

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 24 OCTOBER 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Asaduzzaman (Chair), O'Quinn, Alexander, Allen, Atkinson Bagaeen, Burden, Cattell, Daniel, Davis, Earthey, Evans, Galvin, Fishleigh, Fowler, Gauge, Grimshaw, Goddard, Guilmant, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Loughran, Lyons, McGregor, McLeay, McNair, Meadows, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, Pickett, Pumm, Robins, Robinson, Rowkins, Sankey, Sheard, Simon, Taylor, C Theobald, Thomson, Wilkinson, Winder, Williams and Sykes

PART ONE

31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

31.1 No declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

32 MINUTES

32.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting(s) held on the 28 March 2024 (subject to the amendment in addendum 2) and 11 July 2024 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

33 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

33.1 The Mayor gave the following communications:

Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem (In the Name of Almighty; The most merciful)

Good afternoon colleagues and residents

I would like to declare my warmest welcome to all of you.

Before we proceed with our formal agenda, I would like to take a moment to honour four exceptional individuals who have left an enduring legacy on our city: former Leader of the Council and Deputy Mayor, Mary Mears; former Mayor, Francis Tonks and former Councillors John Newington and Joyce Edmond-Smith.

Mary was a true Brightonian and a tireless advocate for our community. From the very start of her public service career, she championed the cause of social housing, fighting to ensure that every council home met the "decent homes standard." Her vision for social housing went far beyond the physical structures; she sought to create spaces where families could find security and thrive. It is particularly poignant that, due to ill

health, she was unable to fulfil the role of Mayor—a position she had eagerly looked forward to and would have undoubtedly excelled in.

I also want to pay tribute to Francis Tonks, the second Mayor of Brighton & Hove, who led a remarkable life of service. During World War II, he served as a "Bevin Boy," and before entering politics as Councillor for Moulsecoomb, he was a dedicated teacher and lecturer. I had the privilege of knowing Francis, and I deeply appreciated his visits and concern for my well-being. Like Mary, his legacy will forever be woven into the fabric of our city.

I have been notified of two further sad deaths in recent days. Former Councillor John Newington passed away last week at the age of 83 and former Councillor Joyce Edmond-Smith also recently passed away aged 86. Both John and Joyce served as councillors for Hanover ward and were exceptional, dedicated public servants.

On behalf of the entire council, I extend my heartfelt condolences to their families.

I now ask you to join me in standing for a minute's silence to honour the memory of Mary, Francis, John and Joyce.

ONE-MINUTE SILENCE was observed.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and made the most of the sunshine and longer days. I know many of you were enthralled by the summer of sport – filled with exceptional performances and inspiring moments.

Here in Brighton & Hove, we've been incredibly fortunate to witness some truly remarkable achievements by our very own residents. I'd like to take a moment to recognise and celebrate their incredible accomplishments:

- Amber Anning, who made us proud by securing two bronze Olympic medals on the athletics track.
- Will Bayley MBE, who earned a silver Paralympic medal in table tennis – adding to his already impressive medal collection.
- Bly Twomey, who at the age of just 14 brought home two bronze Paralympic medals, for table tennis.
- And finally, our rising tennis star, Sonay Kartal, whose promise and talent continue to shine brighter with each match.

These achievements are not just medals and victories; they are stories of hard work, resilience, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. We are immensely proud of each of them and excited to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Let's give them all a huge round of applause!

The past three months have been filled with vibrant and memorable events. I attended the summer graduation ceremonies for both Sussex and Brighton Universities, attended an Eid Reunion reception organised by the Bangladesh Welfare Association, led on tours to the council chamber and Mayor's Parlour including welcoming some

unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and attended various summer receptions and fetes, including the ever-wonderful Brunswick Festival.

I had productive meetings with my Mayor's Charities and would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to my long-time friends, Paul and Ashley Adsett, who generously raised over £700 for the Mayor's Charities!

I recently spent a memorable afternoon with the apprentices from Brighton & Hove City Council, hearing about the valuable skills they are developing through the apprenticeship program. We even made our way to the seafront for a beach clean, where I got to experience firsthand the vital role City Clean plays in keeping our beautiful coastline well-maintained.

Early in the month, on behalf of the Lord-Lieutenant, I presented over 50 people with their British Citizenship – and one of the recipients was my Consort! This ceremony was a truly humbling experience.

In August, I had the honour of being hosted by Mayor Nicholas Langlois in Dieppe, where I participated in the commemorations of the Raid on Dieppe. This event powerfully highlights the historic ties between Northern France and the South Coast of England, particularly the profound impact on the forces involved in the First World War. The bonds formed through those moments of hardship and heroism remain an integral part of our shared history.

In early September I spoke at the 32nd European Early Childhood Education Research Conference at the Corn Exchange. Bringing together researchers and experts in the field of early years education. The annual conference is the largest Early Childhood Conference in Europe, and Brighton proudly played host to an exceptional forum of scholars, policy makers and researchers over three-days.

I also attended the Ageing Well Festival at the Theatre Royal hosted by Impact Initiatives. The festival showcased opportunities for people aged 50 and over to explore new hobbies and meet new people. The festival aimed to be a celebration of Brighton & Hove as a city in which to age well, highlighting the activities that help reduce isolation and increase well-being for our older residents.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of joining Councillor Grimshaw, our Armed Forces Champion, to help launch the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal in Brighton & Hove. With the campaign officially starting today, I encourage everyone to support this vital cause by purchasing a poppy from street sellers, local shops, or via the Royal British Legion's website. The Poppy Appeal not only honours the sacrifices made by countless individuals but raises essential funds for our armed forces veterans.

In the coming weeks, Brighton & Hove will join His Majesty and the nation in a series of services, parades, and commemorations to mark Armistice Day. This is always a busy time for the Mayoralty, and I have the privilege of leading some of these commemorations. It is a time for us all to come together and remember the servicemen and women who gave so much for our freedom. Full details of the services taking place across the city to mark Remembrance can be found on the Visit Brighton or the Brighton

& Hove City Council websites – and I encourage colleagues and residents to attend these services in honouring our fallen.

One project that holds great significance for me is the Indian Gate in the Royal Pavilion Gardens—a powerful symbol of the city’s historic ties to the undivided subcontinent. Gifted by the Maharaja in 1921, the Indian Gate expresses gratitude to the city for its care of soldiers from the Indian subcontinent, who were treated at the Royal Pavilion and Dome when they were converted into hospitals. It stands as a testament to the service and sacrifice of soldiers from diverse backgrounds who fought alongside Great Britain and serves as a reminder of our shared humanity and the importance of honouring our collective history.

This Sunday, I will lead a commemoration for the Undivided Soldiers at the Indian Gate, and I warmly invite colleagues and the public to join us for this special event at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday 27 October in the Royal Pavilion Gardens.

Finally – many of you will have noticed that we have a very special guest among us! This is the first full Council meeting we have held following the retirement of Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, our former Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer who retired last month. There have been some very moving and fitting tributes paid to Abraham, both in the local press and within the Council, which have highlighted Abraham’s incredible dedication and hard work for the City and for this Council over 37 years. It feels very important and appropriate to be able to honour Abraham in this Chamber tonight. As Monitoring Officer, Abraham has worked tirelessly to support all Members.

Group Leaders and Independent Members were invited to say a few words of thanks.

In relation to Abraham's long and dedicated service to the Council.

Councillor Sankey highlighted Abraham's journey from seeking sanctuary to becoming a key figure in the Council. She praised Abraham's dedication, integrity, wisdom, and the significant impact he had on the Council and its members. She also emphasized Abraham's role in promoting equal opportunities and his legacy of kindness and guidance.

Councillor Davis shared a personal experience of meeting Abraham and described him as one of the most inspiring individuals they had ever met. He appreciated Abraham's professionalism, diligence, and commitment, and thanked him for being a guiding light to new councillors.

Councillor McNair expressed best wishes for Abraham's future and acknowledged his conscientiousness and deep knowledge of the Council. He mentioned that Abraham would be hard to replace and thanked him for his long and devoted service.

Councillor Bagaeen celebrated Abraham's legacy and his contributions to diversity and inclusion within the Council. Bagaeen praised Abraham's resilience, mentorship, and the lasting influence he would leave behind. Bagaeen also thanked Abraham for his unwavering service and wished him a happy retirement.

Thank you all. Abraham – thank you for attending this evening – on behalf of all of us I wish you a very happy and fulfilling retirement and thank you, once again, for the incredible support and guidance you have shown us all. Please accept this certificate of dedicated service as a mark of our thanks.

34 LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

34.1 Leader of the Council, Councillor Bella Sankey, gave the following communication:

Thank you very much, Mr Mayor, and I'm delighted to speak on behalf of our Labour administration, to highlight the progress we are making for our beloved city and some of the challenges that we're facing.

We stood on a platform of getting the basics right, listening to residents' voices putting our Labour values into action and working together across the public, private and voluntary sector to improve services.

In August, we launched our city centre graffiti tagging blitz, which is now completed. Western Road was the first phase as the worst area for tagging, and this was followed by phase two, which blitz North Street, West Street and Queens Road. The programme has been successful, with the contractor and Council graffiti-removal teams working together to remove tags, posters and stickers and a lot of the shop shutters have been painted and graffiti at height have been removed and this has positive impact. Interestingly, there hasn't been a great deal of retags, and when they are spotted, they are removed.

Our new targeted approach to tackling visible weeds is well under way and in its second phase. Our toilet reopening and refurbishment programme continues, and new, fully accessible changing-places toilets are available now at Stamner Park, St Ann's Wells as well as Preston Park. I continue to receive lots of welcome feedback from residents on this, particularly on the reopening of the Pavilion Gardens public toilet. We've listened to residents' concerns about the previous administration's decisions to scrap all parking metres in the city with no consultation and we're now trialling new metres and consulting residents on this. And I'm really pleased to say that we've finally reopened the Woodland Avenue Twitten, creating a new public right of way on this much loved and much used walkway. Thank you to Councillor Muton for his leadership on this and in particular independent Councillor Bagaen for his really constructive approach.

Cabinet approved a housing strategy a few months back, as well as an economic strategy, which are both before this Council today. The housing supply and affordability crisis in our city is very well documented. We know many people are unable to afford a mortgage or pay their rent and too many people are in our emergency and temporary accommodation. Our number one priority is to increase the number of new genuinely affordable homes being built, with an ambition to deliver at least 2000 and hopefully many more. We've accelerated our buyback programme, recently buying homes at the rate of one a day, and we've been engaging with Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook on the reforms to planning policy to help us further accelerate our ability to build more affordable homes in the city.

I'm glad that one of our scrutiny committees is going to be looking further at the

regulation of the short term lets. Many thanks to Councillor Evans, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and to scrutiny colleagues for taking on this important work.

And finally on housing, it's important to address head-on the work we're doing in response to the housing regulator report. The report identified a number of serious failings in the safety and quality of compliance around certain areas of health and safety and the backlog of routine repairs. We fully accept the regulated findings and welcome their engagement over the past year. I'm really grateful to officers and Councillor Gill Williams for taking on the work of urgently improving our performance in this area. We receive very regular updates, and our key priority is always going to be the safety of our residents. We are fully committed to meeting our regulatory requirements.

On regeneration, Heritage England have granted us £250,000 to our phase one restoration of Madeira Terraces and we have now announced a contractor, and the project is soon to get under way. I know how important this project is to so many residents, both for what it will bring to the city, and what it represents after such a long period of stagnation and apparent managed decline. We can't wait to get started and my thanks go to Councillor's Mitchie Alexander, Julie Cattell and Jacob Taylor and officers for their fantastic work on moving this forward.

Led by Cabinet Member Alan Robins, we're delighted to have given the go ahead to progress the design and build for the brand-new leisure centre on the King Alfred site. It's an excellent overdue investment which will deliver a modern sporting facility for our residents. Residents' feeling on the need to rebuild on the existing site was very strong and obviously the subject of a previous deputation at Full Council. Another example of us listening to our residents.

Amazing progress has also been made on the Hove Beach Park project in the past few months; from announcing the operator of the new café, to seeing the opening of the skate park, pump track and roller area and it's been incredible to see these facilities being so very well used over the past few weeks. Huge credit to all involved in this project.

Mr Mayor, I'd like to echo your congratulations to our current Olympic and Paralympic sporting heroes. It was amazing to see Brighton & Hove represented so well at the Olympics earlier this year, and particularly wonderful to have Brightonian medal winners. To Amber Anning, Toby Harris and Will Bailey, a huge congratulations and a huge congratulations to Bly Twomey a local 14-year-old who was one of the youngest members of our Paralympics GB representing the country, and who started playing table tennis at our very own Brighton Table Tennis Club as part of our holiday activities and food programme. I want to put on record my huge support and thanks to the Table Tennis Club as well.

In other sporting news, momentum is now building for the Women's Rugby World Cup, which we will host next year, and I'm really pleased that we will also be hosting a game by the Red Roses. I've loved visiting the various events being put on to encourage girls to get involved in rugby over the past year. These kinds of events are a real reminder of the importance of sports, and I'm pleased as a Council we have plans such as our Sports Facilities Investment Programme, to make sure we continue investing in facilities right across the city.

On net zero, I know that many of our residents feel deep climate anxiety, which is why Ed Miliband's trailblazing work as our new Secretary of State for Energy is so important. In Brighton & Hove we have our own trailblazer, Councillor Tim Rowkins, who is making great strides in this area. We've recently appointed a new Head of Net Zero, who will lead a new net zero team at the council that will take forward our ambitions for energy and transport decarbonisation, climate adaptation and biodiversity, and who will work in partnership with central government, our community energy organisations, businesses and communities for secure investment for large-scale net zero projects.

On education, our new policy of giving pupils eligible for free school meals priority when applying for secondary school Brighton & Hove is now in place as of last month for applications for the school year beginning in September 2025. The free school meals priority is in effect for applications to community schools for children starting in year 7 at Blatchington Mill, Hove Park, Dorothy Stringer, Varndean, Patchham and Longhill. This policy was brought forward by our Labour administration following public consultation, and the aim is to give all of our children a greater choice of secondary school and to improve the quality in education.

Last month we also launched a new pilot for emotional and mental health support for year 9s across the city, guaranteeing counselling support to help combat growing anxiety and school avoidance. My thanks to Councillors Daniel and Czolak for their work leading this project.

We're experiencing a drop in pupil numbers across the city, which is starting to impact secondary schools, and alongside the decline in pupil admission numbers, the disadvantaged young people across Brighton & Hove are not seeing equal outcomes to their peers, both in the city and nationally. So last month we launched an engagement exercise on secondary school catchment areas to generate discussion on potential reforms in this area. That exercise is now closed, and we'll be considering responses and further consultation in due course. My thanks also to the Chair of the Peoples Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Jackie O'Quinn, for leading the scrutiny work on that issue.

I'm delighted that our library service has been awarded Library of Sanctuary status. A real reflection of the inclusive welcome and thoughtfulness that goes into their programming and community offer, including the events that we are hosting currently this month to celebrate Black History Month. I'm proud to see the Black History Month flag flying from our town hall and this year the pavilion was also lit up in red, yellow and green. We've launched a new needs assessment by academics at the University of Sussex on how to provide an improved welcome and support to asylum seekers in the city and Cabinet Member Leslie Pumm will be bringing forward further recommendations on this.

