money was being well spent and there weren't big savings to be achieved. The overspend was because the spend on S117 was budgeted with the mental health budget, and some of the S117 spend went to meet people's physical needs. Going forward a case for increased funding from the CCG would be made.

128.9 RESOLVED: That the Committee –

(i) Noted the forecast risk position for the General Fund, which indicates a budget pressure of £3.355m. This includes an underspend of £0.137m on the council's share of the NHS managed Section 75 services.

(ii) Noted that the one-off financial risk safety net of £0.805m is available to mitigate the forecast risk if the risks cannot be completely eliminated by year-end.

(iii) Noted that further proposals for managing the current forecast overspend risk are set out in the General Fund budget report also on this committee agenda.

(iv) Approved the carry forward of £0.175m in respect of the Troubled Families grant as set out in Education & Skills section of Appendix 4.

(v) Noted the forecast for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is currently an underspend of £0.295m.

(vi) Noted the forecast risk position for the Dedicated Schools Grant which is an underspend of £0.384m.

(vii) Noted the forecast outturn position on the capital programme and approve the variations in Appendix 6 and the new schemes as set out in Appendix 7.

129 BRIGHTON RESEARCH & INNOVATION FIBRE RING

129.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture which set out the proposal to create a Research and Innovation Fibre Ring (R&IR) in the centre of Brighton. The R&IR was a partnership project and the report sought agreement from members for the Council to invest in and deliver its proposed parts of the project.

129.2 Councillor Allcock said that residents from many other countries had much better broadband provision than we did, and it was important for residents of the City to have

access to fast broadband. Brighton was the fourth best city in the country for digital technology but it needed to be first. Studies had shown that good broadband had a very positive impact on the economy and so this project met with the Corporate Plan's wealth building objectives.

- 129.3 Councillor Bell asked what budget line the funding would come from and what return were the Council expecting to see from the investment. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said that it would come from the capital programme. With regard to the investment return, the Council would be borrowing £333k which represented good value for money as that was 20% of the total project cost and it was anticipated that by joining up some public sector sites to the fibre that we would reduce some of our revenue costs which would allow for that investment to be viable and paid off. Councillor Bell asked if officers would come back to this committee to ask for additional funding, and was advised that it was hoped that wouldn't be necessary and the cost would be within budget, and said that the investment in this project would benefit the local economy.
- 129.4 Councillor Moonan asked if it would be viable to bring the ring to Hove Town Hall. The Executive Director Economy, Environment & Culture said the Council had taken advantage of a strategic priority in the Coast to Capital economic plan which included linking some of our innovation sites in the city centre, so we had taken advantage of the public funding which was available to do this project. A report on digital strategy had recently been taken to the Greater Brighton Economic Board, and their strategy included a priority to ensure that we achieved coverage for all businesses across the city region, so part of the next phase for full fibre would be to find a business case to bring it to the whole city.
- 129.5 RESOLVED:** That the Committee –
- (i) Noted the recent award of Local Growth Funding from Coast to Capital LEP to help deliver a Research and Innovation Fibre Ring in Brighton, and agree to enter into a funding agreement with Coast to Capital to access that funding.
 - (ii) Agreed to the city council investing in the provision of the fibre ring, in line with the business case at Appendix 1.
 - (iii) Authorised the Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture to enter into a partnership agreement with the project partners to agree roles and responsibilities to deliver the project.
 - (iv) Agreed to the Brighton Digital Exchange (BDX) continuing to occupy space at New England House for a peppercorn rent for 3 years, as part of the city council's match funding for the project.
 - (v) Authorised the Executive Director Economy, Environment and Culture to undertake or participate in any procurement processes necessary to deliver the city council's obligations under the funding agreement.

130 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/21 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

130.1 Please see the minutes for Item 127.

130.2 RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed –

- (i) That the updated HRA Revenue Budget for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix 2 (as amended) to the report be agreed and recommended to full Council for approval;
- (ii) That the Capital Programme Budget of £40.120m (as amended) for 2020/21 be agreed and noted the 3-year programme as set out in Appendix 4 to the report and recommended to full Council for approval;
- (iii) That for 2019/20, any new revenue costs (estimated at £0.080m) arising from the increased support for delivery of housing supply, should be met from HRA general reserves.

131 WINTER SHELTER PROVISION FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

- 131.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care regarding expanding winter shelter provision for rough sleepers and homeless single people.
- 131.2 The Chair said that as well as providing weekend opening the Council were also trying to improve engagement with rough sleepers, as the more contact you had with someone the easier it would be to support them. Currently there was no day time provision available at weekends and so people were outside for 48 hours. The Chair thanked officers for their work on this matter and for the volunteers who had come forward to offer to staff the increased provision.
- 131.3 Councillor Moonan said that year on year provision for rough sleepers had been increased, but there was a gap at weekends and this report was looking at increasing day centre provision to fill that gap.
- 131.4 Councillor Gibson suggested that it would be useful for this report to be referred to the Housing Committee for information. He wanted to highlight that SWEP would be open to all which few of the other facilities were. Many of the rough sleepers were not known to the authority and so couldn't be referred to the relevant services, but if they were to access the weekend provision it would be an opportunity for staff to engage with them. He asked who would be engaging with the rough sleepers and was advised that it would probably be St Mungo's but no decision had yet been made.
- 131.5 Councillor Simson asked what the link up would be with St Mungo's and SWEP. Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care confirmed that there were very good relationships between St Mungo's, the Outreach Team, volunteers and Council officers.
- 131.6 Councillor Moonan said that recently 83% of St Mungo's staff nationally had voted for strike action, and if their managers did not make the changes called for and

they did go on strike whether there would be a significant impact on the SWEP provision. The Executive Director Health & Adult Social Care clarified that this report was not about SWEP, but said he was aware of a potential strike. However, St Mungo's staff had given us assurance that there would be not impact on local provision in the.

