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| <b>Council</b>  | <b>Agenda Item 54</b>        |
| 26 January 2012 | Brighton & Hove City Council |

## **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

### **COUNCIL**

**4.30pm 15 DECEMBER 2011**

### **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillors Meadows (Chair), Wells (Deputy Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Farrow, Fitch, Follett, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, MacCafferty, Marsh, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Pissaridou, Powell, Randall, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield, Wealls and West.

### **PART ONE**

#### **35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 35.1 Councillors Robins and Mitchell declared personal but not prejudicial interests in Item 51(c), Notice of Motion, Drop the Bill as they worked for the NHS.
- 35.2 Councillor Wells declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 46, Private Rented Sector Agents, report of the Scrutiny Panel as he was a landlord and would therefore withdraw from the meeting during consideration of the item.
- 35.3 Simson, Fitch, Gilbey, Brown, Bennett, Cobb, Rufus, Deane, Buckley, Hawtree and Shanks declared personal and non-prejudicial interests in Item 46, Private Rented Sector Agents, report of the Scrutiny Panel as they were either landlords or used letting agents.
- 35.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 46, Private Rented Sector Agents, report of the Scrutiny Panel.
- 35.5 Councillors Wealls, Powell and A. Norman declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Item 51(d), Intelligent Commissioning and the Community & Voluntary Sector, Notice of Motion as they were Trustees of Impact Initiatives, Allsorts and the Martlets Hospice respectively.
- 35.6 Councillor Randall declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in relation to Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club. He was due to make a statement later in the meeting on the football club and as his daughter was a season ticket holder and his grand-daughter worked as a waitress at the club.

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

### **36. MINUTES**

36.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

### **37. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.**

37.1 The Mayor informed the Council that she had recently taken up the offer made by Mr. Chris Kift at the last meeting to join him on a tour of the city as a wheelchair user. She had found the experience to be eye opening to the dangers and problems faced by wheelchair and mobility scooter users in attempting to get around the city. She intended to write to the Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm asking for improvements to dropped curbs to be a made priority.

37.2 The Mayor stated that she was pleased to announce that the Council Connect project had scooped top prize in the 'Innovation and Progress' category of the Guardian's Public Service Awards. Council connect provided volunteers to help customers use council services online as well as one-to-one tuition on the basics of using a computer to setting blogs and searching for jobs. She congratulated everyone involved and presented a plaque to Councillor Bowden as the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism & Recreation and the Head of the Library Service, Sally McMahon.

37.3 The Mayor then stated that she was pleased say that the Council had been re-credited with the Charter for Member Development following a recent assessment by a panel from South East Employers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. She wished to congratulate the Member Development Working Group and the officers from Democratic Services, especially the Head of Democratic Services, Mark Wall and the Member Development & Project Officer, Aaron Robin who had ensured Member Development was an integral part of the authority's learning and development activities.

37.4 The Mayor then reminded Council of her forthcoming charity events taking place on:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Boundary walk from Stanmer to Patcham

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January – boundary walk from Devil's Dyke to Portslade; and

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Gala Dinner at the Royal Pavilion.

37.5 The Mayor then called on Councillor Randall as Leader of the Council to address the meeting.

37.6 Councillor Randall thanked the Mayor and stated that: "Following discussions this week, the club and the council have agreed the following steps to address the future transport needs of the Amex Stadium:

- 1) The Albion will fund an independent travel study of the transport needs. The study will be prepared in the context of the Albion's plans to add 8,000 seats at the Amex Stadium and will consider the possible future use of the Falmer Retained Land for parking. Among other matters, it will look at three proposals made by Ian Davey Transport Cabinet Member. These are:

- Controlling the traffic flow from proposed parking on the retained land to give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and buses.
  - Running a shuttle bus service on match days from The Keep to The Level.
  - Examining the case for a match-day CPZ in Moulsecoomb and Coldean. Local residents would be consulted on any CPZ proposals for their neighbourhoods.
- 2) We propose the study will be carried out immediately on behalf of the Amex Transport Group. It will inform a planning brief for the Falmer Retained Land, which will go to the February Cabinet.
  - 3) We will take the opportunity to take a fresh look at the development options for the Falmer Retained Land and the mix of activities this important site can support.
  - 4) A legal agreement is being drawn up giving The Albion the go-ahead to begin immediately a demolition survey of the Falmer School buildings.

The council remains committed to helping The Albion to increase the Amex stadium capacity by 8,000, realise its ambition to bring Premiership football to the city, increase the number of jobs and training opportunities at the stadium and continue with its hugely valuable community work across the city and elsewhere. At the same time we recognise the council has a duty to realise the best value for the site.

- 37.7 Councillor Randall then stated that following the recent resignation as a councillor, he wished to propose that Brian Oxley be made an Honorary Alderman of the City of Brighton & Hove in recognition of his service to both Hove Borough Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.
- 37.8 Councillors G. Theobald and Mitchell as Leaders of the Conservative and Labour & Co-operative Groups respectively, declared their Groups' support for the proposal.
- 37.9 The Mayor noted that there was unanimous support for the proposal and such stated that she was happy to call a Special Meeting to be held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> march 2012, and to take place just prior to the Ordinary Council meeting scheduled for that day.
- 37.10 The Mayor then reminded Council of the need to be mindful of purdah considerations in relation to the By-election to be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, during the forthcoming debates on the items listed in the agenda.

### **38. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR (A) THE MAYOR-ELECT AND (B) THE DEPUTY MAYOR-ELECT**

- 38.1 The Mayor noted that the next item dealt with the nominations for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor-Elect and called on the Monitoring Officer to outline the process and to seek nominations.
- 38.2 The Monitoring Officer thanked the Mayor and explained the process for the appointment of the Mayor-Elect and then sought nominations to the position.
- 38.3 Councillor G. Theobald nominated Councillor Cobb, and Councillor Peltzer Dunn formally seconded the nomination.
- 38.4 Councillor Bowden nominated Councillor Randall, and Councillor Wakefield formally seconded the nomination.

- 38.5 The Monitoring Officer noted that there were two nominations and put each nomination to the vote.
- 38.6 The Mayor declared that Councillor Randall was duly appointed as Mayor-elect for the City of Brighton & Hove for the municipal year 2012-13.
- 38.7 The Monitoring Officer then noted that nominations were required for the position of Deputy Mayor-Elect and that it was usual practice for the outgoing Mayor to be duly nominated.
- 38.8 Councillor G. Theobald nominated Councillor Meadows and Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the nomination.
- 38.9 The Monitoring Officer declared that Councillor Meadows had been duly appointed as the Deputy Mayor-Elect for the municipal year 2012-13.

**39. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.**

- 39.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 39.2 Ms. Goddard presented an e-petition signed by 272 residents calling for a safe path for cyclists and walkers alongside the Falmer Road between Falmer Village and Woodingdean.
- 39.3 Ms. McMinn presented an e-petition signed by 37 residents calling for a one hour parking option to the current half or two hour option in their area.
- 39.4 Mr. Thorne presented an e-petition signed by 137 residents requesting that the ban on leafleting be lifted.
- 39.5 Councillor Hamilton presented a petition signed by 100+ residents, concerning Portslade Infants School.

**40. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- 40.1 The Mayor reported that 7 written questions had been received from members of the public and noted that the time allocated for public questions under Procedural Rule 9.18 was fifteen minutes. She then invited Mr. Furness to come forward and address the council.
- 40.2 Mr. Furness asked the following question; "Most of us, regardless of our political persuasions, are aware of the shocking decline in numbers of our native wildlife, not least in the case of honey bees, butterflies, moths and small birds.

Would you agree that this Green Council should be setting an example to City residents of how to preserve the natural habitats of these creatures by managing its own land and buildings in an environmentally sustainable manner?"

- 40.3 Councillor West replied; "I completely agree with you. It's important the council leads the way by showing how wildlife helps to build a prosperous and successful city, as well as being important for its own sake. Our biggest responsibility is conserving our internationally important chalk grassland. That's why we are working hard to reintroduce traditional sheep grazing to many of our important downland sites in the city. This year we have expanded the grazing project to 900 sheep grazing 84 hectares of our land. And over 100 local people have signed up as volunteer shepherds, to help look after them. The council has also successfully won Higher Level Stewardship payments from the Government to cover the costs of this and a range of other conservation work on our countryside sites.

