

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
TOURISM, DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

4.00pm 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

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

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Robins (Chair), Platts (Deputy Chair), A Norman (Opposition Spokesperson), Druitt (Group Spokesperson), Cattell, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Mears, Nemeth and O'Quinn

Other Members present: Councillor West

PART ONE

18 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

18(a) Declarations of Substitutes

18.1 Councillor O'Quinn was present as substitute for Councillor Morris

18(b) Declarations of Interest

18.3 Councillor Marsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 31 Beach Huts-modernising licence terms and conditions as she currently rented a beach chalet.

18.4 Councillor Norman declared a non-pecuniary interest in a number of items across the agenda relating to her role as trustee for the Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust and The Keep.

18.5 The Chair declared a non-pecuniary interest in a number of items across the agenda relating to his role as trustee for the Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust.

18(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

18.6 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

18.7 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting.

19 MINUTES

19.1 Councillor Mears requested a factual correction to minute item 11.2 to read:

11.2 Councillor Mears welcomed the report and asked for confirmation that the Rottingdean Coastal ward would also be an area considered within the later report to committee. Councillor Mears stated that she had received an email from Black Rock Residents Association to push for Article 4 as HMO's were already causing a lot of problems. The Senior Planning Officer confirmed that Rottingdean Coastal would be included in the Article 4 review.

19.2 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as the correct record subject to the above amendment.

20 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

20.1 The Chair stated that due to the length of the agenda, his communications would be circulated to Members via email and recorded in the minutes as below:

Royal Pavilion & Museums

The Royal Pavilion Saloon opened earlier this month after a four year closure. It is truly spectacular and the Chair encourages those who have not seen it yet to pay a visit. It has been made possible through private donations and sponsorship. Work has been undertaken by the Royal Pavilion's conservation staff and a number of specialist crafts people, and the room features a number of items that have just been returned to the Royal Pavilion by Her Majesty the Queen.

A display has also opened, 'A Royal Room Restored', upstairs in the Pavilion. This features photographs of the different stages of restoration, illustrates the design process and demonstrates some of the skills involved such as gilding, applying platinum to the walls and the carpet weaving process undertaken at Axminster.

Brighton Centre

Over the summer period the Brighton Centre has introduced an initiative to reduce single use plastics, working with catering suppliers to eliminate them from the stock and using persuasion marketing techniques to change visitor behaviours.

A new accessibility viewing platform has been installed to increase number of wheelchair users and carers we are able to accommodate and to optimise the viewing experience. As well as this the Box Office and Outer Foyer have been refurbished, facilitating a more effective, efficient and accessible ticketing environment.

Arts

Preparatory ground work for the installation of a piece of public art has started on the land between Wharf Road Hove and A259 in Hove. Millimetre Ltd from Portslade won the commission to artistically and environmentally enhance this piece of land at the entrance to Shoreham Port and Hove Lagoon recreation area. The site hosts a chalk based butterfly bank and has been identified as part of a series of green corridors in the Shoreham Harbour Ecology and Green Infrastructure Study. Millimetre were selected by a local panel with reps from Friends of Hove Lagoon, Brighton and Hove City Council Arts & Planning teams and the local internationally-renowned arts organisation Blast Theory, to deliver their proposal. Millimetre are working with the residents,

schools, Shoreham port and the Friends of Hove Lagoon in the delivery of their public art piece entitled 'The Spline'.

Visit Brighton

It's been a busy summer working with over 541 City partners engaged in tourism in the last 3 months.

Visit Brighton has hosted visits from journalists which resulted in coverage including in The Scotsman; Red Online; The Sunday Telegraph; Hello!; Sunday Express; The Yorkshire Post; Yours and The Sunday Times. As well as this, it has hosted regional titles including Kent Messenger; Liverpool Echo and Cambridge News, whilst internationally has hosted one of Germany's largest national radio stations as well as Spain's largest national newspaper El Mundo.

There have been proposals submitted for 42 conference enquiries, which have the potential to generate £11m of economic benefit and there confirmed events include the Institute of Fire Engineers Annual Conference, the UNITE Sector Conference, TUC Conference British Association of Plastic Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgeons and Alzheimer's Research UK Annual Conference, which together will bring 9000 delegates to the City and create 1082 booked bed-nights of accommodation for conference clients, generating £10k commission.

Visit Brighton has also been actively engaged in the Martlets Snailspace campaign, sponsoring a snail promoting Brighton & Hove at London Victoria Station. The snail will be at Victoria until 18th October and then will reside in Bartholomew Square until the event ends on 18th November.

Seafront and Outdoor Events

This summer has been extremely busy for our Sport & Leisure teams with plenty of activity at the Volk's Railway and the Seafront Office alongside a packed programme of Outdoor Events across the city.

The Volk's Railway has already transported 130,000 passengers this season using the newly restored rolling stock. For the first time, the service will be continuing throughout October, culminating with the Veteran Car Run event on Sunday 4th November. There are activities planned for the half-term fortnight in October as well as a special 'Ghost Train' experience for Halloween.

The Council's beach lifeguards have had a very busy season as crowds flocked to our beaches to cool off and enjoy one of the hottest summers on record. The lifeguards have finished now and the full set of statistics for the summer are being collated but we are delighted to report that our lifeguards have done an amazing job of keeping the hundreds of thousands of beach users safe with no fatalities during the season. By mid-August our Seafront Officers and Beach Lifeguards had provided safety advice to over 26,000 members of public, responded to 101 major incidents, provided minor first aid treatment to 202 casualties, searched for and reunited 184 missing persons and saved 10 lives.