Mr Mayor, since our last Full Council, I've held my sixth and seventh leader's surgeries in Brunswick & Adelaide Wards and Hollingdean & Fiveways Wards. I'm grateful to ward councillors Czolak and Fowler accompanying me on walkabouts and to the many residents who came to speak to me with their questions and issues.

I'm also grateful to Councillors Fishleigh and Earthey for hosting a Saltdean Town Hall for me at Saltdean Lido last month. I was really sorry to hear about the unreliability of

the Big Lemon bus service and the impact that it's having on residents. I'm really pleased that, working with officers and Councillor Trevor Muten, we're now bringing forward some actions to try and remedy this while we think about our retendering.

While I'm extremely proud of what my administration has achieved in our first 18 months, Mr Mayor, there's no shying away from the significant challenges we face with £105 million worth of savings to be found over four years according to current projections. Like councils across the country, increased costs and demand for our key services, such as adult social care and homelessness far outstripping our forecasted income. I'm just back from the LGA, where this was an incredibly prominent theme, where I was joined by Councillors Taylor, Burden, Theobald and Hill.

I know that our Labour Government is doing everything it can to drive economic growth and address the eye-watering level of public debt that we inherited from the Conservatives. I've been meeting with Ministers, including the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister to discuss these challenges, the needs of Brighton & Hove City Council, and to talk about the important reform and innovation work that we are doing here to try and improve our services.

We need to innovate to drive growth and support people out of poverty, which is why we're pleased to submit an expression of interest to the government last month in devolution. Sussex has so much to offer: ports, universities, the country's second international airport and the community energy ecosystem that could hugely benefit from a more joined up economic and industrial strategy for our region which devolution could deliver.

And just lastly, Mr Mayor, I'd like to put on record my thanks to Council staff, despite the huge and significant challenges we face, it's amazing to see how much we are delivering, how hard people are working, and how committed they are to our missions. Thank you, Mr Mayor.

35 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 35.1 The Mayor stated that he had been notified of two ordinary petitions to be presented today. He reminded the Council that these are petitions with less than 1,250 signatures and they are presented and responded to without debate. The Mayor advised that petitioners have up to three minutes to outline the petition and to confirm the number of signatories and that the petition would then be responded to by the relevant Cabinet Member.
- 35.2 Vanessa Veveris-Lazanakis presented a petition titled 'Dyke Close Parking Chaos' which had received 3 signatures at the time the Agenda was published.
- 35.3 The Mayor thanked the lead petitioner and invited Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport, Parking and Public Realm to respond.
- 35.4 Councillor Muten responded:

Thank you Vanessa for your petition requesting resident parking permits in Dyke Road Close. I can very much appreciate your concern and particularly as it's gone on for such a time. On news of your petition come to Council earlier this week, I took the opportunity to briefly visit Dyke Road Close to help me better understand your concern.

Car parking and access by larger vehicles requiring access, such as bin trucks and fire engines, could readily be impeded by poor parking. I also followed this up within the Council's parking services.

There is a parking scheme priority timetable being compiled with areas which have come forward requesting a parking scheme. In response to your petition presented today, we will add Dyke Road Close to this timetable to join existing Zone P. Officers will be sending in this timetable to me as Cabinet Member for consideration for approval later this year and we're very keen to support a public consultation with the residents of Dyke Road Close. So thank you again for coming here today.

- 35.5 Derek Wright presented a petition titled 'Save Our Green Spaces' which had received 366 signatures at the time the Agenda was published.
- 35.6 The Mayor thanked the lead petitioner and invited Councillor Robins, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Sports and Recreation to respond.

Councillor Robins responded:

Your petition was headed 'Save Our Green Spaces' so it came to my portfolio but I think it cuts across quite a few portfolios looking at it, so I hope it will stimulate perhaps a wider discussion on how we use our green and open spaces. We acknowledge the concerns raised in your petition regarding the procurement and management of outdoor events within Brighton & Hove. We would like to assure you that the Council already has a stringent control in place around event selection to ensure the safety, well-being and satisfaction of our residents and businesses.

All events in the city are ratified by designated authority by Corporate Director for City Services and the strategic methodology for selecting events is being agreed at Cabinet this month.

Any significant event in the city is also scrutinised via a Safety Advisory Group system by partners in the NHS, the Police, the Fire and Rescue Ambulance services and the RNLI and also reviewed internally by colleagues in Environmental Health, Licencing, Highways, Parks and Sea Front services. In recognition of the evolving needs of our community, we are introducing additional controls this year covering various aspects such as procurement process, types of events and environmental considerations through enhanced environmental and equality impact assessments. These measures are designed to enhance our existing framework and further ensure that residents rights, needs and safety are given paramount construction in all decisions relating to outdoor events.

Moreover, we are currently drafting a new strategy. This comprehensive strategy will incorporate the contents of your petition and include specific guidelines and a revisited events charter developed in collaboration with affected residents and businesses. Key areas such as location, notification of events, duration of events, community benefits,

participating numbers, responsibility and safety, noise levels, compensation, licencing agreements, business case, damage limitation and inheritance to outdoor events policy will be addressed.

We believe outdoor events play a critical part in enhancing the vibrance of our community. These events bring together diverse groups of people, fostering a sense of community and shared identity. They provide opportunity for local businesses to thrive, contribute to the local economy, and showcase the cultural richness of our area. Additionally, such events enhance social and cultural fabric of Brighton & Hove, making it more attractive place to live and work. By carefully managing and selecting events, and aligning with our community's values and needs, we can assure that it benefits are maximised.

Your input has been invaluable and we are committed to ensuring that guidelines will be adhered to in conjunction with the Council's outdoor events policy. We aim to create a balanced approach that supports both vibrancy in our community events and well-being of our residents and businesses.

Thank you for your engagement and your continued support, and I hope as we go forward, we can rely on you to always make sure we're on our toes.

35.7 RESOLVED:

Council agreed that the petitions be noted.

36 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

36.1 The Mayor reported that 9 written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Anne Pissaridou to come forward and address the council.

1. Anne Pissaridou asked:

Once again there is a predicted deficit currently of £37m which has to be addressed. This city has always endeavoured to protect their most vulnerable residents from the cuts. I set up a warm space in Mile Oak Library my ward North Portslade to shelter them from the most severe weather given the exorbitant spiralling heating costs during the cost-of-living crisis. Ironically, due to the budget cuts the library was closed last year by the current administration.

The cost-of-living crisis sadly persists- with energy prices set to rise again this winter the number of working people and families using foodbanks continues to increase and incredibly in 2024 we still have many people sleeping rough.

Will Council leader confirm that the deficit will not be borne by the most vulnerable, concessionary bus passes, discretionary payments will continue to be funded, and support for the voluntary sector?

Councillor Sankey replied:

Thank you very much Anne for the important question and just to clarify the figure I gave earlier is the savings over four years so you're right to say it's 37 million for this year.

We are absolutely committed to supporting our most vulnerable residents who we know continue to feel the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on top of what are, in many cases, entrenched inequality. Despite the Council's significant budget pressures, our Labour Councillors ring fenced over £500,000 in our new newly created Fairness Fund and are growing this pot with external contributions, which is money set aside specifically to support those most in need and the organisation that support them.

Next month, a refreshed fuel poverty and affordable warmth plan will be presented to the city's Health and Wellbeing Board, which is chaired by Councillor Bruno de Oliveira. The plan aims to reduce fuel poverty in the city and support residents to affordably heat their homes. And it's a key part of our cost-of-living plan and covers a range of activity from improving the energy efficiency of the city's housing stock, and including the financial support available directly to households, to how we provide advice and support to vulnerable households through the winter months to manage their energy bills.

Details of existing support is outlined in the plan, but it's also available on the Council's 'How To Be Energy Efficient At Home and Get Help with Energy Bills', web pages. The government has also extended the Household Support Fund after lobbying from us and other councils across the country which will provide over £2,000,000 directly to Brighton & Hove City Council for hardship relief for those on low incomes over this winter covering food, fuel and financial hardship and working with partners in the city to provide advice and support. Concessionary fares are a national scheme, but I know that the funding for this important concession, reduced by over 90% during the previous Tory Government's reign, the cost of over £10 million is now born, almost wholly by local people.

We are continually reviewing our Council finances and we'll be doing so again following the autumn statement next week.

Anne Pissaridou asked a supplementary question:

I know very well that you're aware that the winter fuel allowance will be removed from all but those pensioners currently receiving pension credit. This decision will harm over 35,000 pensioners in our city who are just above the threshold and so prevented from receiving pension credit and thus sending many local residents into poverty, debt and worse. Will you, like many other organisations: Union, Age Concern, and others who are objecting to this vicious cut, commit to asking this government to reconsider? Yes or no?

Councillor Sankey replied:

This government has been left in a terrible state by the previous government and our public finances are in complete disarray. A £22 billion black hole through overspending and fiddling with the numbers that was not apparent when we took office back in July.

The response that I gave to your previous question about our Fairness Fund, about our campaigning to retain the host Household Support Fund, means we are now in a position as a Council to ensure we are supporting residents that are eligible for pension

credit to take it up, and that work will be starting with a campaign across the city, and that we're also able, through the Local Discretionary Fund to provide direct support to people who, as you described, may find themselves struggling this winter with fuel bills and other basic costs such as food and other essentials. So we are committed to directly providing that financial support to residents that find themselves in that sort of difficulty.

2. Stella Sims asked:

In 2021 there were various renovations on Francis Street (BN1 4ZH) that installed bollards, allocated loading areas and made the street access-only. Since then, there has been no improvement in antisocial behaviour and a constant stream of vehicles ignoring the access-only signs and parking rules. In September 2023 I wrote to several council officers to report issues and ask for further action. Several other residents have done the same. In Jan 2024 Cllr Trevor Muten emailed me saying "I am very keen to work towards solving the traffic flow and parking issues that were identified during my meeting with Cllr (Sue) Shanks where it was agreed that further improvements are needed." Nothing has happened since.

Is there any plan to consult with locals and make further improvements to Francis Street in terms of preventing illegal car access and making it a more pleasant place to live and work?

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you, Stella, for bringing your question here today. As you rightly identify, having first visited Francis St to view the traffic issues in September 2023, and discussed with your Councillor Shanks much of the background and history, I soon became aware of the persistent problem of drivers ignoring the signs and entering Francis Street only for access and not a through-road. Despite improvement measures to restore pavement access for preventing pavement parking, as you reference, I understand from Councillor Shanks that this problem of through-traffic has persisted and not been resolved for over a decade.

I have met with officers to establish whether there are practical options to help resolve this. And I rightly note that I am very keen to sort this out. The existing access restrictions, if adhered to, are legally sufficient to meet the request. Consequently, the Council has no plans to change the legal status of access to Francis Street. However, the current Traffic Regulation Order and associated signage for this street is being ignored by some, if not many, drivers. Officers advise that a lockable or access-only barrier is considered unsuitable for the access requirements of both residents and businesses, and the road layout of both Ditchling Road and London Road do not allow for further changes to the junction, discourage drivers from using the road unless necessary.

I've discussed with officers other, more innovative, options such as ANPR number plate recognition. As the Council do not presently have moving traffic offence powers, responsibility for enforcement against drivers breaking the law falls to Sussex Police. The Council does carry out enforcement of the illegal parking and the areas visited regularly by a civil enforcement officer. We have arranged the area patrols to be

increased and will highlight this to Sussex Police to see what further can be done to prevent drivers illegally using Francis Street as a through-route.

I'm more than happy to meet with you and other residents to further consider options that work for your community and see this long and unresolved issue for drivers breaking the law resolved.

Stella Sims asked a supplementary question:

A meeting would be very much welcomed with residents, and I would hope that we could find a joint solution and also with the market as well.

My follow up question relates to the fact that we experience a lot of antisocial behaviour in Francis Street including in the last, I think it's been, nine months graffiti tagging of the shutters at the Open Market. In the interests of improving the environment further for residents and to discourage further tagging, I know someone mentioned the campaign about tagging earlier and I don't think the area in the task force for graffiti included London Road, which is unfortunate. But in the interests of kind of trying to do something ourselves, residents and the Open Market management are trying to put together a project to commission some street art for the shutters that run along Francis Street. We don't know whether planning permission might need to be sought from Brighton & Hove Council, but we hope that Brighton & Hove Council would support this in any way they can. I would just be interested to hear if anyone can, you know, give us any information on that?

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you, Stella. A number of these points are slightly beyond my brief; however, I know that as a Council we have a graffiti reduction team and we're increasing our teams within that area. And we're more than happy when we meet with you, which I'm very keen to do, is to talk through how we can improve the antisocial behaviour, anti-graffiti tagging and graffiti reduction measures both around Francis Street and the market as well. So, I'll take that away and we'll write to you with what action we're taking on that.

3. Pamela Stiles asked:

The Car Park at the junction of Roedean Road and the A259 Roedean Car Park has been completely taken over all year by White Vans/Mobile homes and associated vehicles in which people are living. This itinerant population is intimidating to those wishing to park and walk nearby, and to local school children who need to catch local buses. The rubbish and excrement is now spread across Council owned land where there is a butterfly sanctuary. I have repeatedly asked that the Council reinstate the Overhead Barrier which prevented large vehicles accessing this Car Park, and that it should be made clear by signage that there is NO overnight parking.

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you, Pamela, for your question regarding parking, particularly vans, in Roedean Car Park. This is one of a number of car parks that we do not have vehicle restrictions on anymore and is sometimes used by van parking and van dwellers. Regrettably, due

to budget pressures previously, we have not been in position to install, maintain an overhead barrier and additional signage. However we are keen to take some action and the occupied vehicles in Roedean Road car park were served with a Section 78 court order, ordering them to leave the location by 4th October 2024.

The car park was checked the following week and was found to be clear of these van dwellers. It was however noted that by the 16th October there were four newly arrived vans in the car park potentially being occupied. We've instructed our enforcement agent to attend and serve notice on any that are believed to be lived in.

In response to your petition, we will review the current arrangements and further consider options and although perhaps only giving resolution to this, I think we do need to evaluate this much better and if need be, I'm happy to come and meet with you discuss this further.

Pamela Stiles asked a supplementary question:

I would just say that the vans etc may have gone on the 4th October, but they had been there since early March. So my supplementary question is this: is the Council aware that not only have those occupiers of mobile homes and residential vans etc enjoyed a summer beside our beautiful coastline for no expense to themselves, they have also left local council taxpayers with what I anticipate will be an enormous bill. The ground surface of the car park has been totally destroyed and, with the rain, left deep holes which have now turned the car park into a lake. When will repairs take place so that this car park is actually usable by cars? Thank you.

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you, Pamela. I certainly am aware now because you've made it very clear to us that it's the case. We do have those Section 79 court orders issued. We've taken the action this month and we're prepared to continue taking that enforcement action to progress that. I will work with officers... [unclear] ... more sustainable option going forward. I'm more than happy to continue a dialogue with you as we progress with that.