In our parks and along our road verges we have planted wild flowers as nectar sources for bees, butterflies and moths. This year we won six Green Flag awards for our parks, partly on the strength of our nature conservation work. We also started to encourage larger wild flower areas to develop on pilot verges and open spaces in Saltdean, where the rare Basil Thyme was rediscovered.

Looking at our public buildings, newbuilds such as the Hollingdean Sure Start Centre, Varndean School extension and the Acorn Nursery in Portslade incorporate 'sparrow terrace' nest boxes, green roofs and landscaping designed to attract feeding and nesting birds. We are also working with Dr Dan Danahar of Dorothy Springer School extending his concept of butterfly banks to areas of the city.

But of course there's a lot more that we can do. This administration intends to achieve a step change in the way the city views and values its natural heritage. The Biosphere project, which started in earnest this autumn, aims to deliver this. Biodiversity will figure in all our work, right across the city. Our aim is to establish an international reputation for Brighton and Hove as a world class city for wildlife."

- 40.4 Mr. Furness asked the following supplementary question; "I am delighted to hear your lengthy statement about the outlined areas of the city. Conservation begins at home. We had until recently a thriving colony of Sparrows breeding in the ivy of the south tower outside Hove Town Hall which has been slashed at the root as a result there is no more tweeting there."
- 40.5 Councillor West replied; "I can't comment on specific examples like that but as you say that conservation has to start at home, that is exactly what we are doing, in the case of the bio sphere reserve bid-this is for an urban biosphere reserve which is an unusual concept. There are a number of biospheres around the world that have been recognised by the UN but not urban ones. This will cause us to address, in urban areas, as well as surrounding countryside, how well we are dealing with the biodiversity and the impacts of our lifestyle. Things like air pollution by having a pond biodiversity.

We are planning 13 Butterfly banks within the city itself. The one at Dorothy Stringer School is an artificial area where they have undulated the ground in order to create a micro-climate habitat that attracts a lot of butterflies and other insects. Roughly, 80

percent of the species that are present within Brighton and Hove live in that specific area whereas before it was just recreational grass.

We are building more around the city of those and so that will help to become little islands of biodiversity, we are also encouraging members of the public to promote biodiversity in their back gardens.”

- 40.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Furness for his questions and invited Mr. Lowe to come forward and address the council.
- 40.7 Mr. Lowe asked the following question; “Has there been any progress on the youth service report?”
- 40.8 Councillor Shanks replied; “The report is completed and a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Services for Young People will come to the Children’s Cabinet Member Meeting on January 20th for final agreement. The final report reflects feedback from extensive engagement and consultation. This includes two panels of the Children and Young People’s Overview Committee held on the 17th of October and the 28th of November.”
- 40.9 Mr. Lowe asked the following supplementary question; “To clarify will the report definitely be going to the January meeting?”
- 40.10 Councillor Shanks replied; “Yes, January 20<sup>th</sup>. You can come along to my cabinet member meeting and we will be presenting the report there.”
- 40.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Lowe for his questions and invited Mr. Campbell to come forward and address the council.
- 40.12 Mr. Campbell asked the following question; “Does the council feel that it is appropriate for one city business to dominate council policy and endanger the viability of other businesses as a result?”
- 40.13 Councillor Davey replied; “Mr Campbell, thank you for your question. I’m sure the Council makes every effort to treat businesses fairly and equally. I believe there’s a particular issue on Western road you may be concerned about but I won’t pre-empt any supplementary but I’d be glad to provide any further details should it be appropriate.”
- 40.14 Mr. Campbell asked the following supplementary question; If the Green Administration is so avowedly business friendly then why is the same council bowing to undue pressure from Brighton and Hove buses and proposing to unreasonably restrict mine and other businesses, in the end parking area, the opportunity to load and unload outside our premises when we need to. You know that this will have a negative effect on our businesses and I hope you will decide that this is not a good idea.
- 40.15 Councillor Davey replied; “The Council have had requests from the bus company to make some changes to Western Road and it has come up at a number of meetings that council officers have attended with the bus company. They are concerned that the indiscriminate parking along Western Road is causing considerable disruption to bus services. The fact that vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, even if only for a

few minutes, has lead to the situation whereby Western Road is now one of the greatest bottlenecks in the city, thus leading to bus service unreliability.”

40.16 The Mayor thanked Mr. Campbell for his questions and invited Ms. Crook to come forward and address the council.

40.17 Ms. Crook asked the following question; “At the Culture Recreational & Tourism Cabinet Meeting on behalf of the Saltdean Lido Campaign I presented the community mandate from local people following a series of emergency meetings. ‘The Council should seek to negotiate a surrender of the whole lease and if no agreement is made by the 29 February 2012, seek to take back the lease via compulsory purchase order with legal papers served on the 1 March 2012.’ The Head of Planning Strategy implied that the Council could serve the first stage of the CPO papers now - a Warning Letter. Will you serve the Warning letter this month?”

40.18 Councillor MacCafferty replied; “The negotiated surrender of the lease is a matter for the council as landowner. A compulsory purchase under Section 47 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 is a Planning matter. Both the legal officer for the council and the planning officer made it clear that a planning authority must be reasonable. A CPO is not a procedure that can be undertaken in haste. The officers explained that preparatory to serving a section 48 repairs notice it is good practice to send a warning letter. This does not require the approval of the committee and can be undertaken quickly.

It is recommended practice that the letter should be accompanied by a schedule of works ‘specifying the works which the authority considers reasonably necessary for the proper preservation of the building’ etc. Planning Officers are preparing tenders for historic buildings surveyors to compile this schedule and as soon as the schedule is available, the Warning Letter will be issued. In the meantime negotiations with the lessee will continue.

As also explained at the Cabinet Member Meeting it would be undesirable to undertake works before warmer and drier weather prevails and therefore any warning letter would anticipate allowing for works to commence in the spring and allow a period of time for compliance. If the warning letter is not complied with officers will consider the most appropriate action and what, if any, reports to members are required.

Given the financial implications of compulsory acquisition of the land, as the legal officer indicated at the Cabinet Member Meeting, compulsory purchase would only be undertaken if there is a corporately agreed exit strategy.”

40.19 Ms. Crook asked the following supplementary question; “As Councillors you have been elected to represent local people and to represent their views, their needs and their wishes. We have a very clear community mandate and have thousands of supporters not just in Brighton and Hove but globally. We feel that those points haven’t been heard. This is the only grade two star listed lido in the country and has a leaseholder that has constantly breached the lease; the councillor recognised that in their own report.

Thirdly please could you announce when the council will actually make a decision on what they are going to do. Local people want reassurance the council have a strategy and approach with regards to securing the lease of the Lido for the community."

- 40.20 Councillor MacCafferty replied; "We have asked officers to appoint a surveyor to prepare the schedule that will accompany the warning letter. That is going to be done as soon as possible and that letter should be sent in January.

The local planning authority prefers to seek voluntary compliances highlighted earlier before taking formal action and the service of the repairs notice should be a last resort when all other action has been tried. Officers were aware that the landowning arm of the council had served a schedule of works which would have resolved the repairs concerned and the leaseholder was proposing to carry out some works.

The local planning authority will serve the repair notice on everyone who has a legal and trust in the building. There have been a number of high profile examples of disputes between the landlord and the leaseholder and Brighton and Hove such as Embassy Court where lease holders were trying to encourage full repair of the building where the planning authority was unable to intervene."

- 40.21 The Mayor thanked Ms. Crook for her questions and noted that Mr. Simpson was unable to attend the meeting and therefore a written response from Councillor Bowden would be sent to him. The Mayor then invited Ms. Fishleigh to come forward and address the council.
- 40.22 Ms. Fishleigh asked the following question; "At last week's meeting of the Culture, Recreation and Tourism meeting, Geoffrey Bowden agreed with officers' recommendation that the council should seek a negotiated way forward with the lessee of Saltdean Lido including, if satisfactory terms can be agreed, surrender of the head lease back to the council.