Over the last three months Brighton and Hove has hosted a range of fantastic events that have attracted many locals and visitors. We held the largest ever Pride in the city with over 50,000 people watching a world famous pop star perform in the park whilst raising thousands of pounds for local charities and raising awareness of the LGBT community. This is not to mention the many other thousands that came to our city to enjoy the parade and seafront that weekend, benefiting the wide range of businesses and supporting local employment.

Other notable events that have taken place in the city were the Friends Fest and Triathlon. Friends Fest took over 20,000 people back to their favourite 90's sitcom to try on outfits, sit on the Friends sofa, see real props from the TV programme and generally have fun. The Triathlon, which is growing in strength year by year, saw 1000 competitors take to the sea and road to test their strength and endurance which includes swimming, running and cycling. There is generally a great interest in this growing event from the local community, with many competing that are members of local running and athletics clubs. The sports village provided entertainment and information on health and fitness for the many thousands people that came to support their family members taking part, which contributed to a fantastic atmosphere.

Between July and the end of September Brighton and Hove has hosted over 90 events on public land, many of them free to attend and to the benefit and interest of many in our community. Events continue to benefit our city in many ways.

21 CALL OVER

21.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

22 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(B) WRITTEN QUESTIONS

(i) Network Rail Line Closures

22.1 Angi Mariani put the following question:

“It is widely acknowledged Network Rail Line Closures between Three Bridges and Brighton, scheduled for 34 days over weekends and the busy February half term, will negatively impact on the city; particularly our Tourism, Hospitality and Retail sectors. As an Economic Impact Assessment to determine the potential financial loss to Tourism, Hospitality and Retail was not carried out by the council, and assuming there's been no representations to Network Rail for any form of compensation, what additional resources will the council now be providing to help mitigate losses to Tourism related businesses as a result of these line closures?”

22.2 The Chair provided the following response:

“Thank you for your question. The Council has made representations throughout the year to both Network Rail and Govia concerning the forthcoming rail closures, highlighting the potential impacts of the closures on local business. Our sentiments have been echoed by City stakeholders in their individual discussions with Network Rail. As a government body, unfortunately Network Rail does not have the authority to issue compensation for potential loss of business caused through rail closures. The Council's Tourism and Leisure department have launched a marketing campaign 'Breeze to Brighton' aimed at targeting and increasing traffic from leisure visitors who are able to access Brighton via unaffected rail routes. We are investing significant resources in this campaign, which will promote the offers of businesses throughout the City, and are working with both Network Rail and Govia who have pledged to support for the initiative.

Furthermore, I have continued to press the case for tourism, including through representations to the city's MPs and to the Secretary of State and as you know, there will be a meeting with Peter Kyle a week Friday to pursue the matter".

22.3 Angi Mariani put the following supplementary question:

"Presumably the council may benefit from the rail line closures from such things as increased parking and I wondered whether the council had analysed such potential benefits and whether a proportion of such benefits could be used to aid tourism businesses further"

22.4 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

"The approach we are taking is to work with partners across the city including the Tourism Alliance to ensure we are developing a package of measures that promote the city particularly with the Breeze in Brighton Campaign. We are putting council resources into that. The issue with spending parking surplus is that parking income can only be spent on traffic management measures so it is not possible due to financial regulations to spend that income on something else. The other thing to bear in mind is that a lot of our parking spaces are well used and therefore there would not necessarily be an increase in income as a result of the closures although we cannot be certain of that".

23 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(B) WRITTEN QUESTIONS

(i) Lack of response to King Alfred question

23.1 Councillor Nemeth put the following question:

When will the Chairman be providing the promised answer to Member Question of 21st June 2018 (reproduced below) on the specific subject of officer costs?

"What estimate does the Chair make of costs incurred to date by the Council in progressing the redevelopment of the King Alfred Leisure Centre since the project was revived in 2013?"

23.2 The Chair provided the following response:

"I understand that you have now had a response from officers, who have asked me to pass on their apologies for the delay in replying.

The total estimated cost for the combined time of the officer team in the last year is £68,189. Any estimate of officer time further back than the last year would not be sufficiently accurate".

23.3 Councillor Nemeth put the following supplementary question:

“The officer concerned suggested that it would be possible to receive a figure of officer time spent on the project going back five years. Could that be made public rather than in an email to me?”

23.4 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

“We do not keep a record on specifically allocated time to a project as we would need to purchase software to do that and it is likely that an estimate over five years would be reached by multiplying the figure given to you by five although I should make clear, that is just an estimate”.

(ii) King Alfred

23.5 Councillor Nemeth put the following question:

“With King Alfred delays, transparency, design and finances in mind, what lessons have been learnt by the Administration from the current proposal’s shortcomings that can be applied to future major projects?”