4. Tony Janio asked:

Mr Mayor, I think we can all agree that the new government's intention to reform the dysfunctional Planning system is a welcome move. It is also clear from the Deputy Prime Minister's comments that she intends to make changes to National Planning Policy. These changes would, I must assume, include making local housing targets mandatory and revising the method used to calculate housing needs to better reflect the urgency of supply in local areas.

Additionally, the Deputy Prime Minister has expressed her intention to build on the Green Belt. This means local authorities will need to review their housing targets and ensure the provision of essential infrastructure such as schools, GP surgeries, and transport links that our communities require.

To achieve this, I assume that she will be soliciting feedback from councils, political parties, interest groups, and residents.

Does the council have a timetable for this process that they can share with us today? This would be very useful as it would allow those wishing to make submissions to start preparing now.

Councillor Taylor replied:

In terms of your question, you're right to say that the government is consulting on this. Indeed, they have already consulted on it and the consultation is closed on the national planning policy framework, and that was open to anyone to respond to. The Council did make a submission in response and I know some residents did as well because some emailed us about it.

I think the important next bit is the City Plan, and I am happy to outline the timelines for that, which is that we will be opening consultation on the review of the City Plan on the 4th November and that will run to the 20th January 2025. As you know, Tony, that's a really, really important document and process for the city and we're launching a whole comms campaign to try and promote it and get as many people to respond to that as possible, because clearly it has a significant impact in the future of the city and its land-use.

Just a note on your reference in your question to the Greenbelt, that Brighton & Hove doesn't have any land that's designated as Greenbelt. So that element in itself is less relevant for Brighton & Hove, although of course we do have the South Downs National Park which comes into the borders of Brighton and Hove. Thank you for your question.

Tony Janio asked a supplementary question:

Mr Mayor, the Labour Government has promised funds to prepare brownfield land for development and they are building in previously protected green spaces, which may include the South Downs National Park and some of our city parks. Given that some of some city MPs and local Councillors have opposed development in some areas within City Plan Part 2, such as the 100 dwellings permitted in Benfield Valley, would the Council agree that with the Deputy Prime Minister emphasising the importance of up to date local plans, that our current local plan may have allocated too much land for housing, and that we should use the provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act of 2012 to suspend the development of an unsuitable schemes.

This would prevent local MPs, such as Peter Kyle, and the Councillors, such as those in Hangleton, from merely pretending to oppose unwanted developments, and perhaps encourage them to actually try and save our green spaces and the wildlife living there for generations to come.

Councillor Taylor replied:

I think councillors from Hangleton probably don't get a right of reply, although they should, especially to that disgraceful mischaracterization of their record to which Mr Janio should be ashamed of himself.

It's a live planning process for that particular site so clearly I can't comment on it. More broadly, you're drawing out some of the issues that are important for the city and for the

country to consider in the coming years, which is that we have a housing crisis in the country, we've had very low levels of house building compared to the rest of Europe, we have some of the lowest dwellings per head when compared to the rest of Europe. The only way out of that crisis is to build more homes and in our opinion there's a Labour Council to build more social homes. Clearly we have to, as a country, reconcile where those homes are built and that's part of what the national planning policy framework consultation has already done and what the City Plan will do in the coming months. Thank you for your question.

5. Beata Janik asked:

The council don't have enough resource to provide more street lighting. We can't get CCTV. A PSPO gating system is apparently not possible. If the council can't support with these measures, what do the community safety team suggest could be done to address the ASB on Zion Gardens?

Councillor Pumm replied:

I know from our conversations that this situation continues to be a nightmare for you. We're doing all we can. I can reassure you we're doing all we can to get this issue under control.

As you know an ASB case review was carried out by the police in September following three reports of antisocial behaviour in August. A number of planned actions and recommendations have been agreed including: the installation of security lighting for the housing provider; the police and the Brighton Crime Reduction Partnership to liaise with local businesses; increased night police patrol supported by CGL Brighton; securing CCTV; signage to raise awareness; and a commitment to use powers to deal with antisocial behaviour such as Community Protection Notices and warnings. Sussex Police are also working with our drug outreach partners to target drug users.

I hope that the action taken have started to make a difference in your area and I want to urge you and everyone else, please continue to report any signs of antisocial behaviour to the police. It's crucial and will help us to refine our response. Thank you.

Beata Janik asked a supplementary question:

I don't have a supplementary question, I will only say, I want them to do something more because nothing's changing here. We still have the same problem and we still suffer and we talk about children, they can't see this, they can't see people around doing drugs. It's just too much. It's not public toilet here as well. We can't allow for this. We need to stop this. We need to do something. We need to change something. This alleyway is just neglect. It's disgusting.

All this buildings, private buildings, businesses, they do not look after buildings, everything's overgrown, looks horrible, and only I look after. I paint walls and I have had enough. I want someone to support me with this and say no, enough antisocial behaviour on Zion Gardens.

Councillor Pumm replied:

I think that was not particularly a question, but yes, I mean you are absolutely right. Antisocial behaviour is not tolerated in any shape or form. We can't have a situation where people use your home, your neighbourhood, your alleyway, as a public toilet, the police is aware of it. We are aware of it. Your housing provider is aware of it. We're talking to each other very closely and any feedback you have further on any issues, please report to us or the police. But we are on the case and we're doing everything we can, considering any options we have to really make your situation better. So please be assured we are on the case.

6. Bev Barstow asked:

I think I am right to say that the questions residents submit for reading at Full Council and committees, once published in formal agenda papers, should never be rescinded. Moreover, I'm aware of a number of questions that have been straightforwardly rejected by giving the explanation that the meeting is not "the appropriate forum" to deal with the question when plainly it was. It isn't a healthy state of affairs that bad reasoning becomes protected by "our decision is final".

Can the Chair reassure residents that our 'listening' council will endeavour to act diligently and reasonably in these matters?

Councillor Sankey replied:

Thank you Bev, for your question. I can reassure residents that we are a listening Council, and I'm absolutely committed to ensuring that we do hear residents voices and that we're able to shape our services in response to engagement. I was really pleased to receive our first two deputations at Cabinet last week and I'm also pleased to see that we've got lots of items of public engagement listed for today, both questions and reports.

Questions to Council and Cabinet are obviously only one way of engaging with us and where it is possible, we will do what we can to facilitate questions coming forward. There are some circumstances where a public meeting is not the right forum for a discussion. In those cases, we'd always suggest another option. Thank you for your question.

Bev Barstow asked a supplementary question:

... [unclear]... resident Carol Wilson at Full Council a year ago, and it was illustrated last week at Cabinet. Although Allison Hooper finally achieved an opportunity to read her deputation, the reply Councillor Daniel gave sidestepped every single pointer... [unclear]... and whittled away. Does this administration accept that the wall of silence in vigil taking place outside this building right now is brave and principled, leaving you all just feeling a little ashamed?

Councillor Sankey replied:

I'm not sure I recognise the basis of your question, if I'm honest. I was in the Cabinet meeting last week and I listened to Councillor Daniel's response, which to my mind addressed the question that was being asked and addressed the number of aspects of it. So no, I don't accept that characterisation of silencing that you describe. Thank you.

7. Nigel Furness asked:

Regarding the mooted proposals for local government reorganisation in East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton & Hove City Councils, with a possible Directly Elected Regional Mayor, can you, Councillor Sankey, please confirm if it's the intention of your administration to gobble up the whole of what currently comprises West Sussex?

Councillor Sankey replied:

I do have a healthy appetite, Nigel but I can assure you that even I could not manage West Sussex, even washed down with a bottle of Sussex sparkling wine.

Brighton & Hove's expression of interest to government states our administration's ongoing commitment to work with all Local Authority leaders and key organisations in our whole region of Sussex to try and develop a devolution option that would achieve the best outcome for the residents of Sussex and for this city of Brighton & Hove.

At this early stage, our expression of interest is just that. I'm pleased that the districts and boroughs in West Sussex have indicated at this early stage that they're keen to join with us in pursuing this endeavour, and I also have had constructive and positive conversations with districts and boroughs in East Sussex, as well as both county leaders. I look forward to continuing this engagement with my counterparts in other Councils as more details from government emerge, which I expect will be this side of Christmas, with the new framework on English devolution. We have published our response to the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on our website if anybody is interested to read it. Thank you.

Nigel Furness asked a supplementary question:

Were these mooted proposals to go ahead, could you tell me, would you be considered, would your Cabinet be prepared to consider the enshrinement in our local constitution of a form of direct democracy, involving referenda on matters, vital matters, such as the way the city, and equally other areas which may or may not be gobbled up, so that the people have a real say, as advocated by Reform MP Rupert Lowe in Parliament last week. Thank you.

Councillor Sankey replied:

It probably won't surprise you to hear me say that I utterly reject pretty much everything that the Reform Party stands for. We have a very healthy and vibrant democracy in the city and that's something that I'm incredibly proud of. I love the fact that we have so much public engagement at Full Council, that we get so many responses to the consultations that we do and that when I go out and about in the city, daily visiting organisations and residents and associations, there is always so much interest in engagement in what our Council is doing. I think the health, the state of our democracy is good. I think there is a nationwide issue of a lack of trust in politics. I think that was something that the last Conservative government managed to really lead on, reducing that public trust and breaking those bonds of trust and that's something that our

administration is very keen to play our part in trying to restore. That means keeping our promises, being open and transparent and available to our residents, and that is work that's just ongoing on a daily basis at this Council.

As we move forward with potential plans for devolution right across all of the areas that currently don't have a devolution deal, there will obviously be discussions about what that governance structure looks like. We will get more guidance from government on that, but I want to ensure that our residents in this city can play a full role in having that discussion and determining what would suit us best as an area if we are to have a larger governance structure which would be able to, obviously, receive more powers and investment from government and from the private sector as well. So I'll be keen to make the case for the benefits of devolution, but obviously, there will be a whole resident engagement process that will go alongside that.

8. As the questioner was not present at the meeting, the mayor proceeded to the next question.

9. David Plant asked:

In Ovingdean we have two sections of Greenways road which have no pavements. We have been told that we are very low down the priority list for pavement investment, but I would like to know how these priorities are decided. Greenways is Ovingdean's busiest road, this particular section has a sharp double bend and is regularly used by families, church goers, allotment owners and walkers. We are keen to do everything possible to enable residents to safely walk between the village's various facilities. Will you please meet me at Greenways to view the situation, and then re-assess your priority list?

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you, David, for bringing this question to Council today. The Council, in its current position, does not have any specific funding set aside to provide new footways in our city. All available funding is targeted at existing footways to keep them safe to use by using a risk-based approach, so that the limited funds are targeted to those sites with the greatest need.

However in response to your raising this concern, I will ensure officers look into the current safety record of this road. I'm sure that an officer would be able to meet you in Ovingdean to discuss these two sections of Greenway Road and I'm prepared to be part of that meeting. Certainly, an on-site discussion would be beneficial as it would help with a focused understanding of your specific concerns and request, with a stated aim of helping to identify and support potential future funding opportunities for the best interests of local residents.

David Plant asked a supplementary question:

Just to comment more. Residents living in Ovingdean want to get out of their cars and walk, but we can't. We have an hourly big Lemon bus service that is in meltdown as electric buses are unreliable on the main roads with no payments. We look forward to meeting you and thank you very much.

37 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

37.1 The mayor noted that no deputation had been received for this meeting.

38 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.**38.1 (a) Callover**

The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 41 An Economic Plan for Brighton & Hove 2024-27
- Item 42 Housing strategy 2024 – 2029
- Item 43 Brighton & Hove Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 2025
- Item 44 Gambling Policy Review 2024 – 2027
- Item 45 Review of the Waste and Minerals Local Plan
- Item 47 Review of Political Balance October 2024

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 had been reserved for discussion; and

The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 46 Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Plan – Decision Statement

39 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

39.1 The Mayor noted that written questions from Members and the responses by the appropriate Councillor were taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum which had been circulated prior to the meeting as detailed below:

1. Councillor Fishleigh

When will the results of the consultation about the proposed new bus lane east of the aquarium roundabout be made public?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you for your question, Cllr Fishleigh, regarding the recent public consultation on the proposed new bus lane east of the aquarium junction. An update on the consultation will be published on the Your Voice platform. If the decision is made to progress with the scheme, it is anticipated that a contractor will be appointed to commence works in winter 2025.

You may be encouraged to know that the level of response from the public engagement was positive with 895 responses received and 533 didn't oppose. In

response to specific comments made as part of the public consultation, you may also welcome that we have made amendments to the scheme including retaining a second pedestrian crossing island, as well as providing the new traffic light controlled crossing included on the proposals. Lane widths have been reviewed; and we are looking at options for road maintenance at the same time, using available funding for the bus lane.

This decision is delegated to the corporate director city services in consultation with the cabinet member.

2. Councillor Fishleigh

The General Manager of The Grand Hotel came to full council to ask for the unsightly growth in verges between the West Pier and West Street to be tidied up as they are an eyesore for visitors and residents. When will this happen?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

The area in question was an Elaeagnus hedge, which has gradually died out. The area is now between a cycle lane and the A259 road, and maintenance requires the closure of a lane on the A259, making it challenging and expensive.

I met with the General Manager following his appearance at Full Council and we talked about the options. One option would be to remove the hedge and tarmac over, but we agreed that that would be a shame, and I asked officers to explore further options. One solution we discussed was a continuation of the period iron railings that are in place further along the A259, although clearly that would be very challenging financially.

I have written to the hotel with an update, including the most viable options, and have asked for their view.

3. Councillor Fishleigh

Given the budget deficit, is the plan for new bike lanes between Hove and the Lagoon on hold given that BHCC must find another £2.8m for the scheme?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Fishleigh, for your question regarding the proposed A259 Active Travel Scheme from Fourth Avenue to Wharf Road in Hove. This scheme is to be well designed to better consider the needs of pedestrians, accessibility including crossings, separate bi-directional cycle path and retaining two westbound traffic lanes for much of the route, unlike the previous design. To enable this scheme, the scheme relies on funding from central government.

Budget requirements for the scheme have been considered and set out in the Cabinet Report 27/06/24. This sets out how this capital scheme will be funded using both Active Travel Funding and Local Transport Plan Funding; and will apply across more than one financial year.

4. Councillor Fishleigh

Given the ongoing and well-documented Anti Social Behaviour in New Road, will BHCC remove the benches on that road as requested by nearby traders whose businesses are suffering?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Fishleigh, for your question raising concerns about anti-social behaviour in New Road. As you rightly indicate, this has been an ongoing concern for some time. We are therefore aware of the ongoing antisocial behaviour issues on New Road impacting local business, residents, and visitors to the city. Such anti-social behaviour is very difficult to attribute to the presence or absence of benches and it would be inappropriate to do so. Rather, it is important to evaluate and tackle the root cause of such behaviour.

Senior officers across highways, regeneration, community safety and culture have been working with the administration and external stakeholders, to consider plans for removal and replacement of the current benches. The benches will be removed in the coming months as they are at the end of their life. A proposal is currently being developed for this in line with discussions for greater enhancement of New Road, and the planned Royal Pavilion Garden redevelopment. These plans will also be discussed with Ward Cllrs imminently.