When will the council next be meeting Mr. Audley to discuss surrender of the lease?"

- 40.23 Councillor Bowden replied; "A meeting has been arranged with Mr Audley on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011.
- 40.24 Ms. Fishleigh asked the following supplementary question; "If you would like a woman from the Save the Saltdean Lido Campaign and the Saltdean Residents Association to come along I'm sure that could be arranged."
- 40.25 Councillor Bowden replied; "I'll keep that in mind. We have instructed an external valuer to provide a valuation on the Lido by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011."
- 40.26 The Mayor thanked Mr. Fishleigh for her questions and invited Ms. Paynter to come forward and address the council.
- 40.27 Ms. Paynter asked the following question; "To what extent doe the Administration recognise that pervasive, late and all-night alcohol availability, along with late and all-night clubbing are significant motivating reasons for inward migration and new residencies. Has this ever been looked at and quantified?"



- 40.28 Councillor Deane replied; "Thanks for your question. I'm afraid the Council does not record the reasons for people moving home. Many of the reasons will be personal, such as moving to larger or smaller accommodation, moving closer to work, friends or family, or simply looking for a change of neighbourhood. As a city centre ward councillor it seems anecdotally that external factors include good transport links, and ease of access to the wealth of shops, restaurants, cafes, bars, theatres and museums in the city centre."
- 40.29 Ms. Paynter asked the following supplementary question; "Where on a voting scale of one to ten would this administration place easy availability of alcohol twenty four seven?"
- 40.30 Councillor Deane replied; "I will have to come back to you with a written answer."
- 40.31 The Mayor thanked Ms. Paynter for her questions and noted that concluded the public questions.

#### **41. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

- 41.1 The Mayor reported that one deputation had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Gamper as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council. The Mayor also noted that as the subject matter related to Item 47, Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation Response, on the agenda, it would be taken into account during the debate and therefore not referred on to the Licensing Committee.
- 41.2 Mr. Gamper thanked the Mayor and stated that:

"We appreciate and support Brighton and Hove's stated policy regarding the proposed Extension of the CIA/SSA. We welcome it and ask the Council to act on the Licensing Committee's resolution on the 17 November 2011.

While this will be a city-wide policy, our Associations represent the Brunswick and Adelaide area, which is predominantly residential. Our residents are living with the effects of the current policy, which is adversely affecting and compromising their quality of life

The unintended consequence of the CIA has been a proliferation of licensed premises more easily obtained in the SSA. "License Creep" is rapidly continuing westwards which is why both the SSA and the CIA need to be extended.

Following the letter sent to each Councillor, we draw the following to your attention:

#### **LICENSED PREMISES WITHIN THE EXISTING REGENCY/BRUNSWICK SSA**

This SSA area covers the area westwards along the Western Road corridor from the boundary of the central CIA at Little Preston Street and Spring Street to Holland Road. It includes streets to the south of Western Road, including Kings Road, but not to the

north. Within a 10 minute walk along less than half a mile of Western Road and through an area of less than half a square mile there are 67 licenses.

1, Premises with Licenses for On and Off sales of alcohol

67 LICENSES for the sale of alcohol of which

- 50 are for On sales, such as restaurants, of which
- 19 are after midnight on weekdays
- 25 are after midnight on Friday and Saturday
- 22 are after 11pm on Sunday

40 are of Off sales, such as pubs and wine merchants, of which

- 17 are after midnight on weekdays
- 16 are after midnight on Friday and Saturday
- 16 are after 11pm on Sunday
- 3 are 24 hour on weekdays
- 4 are 24 hour on Friday and Saturday

23 of these are for both On and Off sales at the same premises

2, Premises for Licenses for Late Night Refreshment (food only)

31 Licenses were found to be current within the SSA, of which

- 20 are after midnight on weekdays
- 27 are after midnight on Friday and Saturday
- 30 are after 11pm on Sunday
- 25 of these also have a License for the sale of alcohol

Once the deterioration in the situation became apparent the local Residents' Associations became active in expressing residents' extreme concerns at licensing hearings, NHS consultations and recently at the Big Alcohol Debate.

The particular problems of West Street as identified in para 1.12.4 of the *Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2011* have been addressed to some extent by the CIA but residents within the SSA are concerned that now these are being transferred to the Western Road. This is born out by the police in their extension of Operation Marble to this area.

We refer you to the BHCC Licensing and Enforcement Statement on the web: "The Licensing Act places responsibility on the local authority to manage the night time economy and to minimise disorder and disruption".

We respectfully request that:

- (1) The council be recommended to approve the extension of the Cumulative Impact Area and the Special Stress Area as shown on the map in appendix 3 to the report: and
- (2) That the council be recommended to implement a 'matrix' approach to licensing decisions as shown in appendix 1 to the report."

## 41.3 Councillor Deane replied,

"I totally welcome this deputation and I'm very grateful to the support from Regency, Brunswick and Adelaide residents. This illustrates overwhelmingly the local public support to our approach to develop licensing policy. Our position has been to keep the cumulative impact area and special stress areas under review. Following analysis of evidence of trends of crime and disorder and nuisance, the licensing committee considered it is necessary to bring the current special stress area into the cumulative impact area and to create a new special stress area.

The report before Full Council tonight supports both of your recommendations by enlarging the cumulative impact area and taking a matrix approach to licensing decisions. This will provide a careful constructed pattern of what the licensing authority would like to see within its area and gives an indication to those making applications. The planning responsibility of the licensing authority is to promote the licensing objectives; this fourth version of our licensing policy would reflect this duty. I recommend full council determines a policy and recommends this later on the agenda."

## 41.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Gamper for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation and hoped he and other members of the deputation would remain for the debate on the matter later in the meeting.

**42. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.**

## 42.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that written questions from Members and the replies from the appropriate councillor were now taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum, which had been circulated as detailed below:

**(a) Councillor G. Theobald**

## 42.2 "At the Cabinet meeting in October, I requested that the proposed bid for Coalition Government funding under the Armed Forces Community Covenant be submitted as a matter of urgency. Can the Cabinet Member please let me know if this has been done and can he also confirm when the Covenant is likely to be signed?"

**Reply from Councillor Duncan Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection.**

## 42.3 "At Cabinet on 13th October we received a report with recommendations that:

- A programme of activity be developed in consultation with the local armed forces community to form the Brighton & Hove Community Covenant. This will enable publicity of existing initiatives and a formal launch of the Heroes Welcome scheme as well as the development of new plans as appropriate.
- Brighton and Hove to apply for funds to support the Community Covenant by March 2012.
- The plans for a Community Covenant and the engagement process be publicised on Remembrance Day 2011.

We publicised our plans on the council's website on Remembrance Day and have started conversations with armed forces representatives. We aim to ensure that we meet the emerging needs from Pan-Sussex review of the health needs of veterans and are particularly hoping to develop proposals to address the issues of homelessness, substance abuse and mental health. We are still aiming to request government funding at the March 2012 panel"

**(b) Councillor G. Theobald**

- 42.4 "Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that, contrary to what she stated at her CMM on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, it is the policy of her Administration that 'van dwellers' are not classified as Travellers for planning purposes?"

**Reply from Councillor Kennedy, Cabinet Member for Planning, Economy, Employment & Regeneration**

- 42.5 "I can confirm that the Administration's policy supports the current statutory definition of Travellers – which is of course a collective term used to describe different Traveller groups who have a nomadic lifestyle or tradition/heritage of nomadism. As such, where Van Dwellers can demonstrate a nomadic lifestyle then they would fall within the Traveller Strategy and Planning Policy guidance alongside more traditional Traveller groups.

Most of the city's Van Dwellers are, however, not generally 'nomadic' and are effectively permanently resident in the city. Under these circumstances, then they would not fall within the remit of the Traveller Strategy or planning policy guidance."