23.6 The Chair provided the following response:

“The King Alfred scheme is among the most complex in the City. The Council, with cross-party support, has embarked on it with what we know to be challenging expectations, but which were nonetheless considered to be appropriate and achievable. The primary objective is delivery of a comprehensive and modern sports centre costing in excess of £40m, where the bulk of the funding is generated by the enabling development i.e. new homes. At the time of appointing the Preferred Developer in 2016, the scheme, whilst achieving the highest score in the evaluation and offering many positive features, was known to be at the margins of financial viability, but where there was sufficient confidence that this could be improved upon. Market conditions have changed since that time and this continues, and uncertainty in the construction industry brings further challenges. This has caused delay while the developer and the city council have successfully applied for Housing Infrastructure Funding from Homes England. It is therefore difficult to identify general lessons learnt from what is a very individual major project, but it confirms that despite the best possible efforts prior to tendering, during the dialogue process, and since appointment, complex projects remain challenging throughout”.

(iii) Planning consultation complaints

23.7 Councillor Nemeth put the following question:

“What plans are in place to address continued public complaints about the way in which the Council involves residents in the planning process? Just this year alone, I personally have received a number of complaints about the handling of applications at Hove Library, Hove Rugby Club, 80a Stoneham Road and the Westerman Complex where site notices have not been noticed; consultation letters have not been sent out or sometimes even received; and Planning Committee resident involvement procedures

have not been logical or transparent with regard to both meeting date and actually attending”

23.8 The Chair provided the following response:

“Consultation on the planning process is determined by national legislation and guidance contained in the council’s adopted Statement of Community Involvement. Current procedures for consultation by the Planning Service are set out in the Statement of Community Involvement. These go beyond the minimum requirements set out in the Development Management Procedure Order 2015 which sets out the national requirements for consulting on planning applications. Many local planning authorities limit their consultation to the minimum required, for example using site notices only. In terms of Brighton & Hove Planning Service consultation goes beyond this. Consultation on planning applications is carried out by sending letters to the occupiers of adjoining properties or a site notice displayed. In some circumstances both methods are used. In addition to this, all applications are advertised on a weekly list which appears on the Council’s website and applications affecting conservation areas and listed buildings are advertised in the Brighton and Hove Independent.

In terms of reports for Planning Committee, these are available to view at least seven days prior to the Committee. The new Planning Register (installed in June) is also shows the scheduled Committee date once it has been confirmed the application will be presented to Committee. This is a new function of the Register and was implemented for the Planning Committee in September. It enables residents to search for the application they are interested in on the Register and the date will appear approximately ten days before Committee.

Links to the Committee pages are provided from the planning pages and there are guidance procedures on the planning pages”.

23.9 Councillor Nemeth put the following supplementary question:

“Does the Chair recognise the sort of complaints I am receiving, some of which were front-page news in The Argus such as Hove Library and if these complaints are recognised, what assurances can be offered to those that have complained in the past?”

23.10 Councillor Cattell, as Chair of Planning Committee, provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

“We go above the national requirements for consultation and if residents do not see planning notices, I’m not sure how that can be dealt with. We always keep a record of where the site notices are placed and if people do not get the letters, I’m not sure how that can be dealt with either and we continue to consider the issue very seriously”.

(iv) Marlborough House

23.11 Councillor Nemeth put the following question:

“Will the Chair give an update on the latest position with regard to the condition of this historic asset (including a specific update on the site meeting that was held with the Heritage Officer and owner on 26th June 2018)?”

23.12 The Chair provided the following response:

“Officers have held two positive meetings with the owner and his architect, including a joint site visit with Historic England on 26 June.
The condition of the building has improved as the owner has been carrying out agreed repairs to internal plastering and external stonework, though no work has yet been undertaken to comply with the outstanding Listed Building Enforcement Notice.
As discussed and agreed at the meetings, a pre-application submission has recently been made which seeks a long term future and restoration of the building and officers will be assessing this submission in the coming weeks. The submission will be supported by a full specialist heritage assessment of the building, which will help to inform future repair and restoration works. On this basis the council has agreed to an adjournment of prosecution proceedings, in respect of the Listed Building Enforcement Notice, until January 2019”.

23.13 Councillor Nemeth put the following supplementary question:

“Might it be an idea to append the issue to the Major Projects update report as I do ask about it every meeting?”

23.14 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

“Marlborough House isn’t a major project but including it on the Major Projects update received by this committee is something that can be considered”.

(v) Community Facilities

23.15 Councillor Nemeth put the following question:

“Will the Chair give his views on the continued loss of community facilities in Hove in favour of more and more housing? With the loss of the YMCA, Westows and the Great Hall in Hove Town Hall, is the likely future fewer community assets for more people?”

23.16 The Chair provided the following response:

“The important role of community facilities in contributing to the well-being and sustainability of communities is recognised and Planning policies in the City Plan and Local Plan seek to retain them wherever possible.
Any planning application which proposes the loss of a community facility is assessed against saved Policy HO20 of the 2005 Brighton & Hove Local Plan. This policy states that “Planning permission will not be granted for development proposals, including changes of use, that involve the loss of community facilities” unless one of four exception criteria are met. Where an exception is permitted, the priority for reuse of sites is for residential and mixed use schemes or starter business units to meet identified local needs.
A similar policy is included in the draft City Plan Part Two, as well as a specific policy to protect public houses which recognises their unique characteristics”.

23.17 Councillor Nemeth put the following supplementary question:

“Would the Chair support S106 or CIL funding being put towards specific units within a new building for community space?”

23.18 The Head of Planning provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

“There is a mechanism through Section 106 at the moment to replace existing community facilities that might be lost through a development and payments can be made toward a replacement facility. Policy H020 quite clearly sets out tests for when we allow for loss of community facilities. There are four main tests that relate to relocation elsewhere or off-site payment. We can provide further information if you require that”.

