Brighton & Hove City Council

Strategy & Governance
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 2 September 2009
Our Ref: AZ/jeh
Your Ref:
Phone: (01273) 291295
Fax: (01273) 291545
e-mail: anthony.zacharzewski@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Partner

The Council's New Constitution: 12 month review

I am writing to seek your views on the new constitution the Council has recently adopted.

On 15 May last year, the City Council moved to a new constitutional system, in which most decisions are taken by a Leader and a Cabinet of members appointed by him/her. Although the basic structure of the constitution is laid down in statute, the Council has considerable latitude around its day to day operation, including member portfolios, times of meetings, procedures etc.

At the time of the change, we made a commitment to review the operation of the constitution six and twelve months after its implementation. The six-month review was an opportunity to check that the implementation had gone smoothly, and to make any minor changes that the operation of the constitution had shown to be desirable, these included:

- The extension of speaking rights and a seat at the table at Cabinet and Cabinet Member meetings to the Leader/Convenor of all opposition parties
- Clarifying the procedure for special meetings
- Adding Community Affairs and Inclusion as an item on the Cabinet agenda at least every 6 months
- Improvements and guidance regarding Notices of Motion, Member and public questions at Council meetings

Thank you, if you contributed to the six-month review.

We are now at the twelve-month review stage, and I would be interested to hear any views you may have on how the new constitution is working and the changes that have been made as a result of the six-month review; and what impact, positive or negative, they have made on how your organisation and those it represents interact with the Council. We would also welcome any suggestions you might have on how the Council's constitution could be improved.

Beacon Authority 2009-2010 After dark: managing the night time economy

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Director of Strategy & Governance: Alex Bailey
Web: www.brighton-hove.gov.uk
Telephone: (01273) 291295
Printed on recycled, chlorine-free paper

If you would like to comment, please respond to this letter, or email consultation@brighton-hove.gov.uk by 30 September 2009.

The views of all respondents will be considered by the Governance Committee on 17th November 2009. They will make recommendations to the Cabinet and Council as to how the constitution might be amended.

Yours faithfully

Anthony Zacharzewski
Acting Director of Strategy & Governance

List of Partners contacted

Members of the Local Strategic Partnership
Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce
Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People
Black Minority Ethnic and Community Partnership
Spectrum
Interfaith Contact Group
Brighton & Hove City PCT
Brighton & Hove Arts Commission
The Older People's Council
The Youth Council
Rottingdean Parish Council
The Community Inclusion partnership
The Community and Voluntary Sector Forum
Age Concern
The Women's Centre
Eco-Logically
All neighbourhood forums via their community development worker