**(c) Councillor G. Theobald**

- 42.6 "Given the substantial increases in charges that were agreed by the Cabinet Member on 29th November, and the massive cuts to road and pavement maintenance proposed in the 8<sup>th</sup> December Cabinet papers, could he please provide an estimate of the Council's parking income (both on- and off-street) for 2012/13?"

**Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm**

- 42.7 "It is estimated that there will be an increase in surplus of £1.3m to subsidise environmental and transport services to both residents and visitors. In the past, this surplus has been used to help provide free transport for senior citizens, to support bus services, to pay the borrowing costs for capital projects such as the installation of cycle lanes, walking networks improvements and traffic management schemes. Of the 1.3m, 48k is from off street parking, 844k from on street and the remainder from permits.

We have factored a reduction in demand for parking spaces as we expect residents and visitors to move to more sustainable forms of transport such as trains, buses, cycling and walking. This we know is already happening as recent surveys have shown increases in public transport use and cycling. There has been a steady rise in bus passengers journeys from 30 million to 41 million between 2001 and 2010, and 27% more cycling trips between 2006 and 2009. By comparison, the average number of car

trips entering and leaving the city every day has reduced by 12,000 between 2007 and 2009.”

**(d) Councillor A. Norman**

- 42.8 “Can the Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services please tell me the value of the contract that the Council has with the Democratic Society of Brighton & Hove to run Budget consultation and other events across the City, when this contract was awarded and by whom?”

**Reply from Councillor J. Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services**

- 42.9 “Brighton & Hove City Council commissioned the Democratic Society to deliver three budget participation events, to take place over three days in November 2011, as part of our budget consultation work. The events ran alongside an online consultation using a budget simulation website provided by Delib at <http://www.budgetsimulator.com> . The offline exercise was structured in broadly the same way, and used the same spending data and division of services. The findings from this work will be included in the budget consultation information provided to support the authority’s budget setting processes. The value of the contract with the Democratic Society for this work was £8000 plus VAT. The contract was agreed by the Chief Executive and arrangements were finalised in the week commencing 6th October.”

**(e) Councillor Barnett**

- 42.10 “Is the Council taking any practical steps to help hospices, for example the Martlets that are currently suffering serious funding shortfalls due to a reduction in donations and bequests from the public?”

**Reply from Councillor Jarrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health**

- 42.11 “I recognise that the Martlets and other hospices play an important role in supporting people at the end of their lives – and also their families. The Martlets depends to a large degree on charitable contributions to keep going. While it does have a huge amount of support in the city, it is currently finding fund-raising more difficult like other charities. Hospices receive funding from a range of public sources, including GP Consortia and the PCT. The GP consortia funds via a grant, a proportion of the in patient bed facility and commissions the hospice at home service. In addition, NHS Continuing Care team commissions two beds specifically for continuing care patients.

The council will continue to support the Martlets and other causes in the city in other ways such as encouraging staff to participate in fundraising. Officers are speaking with the Martlets about other opportunities. I welcome suggestions.”

**(f) Councillor Peltzer Dunn**

- 42.12 “Will the Cabinet Member please confirm that swift action is being taken to regain possession of Ainsworth House from the squatters who have taken over the building and will she advise me when the previous Administration’s scheme to build 15 new council homes on this site will commence?”

**Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing**

- 42.13 “Notice was served for possession of the site on 1 December. At the same time our legal team applied to the Court for an urgent hearing date. We have yet to hear from the court with a date but when the hearing does take place the date for possession will be set by the court and Housing Delivery will arrange for Bailiffs to attend for the eviction. The site will be fully secured by Housing Delivery as soon as the squatters are removed.

The contract for Ainsworth House new build is currently on track for award before Christmas. We anticipate that works on the new Council homes will formally commence in the New Year.”

**(g) Councillor Marsh**

- 42.14 “Youth unemployment has increased by 79% across the city, since January this year. Does a) the administration share my concern with this shocking increase and b) what action will be taken to get Brighton & Hove’s young people out of the job centre and into work?”

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

- 42.15 “This is a worrying trend that is reflected across the country. Recent figures show that this month nationally youth unemployment reached 1.027m – the highest level since records began in 1992. The Administration is also deeply disappointed to see the removal or reduction programmes that supported opportunities for young people in the city, including the Education Maintenance Allowance, Future Jobs Fund and higher education funding.

The council has direct responsibility for supporting young people aged 16 – 18 into employment, education or training. Job Centre Plus works with those who are 19 and over. We also support young people with Special Educational Needs / Learning Difficulties and Disabilities up to the age of 24. We do not work with or hold information on the majority of young people over 19.

The increase in youth unemployment quoted in a recent report refers to 16 – 24 year olds. The percentage of 16-18 year olds who are not in education employment or training for January 2011 was 8.3% (519 young people). The average for June to August 2011 was 7.9% (559), below the figure for the same period last year. This compares with 7.0% for England as a whole and regionally with 8.6% for Portsmouth and 20.3% for Reading. Since April 2011, Brighton and Hove has a Youth Employability Service working with 16-18 year olds who are not in education employment or training. The council also runs a number of successful apprenticeship schemes and is closely linked to the City Employment and Skills Plan and Apprenticeship Strategy. There are a number of positions available to young people in Brighton & Hove (50 vacancies as at 6/12/11).

We are working closely with providers and young people to look at the range of pre-apprenticeship provision available for those young people who are not quite ready to

access a full apprenticeship programme. Youth unemployment is being taken very seriously and it has been identified as one of priorities in the new City Employment & Skills Plan (CESP). Priority three of the new CESP action plan aims to ensure that local residents are equipped to compete for jobs in the city's labour market.

The CESSG is also looking to tackle the shortage of graduate level jobs by creating a City Prospectus and holding a City Expo to showcase existing businesses in key sectors, attract inward investment and brand the city as a place in which to do business. Also, in Brighton & Hove City Council we have been preparing for the new Raising the Participation Age (RPA) targets since 2008 and we have developed City Curriculum 2015 (CC15) in response to this."

**(h) Councillor Marsh**

- 42.16 "Can the Cabinet Member reaffirm her party's manifesto promise to do all she can to protect local Sure Start centre's and other nurseries from cuts?"

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

- 42.17 "There has been a significant reduction in specific grant funding from central government available for children's services and we have to work within these restraints. As pledged, Bright Start Nursery has been protected. We propose to continue to provide all of the Children's Centre nurseries while ensuring value for money through co-locating services where possible.

We plan to consult on the future strategy for children's centres across the city which we hope will ensure that we continue to deliver services to our most disadvantaged children and families."

**(i) Councillor Marsh**

- 42.18 "Regarding the administration's manifesto commitment to help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers, you said that you stood by this commitment and that you were "pushing against an open door." Could you tell me whether you have managed to open that "door" yet and provide me with an update?

**Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People**

- 42.19 "With effect from 1 November 2011 the council contracted with a not for profit company called Resource Futures who will work with local charity, the Sussex Wildlife Trust to provide Environmental Education Support to the city's schools over the next three years. One part of the wide ranging tender required that bidders 'Help groups of schools to develop in-house environmental officer posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint.'

Resource Futures proposes to support schools in achieving this, to offer guidance on sources of funding and to provide three Teacher Training Twilight Sessions each year. A steering group of school and council representatives is working with the contractors to identify suitable areas of focus for these sessions. The contract also requires that the

contractors support schools in their efforts to gain Eco-Schools awards and a further three inset sessions per year will offer advice and support to staff in this area.”

**(j) Councillor Mitchell**

- 42.20 “The administration said they would be bringing forward proposals for Gypsy and Travellers site(s) between November and December. Could they tell me what has happened to this pledge?”

**Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability**

- 42.21 “Members will be aware that the selection of a permanent gypsy and traveller site is a very complex issue. I am pleased to say that officers have made considerable progress and have assessed all possible sites that we are aware of. The process cannot be totally complete at this time as some of the potential sites lie within the National Park and we are not able to confirm a site until we have obtained planning permission. This is because ultimately the decision could lie with the National Park as the relevant planning authority.