(vi) Brunswick Lawns Railings

23.19 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following question:

“Further to three surveys, one in November, one in January, the other a few weeks ago, the continuous degradation of the railings is notable. In January I photographed several railings that had fallen off and were left on the lawns and tied to the railings themselves. The railings have suffered poor maintenance, have been damaged, and worse, are fast disappearing.

Although the Lawns are not Listed nationally, they are on the Local List of Heritage Assets. In addition, they have the protection of being officially located with the Brunswick Town and Avenues Conservation Areas and, in the case of the Brunswick Lawns, within the setting of Grade 1 and Grade 2* Listed Buildings. So we are under a statutory duty to protect the railings. Given their current state, is there a maintenance and repair programme planned for the railings and what funding streams is the council looking to revive the railings?”

23.20 The Chair provided the following response:

“The low level railings which border the lawns have sections which are missing as a result of accidental damage or deliberate vandalism. The panels are most vulnerable where they are located directly in front of what are referred to as the ‘cucumber’ benches – the long green double sided benches which run along the north edge of Hove Promenade. The railings are often used as a foot rest by people using the benches but unfortunately any force placed upon them can cause the panel to shear, most often at the base connection, and collapse onto the grass.

Officers have been advised by a blacksmith that spot welding is not a viable option for repair due to the level of corrosion and brittle nature of the cast iron, combined with the significant weight of each panel.

The painting of these railings is included in the seafront redecoration contract for Hove Seafront which was most recently undertaken in 2017, but the budget did not include provision for repairs and replacement. In order to replace the sections of railing which are missing, a number of new panels would need to be recast. This would require a bespoke pattern to be made to match the same design as the original panels and to the correct length to fit the existing gaps. The panels are supported by legs which are embedded in concrete therefore it is likely that a new plinth would need to be formed in order to set the new panels in place.

There is currently no funding available to cover these works”.

23.21 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following supplementary question:

“Could the formation of a working group to look at some of the issues be considered and well as widening the pot from developer contributions and create a sinking fund?”

23.22 The Chair provided the following response:

“We’d be happy to facilitate a working group if it is feasible”.

(vii) Brexit

23.23 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following question:

“As we are less than 200 days till the official Brexit date, in order that Councillors and our communities alike are apprised of the economic risks associated with any deal, or worse, no deal, can we have the risks added onto the corporate Strategic Risks Register”.

23.24 The Chair provided the following response:

“The Audit & Standards Committee rather than this committee is responsible for agreeing and monitoring the corporate Strategic Risk Register. However, I can confirm that officers are monitoring the potential areas of risk around the different Brexit scenarios that may occur, so that a more thorough risk assessment can be quickly produced once the final Brexit deal or lack of deal starts to emerge”.

23.25 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following supplementary question:

“Will the Chair write to Ministers asking them to reveal the truth about the impact that leaving the EU will have on the City. I don’t believe Ministers will necessarily respond to that but it will be a push from us as a City to try and find out what the risk is”.

23.26 The Chair provided the following response:

“I’m sure we can do that as requested”

(viii) Fences around construction sites

23.27 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following question:

“We have a number of construction sites where hoardings and fences completely take over the pavement area. This has led to pedestrians stranded and having to walk on the highway, which is a safety hazard to all road users. In several locations, the fences are blocking sight paths. Can we explore how this area of policy works to avoid this in the future and so consents aren’t permitted to entirely block off the pavement?”

23.28 The Chair provided the following response:

“All hoardings placed on the Public Highway should be licenced by the Highways Enforcement Team. The licensing process involves communication with the developer to

ascertain how much space is needed and if a safe walkway can be provided. Due to the varying nature of the footway and carriageway widths across the city it is not always possible to maintain a clear passageway on the footway.

Each site is different and if the footway does need to be closed alternatives are dependent on the location, type of road, footfall, nearby junctions and other factors. Highway Enforcement Officers will work with the developers and Network Coordination Officers to make sure that there is a safe way around the site that is suitably sign posted. Any problems with Hoardings should be reported to the Highway Enforcement team”.

(ix) Retail

23.29 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following question:

“Further to my question to the last committee about retail, Debenhams has been added to the retailers downsizing. According to a survey published by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) in January, 14% of small businesses are now expecting to scale down or stop trading, with retailers among the least optimistic. What work is underway to help our small retailers through the difficult period”.

23.30 The Chair provided the following response:

“Retail accounts for around 16,000 jobs in the city and over 2,000 businesses. The city benefits from a diverse retail offer including a significant number of independent retailers. While the national figure for shop vacancy rates has averaged 12% over the last 6 months Brighton & Hove has bucked the trend with vacancy rates in the City Centre standing at 5.93%.

The council is undertaking a number of activities to support retail. These include: Discretionary Rate Relief for Business to alleviate the impacts of the recent national revaluation; promoting the Living Wage Campaign which helps retailers to retain their staff; working closely with the Brilliant Brighton Business Improvement District; and supporting Small Business Saturday.

The Economic Development Team would be happy to provide you with a more detailed briefing note on these and other projects that are supporting retailers, as there is too much detail to comprehensively explain here”.