The planned enhancements to the public realm in and around Pavilion Gardens will improve the look and feel of this part of our city benefits nearby traders, businesses and residents.

5. Councillor Fishleigh

How much is being set aside in the 2025/6 budget to resurface Rottingdean High Street and The Green in Rottingdean - and improve pavements on both sides?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm / Rowkins

Thank you, Cllr Fishleigh, for your question concerning the resurfacing of Rottingdean High Street and The Green in Rottingdean.

The Council prioritises capital maintenance spending following an asset management data-led approach. Based on the latest carriageway condition surveys and analysis, Rottingdean High Street is No. 105 on the capital carriageway priority list and The Green is No. 429.

We are in the process of finalising the programme for 2025/26 however, based on the latest analysis, other roads are a higher priority for carriageway treatment at this time and therefore these roads will not be treated in the immediate future.

The current capital budget for footways is circa £400k/year which is insufficient to carry out a city-wide footway renewal programme. For this reason, the budget is spent on a seek-and-fix programme which prioritises the worst sections of footway for treatment across the city. In anticipation of any future increase in funding, a full network footway condition survey has been completed and Rottingdean High Street is No. 2002 on the priority list. However, there is a S106 sum associated with the St Aubyns development site which has been identified for improvements within this area. Options for this scheme are still under development and will be shared with members once they are available.

6. Councillor Bagaeen

Interim roles in the Council's Housing Service

With interim roles in the housing service not starting until November, how has the council been working with developers on joint working on redevelopment sites and the delivery of affordable housing?

Reply from Cllr Sankey, Leader of the Council

Delivery of affordable housing is a key priority for the council. We have a long history of successfully delivering council owned housing through our New Homes for Neighbourhoods and small sites programmes. In addition, Homes for Brighton and Hove, the council's partnership with Hyde Housing is committed to delivering 1,000 lower cost homes in the city with the first two schemes delivered and a further site identified.

The council will also review opportunities with private developers to see whether there are options for a viable affordable housing scheme. We actively look for a range of acquisition opportunities. We have the recent example of working with developers at the former St Aubyns School site in Rottingdean whereby the council is taking on the 21 affordable rented homes. The new interim Director of Housing Regeneration will look to build upon this work once in post.

7. Councillor Bagaeen

Devolution

Plans under consideration in Brighton and Hove as announced by the Leader of the Council could involve an elected mayor taking political charge of a bigger geographical area that includes our city and some neighbouring councils. I agree that devolved power to a real Greater Brighton rather than the illusion of what exists at the moment is an excellent step forward. I said as much in 2015 (<https://www.brightonchamber.co.uk/blog/%E2%80%98greater-brighton%E2%80%99-better-your-business>). How does this help rebuild democracy at the citizen level in our city with our citizens as key participants when their voices will be only a handful of many in a wider geographical footprint?

Reply from Cllr Sankey, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Chair

Devolution has the potential to unlock powers and funding that would drive economic growth and ensure that decisions are made closer to local people,

communities and the businesses they affect. This potential for economic growth through locally devolved powers is the key to ensuring our citizens have a greater say and influence in driving the prosperity in our region. As we have set out in our Expression of Interest, we are keen that our approach to devolution will be resident-led and we will be engaging residents, businesses and local organisations, at the earliest opportunity, inviting them to inform and shape the process.

8. Councillor Bagaeen

Veolia Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) Hove
Please detail all officer inspections of the Hove WRs Veolia facility since 1 January 2024

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

Members of the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Waste Team have visited Hove waste transfer station and household waste recycling site six times since 1 January 2024. All but one of these visits were unannounced inspections.

- 22/01/2024
- 16/02/2024
- 01/02/2024
- 14/03/2024
- 15/04/2024
- 14/08/2024

Most site visits are conducted by the ESCC Waste Team's Contract Monitoring Officer and the Contract Officer. These visits are typically unannounced and involve checking health and safety, site performance and compliance with site procedures, the environmental permit and the contract. ESCC officers also visit if asked, for example in response to a complaint from a member of the public.

Issues are always raised straightaway with Veolia management and progress with rectifying issues reviewed at the monthly contractor/client meeting. Veolia are proactive in reporting issues and provide a report for this meeting listing incidents recorded on their business management system. ESCC officers also meet periodically with the Environment Agency to discuss site compliance and the outcome of visits by their officers.

Performance is reported back to BHCC through regular reports to Waste Project Board, which consists of senior management from both local authorities. ESCC officers are also in regular contact with Cityclean management outside of board meetings to review operational matters.

9. Councillor Bagaeen

Circular economy route map and action plan (2020-2035)
A circular economy route map and Action Plan were published by the Council with cross part support (<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/business-and->

trade/brighton-hove-circular-economy-route-map-2020-2035) The Action Plan and route map outlined a series of actions, targets and KPIs. Can you please offer an update on where we are with respect to these actions, targets and commitments?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

Since the approval of the Circular Economy Action Plan in 2020, several significant milestones have been achieved. The plan focuses on embedding circular principles across various sectors in the city. In the food and drink sector, the Brighton & Hove Food Strategy incorporates circular actions, promoting sustainability. In the built environment, all new housing builds and major projects now require a CE opportunities assessment and whole-life carbon assessment at the design stage, helping to reduce embodied carbon in council construction projects. Circular principles are also included in the Planning Sustainability Checklist, with ongoing efforts to review the City Plan to enhance CE outcomes through planning.

Business support has been strengthened through the Green Hub at the Business & Intellectual Property Centre offering carbon footprint reduction clinics, while the Shared Prosperity Fund supports the Net Zero 360 business training.

In terms of procurement, a new tool has been developed to strengthen environmental requirements in specifications and making this mandatory for certain procurements is being reviewed. Additionally, highways continue to trial preventative maintenance solutions, saving costs, carbon, and resources.

Furthermore, a second iteration of the Routemap and Action Plan is being developed, with a final draft expected by January 2025. This update will guide initiatives for the next five years.

10. Councillor Bagaeen

Twitten between Woodland Drive and the Three Cornered Copse
Thank you for your efforts and unwavering support in opening the Twitten. You will remember from my question in July's Full Council that I noted how in storms of early November 2023, part of the wall of House 56 Woodland Drive fell into the Twitten. MY question then noted how soon after the collapse, council officers put up a 'Footpath Closed' sign and blocked access. Please detail all of the actions taken by officers relating to the twitten since that 'Footpath Closed' sign was put up until attempts to open it gathered pace this October.

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you for your question, Cllr Bagaeen, regarding the Twitten connecting Woodland Drive to the north – south footpath that runs along the length of the Three-Cornered Copse.

I understand you are concerned about communication within the Council. The Twitten repair has highlighted several shortcomings concerning communication within the Council which as an administration, we are taking action to address - not least though new appointments, a major restructuring of the council in part to remove silo working, and our new governance model. The structural improvements within the council will see improvements in communication between teams. However, perhaps your question applies to how communication between elected members can be improved.

I have recently undertaken a detailed review of all correspondence received by elected members regarding this matter. I wish to firstly thank you for being the first ward councillor or local resident to directly contact me, or any other elected member of the administration. specially to raise this matter when you did so with your written question to me at Full Council on 11th July 2024. Although there was previously a media request responded to with officers' assistance, the absence of any communication from ward councillors to elected members of the administration including myself regarding this closed twitten prior to July is noted.

Following your question in July, I took the opportunity to visit either end of the closed twitten and put some photos on social media. This helpfully generated some public response. I also discussed with Council officers and arranged a site meeting in Woodland Drive on the 28th August with a senior officer and the Leader of the Council Cllr Sankey. From this site visit we moved fast. I wrote to local residents on the 30th August 2024 asking for written confirmation of continual use of this twitten by the public. Within one week, we had received some 80 responses confirming its long-term public as a well-loved twitten.

I then met with you and members of the Twitten Action Group on the 4th September in Woodland Drive. It became very clear that a local campaign had been set up and was active for many months, known to ward councillors but not directed to my attention. The engagement I have had with local residents has been very positive and helped facilitate rapid resolution of this matter. For this, I am very grateful to members of the Twitten Action Group, to the Friends of Three Cornered Copse and other local residents.

The Twitten Action Group kindly wrote to me to advise of a timeline of events that included all the engagement they have had with their local ward councillors and officers. On review of this timeline, the Council was forced to close the footpath in October 2023 because of a partially collapsed wall for public safety. The owner of the wall was unable to have it reinstated. Further legal issues were identified that needed resolution. It may be that ward councillors considered this a ward matter and dealt with officers accordingly. However, having taken such a time, it might be expedient for ward councillors to bring this matter to my attention sooner. With such strength of local opinion with the closure due to several issues as raised, including access rights; involving the elected members of the administration sooner would have helped drive the actions as taken over the past couple of months to reopen this twitten progressing sooner.

With the support of evidence provided to us by the local community, we made a legal order, confirming this twitten as an official public footpath. By the 9th

September, we established that this twitten, in demonstrable use by the public as a footpath since the 1930s, as now a formally designated Public Footpath. The first time in its history that this has been formally so. We know this new designation has been very welcomed by the local community.

During visits by council officers, it became clear other sections of a boundary wall were still at risk of collapse.

So, following an inspection from an external structural engineer, we used powers under Section 78 of the Building Act to instruct contractors to undertake, clear the area and make it safe certain works. The Public Footpath was made safe and was opened on the 16th October 2024.

Having met with many residents, I particularly wish to thank the Twitten Action Group, Friends of Three Corner Copse and the many other local residents for their positive engagement as we have taken steps to reopen this popular and much loved twitten. Now with better interconnection within this community; might this also help bring better connections between elected members to resolve issues that most matter to residents sooner?

11. Councillor McLeay

A key reason given against a gating scheme for Zion Gardens is in respect to the number of residents requiring access to the road. Could the council confirm how many registered addresses or registered council tax payers currently live on Zion Gardens?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

Our information shows 13 properties registered for Council Tax in Zion Gardens.

Powers to gate or close a public highway due to anti-social behaviour are no longer sit under the Highway's Act, it now comes under the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) process. Further consultation with the police and community safety would therefore be necessary. However, Zion Gardens is not only a direct access route for properties but it has numerous fire exits on it and may be used to collect bins from the rear of properties on Queens Road.

12. Councillor McLeay

Engagement with those who are homeless during the consultation for the Housing Strategy was alarmingly low. Just 0.082% of the homeless population were engaged with. Will there be further outreach done retrospectively to represent these voices and their lived experience? Could the strategy be adjusted to meet their needs?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

Because the Housing Strategy 2024-2029 is a wide ranging and high-level document, the consultation was intended to reach a broad cross section of residents and stakeholders. 85% of responses were from residents of the city - owner occupiers, private and social renters, and the homeless population. We also had responses from 53 local groups and organisations, many of them working with residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We had detailed submissions from many individuals and organisations, drawing on personal experience or on that of their service users.

Going forward, we will create more opportunities for engagement with people who are homeless or who have experienced homelessness. We are about to begin work on the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy. To do this we will work with a range of partners to review homelessness in the city, bringing in valuable expertise and experience of a wide a range of people. This will include people with lived experience of homelessness. As we bring forward proposals for new services or changes to service, we are also committed to consult and involve the people who use them.

13. Councillor McLeay

It is my understanding that ITV recently got permission to film at Theobald House. How much would have been charged for a TV drama to film exterior and interior scenes at this high rise building? With major works on Theobald not commencing until April 2027, could those earnings be reinvested in the communal areas - such as their community room?

Reply from Cllr Robins, Cabinet Member – Sports & Recreation

We agreed to a request for filming in June 2024 and asked for a donation to the Resident's Association of £500, which was agreed. As the Residents Association did not have a bank account, the suggestion of the Communities Equalities team was that this money would be paid to the Council and held for them, until such time that they wanted to spend the funds.

14. Councillor McLeay

Could the letter sent to Angela Rayner on short terms lets back in June/July be published?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

Yes [the letter could be subject to a freedom of information request]

15. Councillor McLeay

The Emergency Accommodation Management Services Pilot - I agree the management of EA properties should be separated out from the provision of properties. That this would go some way to monitor the suitability and standards of housing for EA and TA. One of the benefits of this measure suggests an

annual cost reductions on current management fees of between - £250,000 and £500,000. If the pilot is deemed unsuccessful, however, there is also the suggestion that the service might be brought in-house. I appreciate the report notes that The Housing, Care and Wellbeing directorate does not currently have the necessary resource, or experience of providing this service at scale – but if this was to be something BHCC worked towards – do you have a rough estimate of the financial cost for bringing this in-house?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

As Cllr McLeay correctly states, paragraph 4.2 of the report, explains that the ‘in-house’ option was not recommended for the purposes of the pilot because of the lack of experience to provide this level of support at scale. The need to mobilise quickly and short-term nature of the pilot were also factors. However, it is reasonable to assume that an ‘in-house’ option would be likely to increase costs in the region of 20%-30%.

16. Councillor McLeay

The Emergency Accommodation Management Services Pilot - What does success look like for this pilot? How will the success or failure of the pilot be measured? Will it primarily be based on cost savings and efficiencies? What about resident satisfaction?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

In the report agreed at Cabinet on 27 June, paragraph 3.9 explains that the pilot will be evaluated across three parameters: (1) Cost; (2) Impact on payments to providers; (3) Quality of management & support.

The third of these will take into consideration satisfaction from residents. However, it should be born in mind that the success against this parameter would be determined by an improvement in resident satisfaction at the end of the pilot, in comparison with satisfaction levels prior to the pilot, and because this relates to temporary accommodation, many of those residents would have changed over the duration

17. Councillor McLeay

The Emergency Accommodation Management Services Pilot - It was noted in the June report that Residents of EA have not been directly consulted at this time but will be encouraged to compare any previous experience of EA with their experience of the pilot scheme once it is in place. Can you share how residents will be engaged with for this feedback? Will it be online forms? Face to face meetings? Paper-based feedback forms where digital exclusion might be a factor?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

We will develop a satisfaction survey which we will make available to Emergency Accommodation residents both online and in paper form. We will survey those accommodated in the Emergency Accommodation pilot properties at 6 month intervals to track changes in satisfaction.

18. Councillor Pickett

Earlier this year the council installed an additional 54 new carton recycling bins across the city as well as 21 new WEEE bins. Whilst this is great, it would seem that in various areas such as the area next to Withdean stadium, many of the regular recycling bins that took cardboard, bottles and tins, have been removed and only the newer bins remain. This process seems confusing and illogical. What now seems to be happening is that people are dumping where bins used to be creating a huge mess. Is this a new policy? Will the old bins or new versions be reinstalled? Will the residents be informed?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

There are some locations where bins for Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR) and glass have been replaced with the new bins for cartons and waste electricals. This has only happened in areas where those materials are collected at the kerbside. The focus has been on creating new opportunities to recycle items that cannot currently go into the kerbside collections.