What I can say is that using the methodology agreed with the national park an expansion of the Horsdean Transit site on Braypool Lane to accommodate a permanent site came out of the assessment process as clearly the strongest site and is likely to go forward to Cabinet for selection as the council’s preferred site. The Horsdean site is made up of former playing fields that were cut off by the A27 and so are flat, have good access and sit within a natural bowl. The transit site presently uses around half of the site.

Before any formal decision the council has to undertake further work to assess what landscaping measures could be used to lessen the impact and to also examine archaeology and biodiversity issues.

The methodology agreed with the National Park dictates that we also do further assessment on sites at Waterhall Farm and Hangleton Bottom. For various reasons both are less suitable than Horsdean. However, we do need to also look at the landscape, archaeology and biodiversity issues on these sites as well to support the planning application for Horsdean. We will be undertaking consultation with residents and travellers about the preferred site.”

**(k) Councillor Carden**

- 42.22 “Would Councillor West kindly tell me how he intends to clear the gutters and pavements of weeds and grass in North Portslade now that 5 members of staff are being laid off by Cityclean as well as clear the fly tipping that is continually going on?”

**Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability**

- 42.23 “No employees of Cityclean are being laid off. The council employs around 280 staff who will continue to collect recycling, refuse and clean the streets.



The council, like many others, is facing a very tough financial time. Over 4 years there will be a cut in council public spending of 33% and this does mean that we have had to consider the budgets for all areas of council spend including street sweeping. I have been very determined to avoid redundancies and there will be none from our proposals. It does mean we will not be employing to vacancies and it does mean reducing the levels of agency provision. These are not easy decisions but faced with reducing funds from government we are having to make very difficult choices.”

**(I) Councillor Hamilton**

- 42.24 “Your Administration has decided that no council employee will earn less than £7.19 an hour. When contracts with private sector agencies who provide services such as adult social care and school meals are renewed will you be insisting that staff working for agencies providing council services will likewise be paid at least £7.19 an hour?”

**Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council**

- 42.25 “The move to £7.19 an hour was part of the Administration’s commitment to reducing inequality by reducing the pay differentials within the authority and its work around developing a Living Wage for Brighton & Hove. To support this work further, in October 2011, a Living Wage Commission for the city was established. Through this commission the public sector (including a cross-party group of councillors), private and voluntary sector representatives and trade unions in Brighton & Hove are working together to consider the benefits and challenges of establishing a living wage for the city. The Commission is chaired by Julia Chanteray, who is also chair of the city’s Chamber of Commerce. Full details of the commission are available here:  
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=b1162204>

The commission is due to meet on a number of occasions between October 2011 and March 2012 and will look at:

What hourly rate would represent a living wage for the city,  
Whether agreement can be reached across the city on the benefits of introducing a living wage,  
How a living wage could affect employers.

As part of this work the Commission will look at procurement issues in relation to a potential Living wage, including considerations that need to be given to contractors and agency staff. The findings of the Commission will be presented at the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership and Cabinet in March 2012.”

**43. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 43.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that councillors’ oral questions would be taken in the order as listed on the Council Agenda and that a period of 30 minutes was set aside for the item. Should any questions not be reached at the end of the time period, those councillors would have the opportunity for their question to be carried over to the next Council meeting.

43.2 (a) Councillor G. Theobald asked, "As I had to learn of your administration's plans for a permanent traveller's site from the Argus, so much for the Green's consultation they always talk about. Perhaps you can advise me as to the exact location of your preferred site at Horsdean in relation to the existing site. What would the access arrangements be and finally whether the tenant farmer has been consulted?"

43.3 Councillor West replied, "I actually wrote to you around the same time as when we released the information to the Argus so I'm sorry those emails failed to get back to you quicker than you received your email. I have made that apology before. As to the preferred site, Horsdean is the preferred site; there is a shortlist of three and they have been announced as that was the requirement with arrangement with the national park. At this stage if you were to refer to Councillor Mitchell's written question you'll see the lengthy answer I've given there about permanent site and that might help.

At this stage we have research on over fifty sites; we've been looking at landscape and various other issues. We haven't at this stage progressed towards building up a detailed planning application but we have considered access issues and the available space at Horsdean which is an ex-recreation ground and we have considered that to be appropriate. There is existing access there, the site is level, it's not under tenancy it was just spare land, the remainder of the grounds that was cut off by the bypass that the transit site is built upon. So it would just be the adjacent portion."

43.4 Councillor G. Theobald asked the following supplementary question "Is this going to actually adjoin the existing traveller's site? Are you going to have a traveller's site and a permanent site right next door to each other? Will there be any division and as far as this being ex-recreation land, it depends how far forward you go with this land, it was countryside and that's why south down's conservation board was strongly against it.

Bearing in mind the two out of the three sites you are proposing fall within the South Down's National Park, can you confirm whether you have consulted with the South Down's National Park Authority and if so whether they are supportive of your plans given that the National parks predecessor the South Down's Conservation Board was strongly opposed to the use of Horsdean as a transit site because of the adverse effect on the South Downs. So I would remind you that they were very strongly against the existing transit site being located at Horsdean."

43.5 Councillor West replied, "We have considered all the potential sites together with the national park and they asked for a short list of three of which we have provided and they are happy of the criteria of which these three were judged upon. We can't pre judge a planning application that they as a planning authority within the national park would have to consider.

I have identified exactly what piece of land we are talking about, it is the remaining portion of the ex recreation isolated by the building of the Brighton bypass i.e. next door to the existing transit site. All the issues you raise about site separation and matters like that would be considered in the plan that we will offer up."

43.6 (b) Councillor Mitchell asked, "By twenty fifteen the city will need an extra ten to seventeen secondary school classes for each year group. That equates to fifty additional school classes for school pupils the equivalent of another Blatchington Mill

size school. This is taking into account the raising of the school leaving age. Can councillor shanks confirm that her administration has started work on identifying a site to provide a new secondary school for the city that the Green party promised prior to May this year?

Or is the Green administration planning to adopt the same policy that it has for primary places one of fitting more and more children into existing schools?"

43.7 Councillor Shanks replied, "By twenty eighteen we will need two hundred and eighty five more places. This is something that is concerning, I met with officers this morning where to put a secondary school in an ideal world. There are other developments going on in the city in terms of a possible University Technical College (UTC) which is being looked at and Colleges building developments, sixth form provision for instance in Hove. It is certainly something we would like to do.

43.8 (c) Councillor Wealls asked, "According to my research on the cost of trader's parking permits nearby towns and cities, Southampton is three hundred and six pounds a year, Eastbourne is two pounds a day, Crawley is ten pounds a week, Croydon is three hundred and fifty pounds a year, Worthing two hundred and twenty five pounds a year and Portsmouth a hundred and eighty pounds a year.

As we know next year you are proposing to put traders parking permit prices up to seven hundred and fifty pounds a year. Councillor Davey what is your festive message to the hard-pressed traders of Brighton and Hove and please don't tell us it would be even worse if they lived in Lewes in your answer."

43.9 Councillor Davey replied, "The prices of Trader Permits and Business Permits vary a great deal across many for urban areas and the parking issues and problems vary a great deal over various urban areas as well so I think Brighton's problems are particularly unique and the situation we've inherited with the Trader's Permits is that there's a waiting list of two years on Trader's Permits, so many trader's are having to go through the inconvenience of going down to Hove Town Hall and queue up to pay to get a waiver and park on double yellow lines or go through the inconvenience and expense of using one of the pay and display so the proposal is to increase the traders permits so they will be around two to three pounds per working day and can be significantly less than other places.

Also to take the cap off the list so that many of those trader's that have been asking for permits for many years will now be able to have one so for those traders that will be able to have one think that is a positive message."

43.10 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, "The other bit of research I did was what the average skilled trader's income was per annum in this city and it was twenty three thousand eight hundred pounds which is quite considerably less than the deputy leader of the Council, do you have an extra four hundred pounds spare at the end of the year that you fancy spending on parking permit to go about your business?"

43.11 Councillor Davey replied, "That is a personal question; I don't know whether that is either relevant or appropriate."