23.31 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following supplementary question:

“Where gaps appear, especially in the busiest areas of the high street in the buildings we own, can we go out of our way to fill those gaps with small and medium retailers to prevent any long-term vacancies?”

23.32 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture provided the following response on behalf of the Chair:

“There are examples where we already do that and whenever there is a scenario where we are unable to re-let one of our own properties, we would seek a meanwhile use if that were possible. Our re-letting of our own properties is good so we do not hold vacancies very long. There have also been good examples of where we have worked

with other landlords on pop-up or meanwhile uses where landlords have found it difficult to re-let their retail units”.

(x) Seafront Shelters

23.33 Councillor Mac Cafferty put the following question:

“On August 13th, a number of the wooden seafront shelters and benches had been vandalised, including one which was partially demolished through vandalism. A further check last Thursday 13th September revealed some repairs were now thankfully under way, however one of the shelters, located near the Meeting Place Café, has suffered further vandalism and is in a very bad way, with almost its entire centre composed of broken wooden panels and several broken panes of glass. Can I ask that the shelter is repaired before the onslaught of winter?”

23.34 The Chair provided the following response:

“The shelter in question is on Kings Road just east of the Peace Statue and has recently been the victim of substantial vandalism.

There are around 20 shelters between Hove Lagoon and the Marina in addition the various open benches. Due to the costs involved repairs to these shelters need to be undertaken in phases.

This year the planned and reactive maintenance budgets have already been allocated for other works. However, officers will investigate whether repairs can be undertaken in the new financial year subject to available resources.

If the shelter is posing a safety risk with regards to broken Perspex panels then works to remove this hazard will be made a priority and undertaken immediately”

(C) LETTERS

(i) Events

23.35 Councillor West presented a Letter that requesting an update to the Outdoor Events Policy adopted in 2013 including sub-categories for each of the city’s key parks such as The Level, Hove Lawns and Preston Park.

23.36 The Chair provided the following response:

“Thank you for your Letter.

You are correct that a balance needs to be struck between the use of sites for cultural and leisure activities which provide a contribution to the city’s vibrant tourism economy, or to the enjoyment of the wider population, and the views of “near neighbours” and the impact on our city assets.

An overall strategy in relation to the Council’s outdoor events programme is currently under development and scheduled to be considered by this committee in January 2019. The Events Strategy will consider the broad context for events and the nature of the events programme, as well as how best the events can contribute to the Council’s and the City’s priorities.

The annual programme of proposed events to take place on Council-owned land in the next year is currently being co-ordinated for consideration by committee in November.

The operation of each event is very specific to the individual requirements of the event and with regard to particular concerns relating to the Level, officers can meet with you to discuss the measures planned to reduce any negative impact of events on the site, to try and strike an appropriate balance, before the report is finalised”.

23.37 **RESOLVED-** That the Committee note the Letter.

24 AN ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

24.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that set out the Economic Strategy for Brighton & Hove and sought approval for referral to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and Full Council for adoption.

24.2 On behalf of the Green Group, Councillor Druitt moved the following motion to amend recommendation 2.1 as show in bold italics below:

2.1 Recommends the Economic Strategy to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and then Full Council for adoption, ***with an additional pillar, as follows:***

“A sustainable City: A City which looks to the future, focussing its economy on sustainable solutions to future challenges in order to protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of its’ residents and act as a leader in developing a robust response to climate change”.

24.3 Introducing the motion, Councillor Druitt explained that the Economic Strategy was very thorough however; he felt that greater focus was required on sustainability. Councillor Druitt clarified that he had initially been advised that this should be through an addition to the first pillar but he had decided to propose a new, fifth pillar after discussions with fellow committee members.

24.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty formally seconded the motion.

24.5 Councillor Platts stated that she fully supported the motion however, as the Strategy was a joint document and had a series of important actions that required speedy implementation, officers should be delegated to bring the existing and new actions together.

24.6 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture stated that if the committee resolved to agree the motion, he would ask that officers be allowed to develop the actions relating to the fifth pillar with partners.

24.7 Councillor Mears asked for clarification on the advice provided by officers to Councillor Druitt relating to the need to add a fifth pillar or amend the first pillar to incorporate the request.

24.8 Councillor Mac Cafferty formally seconded the motion and agreed with Councillor Platts that officers be tasked with undertaking the process. Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that the employment market was moving toward a focus on jobs relating to sustainability and accepting the motion would demonstrate rational planning for the future local economy.

In relation to the wider report, Councillor Mac Cafferty congratulated officers for producing a very thorough document. However, he had some concern for the use of the term 'disruptive economy' as the founder of the term promoted ignorance of legislation and regulation and demeaned the upholding of law, environmental protection and human rights and that would not be appropriate in a city such as Brighton & Hove that valued human rights standards and regulation.