The site near Withdean Stadium was frequently fly tipped which led to rubbish being spread across the area. This site receives regular cleaning from Street Cleansing 5 – 7 days per week but the service still received complaints regarding the cleanliness of the location. When a site visit was made, 2 out of 3 visitors used the site for textiles and electricals. To help reduce fly tip, the recycling bins for DMR and glass, which are already collected kerbside in the area, were removed. The site now has 1 cartons bin, 1 electronics bin and 2 clothes banks. Feedback from Street Cleansing is the site is better maintained and there is much less fly tip. However, the cartons bin needs more frequent emptying which Cityclean will discuss with the contractor who empties the bins.

We will continue to monitor these sites and make changes as necessary.

19. Councillor Pickett

A recent report from charities stated that unless the Government addresses the £1bn drop in homelessness funding that this country will face "the most significant setback in progress towards ending homelessness and rough sleeping in recent history". What steps do we have in place in Brighton & Hove to mitigate this in light of the fact that we have higher than average numbers of homeless on our streets and that we will probably lose some of the funding that we already have set aside for this issue?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes:

At this point, we do not know what future funding may or may not be available from central government and how this may compare to previous allocations. However, I can say this council sees the ending of rough sleeping in the city as a priority and will continue to do so in future.

20. Councillor Sykes

Parking income: can BHCC revenue figures be provided for the 2023-24 financial year with respect to (a) parking permit fees (resident and visitor) (b) suspended bay fees (c) Net Penalty Charge Notice revenue from parking infractions (d) off-street parking revenue (e) on- street parking revenue.

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Sykes, for your question regarding parking revenue figures for the 2023-24 financial year.

For the financial year ending 2023/24 Parking permit fees, both resident and visitor permits achieved a combined revenue of £10.7m. In the same period income from suspended bays achieved £1.3m, and net Penalty Charge Notice revenue from parking enforcement activities were £8.0m. Parking income for off-street parking achieved £8.9m and on-street parking achieved £12.3m.

21. Councillor Sykes

Please provide an update on plans for an improved pedestrian and cycle crossing over Coldean Lane near the top of Ditchling Road. This was in discussion in 2022 following public pressure.

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Sykes, for your question regarding our plans to improve the crossing over Coldean Lane near the top of Ditchling Road.

The Council is liaising with the National Highways to bid for funding via the Access for All funding tranche which may include additional funding which could include funding for improvements to the existing pedestrian island at the top of Ditchling Road. These plans would improve accessibility and safety for all using this crossing.

22. Councillor Sykes

Please provide an update on the future of the 77, 78 and 79 buses to Devil's Dyke, Stanmer, Ditchling Beacon.

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Sykes, for your question on the Breeze up to the Downs.

Due to the very challenging financial circumstances handed to us when we took the administration last year, regrettably the 2024/25 budget had to commit to reducing the budget allocated to council-supported bus services. The Council identified its priorities for service support as education and disadvantaged communities.

Nonetheless, we recognised the value of the Breeze up to the Downs to our residents and actively pursued alternative funding that does not take from the Council's general fund and therefore does not diminish the important priorities in tackling inequalities in our city.

In Spring 2024, we moved promptly to establish £58,000 support for the 77, 78 and 79 "Breeze" services via BSIP funding with agreement from the Department of Transport (DfT). Whilst we presently understand the end of BSIP funding is 31st March 2025, we await further guidance from the DfT as to whether and how this might continue.

The Public Transport team have had extensive consultation with internal and external stakeholders. This is to understand the full range of impacts of a loss of or reduction in these services, which we do not wish to see, and therefore are committed to secure longer term funding. We are exploring revising the Breeze up to the Downs Partnership – effectively disbanded in 2019/20 with no subsequent effort or priority by the previous administration to reestablish this valued partnership that enabled the success of the Breeze up the Downs bus services.

Furthermore, we are actively working with Brighton and Hove Buses and third-party funders to keep these Breeze Up the Downs services, carefully looking at their viability, sustainability and funding requirements to secure these services for the future. We understand that summer services for the 77 route is likely to be commercially viable and we are committed to actively find funding to support all these services to meet known demand. I have met with Brighton and Hove Buses to discuss options and officers are actively exploring viable options to secure funding to support less sustainable parts of this service. This will inform our next steps. I look forward to updating with positive news on the future of these services soon.

23. Councillor Sykes

Glyphosate. A petition was presented to Council for debate on 28th March 2024. The agreed minutes to that item do not make sense and the follow action to that item (refer to the relevant decision making body) appears not to have happened. Please can the Cabinet Member explain.

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

The Petition was debated by elected members in detail at Full Council on 28th March. The decision was taken to also refer the petition to the relevant Committee. Since that date the Council has moved to a Cabinet system and the Committee has been discontinued, and therefore that action has not been possible. The position in relation to the Council's approach was shared widely with residents shortly after the Full Council debate, including the briefing linked below.

[New approach for tackling weeds begins](#)

Following committee approval, the first year of the glyphosate application will conclude in November and the outcome is being assessed.

Further updates can be found published in this addendum, in particular in relation to questions 25 and 30.

24. Councillor Sykes

Newhaven incinerator heavy oil use. Cllr Rowkins was asked a question at Council of 19th Oct 2023 by Cllr Hill about the total annual volume of heavy oil /diesel use at the incinerator for the purposes of maintaining burn temperature. A response was provided in Feb 2024 but this did not answer the original question. Can the Cabinet Member for Net Zero and Environmental Services inform us how much heavy oil /diesel was used at the Newhaven incinerator in FY 2022/23 for the purposes of start-up, close down or maintenance of critical burn temperature at the incinerator?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

Date from the annual permit performance report submitted to the Environment Agency indicate that the total use was:

- 2023: 373,403 litres
- 2022: 208,965 litres

Please note more fuel was consumed in 2023 because there was a major outage for planned maintenance that doesn't happen every year.

25. Councillor Sykes

Operatives applying glyphosate are supposed to wear PPE including gloves and goggles but this has often not been the case in the current BHCC trial. Does the council share our concern about contractors and also how they are applying the pesticide within agreed rules?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

When using glyphosate, the requirement to wear goggles and masks is only at the preparatory stage and not during application. The controlled droplet application used by the Council differs substantially from conventional methods. This application is applied in large, oil-based droplets released under gravity. It is not released under pressure and does not produce breathable droplets and therefore there is no requirement for Operatives to wear masks or goggles during application.

The contractor has significant experience in this field and has fully investigated any complaints relating to how the product is being applied. The communication between the Council and the Contractor has been excellent with daily updates between the Supervisors working on the ground and the Operations Managers within the Street Cleansing teams. Regular contract meetings have been held to discuss any issues and concerns. Therefore, I am assured the Contractor is applying the treatment within the manufacturers safety guidelines.

26. Councillor West

While the role of solar PV is recognised for the contribution it can make to the city becoming carbon neutral by 2030, is developing a solar farm on open downland the right strategy. What consideration has been given to the need to develop local food security and the likelihood the SDNPA will reject an application for its visual impact on the protected landscape. Has the alternative of creating a solar farm distributed across the roofs of the city's housing stock been considered? Power generated like this would stand to directly benefit many lower-income households too through reduction of their electricity bills?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

The council is exploring options for deployment of solar PV to accelerate progress towards net zero.

Any future solar farm development would not be *in place* of roof top deployment. Deploying solar at quickly and at scale will be crucial, not only so that our residents and businesses benefit from cleaner, cheaper electricity but also to help free up the grid capacity required as transport and heating become electrified in the coming years.

To date, Solar PV systems have been installed on approximately 760 council homes as well as 50 additional larger systems on communal housing blocks. There are current plans for an additional 400 PV systems to be installed on council homes (houses and bungalows) over the next two financial years with the generated electricity feeding directly to the residents supply, reducing their energy bills.

27. Councillor West

The WWF reports wildlife populations have plummeted 73% over 50 years. For more than ten years the city has led the way with nature restoration initiatives spurred on by our UNESCO Biosphere designation. I am dismayed then to see a

number of now familiar verge meadows have been put back on routine mowing, destroying the biodiversity gain and adding to the consumption of fossil fuels. One such area is the verge along the south side of Surrenden Road between Friar Road and Ditchling Road. Other examples include the sloping verges alongside Carden Avenue. I appreciate some residents have expressed concern about rye grass injuring their dogs and issues with highway visibility, but these verges do have roadside borders and paths mown through them on pedestrian desire lines. What is the administration's intention: is it to support our commitment to nature or suppress it in the quest for neat and tidy?

Reply from Cllr Robins, Cabinet Member – Sports & Recreation

The mowing regime has not changed since we took over the administration. Where mowing has taken place outside of the planned timetable of cuts, it is due to errors by staff in the service.

The current mowing arrangements are part of a 3-year trial agreed by the former ETS Committee. This trial saw the number of cuts on grass verges each year reduced from 11 to 6. 2024 is the third and final year. As such, we will be reviewing to inform the approach for 2025.

The administration's intention is to balance the need to protect biodiversity with keeping the City tidy and to communicate to residents what they can expect with mowing regimes. Councillors have received a lot of feedback from residents about areas of long grass on our verges, much of it deemed to be negative. Councillors have requested a report for consideration at the December cabinet meeting, to include options on grass cutting going forward.

28. Councillor West

After years of gathering funds, a start is being made on restoring only a small proportion of the Madiera Terraces. What is the time scale for funding to complete the entire restoration? Will we have to wait 10, 20, 30 years, maybe? And where is that funding likely to come from? What are the economic benefits to be gained from the restoration and when will they be realised? What is the long-term maintenance cost and how is that to be funded? And, what is the annual meanwhile cost of securing and supporting the existing structure pending restoration?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

It is a major milestone that the contractor has now been appointed for the first phase of the Terrace's restoration, with a start on site expected imminently. This project represents a serious financial commitment from the Council, supplemented by a substantial grant and donations from residents and businesses.

The first phase provides proof of concept and has attracted £750,000 of Historic England funding, which reflects their strong support for the project. This was

mentioned in Parliament last week in the context of growing the UK's tourist economy through investment in our heritage. It is anticipated that a successful first phase will attract more funding for further phases from government funds, the Heritage Lottery Fund and others keen to invest in our city.

It is anticipated the project will have economic benefits to the city by enhancing the tourist offer, establishing a critical mass of attractions that will drive growth, especially in high value overnight stays. Management of the existing structure is dependent on the level of works deemed necessary to keep the structure safe - this cost varies from year to year. This is managed with existing capital budgets for maintenance of Council assets.

29. Councillor West

It has been a delight to once again see British divers competing so well in the Olympic games. Board diving is a wonderful and exhilarating sport yet the city's pools haven't supported this for some years. Will the redeveloped King Alfred facilities include platform and springboard diving facilities so that we might look forward to seeing local young people participating in the sport and hopefully representing the city on a higher world stage?

Reply from Cllr Robins, Cabinet Member – Sports & Recreation

The specification for the replacement of the King Alfred Leisure Centre does not include facilities for diving. The facility-mix proposed for the new centre is derived from what is set out in the council's Sports Facilities Investment Plan (SFIP) 2021-31. This was informed by extensive public consultation, as well as working with specialist leisure consultants, Sport England and national governing bodies (including Swim England) to undertake modelling and analysis using a variety of supply and demand data and the spread of pool provision within a recommended drive time catchment area. There has also been frequent stakeholder engagement including the local swimming and aquatics clubs.

Throughout the process to develop the SFIP, and through more recent consultation relating to the King Alfred Development, demand for a diving facility (which has specific pool requirements) has not been strongly evidenced. The council's leisure operator Freedom Leisure and the local swimming clubs based in the city do offer an extensive programme of swimming and other aquatic disciplines, for example artistic swimming and water polo.

30. Councillor Hill

The areas in my ward that have been sprayed by glyphosate have not seen any significant change to the street plants and so can still present trip hazards in some cases. Is the Council confident that it's 'controlled droplet' approach of spraying glyphosate is working at it's intended purpose of killing street plants/weeds? It seems like the current approach is falling into the worst of both worlds where we are spraying a probable carcinogen around the city with no less trip hazards on the street as a result.

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

As this years' treatments come to an end, we are reviewing the approach taken, including how successful it has been. There has been lots of feedback that suggests that the situation is significantly improved, particularly in the wards from which most complaints originated in previous years. However, we are yet to review all of the information and so we will have a fuller picture soon. What is already clear though is that the wet weather we have had throughout the summer has both delayed progress of the treatment and exacerbated growth.

31. Councillor Hill

Stanley Court provides low level supported accommodation in my ward and is being converted to medium level. This means that the current residents are going to be moved out. What is the Council doing to support people being moved out of Stanley Court and does it share my concerns that this contributes to a lack of low level supported accommodation in the city? We may end up only supporting people when they are in a much more vulnerable state when earlier intervention could have helped.

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

The council provides over 720 units of supported accommodation for single people in Brighton & Hove. This will be a mixture of high-support, medium support and low-support. Typically, people will move from high to medium and then low, as part of a pathway towards living independently. However, people's journeys will vary, and the model we operate enables people to move into a higher type of support, if that's what best suits their circumstances.

32. Councillor Hill

Can the letter sent to Angela Rayner MP at the end of September indicating a high level interest in devolution for Brighton & Hove be published?

Reply from Cllr Sankey, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Chair

The Expression of Interest we submitted at the end of September to government is in the public domain. These were published with the BHCC press release, both are available on our newsroom site here: [Expression of Interest in devolution submitted](#)

33. Councillor Hill

What was the reason for removing opposition groups from the Health and Wellbeing Board?

Reply from Cllr Sankey, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Chair

The implementation of a new city council governance framework gave the administration the opportunity to review all of its committee functions including overview and scrutiny committees and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Unlike the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Health and Wellbeing Board is not a political committee as such but more of a Health and Care System leadership meeting, including significant delivery partners across the NHS and relevant key partners within the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector. Its governance relates to the Sussex Health and Care Assembly and includes responsibilities for oversight of the city's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and spend across the Better Care Fund. To further promote the board as a health and care system leadership forum and given that the HWB constitution does not require opposition membership, the decision was taken to remove opposition membership from the board and replace that with members from a broader spectrum of health and care representatives in the city. In acknowledgement of the importance of enabling cross-party discussions and scrutiny of significant health issues, the council has retained the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) alongside the People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

34. Councillor Hill

What criteria will the Council be looking at to assess the success of the Lewes and London Road Red Routes?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Hill for your question concerning the success of the Lewes Road and London Road Red Routes introduced by this administration earlier this year.

The experimental traffic order red routes were funded by our Bus Service Improvement Plan *or BSIP). Therefore, the primary measure of success is the feedback from the bus company along with any eventual improvements to the bus journey times along these corridors. In addition, over the longer term we will also be monitoring air quality data, traffic flow data and road collision data to establish improvements in those areas also.

There is public consultation associated with each experimental traffic order red route. As a listening council, we will be reviewing feedback and comments from residents, business and visitors. This will include comments from different constituencies include local business owners and traders, community groups, residents, bus users, disability groups and representatives, cyclists and others.

35. Councillor Hill

Does the Council support the principle of considering bids from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service for pots of money coming from Community Infrastructure Levy/CIL? In Seaford, CIL has been used to pay for improvements to the fire

station but not all authorities make it easy for the Fire & Rescue Service to bid for CIL.

