BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION

3.30PM 26 JANUARY 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mitchell (Chairman); Alford, Bennett, Elgood, Meadows, Morgan, Older, Peltzer Dunn, Pidgeon (Deputy Chairman), Randall and Wakefield-Jarrett

Also Present: Councillors Fallon-Khan and Hamilton

PART ONE

65. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

65a Declarations of Substitutes

65a.1 There were none.

65b Declarations of Interests

65b.1 Regarding item 71 Councillors Elgood and Randall said they were patrons of the Sussex County Foundation.

65c Declaration of Party Whip

65c.1 There were none.

65d Exclusion of Press and Public

65d.1 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100I (1) of the said Act.

65d.2 RESOLVED: That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

66. RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUDGET PROPOSALS FROM O&SCS TO REPORT TO 11 FEB CABINET

70.1 In considering the Head of Scrutiny's report on Scrutiny of Budget Proposals the Commission welcomed the budget proposals information that had been presented this year to Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

70.2 Much information had been provided and clear proposals drawn up, although there was concern that proposed savings information was taken to CYPOSC with less than 24 hours notice.

70.3 It was generally agreed that the budget scrutiny process had worked better this time in that the departmental savings papers were released earlier and the individual scrutiny committees had therefore had time to consider them however, before evaluating the effect of Overview and Scrutiny input into the budget-making process, and consider whether to approach this differently in future, Members wished to see the final budget proposals.

70.4 Chairman of CYPOSC said she was pleased to have the views of the Committee's co-optees. Rent reviews for seafront businesses were commented upon.

70.5 Chairman of ECSOSC was concerned about the lack of detail in budget proposals generally; concern was also expressed regarding the subsidised bus services savings and timescales. It was suggested by Chairman of CTEOSC that savings could be made by better use of Council buildings for outside events and more of the council's own business such as interviews for senior posts.

70.6 The Commission asked that in the future, Equality and Impact Assessments of budget proposals be provided at the very start of the process.

70.7 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending for this item.

70.8 **RESOLVED:**

1) That the report be noted and minutes of budget O&S meetings be forwarded to 11 February Cabinet
2) That the budget scrutiny process be considered at a future meeting
3) That the following suggestions be taken forward;
   - Better use of Council buildings for outside events and council's own business
   - That EIAs be provided in future budget rounds