- 24.9 The Assistant Director - City Development & Regeneration clarified that the term was used to describe innovation and being ahead of the curve in anticipating changes to the economy.
- 24.10 Councillor Nemeth explained that he had several concerns about the report. Firstly, the remit was unclear and the Strategy had encompassed issues such as health and transport that were the responsibility of other committees. Councillor Nemeth added that the report was muddled and overly focussed on the idea of doing things differently rather than doing things better. Councillor Nemeth stated that he would have liked to have seen comparisons with cities such as Bristol and Bournemouth in England and Barcelona and Toronto abroad. Councillor Nemeth added that he did not see the Strategy as inclusive as it claimed but politically charged. Instead, he would have liked to have seen topics such as how to attract large businesses, opportunities that may arise from Brexit, plans for Brighton Town Hall and the Mayoralty and major projects. Councillor Nemeth surmised that the report had a misguided remit, was overly political and made poor conclusions and he would therefore not be supporting the recommendations.
- 24.11 Councillor Mears echoed the comments made by Councillor Nemeth adding that the term 'disruptive city' was of serious concern to her as it was poor terminology that would be off-putting to businesses considering investment in the local area.
- 24.12 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture explained that the term 'disruptive city' had arisen through the stakeholder events and there had been a lot of discussion about the term in that forum. It was the view of business partners that the term captured the uniqueness and entrepreneurial and collaborative spirit of the city.
- 24.13 Councillor Platts expressed thanks to council officers for their work and commended the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership and Chamber of Commerce for their enormously valuable input. Councillor Platt stated the document had undergone extensive consultation and was a demonstration of collaboration and no apology should be made regarding the terminology used as it harnessed the innovation and uniqueness of the small business community that was one of the city's great strengths.
- 24.14 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture explained that should the motion be passed by the committee, the report would be adapted to include the proposal for a fifth column and would be referred to the December meetings of Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and Full Council rather than the October meetings as planned.
- 24.15 The Chair put the motion to the vote that passed.
- 24.16 The Chair put the recommendations, as amended to the vote that passed.
- 24.17 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) Recommends the Economic Strategy to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee and then Full Council for adoption, with an additional pillar, as follows:

“A sustainable City: A City which looks to the future, focussing its economy on sustainable solutions to future challenges in order to protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of its’ residents and act as a leader in developing a robust response to climate change”.

25 BEACH HUTS - MODERNISING LICENCE TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 25.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that requested approval for consultation on the modernised terms and conditions of beach hut licences.

- 25.2 On behalf of the Conservative Group, Councillor Nemeth moved the following motion:

2.2 That the committee approves consultation with beach hut owners on the proposed modernised beach hut licence as attached in appendix 3. The ~~Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture~~ **Committee** will then consider implementation of the new beach hut licence ~~under delegated powers~~ subject to the consultation response **to a future meeting**.

- 25.3 Introducing the motion, Councillor Nemeth explained that its purpose was to ensure committee oversight and greater clarity on the results of the consultation and way forward.

- 25.4 Councillor Norman formally seconded the motion.

- 25.5 The Chair put the motion to the vote that passed.

- 25.6 The Chair put the recommendations, as amended to the vote that passed.

25.7 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the committee agrees not to increase the transfer fee for beach huts that was originally approved in the fees & charges for 2018/19; and
- 2) That the committee approves consultation with beach hut owners on the proposed modernised beach hut licence as attached in appendix 3. The committee will then consider implementation of the new beach hut licence subject to the consultation response to a future meeting.

26 VISITOR ECONOMY STRATEGY AND DESTINATION MANAGEMENT PLAN 2018-23

- 26.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that set out and requested adoption of the Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) and Destination Management Plan (DMP).

- 26.2 On behalf of the Green Group, Councillor Druitt moved a motion to amend recommendation 2.1 and add a recommendation 2.3 as shown in bold italics below:
- 2.1 That the Committee ***notes the value of the Visitor Economy to the city and*** adopts the Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) Destination Management Plan (DMP) which is attached in the appendices to this report.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes the outline Destination Management Plan (DMP) attached at Appendix Two to this report and the intention to work with partners to establish a Destination Experience Group to further progress this work.
- 2.3 That the committee recognises the value of all visitors to the city and continues, alongside important work on 'target leisure markets' outlined in the strategy, to improve the visitor experience for everyone***
- 26.3 Introducing the motion, Councillor Druitt stated that its purpose was to be clearer in noting the value of the Visitor Economy Strategy and Destination Management Plan and recognise that visitors spending a low amount were of equal importance as those spending a high amount and that should be made clear in marketing.
- 26.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty formally seconded the motion.
- 26.5 Councillor Mears stated she had found the report to be very interesting and very positive and asked for clarification on when the committee would receive reports on the Royal Pavilion and Museum as it had a huge amount of input into the tourist and visitor attraction to the city.
- 26.6 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture clarified that a report on the Royal Pavilion and Museum would be presented to the 11 October meeting of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee as there had been insufficient time to prepare a report to this committee. The resolution made by Policy, Resources & Growth Committee as amended at its July meeting requested that a report is brought earlier to the 11 October Policy, Resources & Growth Committee which had placed significant time pressures. The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture supplemented that briefings on the matter could be provided to all Members and the upcoming Royal visit was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the city.
- 26.7 Councillor Mears countered that she did believe there was sufficient time to prepare a report to this committee and that she wished to register a formal complaint that the committee had been side-stepped on the issue contrary to commitments made previously.
- 26.8 The Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture replied that an update on the future governance arrangements of the Royal Pavilion & Museums could be provided outside of the meeting.
- 26.9 Councillor Norman stated that it was important to congratulate the contribution of small businesses to the attraction of the city.

