CABINET

Agenda Item 8(a)

Brighton & Hove City Council

COUNCILLOR GILL MITCHELL COUNCILLOR WARREN MORGAN COUNCILLOR CRAIG TURTON

Brighton & Hove City Council King's House Grand Avenue Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 11 May 2011 **Our Ref:** GM/WM/CT

Your Ref:

Dear Cabinet Members,

Re: request for urgent review of sale of Council land.

We are writing as the three Councillors for East Brighton ward to request that you commission an urgent review of the sale of Council owned land currently occupied by Whitehawk Library and Whitehawk Youth Centre on Whitehawk Road/Findon Road. The purpose of the review would be to examine the possibility of providing additional housing on the site in addition to re-provision of a youth centre.

The sale of the library and youth centre site is to meet the shortfall in funding for the new "Hub" or "Co-location" buildings on Whitehawk Road; the new library, new CYPT offices and new classrooms for Whitehawk Primary School.

There are currently no plans within the development to replace the facilities at Whitehawk Youth Centre or any plans to include within the site the housing in Westham, Tilsmore and Holbrook, blocks which are in poor condition and which in our opinion are no longer fit for purpose.

We would ask that further work is done, in consultation with the residents of those flats, to see if an enlarged scheme could allow for them to be re-housed in new homes built by a housing association on the site, with the housing association providing a new youth centre as part of the development.

We believe a larger development including those flats would give a housing association the scope to do that as well as potentially increasing the number of new homes available to families on the Council's waiting list. We would cite the development on Whitehawk Way and Sompting Close, where pre-fabricated bungalows were replaced by a range of social housing, as an example of how this scheme might proceed.

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(01273) 294362 warren.morgan@brighton-hove-gov.uk (01273) 294363 craig.turton@brighton-hove.gov.uk Finally, we would urge you to ensure that, in the limited time left before this land is sold, that these further options are examined and any opportunities to replace old housing, increase the available housing stock and re-provide a youth centre are not missed.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Gill Mitchell

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Councillor Warren Morgan

Councillor Craig Turton