

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 11 MARCH 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Daniel (Chair) Marsh (Deputy Chair), Nemeth (Opposition Spokesperson), West (Group Spokesperson), Cattell, Greenbaum, A Norman, K Norman and Peltzer Dunn

Invitees: Joanna Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project and Anusree Biswas Sasidharan BME Police Engagement Group

PART ONE

54 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

54a Declaration of Substitutes

54.1 Councillor Greenbaum stated that she was in attendance in substitution for Councillor Phillips.

54b Declarations of Interest

54.2 Councillor West sought referred to Item 47 on the agenda, seeking clarification and sought legal advice in respect of this matter as he sat on the Board of Trustees of two organisations which might be recipients of funding in future. It was confirmed that this did not constitute a prejudicial interest. It would however, be appropriate for him to declare an interest when any further report came to Committee if those organisations were in receipt of funding at that time. On that basis Councillor West remained present at the meeting during its consideration and any discussion thereon.

54c Exclusion of the Press and Public

54.3 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 the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, that 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(1) of the Act).

54.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

55 MINUTES

- 55.1 **RESOLVED** - That the Chair be authorised to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2019 as a correct record.

56 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

International Women's Day

- 56.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, stated that she wanted to start with a big thank you to all the womens' groups in the city including the council's own women's network for their inspirational events to celebrate women on International Women's Day.

LGBT History Month

- 56.2 The city had had another successful LGBT History month and the council with its partners in the public and community and voluntary sector would be running the city's gender pronoun awareness campaign, supporting International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31, a moment to celebrate transgender people and the courage it took to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness around the discrimination trans people still faced.

BME Volunteer Fair

- 56.3 The Chair stated that she was very pleased to announce that the council was supporting the Trust for Developing Communities who would be hosting the first BME volunteer fair in the city, solely focused on our BME communities and providing information and on the spot sign up to volunteering opportunities with a wide range of organisations including the council.

Modern Slavery Co-Ordinator

- 56.4 Lastly, the Chair wanted to advise the Committee that the council had appointed a modern slavery co-ordinator who would be working across the council to ensure staff had the skills and confidence to identify and support victims to reveal and report their situation and get the support they needed.

- 56.5 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chair's Communications be noted and received.

57 PRESENTATION(S)

- 57.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed Jo Gough notation of RISE who gave a presentation in relation to the perpetration of domestic abuse, the trauma it created and the ways in which RISE sought to support victims and to address these issues. Ms Gough explained that "trauma" could be categorised as an emotional shock following a stressful event or a physical injury which could lead to long term neurosis. Coercive control was often a feature in creating trauma and was characterised by an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that was used to harm, punish or frighten their victim.

57.2 It was a staggering fact that in 2017 alone 184 people had died in Europe as victims of terrorism, 3,000 women had died as a result of femicide (domestic violence). Ms Gough went on to explain that there were three distinct stages of recovery and outlined work carried out to assist those referred to them in the recovery process. Ms Gough concluded her presentation by explaining that RISE a Brighton and Hove Based Sussex wide service had been in existence for 25 years and detailed the broader based work carried out by the organisation and their continuing ethos going forward to foster freedom from abuse and violence.

57.3 The Chair and Members thanked Ms Gough for her informative presentation and commended the on-going support for victims and valuable work carried out by RISE.

57.4 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

58 CALL OVER

58.1 All items appearing on the agenda were called for discussion with the exception of the following items which were agreed without discussion:

Item 61 – Progress Update on Implementation of International Migrant Needs Assessment Recommendations; and

Item 65 - The Role of Public Libraries in Communities.

59 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

59.1 It was noted that a petition had been forwarded from the meeting of Full Council held on 31 January 2019 in relation to Hove Carnegie Library Pages 21 and 22 of the Agenda referred and Mr Hawtree the Lead Petitioner was invited to speak to his petition set out below:

“We, the undersigned Carnegie readers, who have endured over three years’ anxiety about our Library, are now aghast to find that the Council’s current Administration proposes our libraries’ reduction be a swingeing “242,000. We request that this be halted while Councillors explore the return in-house of bibliographical services – such as a book selection - to our esteemed librarians.”

59.2 The Chair, Councillor Daniel responded in the following terms:

“Thank you for presenting the petition, it is good to know that people support and value their public libraries, as does this administration which has kept all the libraries open and doubled libraries’ opening hours to increase accessibility.

The proposed £242,000 savings was reduced to £121,000 in Budget Council on 28th February in order to help safeguard the future of our libraries.

In regard to bringing bibliographic service in-house, the council would have to recruit specialist staff to run an in-house bibliographic service and this would cost considerably

more than the £65K we current pay Bertram's. This cost has already reduced by 13% down from £75k in 2010.

In regard to book selection, it is worth noting that the Library Service already retain the responsibility for book selection, and carry out this role in a number of ways. This includes creating purchasing profiles for obvious book-buying such as getting the latest publications from top-selling authors, as well as selecting some of the more esoteric or locally focused stock themselves.”

59.3 Councillor West welcomed the response given and the steps which had been taken to seek to safeguard the library offer available. He considered it would be helpful however if Members could be briefed on how budgets would be managed going forward and services would continue to be supported.

59.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred in that view stating that inclusion of details relating to book choices, options and customer satisfaction would be welcomed. Whilst much had been done he considered that some “problems” in respect of Hove Library remained to be solved.

59.5 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the petition be noted and received and that a further report be provided ideally to the scheduled July meeting of the Committee (Item 65 also refers).