- 26.10 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked what work had been undertaken on the public life and public space study and welcomed the commitment to the review of all events and he hoped consideration could be given on spacing events more evenly over the year rather than concentrated over a few months. Councillor Mac Cafferty added that specifically, he hoped events over the Christmas period could be better advertised.
- 26.11 The Assistant Director – Culture, Tourism and Sport clarified that event schedules would be discussed through the Destination Experience Group.
- 26.12 Councillor Nemeth welcomed the report that he had found to be very clear and neutral.
- 26.13 The Chair then put the motion to the vote that passed.
- 26.14 The Chair then put the recommendations, as amended to the vote that passed.

26.15 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That That the Committee notes the value of the Visitor Economy to the city and adopts the Visitor Economy Strategy (VES) Destination Management Plan (DMP) which is attached in the appendices to this report.
- 2) That the Committee notes the outline Destination Management Plan (DMP) attached at Appendix Two to this report and the intention to work with partners to establish a Destination Experience Group to further progress this work.
- 3) That the committee recognises the value of all visitors to the city and continues, alongside important work on 'target leisure markets' outlined in the strategy, to improve the visitor experience for everyone.

27 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

- 27.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that requested approval of the updated Planning Enforcement Policy document.
- 27.2 Councillor Cattell welcomed the report and thanked officers for their work in updating the document. Councillor Cattell stated that the modern enforcement process was more positive in approach, more integrated in the planning process and there was more use of qualified planners leading to a more considered approach.
- 27.3 Councillor Mears thanked officers for producing a detailed report on a complex issue and for hosting a workshop on the matter ahead of the committee. Councillor Mears asked what the number of outstanding enforcement requests were.
- 27.4 The Planning Manager clarified that there were currently 830 requests outstanding but of that number, some could be on hold awaiting appeals or pending the expiration of the notice. Furthermore, the number of cases not allocated to an officer for investigation was 415.
- 27.5 Councillor Nemeth asked how enforcement success would be measured and how councillors could request investigations under the new process.

27.6 The Planning Manager that success would be measured on how quickly cases could be allocated and resolved and clarified that the request for investigation form was easy to use and prompted a lot of information but emails from Members would also be accepted.

27.7 **RESOLVED-** That Members agree the Enforcement Policy Document in Appendix 1 for implementation from the 1 January 2019 subject to minor alterations to correct grammatical errors with the agreement of the Head of Planning.

28 REVIEW OF PLANNING PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT CHARGES

28.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment, Economy & Culture that sought agreement to introduce a fast track fee option for Planning Performance Arrangements (PPA's) necessary to cover the costs of bringing in additional planning, transport and other specialist staff support at short notice.

28.2 Councillor Druitt asked for confirmation that the fast track fee option would not supersede the existing non-paid service.

28.3 The Planning Manager confirmed that it would not supersede existing services and would relate to a small number of significant schemes with specific time requirements.

28.4 Councillor Cattell welcomed the report as a step forward in managing the planning process. Councillor Cattell added that local authorities to some extent subsidised major projects as the fee did not cover the entirety of resource put in and this new fee would ensure applications were properly costed and paid for.

28.5 Councillor Nemeth stated that he did feel there would be an inevitable impact upon the regular service, however it would mean that the authority could charge the correct fee for its services.

28.6 The Planning Manager explained that the fee would cover the cost of bringing in additional resource and would only apply to major developments.

28.7 **RESOLVED-** That the Committee grants delegated authority to the Executive Director Economy Environment & Culture to agree the fast track fee for Planning Performance Agreements based on the hourly cost of additional agency/consultancy planning, transport and other specialist staff support.

29 QUEEN'S PARK CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER STATEMENT

29.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that summarised the response to the public consultation on the draft Queen's Park Conservation Area Character Statement and sought approval to publish the final document as well as endorsement for the extension of the boundary of the conservation area and for the principle of making an Article 4 Direction to remove certain permitted development rights.

29.2 Councillor Marsh stated that she he hoped Queen's Park School could be re-assured about joining the Conservation Area in the long-term.

- 29.3 Councillor Mears noted that the committee were being asked to approve an Article 4 Direction for the Queen's Park area in principle yet at the previous meeting the committee were informed there would be a report to the committee on Article 4 Direction later in the year. Councillor Mears stated that it appeared different criteria were being applied to different wards and asked for clarification.
- 29.4 The Head of Planning explained that the report to be submitted to the committee later in the year would be a review of the Article 4 boundary across the city, including Rottingdean Coastal ward whereas the report being considered sought to control minor alterations and was very specific to this Conservation Area.
- 29.5 Councillor Norman noted the concerns raised by Queen's Park Primary School about the possibility of additional time and costs when considering future maintenance or alterations to the school and asked for clarification on what would constitute significant additional controls as described in the response by officers to the objection.
- 29.6 The Principal Planning Officer explained that there was some work schools could undertake without requiring planning permission and being in a Conservation Area would not impact upon that. There would be a requirement that new buildings and extensions to be of similar character to existing buildings and any proposal that was very different would need planning permission.
- 29.7 **RESOLVED-**
- 1) That the Queen's Park Conservation Area Character Statement be approved for publication.
 - 2) That the Queen's Park Conservation Area boundary be extended to include numbers 2-27 Freshfield Place (consecutive) and Queen's Park Primary School.
 - 3) That the principle of making an Article 4 Direction on the Queen's Park Conservation Area be approved in principle, subject to informal public consultation on the details, in respect of permitted development rights under Schedule 2, Parts 1 and 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

30 ERDF BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- 30.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that provided information on a new EU funded business support programme set to roll out in Brighton & Hove in autumn 2018.
- 30.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked if the Ride the Wave scheme would be ended noting that it would be disappointing news if so and asked what the potential return on investment might be.
- 30.3 The Economic Development Programme Manager clarified that Brighton Chamber of Commerce had operated a competitive tender on the Council's behalf for the past six years, however the Chamber of Commerce had decided against operating the tender

going forward due to the administrative demands involved and as it would distract them from their core work in supporting their membership. A different, wider model would be operated going forward and that, in part, was a response to the possibility of the UK leaving the EU. The Economic Development Programme Manager explained that the Council would be investing £30,000 for access to £12 million of funding and the Council would have a seat on the steering group to ensure it obtained value for money.