- 43.12 (d) Councillor Marsh asked, "Can the cabinet member confirm where in the administration's manifesto's pledge to protect youth services especially for young people at risk of becoming not only NEET's or following into the criminal justice system and therefore at risk of offending and not only a very great tragedy to them and a great drain on resources."
- 43.13 Councillor Shanks replied, "We do have to comply with national targets to reduce the numbers of young people not in education, employment and training, teenage pregnancy, young people misusing substances and first entrants to the criminal justice system. We are continuing with our provision in that area."
- 43.14 Councillor Marsh asked the following supplementary question, "Would you agree with me that clients of council's services for young people are complimented by the excellent community and voluntary sector provision in this city and would she therefore agree with me that she will maintain the funding for those organisations who deliver so well and efficiently in this city to continue providing these much needed services?"
- 43.15 Councillor Shanks replied, "The overall spending on youth services is the same as it was with the previous administration and we are also going to be increasing that provision for youth services in that budget by an extra three hundred thousand for the community and voluntary sector because I agree with you that they're extremely important and we want to support that provision as much as we can."
- 43.16 (e) Councillor Norman asked, "Seventy percent of those responding to an Argus survey want a council tax freeze, given your stated intention to be the most open and transparent council ever, in the face of such an overwhelming response from our council tax payers; what can the Green administration say to justify it's intention to raise council tax by three point five percent in the next three years?"
- 43.17 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "The online poll is just a poll, and I understand that they were votes across the country particularly from certain conservative associations so it may not be the most accurate. But also we are continuing to consult, we've had a number of events and we've also had the online budget simulator. They've all had a different set of views and we need to take a look at the fullness of that. Let's be clear; the gimmick of the tax freeze is just that, it would leave this council five point four million pounds worse off over two years, if you're in favour of that tell us where you're going to save the money, you've yet to do that yet, I'm waiting."
- 43.18 Councillor A. Norman asked the following supplementary question, "As well as not thinking in the same way as two thirds of the Argus readers, will councillor Kitcat also be ignoring the views of more than one thousand five hundred and fourteen who have so far signed a petition to stop the proposed cuts of the children's music service?"
- 43.19 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "I would like to point out that so far only twenty four percent of responses to the budget proposals have actually been negative in our monitoring of that and in relation to the music service we are reviewing that and we're listening to the consultations responses."

Five days before our budget was announced the government did announce a raft of changes to music services nationally and we are working through that so we look forward to working with all councillors, with the music service and understanding the full depth of the information coming from the government. As you know it's not always put forward as clearly as you would like."

- 43.20 **(f)** Councillor Morgan asked, "I should first declare a personal non prejudicial interest as a season ticket holder at the Albion and apologies for not doing that earlier."

Given the significant successes of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club in getting sixty eight percent of its supporters to travel to the stadium by sustainable modes of transport and his professed support for the club's expansion plans, will councillor Randall now make a clear statement to the full council today that he sees the provision of the additional parking spaces on the council attained land at Falmer as being an integral part of the overall transport solution for that expansion which will provide more jobs and secure the club's future as a potential premier league team?"

- 43.21 Councillor Randall replied, "I'm impressed by the work that the Albion has done on getting that percentage of people to the ground by public transport. It measures well against other clubs in the country, in fact its better by two thirds than the average of clubs in the football league and it's twice as good, I believe, on average as clubs in the premiership and it's something, I think the Albion should be proud of."

- 43.22 Councillor Morgan asked the following supplementary question, "Given the urgent need for more student accommodation in the city what will Councillor Randall be doing to ensure that the universities get this additional accommodation and the council gains a capital receipt from this land in the shortest possible time?"

- 43.23 Councillor Randall replied, "We have been talking to the Albion, who have been talking to the universities about the provision of student housing on the site and that's one of the options we are looking at."

- 43.24 **(g)** Councillor Cobb asked, "What steps is the council taking to address anti social behaviour by rough sleepers on the seafront?"

- 43.25 Councillor Wakefield replied, "We have had a very great rise in rough sleepers in Brighton and Hove at the moment, which is a sad occurrence. As far as anti social behaviour goes, complaints and nuisances are initially investigated by the housing officer if it's a housing issue. If it's on the streets it will normally be dealt with by the police. There is also a 'rough sleepers' who go out and visit the rough sleepers on the street there any anti social behaviour of a rough sleeper will be treated exactly the same way as anti social behaviour by anybody else on our streets in Brighton and Hove."

- 43.26 Councillor Cobb asked the following supplementary question, "Can the arches on the Kingsway pitch and putt be bricked or bordered up to provide a long term solution to prevent further rough sleeping for reasons of public nuisance and health and safety. In the past the area has been left in a terrible mess and open fires have been lit on the site."

- 43.27 Councillor Wakefield replied, "That is no solution to the rough sleeping issues in Brighton and Hove. I personally, as Cabinet member for housing, would like that there is a rough over the head of every rough sleeper in Brighton and Hove."
- 43.28 (h) Councillor Barnett asked, "Does the Cabinet member for housing think it's fair that council tenants who have taken a pride in their homes and paid for home improvements themselves are then denied the opportunity to have a new kitchen or bathroom as part of the Council's decent home work? There are residents who have provided their own new kitchen but have been deprived a bathroom."
- 43.29 Councillor Wakefield replied, "We follow a very strict system that all our tenants as far as housing improvements go for kitchen and bathrooms. As Cabinet member for housing I also have a mailbox full of queries about kitchens and bathrooms and decent house standards. The governments decent house standards has two separate tests that mentioned kitchens and bathrooms. The first test is to ensure that the home is in a reasonable state of repair.
- A kitchen will fail this test if it is thirty years or older and in poor condition. A bathroom will fail this test if it is forty years or older and in poor condition. Kitchens and bathrooms are considered as other building components and one is allowed to fail and still meet the decent home standard this means that two need to fail to have one replaced. This is something that we are working with."
- 43.30 (i) Councillor Hyde asked, "Figures obtained through freedom of information requests show that Brighton and Hove City Council has the third highest number of tax payer funded Union representatives after all the unitary authorities just behind Birmingham, Nottingham and Leicester. Does the Cabinet member consider that this expenditure is just a fireball in the current economic climate and will he make a commitment to significantly reduce it in 2012/2013?"
- 43.31 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "We have more services in house so we have a greater need for union representation but let's not forget that the number of union representatives was actually increased by the Conservative administration to help deal with single status issues. As they are now winding down we are discussing with the unions about the opportunity to reduce some of that provision. I will be able to update the council in the New Year."
- 43.32 Councillor Hyde asked the following supplementary question, "The tax payer's money being used to fund the unions is almost three times the funding cut that you're proposing to the children's music service, so does the cabinet member think that some of the money might be better spent supporting our children's music services?"
- 43.33 Councillor J. Kitcat replied, "Why are the Government imposing above average reductions in this Council's funding? I've asked both the Tory MPs for the city to ask the minister why we are getting above average cuts and they have refused to respond. Why are the Government cutting this Council's funding by above average? It is unfair and we oppose it."
- 43.34 (j) Councillor Simson asked, "Two years ago when I was cabinet member for communities, the conservative administration recognised the need to work with children

younger than youth services provided for, that's the 8-13 year olds especially now more deprived communities. We wanted to see what positive outcomes we could achieve by giving this age group new and different opportunities, letting them experience different things and hopefully to try to raise their aspirations for the future so that they could make a positive contribution to their communities.

Since May we seem to have heard nothing from the new administration so I would like to ask the cabinet member, when will we see the results of the 3 projects set up and how will these be incorporated into the youth services review and the way youth services are delivered in the future?"