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (ESFRS) were asked to submit projects for inclusion in the refreshed Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) in 2021. They identified a £50k need to upgrade/install “green wave” traffic signal technology at Hove, Preston Circus and Roeddean Fire stations. ESFRS will be invited to submit projects for inclusion in the next refresh of the IDP.

When Cabinet considers the use of the circa £2.8 M citywide CIL pot in due course, this requirement will be considered as part of the £587 M of capital projects that were identified as needing investment across all public sector service provision across the city.

36. Councillor Hill

When will an Equalities Impact Assessment for the Phase 2 Organisational Redesign be published?

Reply from Cllr Sankey, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Chair

The organisation redesign consultation was launched on 23rd October. An equality impact assessment was published on the SharePoint site on 18th October. All those impacted and all council staff have access to this document, with a link available on the Wave. This is a live document and is helping inform how we are managing this significant organisational change. I am aware that our CEO, Jess Gibbons, who is leading this redesign of the council’s paid service, has had lots of really useful feedback from staff and Trade Unions, that she will be considering in making the final decisions on the structure. This will include any feedback provided through the Equality Impact Assessment, as we strive to ensure that fairness and inclusivity are at the heart of all we do, including in how we manage change.

37. Councillor Hill

Has the Council assessed the impact of the new VAT for private school fees on pupil numbers? It seems likely that this may lead to some more demand for local authority schools, has this been considered?

Reply from Cllr Daniels, Cabinet Member – Children, Families, Youth Services & for Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

The council continues to assess the potential impact of VAT on private school fees both locally and regionally. To date the Council has not seen statistically significant levels of enquiries or applications due to this proposal however we will continue to monitor the situation and are aware that other areas have seen greater levels of enquiries than in Brighton and Hove. People will be aware that

as a city we are having to address the impact of falling pupil numbers and have places available in the city's schools.

38. Councillor Shanks

In an email dated, 9 November 2023, Deb Austin reported that Cllr Jacob Taylor 'wasn't fully sighted' on the fact that there would be no community consultation on the plans to move Bright Start to the Turner Family Hub before the November 6th Committee meeting. Do you think that Councillors should be 'fully sighted' on plans before recommending them?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

Following legal advice the approach and requirements for consultation were agreed, this was stated as a parent consultation at children, families and skills committee on 6th November. The approach to the consultation was discussed with Councillors and a parent consultation was held via a survey, e-mail inbox, parent meeting with officers and Councillors and the offer of individual meetings. Following the parent consultation changes to the proposed model were made.

39. Councillor Shanks

Residents have complained for the last 10 years about the noise and nuisance of traffic using Francis Street as a cut through. Can we have an update on progress?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Shanks, for your question concerning Francis Street.

Having first visited Francis Street with you to better understand the traffic issues in September 2023 where we discussed much of the background and history, it soon became aware to me the persistent problem of traffic ignoring the signs on entering Francis Street that this is only for access and not a through road. Despite improvement measures to restore pavement access by prevent pavement parking, I understand from you, Cllr Shanks, that this problem of through traffic has persisted and not been resolved for over a decade. I have since met with officers to establish whether there are practical options to help resolve this.

The existing access restrictions, if adhered to, are in principle legally sufficient to resolve this. Because of the legal sufficiency of existing legal restrictions, there are no plans to change access in Francis Street. However, it is understood that the current Traffic Regulation Order and associated signage for this street is being ignored by some drivers. As Brighton and Hove City Council do not have moving traffic offences powers, the responsibility for enforcement against drivers breaking the law falls to Sussex Police.

Following my visits, I have discussed with officers other more innovative options such as ANPR number plate recognition. Presently, Brighton and Hove City Council do not have moving traffic offences enforcement powers.

Due to the access requirements of both residents and businesses, a lockable or access only barrier is not considered suitable and the road layouts of both Ditchling Road and London Road do not allow for further changes to the junctions to discourage drivers from using the road unless necessary.

The council does carry out enforcement of illegal parking and the area is visited regularly by our Civil enforcement officers. We have arranged for the area patrols to be increased; and will highlight this to Sussex Police to see what further can be done to prevent drivers illegally using Francis Street as a through route.

40. Councillor Shanks

Will the council have enough free childcare places for all parents to take up this years entitlement of 15 hours from 9 months to three years and next years of 30 hours?

Reply from Cllr Daniels, Cabinet Member – Children, Families, Youth Services & for Ending Violence Against Women & Girls

The DfE estimates that there is currently sufficient early years provision in Brighton & Hove to meet parental demand for the newly expanded early years entitlements.

It also estimates that across Brighton & Hove an additional 92 places will be needed by September 2025 when the offer increases to 30 hours a week. This is a 3% increase in the estimated supply of childcare hours for two-year-olds and under.

To produce this data the DfE uses childcare supply data from Ofsted publications, both the bi-annual official statistics publication and the bi-annual management information releases. Since this data was produced four new nurseries have opened in the city (not including Bright Start Nursery at Turner Children's Centre which replaced provision at the Old Slipper Baths). These four new nurseries may provide the additional 92 places needed for September 2025. A number of nurseries are also planning to increase their baby places through our early years capital offer.

Childcare availability is also dependent on sufficient staffing as well as nursery space; the data above is a snapshot which will change over the coming months.

41. Councillor Shanks

When the decision was made to close the Brightstart nursery building we were told that the building would be used for the new leisure hub. However, apparently now it is to be sold. Why was this change made and why can the site not be used for social housing?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

The decision to relocate Brightstart Nursery to Tarnar Family Hub was taken at Children, Families & Schools Committee 6 November 2023.

The property has been identified as a possible development site as it is surplus to the council's operational requirements. Officers have begun discussions with a view to obtaining vacant possession of the property. There is not yet a certain timeframe as to when this might be achieved. Options for the development or disposal of the site have not yet been presented to Cabinet and therefore a decision as to its future use has not yet been made.

42. Councillor Shanks

Please explain the rationale for disposal of the Brightstart Nursery building. This building was identified as part of the development of the Sports Hub. Is this no longer part of the plan? Why is the site not being considered for local authority housing if the sports hub is no longer possible?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

The property has been identified as a possible development site as it is surplus to the council's operational requirements. Officers have begun discussions with a view to obtaining vacant possession of the property. There is not yet a certain timeframe as to when this might be achieved. Options for the development or disposal of the site have not yet been presented to Cabinet and therefore a decision as to its future use has not yet been made.

43. Councillor Goldsmith

The cycle storage hangars across the city have been immensely popular, with nearly every single space in the current hangars having been taken up by residents. For those in flats especially, secure external storage can be a key factor in being able to make bike ownership a possibility. Sadly, the central Regency area - despite having a significant number of flats - has got a very low number of bike hangars and I have had multiple residents get in touch asking for hangars to be installed on their streets. Does the administration have plans for further bike hangars to be installed in the city and can we get at timeline on when we could expect them?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Goldsmith, for your question regarding cycle hangars. We successfully installed 150 cycle hangars across the City – committing all of the available budget for this scheme. These are being managed externally. Although there is no available budget or current plans to install any further cycle hangars at

this time due to severe budgetary constraints, we are aware that there are parts of the city where demand for cycle hangers is high – outstripping the available supply. Therefore, we will keep this under review and look at options in the future when the budget provides more opportunity to do so.

44. Councillor Goldsmith

I'm pleased to see planning permission has been applied for, to reconstruct a further number of arches along the seafront. A number of current tenants are concerned that their businesses will not be able to return to their arches once the works have been completed. Can the administration provide any reassurance that current businesses – many of whom have been trading there for years – will be given a priority when it comes to leasing out the restored arches?

Reply from Cllr Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Finance & City Regeneration

The majority of tenants who currently occupy the arches within Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the A259 strengthening works have been given an option to return to the new units. However, within Phase 5 there are a few exceptions to this where the current business occupies a small kiosk style unit. The new layout of the arches is a change to the existing and will provide improved indoor space which will comply with modern day Building Regulations. As a result, these kiosks will no longer exist so there will be no new premises for these tenants to return to.

45. Councillor Goldsmith

I think it's fantastic so many companies are wanting to use Brighton & Hove as a filming location, but more needs to be done to reduce the impact on residents. When a significant number of parking spaces in one area are going to be put out of action due to film crews, could it be made possible for residents to either park in another nearby zone or be given permission to use a council-operated car park for the duration of the suspension? With parking suspensions over a certain size/duration, could residents also be given more warning, ideally with notices put through their doors? (The onus could presumably be put on the production company to do this.)

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Councillor Goldsmith, for your question regarding many companies choosing to use Brighton & Hove as a filming location. This demonstrates confidence in our city and helps celebrate the vibrancy of our communities. However, it is important that any permission to film considers carefully the impact on residents; which should be minimised and courteous to residents' needs.

This is why officers in our Parking Services work closely with production crews to mitigate impacts, this includes limiting the numbers of bays suspended, increased noticed periods and letter drops from companies. All crews are expected to provide alternative parking for residents impacted, which does involve car parks.

All large-scale suspensions come to named officers who help manage the project with the crews in question.

However, following a busy year for filming in our City, we are mindful that we need to consider residents further in future planning. This is why our Council's Parking Services met with Events and Brighton Film Office last month. We are producing a filming charter which will outline what is expected of crews and what parking can offer. This will sit on our website and the 'Events App' when it comes into effect. This will further ensure that crews understand their obligations to residents and Brighton & Hove City Council when filming in Brighton and Hove and residents' interests are served well.

46. Councillor Goldsmith

Many film production companies are willing to give donations to local community groups when they are filming in a nearby area, but there is currently no easy way for them to be linked up. Will the Council consider putting together a register of community groups who could benefit from these donations, and pass details on to film companies when they seek filming permission from the council?

Reply from Cllr Robins, Cabinet Member – Sports & Recreation

A register like this would be very useful and would be something the council and the Sussex Film Office would be happy to consider putting together.

47. Councillor Goldsmith

In their 2023 manifesto, B&H Labour promised they would look at how the special nature of LGBTQ+ businesses could be protected in our city. Since last June, at least three LGBTQ+ venues in the city have sadly closed. What progress has the administration made on looking into how the council can work to protect these spaces?

Reply from Cllr Pumm, Cabinet Member – Communities, Equalities & Human Rights

The EDI (Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion) team conducted an options appraisal paper that explored ideas for LGBTQ+ venue protection, promotion, and support. The paper examined how other cities with significant LGBTQ+ populations have provided support to their respective sectors, and identified seven potential options for consideration.

The Lead Member for Equality has discussed these options and their implications with the Policy Chairs Board, and has provided guidance on the specific options that officers should pursue. It's important to note that the options that have been discussed and agreed upon as deliverable would require the identification of additional budget resources before they can be implemented.

Discussions are currently underway with service heads and relevant teams to explore and potentially adopt these options, where possible. This comprehensive

approach aims to ensure that the identified support measures can be effectively implemented to benefit the local LGBTQ+ communities.

48. Councillor Goldsmith

Despite a 20mph speed limit being in place along Upper North Street, Montpelier Terrace, and Montpelier Place, people often speed along this stretch of road, making it more dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers entering the road from any of the adjoining streets. I've been informed that the police do not have the resources to fine drivers, so will the administration look into what can be done to ensure drivers on this stretch of road actually stick to the speed limit?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Councillor Goldsmith, for your question concerning traffic speeds in Upper North Street, Montpelier Terrace, and Montpelier Place.

This area is listed on the Council's Safer, Better Streets programme which assesses requests and identifies priorities based on a series of agreed assessment criteria including speed and collisions. It is anticipated the priority list will be presented to Cabinet Members in December.

Furthermore, we have consulted residents on improvements to the Upper North Street / Dyke Road junction.

We continue to work with Sussex Police who, unlike the Council, have moving traffic offences powers, and will advise them of your question to determine what further action they plan to enforce existing 20 MPH speed limit in this area.

49. Councillor Mc Nair

What progress is being made to find funding to improve flood defences in Warmdene Road, Winfield Avenue, Dale Drive, Patcham Old Village among many other places across the city? When are improvement works likely to start?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services:

Thank you, Councillor McNair, for your question concerning flood defences in Warmdene Road, Winfield Avenue, Dale Drive, Patcham Old Village and other places across the city.

The properties in Patcham Old Village (2016), Warmdene Road (2019) and Dale Drive (2019) were provided with property level protection measures. Since this intervention there have not been any reports of internal flooding to the properties. There is a known groundwater flooding risk in this part of Patcham when groundwater levels are very high (following the 2000 flood event; with elevated groundwater table levels triggering the response protocol in 2014. With the

groundwater table trigger levels and our response plan in place, there are no additional measures or further flood defence works planned at this location.

Winfield Avenue will be included in the Citywide Surface Water management feasibility study which will begin in the week commencing 11th November 2024, following the tender process. This study will deliver a appropriate risk-based assessment of the areas around the city where flood prevention and drainage improvement works will be required determined using this risk-based approach. This study will enable the identification of what funding will be needed to improve the drainage of surface water. At this stage prior to this study commencing, I cannot provide an indication of when a solution will be found, but it is being treated as a priority. We are a data-led and listening council and will apply the findings from this assessment to protect communities.

50. Councillor McNair

Birch Grove Crescent is in serious need of deweeding, especially around block 60-72. Could this be done as soon as possible?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

I have requested that a team visits this location and have been assured that it will be done shortly. Please feel free to email me any time with specific requests and I will action them straight away.

51. Councillor McNair

Birch Grove Crescent storage units behind block 60 -72 are in a very poor state. When can we expect the units to be renovated to help residents use them fully?

Reply from Cllr Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member – Housing & New Homes

Before the units are renovated, there will be a consultation with residents on their use. This is scheduled for early 2025.

52. Councillor Meadows

CCTV has been removed from Birch Grove Crescent. When will it be reinstalled?

Reply from Cllr Pumm, Cabinet Member – Communities, Equalities & Human Rights

The camera at Birchgrove Crescent has been sent away for repair. We are working with contractors to get an installment date and let residents know once the date is confirmed.

53. Councillor McNair

CCTV is required at the Gathering Place laundry as there is significant and frequent antisocial behaviour. When can this be installed?

Reply from Cllr Pumm, Cabinet Member – Communities, Equalities & Human Rights

Orchid View is on the list to be looked at as a site for CCTV on the next move which should be December/January.

54. Councillor Meadows

Is the new crossing on Winfield Avenue on track to be completed in February?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Meadows, for your question regarding the new crossing on Winfield Avenue.

The crossing on Winfield Avenue is part of the Safer, Better Streets programme of works and is being developed with support of Section 106 funding. We have procured the construction contractor who is planning construction to start in February 2025, subject to weather and permit applications etc. It am therefore pleased to report that crossing will be delivered early next year, providing a safer and better crossing on Winfield Avenue for the community.

55. Councillor Theobald

Carden Hill is a major bus route and suffers from many potholes. Do we know when it will be resurfaced?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Theobald, for your question regarding Carden Hill road surface.