30.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty thanked the Economic Development Programme Manager for providing assurance.

30.5 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Committee note the progress being made in developing this new business support programme
- 2) That the Committee agrees the funding being committed by the council to the programme for the benefit of local businesses.

31 **BRIGHTON & HOVE CULTURAL FRAMEWORK**

31.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that set out a new strategic framework for culture following collaboration with principal partners, stakeholders, artists and residents.

31.2 Councillor Mac Cafferty stated his concern that artists and those in the creative industries were being forced out the city due to the rising costs of premises and housing and asked what actions were being taken to address these barriers and learn from other authorities.

31.3 The Assistant Director – Culture, Tourism and Sport replied that the report before committee was a framework and the type of issues raised by Councillor Mac Cafferty would be considered by the various action groups at the next stage.

31.4 Councillor Mears enquired as to the definition of purple flag status.

31.5 The Assistant Director – Culture, Tourism and Sport explained that the purple flag status was a national scheme relating to excellence in night time economy standards.

31.6 **RESOLVED-**

- 1) That the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee adopts the Cultural Framework which is attached in Appendix One.
- 2) That the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee commits to the Council leading on the actions and initiatives which arise from the framework, as set out in Appendix Two.
- 3) That the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee notes the new governance arrangements for the Arts & Creative Industries Commission set out in Appendix Three.

32 INFORMATION BRIEFING ON BRIGHTON & HOVE'S ACTIVITY TO MARK THE SUFFRAGE CENTENARY

- 32.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that provided information on the activity in Brighton & Hove to mark the centenary of women's suffrage in 2018.
- 32.2 Councillor Nemeth enquired as to the reasons behind the delay in placing a blue plaque close to the North Street quadrant.
- 32.3 Councillor Platts explained that the delay was due to the practical issue of the height the plaque would be placed as the Women's Social and Political Union branch offices were located on the second storey.
- 32.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty praised the report adding that he would have welcomed more information on future events and legacy projects.
- 32.5 Councillor Marsh stated that she hoped there would be a ceremony for each plaque unveiling.
- 32.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Committee note the contents of this report.

33 UEFA WOMEN'S EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

- 33.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that provided information on the decision of the Football Association (FA) to bid to host the Women's European Football Championships 2021 with Brighton & Hove nominated as a host city.
- 33.2 Councillor Mears welcomed the report and in relation to paragraph 3.10, stated that she hoped new women's teams would develop in the area as a result of hosting the tournament.
- 33.3 The Head of Sport & Leisure stated that it was hoped new teams would be created and that participation would be increased in women's football at all age groups.
- 33.4 **RESOLVED-** That Tourism, Development & Culture Committee notes that Brighton & Hove has been included as a host city in a bid by the FA to host the Women's European Football Championships 2021 in England.

34 DRAFT SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEMS SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SUDS-SPD)

- 34.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that sought approval to undertake formal public consultation on the draft Sustainable Drainage Systems Supplementary Planning Document (SuDS-SPD).
- 34.2 Councillor O'Quinn welcomed the report and asked if changes to farming practices had made an impact upon occurrences and severity of flooding.

- 34.3 The Flood Risk Management Officer replied changes to farming practices could result in increased surface water flooding and officers were working in partnership with the South Downs National Park Authority to address matters such as that.
- 34.4 Councillor Mac Cafferty referenced a study undertaken by the Building Green Group about the roof audit study that stated that clearly set out the positive impact of building green spaces on roofs to reduce flooding. Councillor Mac Cafferty asked at what point that study should be raised in the formal consultation.
- 34.5 The Flood Risk Management Officer replied that the SuDS-SPD would bring developers attention to the SEERA Guidance and sustainable drainage manual and there had been a rise in green roofs, blue roofs and water attenuation. The SuDS-SPD document would be a part of range of documents that would provide guidance on the most appropriate system to use.
- 34.6 Councillor Cattell welcomed the report adding that she was pleased that sustainable urban drainage systems had become much more popular.
- 34.7 **RESOLVED-** That the Committee gives authority to consult on the Draft SuDS - Supplementary Planning Document which will inform the preparation of the final version of the document and to authorise the Head of Planning to make any necessary minor editorial/grammatical amendments to the Draft Supplementary Planning Document prior to consultation.

35 MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

- 22.1 The Committee received an update on progress made on Major Projects since the previous meeting.
- 22.2 Councillor Marsh asked if the outcome of the Phase 2 Round 1 HLF bid relating to the Royal Pavilion Estate had been received.
- 22.3 The Assistant Director- City Development & Regeneration clarified that no response had been received but there would be an update in the report to the next committee.

36 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

- 36.1 No items were referred to Full Council for information.

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