- 43.35 Councillor Shanks replied, "I personally feel that it was a national mistake for the youth service to concentrate only on over 13's and I would certainly like to improve provision for 8-13's in the long term. Our play service does a good job but has limited funding. We are not proposing to reduce funding for the play service in this budget. The three projects that you mention; I have spent a lot of time with the children can do project, where young people actually work together to look at bids other young people put in for provision and I visited them and it is an excellent project so there will be a review to see how that money was spent and the sort of provision that we might be able to carry forward from that. People in the city do a lot of good voluntary work; we certainly want to encourage the work that goes on."
- 43.36 Councillor Simson asked the following supplementary question, "£ 200,000 was allocated to the budget each year 2011 and 2012. The budget for the first year allocated £60,000 each to the three projects that were agreed and £20,000 for setup analysis and reporting costs. Could the cabinet member please tell me how the £200,000 for this year has been allocated and if it hasn't as I suspect it may not have been, could she please commit to using this money in the way it was intended to support children and young people aged 8-13 years through community work provided by the community and voluntary sector."
- 43.37 Councillor Shanks replied, "It is still in our budget for this year, I think it's in the communities' budget. I will provide you with a written answer as I do not currently have the details at hand."
- 43.38 **(k)** Councillor Mears asked, "Following on from our administration when tenants were fully consulted and engaged in the formulation of the allocation policy, can the cabinet member give me assurance that she will consult, fully, with all tenants the very proposed changes affecting council tenants that her administration brings forward?"
- 43.39 Councillor Wakefield replied, "At the moment we are in consultation about allocation policy specifically on care leavers, as you are aware. We had a housing CMM on 19<sup>th</sup> October where we agreed to a twelve week consultation to the proposed changes to the Council's portal on the 17<sup>th</sup> November. To comply with the community engagement framework this consultation will take place with all communities of interest including young people in council care; those who have left our care aged up to 21 years together with their representatives such as social workers, foster carers, children's homes and supported housing staff and participation advocacy workers."

Full details of the consultation and its responses will be contained in the final report of housing CMM and to full council in March 2012. I do have a list here of the program of consultation of all the different groups including tenant consultation and I am happy for you to have that.”

- 43.40 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, “Following on from the Green budget proposals and the study that’s been brought forward with adult social care, can the cabinet member confirm if she proposes to consult with all tenants regarding the proposed loss of sheltered housing from the council’s stock to adult social care regarding extra care?”

As members will know many tenants look to access sheltered housing later in life, the Green’s budget proposals will clearly block this for many tenants, can the cabinet member tell us when she’s proposing to consult tenants on sheltered housing?”

- 43.41 Councillor Wakefield replied, “This question crosses over two portfolios of housing and adult social care and health. There have been two scoping meetings of the extra care housing commissioning group a tenant representative is, at the moment, being sought by the housing commissioner who is part of that commissioning group. When that tenant is chosen or comes forward they will be the tenant’s voice on that particular commissioning group.”

- 43.42 (I) Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked, “In regards to Victoria Gardens and the occupation of that land. Can you comment on the basic reasons, rather than just the weather, which has led to the administration hawking its policy and what cost was incurred by the city council for the clearing and cleaning for the site which of course thus represents a charge to the representatives whom you represent?”

- 43.43 Councillor Duncan replied, “The council administration hasn’t altered its policy; I will give you a written answer regarding the exact cost incurred by this Council clearing the site. If you go back and tweak the phrase and ask a silly question you will receive a silly answer. I find it surprising if the cost for cleaning the site were anything like as high as the cost would have been the legal cost for seeking possession for the site earlier. The primary responsibility of the City Council and our Police colleagues is to keep the City safe.

The site of the former Occupy Camp has now been cleared. Occupy began as a peaceful protest and the vast majority of those present were responsible. However, the unacceptable behaviour of a minority of people at the former Camp clearly put themselves and others at risk, and the Council will work with colleagues in the Police Service to ensure that any further activities do not place either the community or public service officers at risk.”

- 43.44 Councillor Peltzer Dunn asked the following supplementary question, “Would he confirm that the statement made on to the effect that many complaints received by the council regarding the occupation of Victoria gardens is factually correct? Can he confirm that administration many of which were refrained from making comments which could by some be taken as an active encouragement of such occupations?”



43.45 Councillor Duncan replied, "In regards to the first of your two supplementary questions, I can confirm we received no complaints at all apart from conservative politicians many of whom it would appear represent areas not Victoria Gardens. In terms of the second question, it is not our role to either encourage or discourage any particular forms of protest it is our role to maintain public safety, to work with our colleagues in the police and elsewhere to minimise crime and disorder and to effectively minimise nuisance for those living, working and visiting the city. I think these are all things our policy has done."

43.46 (m) Councillor Janio confirmed that in view of Councillor Kennedy's absence he wished to withdraw his question.

43.47 The Mayor noted that the question had been withdrawn.

43.48 (n) Councillor Turton asked, "At October's council meeting, councillor Davey said increases in parking charges would not be significant. Less than a month this administration said it was increasing parking charges, trader permits up by £350 to £750, business permits from £175 to £400, fifteen minute pay and display from 20p to £1 all with the policy aimed at deterring cars from the city.

Does the cabinet member stand by his response that increases would not be significant or will he apologise for misleading the council?"

43.49 Councillor Davey replied, "The proposed changes are to bring some order to a rather chaotic collection of tariffs which have developed over many years and as everybody will see if you look at the whole range of them some have gone up some have gone down and some have stayed the same. So there is a broad range of adjustments up, down and no change for some.

There is a rationale behind various changes particularly when it's encouraging the use of the car parks on the edge of the city centre where it is as minimal as possible such as London road, Trafalgar Street and Norton road. There is even a reduction in the one arrow week day rate for those areas."

43.50 Councillor Turton asked the following supplementary question, "Does he not recognise that these increases will hit families, local businesses and jobs hard at a time of severe economic difficulty or does he actually simply not care about introducing the congestion charge by stealth which would be damaging to our local economy? It is the wrong decision for the wrong reason at the wrong time and he may wish to come back to Councillor Theobald about exactly how much money this going to be created in 2012 – 2013."

43.51 Councillor Davey replied, "I could not pick out a question so I will leave it there."

#### **44. REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.**

##### **(a) Callover**

44.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 45 - City Employment & Skills Plan & Action Plan 2011-14
- Item 46 - Private Sector Agents, Scrutiny Panel Review
- Item 47 - Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation Response
- Item 48 - Localism Act 2011
- Item 49 - Review of Policy Framework – School Admissions

**(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports**

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

Item 50 - Review of Financial Regulations.

**(c) Oral Questions from Members**

- 44.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions.

**45. CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN & ACTION PLAN 2011-14**

- 45.1 Councillor Randall introduced the report which related to the City Employment & Skills Plan and reflected the current economic climate and the challenges ahead for the council and the city, with the threat of a double-dip recession being more likely. The plan detailed three main outcomes in regard to providing a one-stop shop, tackling the shortage of graduate level jobs and in the long-term exploring the impact of eco-technology within the city. He noted that the full plan was available on the council's web site and recommended it to all Members.
- 45.2 Councillor Morgan welcomed the plan and noted that the targets were ambitious and that action was required to stimulate growth within the local economy if jobs were to be created. He hoped that the council would examine everything it did in order to help provide jobs and attract inward investment.
- 45.3 Councillor Mears welcomed the report and stated that it was vital to enable people to develop skills and businesses to grow in the city.
- 45.4 Councillor C. Theobald noted that there were economic considerations beyond the council's control but it was important to work with partners and local businesses to have a co-ordinated approach. She stated that the council should be looking to support local businesses for example reducing parking charges across the city.
- 45.5 Councillor Randall noted the comments and stated that the current government's anti-European approach was not helping and the work of Brighton & Hove Albion should be admired. He believed the plan outlined a way forward and hoped that it would be supported.
- 45.6 **RESOLVED:** That the City Employment & Skills Plan 2011-14 be endorsed.

