

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.00AM 15 NOVEMBER 2011**

**PRIVATE MEETING - ROOM B35, KING'S HOUSE**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Present:** J. Hazelgrove (Chair); F. Tonks (Vice Chair), M. Bojczuk (Secretary), C. Carden (Treasurer), C. Vincent, P. Terry, J. Eyles

**Apologies:** H. Steer and V. Brown

**PART TWO** (Private)

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 1.1 The minutes of the AGM from the 18 October 2011 were approved by Members. It was confirmed that the minutes had been circulated to Pensioner Action.
- 1.2 In reference to point 4 - It was noted that 70% of patients in hospitals were satisfied with the food provided. 60% of patients were older people. Information from the LINK had also advised that many patients coming into hospitals were malnourished.

**2. JOHN BARRADELL – CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CE) OF BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

Members introduced themselves and told the CE which wards they represented and their subjects of interest. The CE advised Members of the following:

- (1) **The Council's Budget** - the public were being encouraged to input into the on-line budget game, to play around with the figures, make savings and further assist the Council to understand their residents' priorities. The Council needed to save £40million over 2012-2014.

The proposed budget would be heard at the 8 December, Cabinet meeting. The Council Tax freeze grant would mean that if the council agreed to keep council tax at the same rate as the previous year they would get a grant worth the equivalent of a 2.5% increase, for only one year. Budget Scrutiny would be presenting information to feed into the final proposed Council budget.

- (2) **Health and Wellbeing Boards** (HWB). All local authorities will be "Early Adopters" and would run as a shadow form for a year and come into operation in 2014. Tom Scanlon would still be employed by the Council but would also report to Public Health England.

- (3) **The Big Alcohol Debate** – was gathering information from NHS services, other professional, families, social drinkers, bar owners etc, on the impact alcohol has on people's lives e.g. Health, the economy and how these impacts affect families.
- (4) **Gypsy Traveller Strategy** – Consultation is ongoing will a new strategy due for completion in early 2012. A scrutiny panel is involved with analysing the draft strategy.
- (5) **City Plan Consultation** – This is the key planning document for the city setting out our ambitions for future housing, employment, transportation etc, the plan will run to 2030 and the consultation has begun.
- (6) **City Forum** – was an idea from overseas, where by a 150 residents and professionals from the Brighton & Hove presented there ideas to improve the city. These ideas were shortlisted and a prize of £10k would be given to the winner to implement the idea. Ideas put forward ranged from, "mico volunteering" to do shopping for someone who was vulnerable, "perch spaces" designated seating areas for older people, to public conveniences that were open when/where the public wanted.
- (7) The Chief Executive encouraged OPC to get involved in as many areas as possible. The City Forum certainly represents an excellent opportunity as does the budget process.

Questions were raised:

- (1) Whether the budget savings would affect Council staff stress and absenteeism levels? Members were told that it was more than probable that staff would have increased stress, and the recruitment freeze in April 2010 had meant that vacancies could not be recruited to. Further savings were made through the voluntary severance scheme. The concern was that this could mean that no new staff and ideas were coming into the Council. There would be no pay increases, redundancies would be avoided, voluntary severance schemes and not backfilling vacant posts were a preference.
- (2) Whether the Council would consider making money from lucrative recycling scheme. Members were advised that these schemes would not be fruitful for the Council as these businesses operated with different quality of waste. However the Council were piloting a scheme to reduce food waste within households as Brighton and Hove had the highest in the country.
- (3) On the possibility of an increase in Council Tax and what would be the implications of the budget. Officers were working through all the possibilities currently and preparing information to the Cabinet so that they could make a decision on the proposed budget for next year.
- (4) If 28% of the budget came from Council Tax how and government would only make up the difference for one year, how are council's suppose to be able to function the other 3 years. Members were informed that further savings would have to be made and another possibility is an increase in the block grants.
- (5) Would an increase in business rates be proposed? Members were told how this helped local authorities, however Brighton & Hove were unique in that business accounts opened in the city were four times more than the national average. Businesses operated from homes and coffee shop like premises where business

rates were charged. bringing no revenue into the Council. Equally, the City had no factories and office blocks but mainly self employed small companies.

The Chair informed the CE that since he last presented to the OPC, there were some newly elected members including a female member who sent their apologies for this meeting. The OPC were also looking to recruit 2 co-optees in.