Regrettably, after 14 years of Tory government underfunding under, public funds for road maintenance, pothole repairs and other services and stripped bare. However, despite this targeted underfunding of public services, as an administration, we are working hard to maintain and improve our roads, with a major programme of resurfacing, patching and pothole repairs being undertaken in 2024.

Carden Hill is No. 686 on the priority list for capital investment. The budget for 2024-25 has already been committed and we are in the process of finalising the programme for 2025-26 following an asset management data-led approach. Based on the analysis, there are other roads that are higher on the priority list and therefore in more urgent need of treatment and so Carden Hill will not be treated in the immediate future.

All roads in the City are inspected routinely to maintain safety. During an inspection, any investigation level safety defects (greater than a 40mm abrupt level difference) will be risk assessed and actioned for repair as appropriate. During an inspection, if a Highway Inspector identifies a road that is deteriorating faster than anticipated, they may also raise a condition report. Condition reports are considered as part of the prioritisation approach. We will continue to monitor the condition of this road via our routine safety inspection regime and our annual condition surveys and should the condition change then action will be considered as appropriate.

56. Councillor Theobald

There are two concreted areas in the Peace Gardens that lack benches. Could benches be found so visitors to the park have more places to sit and relax?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

The Council has historically depended on donations for most park benches. This service was put on hold because of the difference between donation fees agreed by committee, the actual cost of installing the benches and the difficulty in meeting the demand for particular sites where benches were needed. The Council is reviewing how we manage donations for parks going forward with the hope to be able to reintroduce this service. Benches in the Peace Garden would then depend on the willingness of the public to donate.

57. Councillor Hogan

Many assisted collections are still missed. How many assisted collections are missed across the city? What is being done to ensure these collections are always carried out on time?

Reply from Cllr Rowkins, Cabinet Member – Net Zero & Environmental Services

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide data on the number of missed assisted collections due to limitations with the software. Whilst data relating to missed collections is recorded it does not detail if the householder has an assisted collection. Cityclean are in the process of introducing a new system which includes in-cab technology and once in place it will highlight an assisted collection to the Driver in real time and will provide data on any missed assisted collections. In the meantime, when there are new assisted collections, a memo is prepared every week with the details of the location to remind crews of the new assisted collection. This stays in place for the first few weeks until crew are familiar with the collection. The contact centre team notify Operations daily of any Assisted Collections issues that have been raised through email or telephone. In addition, a new Assisted Collection 'Champion' has been appointed within the Contact Centre Team and any issues raised through the contact centre is followed up with the Operations Management team to ensure issues are addressed.

58. Councillor Meadows

The new Stanmer Heights playground near the Gathering Place is much smaller than the previous design and unlikely to attract teenagers. When will improvements be made to it to give children of all ages better equipment?

Reply from Cllr Robins, Cabinet Member – Sports & Recreation

Stanmer Heights play area was transformed to an area for children to have quiet time and roleplay, following the extensive refurbishment of Brighton's largest play space at Carden Park, which is located immediately next to Stanmer Heights. Carden Park play area has an adventure playground, MUGA, Outdoor Gym and accessible play space for children of all ages and abilities.

59. Councillor Lyons

When will the report on our graffiti strategy for artwork in tunnels be available?

Reply from Cllr Alexander, Cabinet Member – Culture, Heritage & Tourism

The Tagging Reduction Action Plan is now in place which outlines an action plan including our steps to take forward street art to support the reduction in unauthorised graffiti/tagging. As part of this was an action to explore the options for identifying sites for street art and mechanisms to manage sites with a target date of January 2025. We are currently establishing a mural programme which would tackle problem areas in the city and have established a Street Art working group with councillors to take forward. This will follow the adopted Public Art strategy and engage local artists in creating new works in problem areas. Officers have been in conversations with other cities, such as Bristol and Glasgow, to build on experiences elsewhere around effective and sustainable street art programmes.

60. Councillor Lyons

Could residents in Hill Brow have a consultation on parking restrictions?

Reply from Cllr Muten, Cabinet Member – Transport, Parking and Public Realm

Thank you, Cllr Lyons, for your request for consultation with residents for parking restrictions in Hill Brow in Hove.

Hill Brow is currently within the existing Zone P residents' parking scheme. Permits are required Monday to Friday to park between the hours of 9 -10 am and 1 – 2 pm following the outcome from public consultation in 2018.

Should residents seek changes to existing parking restrictions, they can contact officers in the Parking Design & Implementation team outlining the change they would like to see and the reason for this.

40 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

40.1 The Mayor noted that 19 oral questions from Members had been submitted and that 30 minutes was set aside for the duration of the item. He asked that responses are kept brief to enable as many questions as possible to be heard.

Q1. Councillor Davis asked a question:

At the last Council meeting we heard from Councillor Loughran of her opposition to the previous Conservative Government's national housing targets. The LGA has also published a response opposing the Labour Government's housing targets, which Councillor Sankey is Deputy Chair of.

Can the administration explain their position on the Labour Government's housing target policy please?

Councillor Taylor replied:

On behalf of the administration, our position is that we need to build more houses, which we referred to earlier. As has been drawn out, what the country's currently considering is how do you build those houses and where do you build those houses? In a city like Brighton & Hove, clearly we have the South Downs to our North and the sea to the South and so we are constrained in terms of land. That said, we're very, very supportive of the overall ambition of the government to be building lots more houses and indeed we don't just want that to happen in the private sector, we want this Council to be unlocking that house building.

Councillor Davis asked a supplementary question:

My question was going to be: really could we, based around that, have a report on all the assets currently identified for disposal, for example the bank building at Preston Circus, or the old slipper baths, and whether some buildings identified for disposal could in fact be retained for social housing?

Councillor Taylor replied:

Yes, it's a really good question, a really important consideration. Whenever the Council thinks about one of its own capital assets, the first consideration is to go to the Housing Team, the Regen Team, and say is that viable for development, either Council-only or a joint venture development. And that's absolutely what we do.

In terms of any individual disposals, clearly they come through as individual decisions at Cabinet or as a Cabinet decision, and the considerations are set out in the paper. In terms of the whole book of assets and the future view of them in consideration, I'm certainly happy to come back to Councillor Davis with some consideration of that and how we can think about it.

Q2. Councillor McNair asked a question:

Why did the Gasworks developments have a separate planning meeting when Patcham Court Farm development was squeezed between other developments, ensuring there was little time to fully query it?

Councillor Loughran replied:

Sorry, Councillor McNair, I think you have misunderstood. The position is that we had separate Committees for the Gasworks and the whole afternoon was dedicated to that application and with Patcham Court Farm the principal application was Patcham Court Farm. So both of them got sufficient time for the determination.

Councillor McNair asked a supplementary question:

Residents against the Patcham Court Farm development strongly felt the Planning meeting was biased against them, and it was reported in the press as such. How can we avoid residents feeling the planning system is biased going forward?

Councillor Loughran replied:

Councillor McNair, I assure you that there was no bias coming from Committee and I am also aware that it was a highly emotive application in terms of the representations made by various people at that Committee, and they were fully addressed in the Committee determination. And you're the first person to raise any issue about that determination since it was made some weeks ago.

Q3. Councillor Fishleigh asked a question:

What elements have been cut from Valley Gardens 3 to stick within the £12.8 million budget and what will happen when the selected contractor comes back and says it needs more money to complete the task due to unanticipated additional costs?

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you Councillor Fishleigh for your support of our robust budget management in delivering the much needed transformation for our City Centre. The winning contractor submitted a bid for the total cost to deliver Valley Gardens Phase 3. A contract break clause means that we are not committed if the target cost does not meet the budget.

An early contractor involvement stage has enabled the contractor to work through their bid to hone the final target cost of this project. This has enabled the team to identify opportunities to bring costs down to within our budget. We have indeed found the following cost savings in their bid. Contractor construction rates that did not follow the Council's framework are changed, resulting in quite significant savings; found a better place for a compound in reducing transportation costs and managing materials; cycle lane is not to be coloured green other than in key areas, and that does save some money; and detailed review of traffic management approach and changing how work areas are constructed, again finding quite significant savings and minor material changes following on site assessments. All these do saves us money.

I'm therefore very pleased to confirm that this target is now aligned to our budget. The budget process does include a significant contingency that should cover any additional costs if they do come in, a normal approach to projects such as this. I hope this helps you with your question Councillor Fishleigh, as this encourages you to take a positive view on this wonderful opportunity that this much needed transformational scheme will bring to the heart of our city.

Councillor Fishleigh asked a supplementary question:

That's a very interesting and encouraging response. I just wanted to point out, I don't know how many of you read Private Eye, its recent issue in which a former senior council executive who was the cheerleader for Valley Gardens featured in the notorious Rotten Boroughs section. Apparently in his most recent role he's spent millions buying automatic number plate recognition cameras from the US that didn't recognise British plates.

It's this kind of incompetence that we have seen throughout the Valley Gardens debacle and, I'm sorry to say, it's actually still continuing. In real terms, on the ground, the complex ecosystem of residents, workers, business operators and users of Valley Gardens area are only now seeing how the work will actually affect them. It's clear that arrangements for a huge number of deliveries and collections, and access requirements for those with restricted mobility have never been considered as part of the scheme. So I'm here just really to ask you to go and see the businesses in the very near future because they're very concerned.

Councillor Muten replied:

Thank you Counsellor Fishleigh for that supplementary question. My understanding is that this project has been robustly assessed and scrutinised to the nth degree and the competence of officers present with the Council has provided thoroughness. We've stepped through this as an administration and we're confident it does deliver.

I am in discussion with a resident locally and I'm very keen to set up further meetings. The reason we have yet to do that with the contractor is we're working through some contractual discussions. We're now getting very confident with their programme and the contractor is doing some early-stage community liaison and I'm very happy and prepared to meet with residents with the contractor to step through exactly their delivery programme to make sure it works well for the residents in the city. I think it's an excellent opportunity to transform that city centre location, which is looking particularly shabby at this stage and is in urgent need of a transformation which is this project does offer.

Q4. Councillor Fowler asked a question:

In 2021, under the previous administration pay parking was put in around our local shop in Fiveways I've spoken with elderly residents who now find it difficult to shop locally as these spaces are often full and they struggle to carry heavy shopping.

Can Councillor Muten please expand on how the recently concluded parking review will benefit those who seek to park around Fiveways and to use local shops and services?

Councillor Muten replied:

It was a pleasure to meet with resident representatives in your ward just last week to talk about parking matters. And thank you for your question regarding parking for local shops in Fiveways. It's recognised that prior to the previous administration's imposing ill conceived restrictions in front of these shops, customers would have often dropped by for short periods to support ir these local businesses.

One of the objectives of our parking review was to ensure parking bays are fit for the purposes of need. Fair and simplifying the process. Officers have been looking at different types of bays across the city, including loading bays, to understand the needs for local areas. They will be happy to investigate any particular issues in in this area and find a solution that works better for residents and local businesses in Fiveways.

Councillor Fowler asked a supplementary question:

Can you please explain how the parking policies in the city seek to encourage shopping locally to keep our shopping parade thriving?

Councillor Muten replied:

We do have pay parking after two hours to give visitors the opportunity to shop and encourage turnover of vehicles. However, it's very important to fit this with our parking policies and effective enforcement work too, because if we had free unlimited waiting parking outside certain shops, local shops, it would possibly be full all the time and not really work well for those communities. Therefore, we needed to look at shorter stay duration to encourage greater turnover and encourage more customers use local shops.

As part of our parking review, as you rightly identify the first such review for at least 23 years since the first controlled parking zone went in, we're keen for a fairer and simpler parking that serves our city well for communities.

We are listening to the needs of small business owners, and very keen for parking that enables people to shop locally and our shopping parades to thrive.

Q5. This question was withdrawn

Q6. Councillor Meadows asked a question:

When we had the fire at the Royal Albion Hotel, Bella Sankey chose to pay for the demolition of this private business with Council funds. How much of taxpayers money was used for this purpose, including legal fees?

Councillor Sankey replied:

When I saw the subject matter 'Reimbursement', I wondered whether you were going to be offering again to reimburse us your SRAs from your time as a Cabinet member. But that's fine. There's something wrong with the premise of your question. It wasn't a choice of this Council to fund the vital emergency work that had to take place after the very sad and tragic fire at the Royal Albion Hotel last summer. We are under a duty as a

Council to ensure that buildings are safe and that they do not cause harm or risk to life, I think is more apt in this case, if they are not properly secured and dealt with. So it's not a choice, it's a duty, and we are a law abiding Council that will always uphold our legal duties.

Councillor Meadows asked a supplementary question:

I'm sorry you chose not to answer the question on how much taxpayers' money was used. I was just wondering, has that money been returned to us yet as the insurance should have been paid out and presumably that money would help the budget, but do you know when the Royal Albion will be built and is it at the same time as Valley Gardens 3?

Councillor Sankey replied:

I'm very happy to come back to you with the exact figure. I think we've been very public in the past whenever we've been asked about what the current bill is for the demolition work and we are actively pursuing reimbursement for this Council. So I can give you a full written update, I don't have that information immediately to hand. We are pursuing full reimbursement for every expense that we have undertaken and we're also actively seeking to engage the owners of the building with their plans for rebuilding. And again, I can provide an update to you, but I don't have that immediately to hand because your question was quite broadly framed, shall we say.

Q7. Councillor Thomson asked a question:

Residents care deeply about the trees in our city, and I wanted to mention Clarence Square particularly, which had two trees removed last year that were never replaced. I'd like to ask what we can do to allay the concerns of our residents that we're removing trees for cost cutting purposes?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

I can absolutely assure residents that we're not removing trees in order to save money. I don't know how many of our Members have met our Tree Planting Officer, or indeed our Arboriculture Team. They do those jobs because they are passionate about trees and that is clear whenever you do any work with them.

There's certainly nobody in this administration and, dare I say, not in this Chamber, who doesn't want to see more trees across the city. Members will, of course, recall that we underspent the budget in the last financial year and that that allowed us to allocate some funds to some areas that we considered to be priorities and I think the fact that we've released some money for tree planting quite clearly demonstrates that we do consider tree planting to be a priority.

There are, of course, financial challenges associated with replacing trees, particularly in our pavements and on our streets. You know, the work to remove stumps and roots and there's often issues with underground services. Lots of our trees, especially our beautiful mature trees around the city, were obviously planted a very long time ago with probably not the same level of, well certainly not, the consideration around underground services

that we now have to have. So all these things make it make it quite costly, and then of course, there's the sort of modern standards that we plant trees in terms of the tree pits and, you know, the dimensions and so-on. Working in partnership with CPRE Sussex, we jointly commissioned the Treeconomics Report which many members will be familiar with, and we received that earlier this year. The report shows in quite some detail the inequitable tree canopy coverage around the city, and I think it's an excellent base from which to plan our planting activity going forward. And also, let's not forget that aside from the aesthetic benefits that our trees bring, and the obvious biodiversity benefits, they also help to keep our city cool in the hot spells that are sadly increasing in both regularity and severity, and are also crucial to intercepting heavy rainfall and other frightening manifestations of the changing climate.