59b Written Questions

59.6 There were none.

59c Deputations

59.7 There were none.

60 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

60a Petitions

60.1 There were none.

60b Written Questions

60.2 There were none.

60c Letters

60.3 There were none.

60d Notices of Motion

End Victim Blaming: Pledge

- 60.1 The Committee considered the Notice of Motion put by Councillor Daniel at the meeting of Full Council held on 31 January 2019.
- 60.2 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed the positive response which the Notice had received when placed before Full Council and stressed the need to highlight this issue. In forwarding it to this Committee of which she was Chair she was requesting Member support to bring forward a report on this subject to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 60.3 Councillor Cattell, stated that she fully supported this; as a volunteer on a domestic abuse helpline she had been contacted by numerous women who had suffered from abuse and had been left traumatised and required specialist training and support. She hoped that the motion would be supported unanimously.
- 60.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Notice of Motion be noted and received; and
(2) That the Committee receive a report to a future meeting detailing how the Victim Focus pledge can be fulfilled to challenge and reduce victim blaming of people who have experienced trauma, abuse or crime in our organisation.

61 PROGRESS UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT NEEDS ASSESSMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 61.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing summarising the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the International Migrant Needs Assessment published in January 2018 as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The recommendation set out in the report was agreed without discussion.
- 61.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee notes the findings of this update report.

62 UPDATE ON THE VIOLENCE VULNERABILITY AND EXPLOITATION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

- 62.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to provide an update on the city's Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) Strategy and the associated VVE Action Plan. The report gave a detailed update on the work undertaken since March 2018 and a briefing on the work planned for 2019-20.
- 62.2 It was noted that the Committee had last received a report on this subject in March 2018 when Members had been briefed in relation to the current threat in relation to Child Criminal Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation and gang activity relating to the emerging County Lines phenomenon. It had also outlined the strategy being adopted by the Community Safety Partnership to disrupt that activity and to support people in exiting their involvement in such activity.
- 62.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed the report stating that it was important for this problem to be addressed head-on and to have robust strategies in place to address it, particularly in order to support those who were vulnerable and who were trying to break

from cycles of involvement in these activities. It was important for those coming forward to be treated as victims rather than as perpetrators of crime.

- 62.4 Councillor Cattell, welcomed the report which showed that a pro-active approach was being taken to this issue which had spread out from London. It was good to note that dealing with issue was very much on the Police' agenda and that partners were adopting a collaborative approach in information sharing and to tackling this problem.
- 62.5 Councillors, A Norman and West also welcomed the report. Councillor Peltzer Dunn also considered that it was a positive report but considered that it would be helpful if the Action Plan could be set out in a slightly different format in future which would make the information set out more clearly.
- 62.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the reported progress in relation to the VVE Strategy and Action Plan; and
- (2) That the Committee agree that a further progress report be submitted to NICE Committee in Autumn 2019.

63 DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY

- 63.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing seeking approval of the proposed framework for Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse and VAWG Strategy for Brighton and Hove and East Sussex and to update the committee on the planned development work to finalise the Strategy 2019-2024 and associated governance and action plan. The strategy was a partnership strategy to which the Council signed up via the Community Safety Partnership, recognising domestic and sexual violence and abuse including harmful practices as one of the partnership's priorities.
- 63.2 Councillor West sought clarification of the of the status of the document and recommendations set out in appendix 2 to the report.
- 63.3 Dr Sasidharan, Police BME Engagement Group welcomed the fact that a wide range of partners had been involved in drawing up the strategy and that all stakeholders had been pro-active.
- 63.4 The Chair, Councillor Daniel stated that she particularly welcomed the input in relation to mental health issues and recognition of the impact abuse had on the mental as well as physical health and well-being of victims and the valuable input and feedback which had been used going forward; also recognition of issues for those with learning difficulties in accessing services.
- 63.5 Ms Martindale stated that it was important to ensure that all relevant bodies had access to the gateway and it was confirmed that measures were in place to seek to ensure that happened.
- 63.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee approves the Strategy Framework as set out in Appendix 2 to the report; and

(2) That the Committee notes the planned further stakeholder engagement work as set out Appendix 1 to develop the full Strategy and Action Plan.

64 A REVIEW OF 'POVERTY PROOFING THE SCHOOL DAY' PROGRAMME

64.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Children, Young People and Skills outlining the implementation of “Poverty Proofing the School Day” which had been implemented across the City and which went on to outline follow up actions which were to be put into place as follow up action.

64.2 Young people who had been involved in the project at Longhill School gave a brief presentation to the Committee highlighting the work they had been involved in and outlining the value which it had had for them.

64.3 It was noted that take-up of the project had been positive and gave testament to the concern and commitment Brighton and Hove School Leaders had for pupil and student wellbeing, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Sharing examples of good practice had been a key outcome from the project and means by which that would be carried forward were referred to. A self-evaluation tool was being developed which would enable schools to keep their current practices under review.

64.4 Councillor Marsh commended the work which had been carried out stating that she had visited a school in her ward recently and had been impressed by the work which had been undertaken. Councillor Cattell noted that this had been a very successful project and that it was pleasing to note the valuable work and input provided by the pupils themselves.

64.5 Councillors West and Peltzer Dunn concurred with the comments made by Councillors Cattell and Marsh and considered that it was important for Members to continue to receive periodic updates on this issue and to provide input.

65.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee note the work of schools in this area and the positive response from many school leaders to “Poverty Proofing the School Day.”

65 THE ROLE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN COMMUNITIES

65.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods Communities and Housing updating Members on the role of public libraries in achieving strategic outcomes for local communities illustrating how the direction of travel for libraries tied in with and went beyond the Neighbourhoods and development work championed by this Committee. The recommendations set out in the report were agreed without discussion.

65.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That Committee members note the direction of travel for Libraries in the city; and

(2) That Committee members request a report on the development of the new Libraries Plan for 2020-24 be brought back to them in Autumn 2019.

66 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

66.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6.35pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of