131.7 The Committee agreed that the report should be referred to the Housing Committee for information.

131.8 RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed the adoption of weekend opening in addition to the current trigger. This would have an additional cost but would mitigate the lack of day centre and other provision at the weekend and would support the Street Outreach Service in their weekend engagement with people who are rough sleeping.

132 CONCESSIONARY BUS TRAVEL - 3 YEAR FIXED DEAL

132.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture regarding concessionary travel with Brighton & Hove Bus and Coach Company.

132.2 The Chair noted that a petition on this matter had been presented to this committee by Ms A Smith in October 2019, and the Committee had agreed that a report would come to a future meeting. There were some Part Two papers to this report and so the press and public may be asked to leave the meeting if the members wished to discuss those papers.

132.3 Councillors Moonan and Clare thanked Ms Smith for bringing the petition and welcomed the report which if agreed would benefit many people.

132.4 The Committee agreed that they had considered the Part Two papers, but did not need to discuss them in closed session.

132.5 RESOLVED: That the Committee –

- (i) Approved a 3-year fixed deal with BHBC for commencement from 1st April 2020 until 31st March 2023;
- (ii) Approves the extension of disabled pass holder travel time by 5 hours to include travel between 4am until 9am on weekdays for Brighton & Hove residents only, which would allow travel at any time (currently 9am- 3.59am);
- (iii) Granted delegated authority to the Executive Director for Environment, Transport & Sustainability to negotiate and conclude a 3-year fixed contract with BHBC for travel concession in line with option 1 referred to in paragraph 4.8 of the part two report.

133 FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21

133.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities, the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture and the Executive Lead Strategy Governance & Law which set out the proposed

202/21 fees and charges for the service areas covered by the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee including Bereavement Services in accordance with corporate regulations and policy.

133.2 Councillors Allcock, Gibson and Shanks had declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the Chamber during its consideration.

133.3 The Chair noted that Councillor Gibson had submitted an amendment to Appendix 2 in the report but could not propose it as he had had to leave the meeting during discussion of this item. Councillor Yates offered to propose the amendment. The following amendment was proposed:

Amend the parking charges as set out in Appendix 2

At the Lanes car park:

Increase the 1 hour weekday charge to £3.50

Increase the 2 hour weekday charge to £7.00

Increase the 4 hour weekday charge to £15.00

Increase the 9 hour weekday charge to £21.00

Increase the 2 hour weekend charge to £8.50

Increase the 4 hour weekend charge to £16.00

Increase the 9 hour weekend charge to £21.00

At Regency Square car park:

Increase the 1 hour charge to £3.00

Increase the 2 hour charge to £5.50

Increase the 4 hour charge to £10.50

Increase the quarterly season ticket to £330

Increase the annual season charge to £1,100

Reduce the proposed increase in annual trader permits by £20 per annum at an estimated reduction in income of £0.020m.

This raises an estimated £0.123m recurrent income.

133.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty seconded the amendment.

133.5 Councillor Shanks asked items such as gas heaters which were often placed on pavements near to retail establishments could be taxed. The Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture said he was unsure but would find out. Councillor Shanks asked if the provision for dog wardens was contracted out. The Executive Director Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities said he did not know and would provide a written answer.

133.6 Councillor Yates said that this report had come to this committee from the Environment Transport & Sustainability (ETS) Committee, and noted that there had a few changes to the proposed fees since ETS considered it.

133.7 The Committee voted on the amendment and it was agreed.

133.8 RESOLVED: That the Committee –

- (i) Approved the proposed fees and charges for 2020/21 as set out within the report and its appendices (as amended).
- (ii) Approved the relevant Traffic Regulation orders and Notices of intention to be advertised as soon as possible and that any objections to the Traffic Regulation Orders are reported back to the relevant committee for a final decision.
- (iii) Noted the proposed 2020/21 fees and charges for car parking within Stanmer Park as set out in paragraphs 3.13 – 3.15 and Appendix 3 are potentially subject to objections from the Traffic Regulation Order process. If any recommendations for changes are made to the Stanmer Park charges following the Traffic Regulation Order process this will come back to the relevant Committee alongside any potential changes in relation to Preston Park and East Brighton Park to ensure the charges are consistent across all the parks.
- (iv) Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture (in relation to paragraphs 3.4-3.21), the Executive Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods & Communities (in relation to paragraphs 3.22 - 3.25) and to the Executive Lead Officer – Strategy, Governance & Law (in relation to paragraphs 3.26 – 3.29) to change fees and charges as notified and set by central Government during the year.

134 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

134.1 **RESOLVED:** That no items be referred to the 2 April 2020 Council meeting.

135 PART TWO MINUTES

135.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Part Two Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2020 be agreed as a correct record.

136 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL FIXED DEAL BRIGHTON & HOVE BUS AND COACH COMPANY

136.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Recommendations as set out in the Part One report (Item 132) were agreed.

137 PART TWO PROCEEDINGS

137.1 **RESOLVED:** That the items listed in Part Two of the agenda and decisions thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm

Signed

Chair