**3. LAURA MURPHY – AGEING WELL CONSULTANT - THE CENTRE FOR PUBLIC SCRUTINY (CfPS)**

- (1) LM presented that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had introduced an Ageing Well Programme to look at holistically what is affecting the ageing population.
- (2) The Council's Scrutiny team were successful in getting LM for 3 days work. From the Annual Report it was evident that the OPC needed to think about it's aims. It was good at monitoring and listening to information, however there was the potential to publicise more what the OPC do. Examples of good practice included making a real difference to neighbourhoods and by being selective in what the OPC got involved in it could publicise these specific areas. Also being accountable for what the OPC does as they do receive funding from the authority. Having a 12 month work programme so the OPC has clear objectives what they are looking at.
- (3) To continue the work of the Ageing Well programme the next step was to speak to Members individually to collate their ideas and plans. Appointments were made for the 28 November and 1<sup>st</sup> December. LM would contact the members you had sent their apologies. Once this information was collated LM would feedback at the next meeting with a proposal on how to take things forward.

**4. PHILIP LETCHFIELD – LOCAL ACCOUNT**

- 4.1 The Head of Contracts and Performance (Adult Social Care) introduced the Local Account informing Members that from 2012/13 the government were proposing that every social services department publishes a 'local account' each year. The document should report what social services have been doing over the past year, how successful they have been and what they plan to do in the future.

In previous years a record of standards was published from the former national regulator, the Care Quality Commission. The intention with local accounts is to allow local people to have a say in how well their local social services are doing and what they should be reporting on. With the deadline being January, it was important to find out what was important to the OPC and to ensure that these were included into the document.

- 4.2 Colin Vincent agreed to work on this request and forward on the OPC's ideas.

**5. OPC MEMBER ROUND UP**

Francis Tonks:

- Concerns over the closure of the St. Patrick's Night Shelter and whether there was an alternative place being set up to address this gap in service.
- Attended a number of Age Concern meetings – there was a new research project that the University and Age Concern were involved in.
- Attended the Trust for Developing Communities where various partners were present eg. CVSF

Colin Vincent:

- Attended the Lifeline event at Patching Lodge
- Had completed his one day induction which consisted of visiting Access Point, Resource and Day Centres
- Attended meetings at LiNK and was co-opted onto their steering group.

Colin Carden:

- Reported back that at the Sheltered Housing meeting Members were told that it was unlikely that Happy Valley would be chosen as a potential Traveller site
- Answered 10 telephone messages in relation to the assisted waste scheme. It was confirmed that the scheme was carrying out a review and updating their records. The information needed to be passed onto City Clean who would then get back to individual residents.

Mike Bojczuk

- Feedback was requested on the NHS changes to commissioning
- Sent a letter to the Argus on the concerns of closing of the Southern Cross care homes. There was a discussion on whether there were protocols relating to press articles, it was agreed to say any future articles were a "personal view"
- Updated the OPC website, the minutes of meetings and the annual report were available on there
- Had heard from a Consultant from Denmark Hill who was from the National Institute of Palliative Care carrying out a survey on short-term care. It was agreed to meet with the consultant on the 28 November after the individual interviews with the LM.
- The OPC needed to publicise the Friends of East Sussex Hospices on their research and funding opportunity.

Jack Hazelgrove:

- Attended a meeting with Pensioner Action & Age Concern where it was agreed that in the future a more co-ordinated approach with all 3 organisations was needed, including at events
- Aimed to get two more co-optees. There was a discussion as to whether the Chairs of Pensioner Action & Age Concern would consider being co-opted onto the OPC as well. Members agreed that due to the high workloads of these two Chairs it was unlikely that they would consider this
- Met with the students from Imperial College regarding the Urban Mobility Project.
- Informed Members that the Community event was on the same day as the 17 January, private meeting where finance officers would be present the Council's proposed budget. Colin Vincent volunteered to attend the event and represent the OPC.

Secretary's report:

- Numbers were finalised for the Christmas Bali Brassiere lunch. Members to get back to Mike on contact details of former OPC members. Members agreed to buy Pam her dinner and a present to say thank you for all her hard work. The money for the meal would be collected on the day.

**6. AOB**

6.1 Information was requested on the Warm Front Scheme and the 2012 Green Deal.

6.2 Contact details of the OPC members were checked and agreed. It was agreed not to print of e-mails for OPC members due to it being an onerous task.

Signed by the Chair of the OPC

Date: