

**EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THE 13TH JULY 2010****BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL****GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 13 JULY 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Oxley (Chairman), Simpson (Deputy Chairman), Brown, Fallon-Khan, Kennedy, Mears, Mitchell, Randall, Simson and Watkins.

PART ONE**15. MANDATORY TRAINING FOR PLANNING**

- 15.1 The Committee considered a joint report of the Directors of Environment and Strategy & Governance, concerning the proposed introduction of bi-annual mandatory training sessions for Members serving on or wishing to serve on the Planning Committee.
- 15.2 Councillor Simson welcomed the report and stated that it was important for the Planning Committee to have all the necessary tools to make robust decisions. She highlighted the cost of the training and advised that it would be necessary to ensure that a range of dates and times were offered to ensure that all Members of Committee and the pool of substitutes could attend.
- 15.3 Councillor Kennedy spoke in support of the increased training and advised that the policy framework around planning was changing rapidly making it vital that Members understood both local and national policy. She advised that she hoped investing in training would reduce the resources spent on defending challenges to decisions and commended the Chairman of the Planning Committee, the Head of Developmental Control and the Planning Team for taking the matter forward.
- 15.4 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the proposals and reiterated the need for flexibility in training dates and times in order to accommodate all Members.
- 15.5 The Chairman advised that he was confident that officers would ensure that dates would be flexible.

15.6 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

- (1) That mandatory training for all members of the Planning pool be introduced on a six-monthly basis;
- (2) That the training be open to all other Members to attend on a non-mandatory basis;
- (3) That any mandatory development sessions should be offered on at least two different time slots to take account of Members' other commitments;
- (4) That the requirement for ongoing mandatory planning training every six months should come into force with effect from 16 July 2010 and that the first mandatory session be arranged as quickly as possible;
- (5) That the Head of Law be authorised to amend the constitution to reflect the above, including making consequential drafting amendments.