I personally believe, Mr Mayor, that the cost of not planting trees will be borne by the city eventually through future flood damage and adverse impacts on public health during extreme heat and extreme weather events, and these are the costs that we must avoid. Thank you.

Councillor Thomson asked a supplementary question:

I wanted to just raise the issue of, I mean, you mentioned about the Treeconomics, it was quite interesting to me because Regency, being in the City Centre, we're extremely short of trees. It was unfortunate that the redesigned Pavilion Gardens is also going to require a loss of a number of trees, but we were told that new ones would be planted. So I'd like to ask, can removing mature trees be mitigated by planting new ones?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

I suppose it's difficult to reply in absolute terms. I mean, you probably don't need to be an Arboricultural expert to suggest that removing a mature and established tree and replanting a less mature tree is not ideal. A mature tree will typically remove between 20 and 30 kilogrammes of CO₂ from the atmosphere depending on the tree and its location and so on and so on, so eventually there would be mitigation in terms of the carbon elements. The one thing I would say though, although you obviously don't want to be removing mature trees. Replacing them does mitigate the effects to some degree because clearly at any tree is going to eventually soak up rainwater and contribute to the sort of urban heat island problem that I referred to earlier in terms of keeping the streets cool in in hot weather. But also I think there's an accessibility point. I mean a lot of our mature trees, beautiful as they are, cause a hell of a problem on some of our pavements and that's obviously, I'm not suggesting that you cut them down because of that, but replacing some of the older trees with newer trees does give you the opportunity to be a little bit more strategic and a little bit more considerate of the kind of tree you plant, how you plant it, the kind of tree pit that you put in. And I think it's been really good to see some of the trees that we have planted more recently and the kinds of surfaces that we've put in, which I think are much more much less susceptible to cracking and the kinds of problems that we see.

Q8. Councillor Pickett asked a question:

Glyphosate has now been sprayed throughout the city for most of the summer. However, as we know its use is weather dependent and cannot be sprayed when it's

raining. So in light of our climate changing weather patterns that will only get worse with increased rainfall, and with the fact that glyphosate has failed to kill the widya stem plants as initially planned, does the Council intend to repeat this process again next year?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

The rainfall has been a problem this year. Obviously it's accelerated growth that was already significant and it has delayed the treatment and that has had a knock on effect on the effects. We'll obviously be reviewing what we've done this year and what the successes and challenges have been and that will inform what we do next year.

Councillor Pickett asked a supplementary question:

A great many residents of Brighton & Hove have asked for a street opt-out scheme since glyphosate was first used in January of this year. Initially Councillor Rowkins said that there wasn't time to initiate a street opt-out scheme before starting spray. So would you agree that there now has been ample time, and if you do decide that you are going to respray, that the residents who wish to have an opt out scheme are allowed to have one?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

We've dealt with the opt out scheme thing before. I'm keen on it personally. It needs to be resourced properly and, you know, I'm keen to explore anything as long as it can give us confidence that the problem is going to be maintained to the satisfaction of residents to keep our footways clear.

Q9. Councillor Lyons asked a question:

Can you tell me how many officers within the Council are based in a council office for their employment, and how many work flexibly based either at an office or working remotely?

Councillor Taylor replied:

The answer is no, and I don't think any Councillor probably could have that on the top of their head. You probably need to write that as a written question if you want the answer Councillor Lyons. The broad theme of productivity was a good one to raise, and the sort of productivity and vigour that we're driving forward as a Council is similar to that shown by Councillor Muten in sorting out the Twitten in Hove Park recently, proving to residents in Hove Park that if they want action and productivity they need a Labour Council. I'm happy to find that information in writing.

Councillor Lyons asked a supplementary question:

Yes, I do. Thank you for mentioning the Twiten which I brought to the Council 12 months ago and obviously welcome Trevor Muten's involvement three weeks ago. But in regards to my supplementary question, can you let me know what measures are there to compare productivity for the two groups?

Councillor Taylor replied:

The Council recently submitted a report on productivity, it was a programme under the previous government that asked councils to submit items on productivity and how they view productivity in the Council. I'm happy to forward that report to Councillor Lyons. The Council focuses very heavily on productivity and efficiencies. All councils are having to do more of that in recent years and indeed we have a record as a Council of some success in that in that we've invested around £49 million over the previous ten years. It's been invested in modernisation and productivity which in turn has levered annual savings of around £79 million. That's a cumulative saving over 10 years of £432 million.

So the Council does focus on productivity. In terms of the differences between workers who happen to be based either in this building, or one of the other operational buildings, or have some periods of work from home, I don't believe the Council has statistics on measuring their productivity between the times they're in the office and not, but I'm happy to check with HR and respond to the Member.

Q10. Councillor Allen asked a question:

Brighton Town Hall is an iconic Grade 2 Listed historic building in this Council's stewardship. That's why I've taken the time to speak with staff and to successfully push for improvements. Could Councillor Taylor elaborate on the administration's commitment to maintaining this important civic asset?

Councillor Taylor replied:

Thank you for your question Councillor Allen, I agree with the spirit of it. And thank you for the work you've been doing to make individual improvements in the site. The building is a really important site for us as a city. I remember first visiting Brighton Town Hall as a 14-year-old when I received a medal from the then Mayor, for work done in my own school, Councillor Jeane Lepper, which was a great honour. It's a really important part of our history, of our own civic history, and yes, we need to focus on what we can do to continue improving that important building.

Councillor Allen asked a supplementary question:

Many local authorities have merged over the last century and many have been creative with their duplicate town halls. Can councillor Taylor look to explore how Brighton Town Hall can play a part in the city regeneration aspect of the administration's policy programme, combining heritage with utility?

Councillor Taylor replied:

It's a very good question. I think Councillor Allen is on the right lines there. There are town halls in many areas of the country, historic listed town halls where there has been a deliberate move to acknowledge that they were operational buildings in the city and then there are civic buildings in the city that can perform many functions. I think there was an amazing refurbishment of Rochdale Town Hall that has included a restaurant, included a museum, included obviously registrations and weddings and I would like the

Council to start exploring, is that an option for Brighton Town Hall, which is that can we potentially get some commercial activity in there that will help fund the refurbishment of the building and give it a new life? And could we create in 5-10 years' time a renewed Civic space for the city? And I think the Council should explore that.

Q11. Councillor Sykes asked a question:

I have residents in Brunswick & Adelaide Ward who are very frustrated with City Clean performance, particularly around communal bin collection. I get emails most weeks and the principal problem seems to be around the unpredictability and reliability of communal bin pick-up.

The question is: are we transparent about communal bin round completion and do we keep any of sort of record of communal bin round completion in that part of town?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

Apologies to your residents who have experienced that service. We have had some issues with the communal rounds, which lasted a few weeks owing to some vehicle issues. Yes we do collect a lot of data, but as I'm sure you know from your time as a Councillor, the system is still really quite antiquated in terms of gathering data and being able to record issues in particular locations.

There is now a programme of modernisation under way, and indeed my working week this week began at 4:00 in the morning to go out with one of the rounds who are first in the roll out of that piece of technology and I am very confident that once that is rolled out across the service we can have much better data location by location, much better reporting and sharing of information between residents and Council, and a system that you would expect of a city like Brighton and Hove in the year 2024.

Councillor Sykes asked a supplementary question:

I think you partly answered my supplementary, it's sort of comparative performance across local authorities. I'm aware of neighbouring councils that have, for some years, been able to track individual refuse and recycling truck movements by GPS, and advise residents quickly on the basis of street blockage, if there's an issue they can get straight to them on an almost minute by minute basis.

You indicated a modernization programme. Any idea of time scale before you get up to the performance of some of our neighbouring authorities?

Councillor Rowkins replied:

Well, I can't commit to a specific time scale yet, but, I mean, as you say, having seen the system in action on Monday morning, it is very much the case that if a collection is missed that will be that will pop up on the system, managers can reallocate that work to another round and it should be a much more agile kind of system.

The reason we're doing a phased roll out is precisely so that we can stress test the system, get feedback from drivers and crews and make sure that by the time it hits the city at large that it's functioning as it should.

40.2 The mayor stated that Council had reached the allocated time for oral questions and he would move on to the next item.

41 AN ECONOMIC PLAN FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE 2024-27

41.1 Councillor Goddard introduced, and formally moved the report.

41.2 Councillor Sykes, McNair, Bagaeen, McGregor, Hill and Lyons spoke on the matter.

41.3 Councillor Goddard responded to the debate.

41.4 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

41.5 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report, recommendations and Minutes Extract of the Cabinet meeting held on 18 July 2024 be noted.
- 2) That Council agreed the Economic Plan as set out in the Appendices, is adopted as part of the delivery of the Council Plan 2023-27.

42 HOUSING STRATEGY 2024-2029

42.1 Councillor Williams introduced, and formally moved the report.

42.2 Councillor McLeay and Meadows spoke on the matter.

42.3 Councillor Williams responded to the debate.

42.4 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

42.5 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report, recommendations and Minutes Extract of the Cabinet meeting held on 26 September 2024 be noted.
- 2) That Council agreed the Housing Strategy 2024 to 2029 as set out in the Appendices

43 BRIGHTON & HOVE YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2024 - 2025

43.1 Councillor Guilmant introduced, and formally moved the report.

43.2 Councillor Hill and Gauge spoke on the matter.

43.3 The mayor congratulated Councillor Gauge on their maiden speech.

43.4 Councillor responded to the debate.

43.5 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

43.6 RESOLVED:

- 1) Full Council noted the city's Youth Justice Plan and supports the activity detailed therein.

44 GAMBLING POLICY REVIEW 2024-2027

44.1 Councillor Nann introduced, and formally moved the report.

44.2 Councillor Pickett spoke on the matter.

44.3 Councillor Nann responded to the debate.

44.4 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

44.5 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report, recommendations and Minutes Extract of the Licensing Committee held on 10 October 2024 be noted.
- 2) That Council agreed to adopt the Statement of Gambling Policy 2025 – 2027 as set out in the Appendices.

45 REVIEW OF THE WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN - ADOPTED OF REVISED POLICIES

45.1 Councillor Robins introduced, and formally moved the report.

45.2 Councillor Hill and Bagaeen spoke on the matter.

45.3 Councillor Robins responded to the debate.

45.4 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

45.5 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report, recommendations of the Culture, Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Economic Development Committee held on 18 April 2024 be noted.

- 2) Noted the responses to the RPD Proposed Submission and Main Modifications consultations and the contents of the Inspectors' Report with their conclusion that the revised policies, as modified, are legally compliant and 'sound'.
- 3) Approved adoption of the Revised Policies, incorporating the main modifications and minor modifications, as part of the Development Plan for the City, subject to the Interim Head of Planning agreeing any further minor non-material changes to the text with East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority.

46 BRIGHTON MARINA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – DECISION STATEMENT

46.1 RESOLVED:

That Council agreed to:

- 1) Determine that the Marina Neighbourhood Plan be modified according to the recommendations in the independent examiner's report and as set out in the attached Decision Statement (Appendix 1) and that the Decision Statement be published.
- 2) To approve the examiner's recommendation that the Neighbourhood Plan now proceed to two local referendums. The referendum area is the Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Area.
- 3) In the event that more than 50% of residents and 50% of businesses vote to support the Neighbourhood Plan in the two referendums, that the Council formally 'makes' the Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Plan.

47 REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE OCTOBER 2024

47.1 Councillor Taylor introduced, and formally moved the report.

47.2 The Mayor noted that there was an amendment in relation to this report as set out in the addendum papers.

47.3 Councillor Davis moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was formally seconded by Councillor Hill.

47.4 Councillor Taylor responded to the debate.

47.5 The Mayor then put the amendment to the vote and confirmed that it had been lost.

47.6 The Mayor put the recommendations as detailed in the report listed in the agenda to the vote which was carried.

47.7 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council appointed/re-appointed its committees with the sizes and allocation of seats between political groups as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

48 DECISIONS ON EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

48.1 The report was referred for information

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

49 RIGHT TO GROW

49.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Alexander on behalf of the Labour Group and formally seconded by Councillor O'Quinn.

49.2 The Mayor noted that there was an amendment in relation to this motion as set out in the addendum papers.

49.3 Councillors Sykes, McNair and Earthey spoke on the matter.

49.4 The Mayor then put the motion to the vote and confirmed that the motion had been carried.

49.5 RESOLVED:

This council notes:

- 1) The strong link between health and wellbeing and the availability of fresh and healthy food options.
- 2) The cost-of-living crisis has increased real hunger in our city, reinforcing the need for accessible healthy fresh food.
- 3) Our city has a climate suitable for growing food, and yet the majority of what we eat travels hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles from farm to fork.
- 4) The cost-of-living crisis, food miles, climate change and the need to improve local biodiversity all influence our local food security, bringing an urgent focus on ensuring that residents have access to fresh food.
- 5) That there is under-used publicly owned land which could be used for community food growing while also improving the public realm.

This council resolves to request an officer report to the Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services to consider:

- 1) Identifying all under-used Council owned land, suitable for community cultivation, that is publicly available at no cost to residents and is actively promoted across all wards.
- 2) Identifying land available for cultivation by a simple licence to community organisations and resident groups.
- 3) Examining how such licence can ensure that there are not significant barriers to residents in terms of financial or practical requirements.

- 4) Identifying steps which could be taken to actively support and promote volunteering to encourage residents to get involved in community cultivation.

50 RESTRICTING UNETHICAL AND CARBON INTENSIVE ADVERTISING

- 50.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Pickett on behalf of the Green Group and formally seconded by Councillor Hill.
- 50.2 The Mayor noted that there was an amendment in relation to this motion as set out in the addendum papers.
- 50.3 Councillor Evans moved the amendment on behalf of the Labour Group which was formally seconded by Councillor Sheard.
- 50.4 Councillors Earthey and Hill spoke on the matter.
- 50.5 Councillor Pickett confirmed that they would accept the amendment.
- 50.6 The Mayor then put the motion as amended to the vote and confirmed that the motion had been carried.
- 50.7 RESOLVED:

This Council notes:

- 1) Brighton & Hove currently restricts the advertising of High Fat, Sugar, and Salt (HFSS) products on all council owned and managed advertising spaces across the city.
- 2) Some companies are getting around this such as by advertising other non-HFSS junk food, particularly sugar free sodas.
- 3) Our support for cities such as Sheffield that have adopted wider bans on their advertising. This includes carbon intensive products such as airlines, airports, fossil fuel powered cars and fossil fuel companies as well as HFSS and gambling advert bans.
- 4) The importance of prioritising climate action and the health and wellbeing of people within the city over financial profits of advertisers.
- 5) The need to limit wherever possible exposure to advertising for gambling, betting and cryptocurrency linked trading platforms.
- 6) An increase in advertising preying on the financially vulnerable as a result of the cost-of-living crises.
- 7) The Council can only directly influence advertising on Council properties and that national legislation change is needed to influence other advertising spaces in a local authority area.

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Request Officers prepare a report to consider how the Council can implement an ethical advertising policy, to include estimates of potential loss of income streams.

- 2) Request the report be presented to the Place Overview & Scrutiny for their consideration and any recommendations.

51 CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting concluded at 9.12PM

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2024