## POLICY, RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 77(d)

8 December 2016

Brighton & Hove City Council

## JOINT NOTICE OF MOTION CONSERVATIVE AND GREEN GROUPS DOWNLAND ESTATE DISPOSALS

We note that the downland estate has been preserved to protect our City's aquifer and is greatly valued for its biodiversity, heritage, landscape and amenity. Many of these unique characteristics are under statutory designation but in the current climate this in itself does not guarantee protection.

There has been considerable concern expressed at the planned sales of parcels of the downland estate. These sales have been developed under the auspices of our Asset Management Plan (AMP) and aim to raise capital funds towards the restoration and development of Stanmer Park, as agreed by all parties in committee meetings in 2014 and 2016.

Notwithstanding the above, we consider that some elements of the decisions previously approved would have benefited from greater scrutiny at the time, and positive changes to the governance of downland estate disposals are desirable to increase the profile of such proposals.

Furthermore we request the establishment of a Policy Review Panel to consider governance and policy with respect to the City's urban and rural estates. Concerning the above this will include:

- A review of respective sections of our AMP as they concern downland asset definition and disposal;
- Review of the Scheme of Delegation financial threshold for sensitive asset disposals to promote full scrutiny by Members;
- The involvement of local conservation bodies.

Proposed by: Councillor Janio

Seconded by: Councillor Sykes