**46. PRIVATE SECTOR AGENTS - SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL REPORT**

- 46.1 Councillor Randall introduced the report which detailed the findings of the Private Sector Agents Scrutiny Review Panel and stated that he wished to thank the previous members of the panel the officers who supported its work. He hoped that the action taken in regard to the panel's recommendations would lead to improvements and that local letting agents would sign up to the accreditation scheme.
- 46.2 Councillor Mears welcomed the report which she noted had been sometime in coming forward and hoped that there would be a time-line in respect to reviewing the actions that had been accepted.
- 46.3 Councillor Randall stated that there was a huge amount of dissatisfaction with letting agents across the city, albeit that there were good examples and he would ensure Councillor Mears received the information on how the recommendations were being taken forward.
- 46.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**47. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

- 47.1 Councillor Deane introduced the report, which outlined the findings of a consultation exercise in relation to a review of the Council's Licensing Policy and the proposed increase of the Cumulative Impact Area (CIA) and Special Stress Areas (SSA). The report also detailed the proposed introduction of a matrix approach to licensing decision making. Councillor Deane referred to a recent article in the Observer newspaper which had highlighted the benefits of a late night 'booze bus' to ease the problems faced by local communities and town centres in regard to late night drinking. She noted that the Licensing Committee had fully supported the proposals, as well as the police and health partners and recommended the changes to the Council.
- 47.2 Councillor Cobb stated that she supported the recommendations although the matter was a free vote for the Conservative Group.
- 47.3 Councillor Lepper stated that she had given the matter a great deal of thought since the Licensing Committee meeting and still had some reservations in regard to the consultation process and the fact that even the extended CIA and SSA's would not prevent further licensing applications from being made and/or successful. She was concerned that this fact was not fully appreciated by the public and hoped that thought would be given to how this message could be given.
- 47.4 Councillor Simson stated that she had also expressed her concerns over the matter and the possibility of legal challenge to the CIA and suggested that there was a need to target problem premises given the level of resources available. She was in favour of the matrix approach and noted that only this week the Licensing Panel had received an appeal from a premises in the heart of the CIA.
- 47.5 Councillor Sykes stated that the police had to deal with late night disturbances and he supported the extended CIA and noted that Licensing Panels had been able to place

restrictions on various applications to help with controlling the availability of alcohol and late night drinking. He hoped that all Members would support the recommendations.

- 47.6 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Sykes on his maiden speech.
- 47.7 Councillor Wealls noted that the proposed extension could instigate an interesting debate for the central Hove Wards and noted that there had only been a few responses to the consultation from those residents. However, he fully supported the recommendations and believed they would be welcomed by residents of Brunswick & Adelaide.
- 47.8 Councillor West stated that it had been a long journey and one which had had a number of misgivings initially in regard to the establishment of a CIA and SSA. He believed the proposed changes were the right ones and that they would have a positive effect for the city.
- 47.9 Councillor G. Theobald stated that he fully supported the recommendations and believed that in having gone out to consultation and had such support for the proposals that it was incumbent on the council to implement them. He noted that Chief Inspector Nelson was present at the meeting and that the Police were in favour of the proposals.
- 47.10 Councillor Deane thanked everyone for their comments and noted that the deputation earlier in the meeting had shown the support for the proposals and therefore commended the report to the council. She also asked for a recorded vote to be taken.
- 47.11 The Mayor noted that a recorded vote had been requested and that sufficient Members had indicated their support for one to be held and asked the Head of Democratic Services to conduct the vote.

|      | NAME     | FOR    | AGAINST | ABSTAIN |
|------|----------|--------|---------|---------|
| Cllr | Barnett  |        | x       |         |
|      | Bennett  | Absent |         |         |
|      | Bowden   | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Brown    | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Buckley  | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Carden   | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Cobb     | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Davey    | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Deane    | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Duncan   | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Farrow   | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Fitch    | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Follett  | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Gilbey   | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Hamilton | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Hawtree  | ✓      |         |         |
|      | Hyde     |        |         | x       |

|  |              |           |          |          |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|
|  | Janio        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Jarrett      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Jones        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Kennedy      | Absent    |          |          |
|  | A. Kitcat    | ✓         |          |          |
|  | J. Kitcat    | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Lepper       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Littman      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | MacCafferty  | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Marsh        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Meadows      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Mears        |           |          | X        |
|  | Mitchell     | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Morgan       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | A. Norman    | ✓         |          |          |
|  | K. Norman    | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Peltzer Dunn | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Phillips     | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Pidgeon      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Pissaridou   | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Powell       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Randall      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Robins       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Rufus        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Shanks       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Simson       |           |          | X        |
|  | Smith        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Summers      | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Sykes        | ✓         |          |          |
|  | C. Theobald  | ✓         |          |          |
|  | G. Theobald  | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Turton       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Wakefield    | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Wealls       | ✓         |          |          |
|  | Wells        | Absent    |          |          |
|  | West         | ✓         |          |          |
|  |              |           |          |          |
|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>46</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>3</b> |

47.12 The Mayor confirmed that the vote was in favour of the recommendations.

**47.13 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the expansion of the Cumulative Impact Area and the Special Stress Area as shown on the map in appendix 3 to the report be approved; and
- (2) That the implementation of a matrix approach to licensing decisions as shown in appendix 1 to the report be approved.

**48. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - CHANGING GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

- 48.1 Councillor J. Kitcat introduced the report which outlined the options and timescales available to the council for changing its governance arrangements following the Royal Assent of the Localism Act on the 15<sup>th</sup> November. He noted that it had been the will of the council for sometime to have the ability to move to a committee system for decision-making and he hoped that this could be taken forward by a cross-party working group with a view to new governance arrangements coming into operation with effect from Annual Council in May 2012.
- 48.2 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and the ability to move to a more inclusive approach for decision-making, which would be more democratic. She also hoped that the success of the overview and scrutiny process would be retained within the new governance arrangements.
- 48.3 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that he fully supported the proposed change to a committee system and welcomed the excellent report from officers.
- 48.4 Councillor Randall stated that he welcomed the report and fully supported Councillor Mitchell in her comments regarding overview and scrutiny and trusted that it would be maintained in a new committee system as it had served the council well over the years.
- 48.5 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to the vote.

**48.6 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the provisions of the Localism Act which enable the Council to change its governance arrangements either in May 2012 or at a later Annual General Meeting be noted;
- (2) That it be agreed in principle to change the governance arrangements from Leader and Cabinet to a Committee System with effect from Annual Council in May 2012;
- (3) That officers be instructed to prepare detailed proposals for a committee system and to bring the proposals for a Committee System to the Governance Committee and Full Council for approval; and
- (4) That officers undertake the necessary preparation including, as appropriate, briefings, training and modifications to ways of working.

**49. REVIEW OF POLICY FRAMEWORK - SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS**

- 49.1 Councillor Littman introduced the report, which had been considered by the Governance Committee following the decision of the council to include the School Admissions Arrangements in the Council's Policy Framework. The report detailed the policies and documents which related to school admissions and which if agreed would form part of the policy framework that would be brought to full council.
- 49.2 Councillor Mitchell stated that she supported the recommendations but sought clarification from the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People in regard to the

recent expansion of schools and additional classes and how these would take account of new school applications.

- 49.3 Councillor Shanks confirmed that any applications made after the usual consultation process would be considered along with those received in line with the normal deadlines. However, it was useful to have an indication of how many places were being requested for various schools.
- 49.4 The Mayor noted that the recommendations had been moved and put them to the vote.
- 49.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Council's Policy Framework include 'School Admission Arrangements' and that this be interpreted to cover the council's admissions policy (as represented by the admissions booklet for primary and secondary schools), and the School Organisation Plan.

## **50. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

- 50.1 **RESOLVED:** That the amendments as set out in the report and more particularly indicated in the appendices to the report be approved and come into immediate effect.

## **51. NOTICES OF MOTION.**

### **(a) New Measures Needed to Address Housing Crisis**

- 51.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Wakefield on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Randall.
- 51.2 Councillor Farrow moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group, which was seconded by Councillor Carden.
- 51.3 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Farrow had not been accepted by Councillor Wakefield and therefore put the proposed amendment to the vote which was lost.
- 51.4 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

"This council expresses its concern at the range of ineffectual policies introduced by the Coalition Government to address the housing crisis facing Brighton and Hove and the rest of the nation. Furthermore, it believes Ministers should stand back and pause and reflect as they have done in other policy areas and reconsider their proposals.

It therefore requests the Chief Executive of Brighton and Hove City Council to write to Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and Communities Secretary Eric Pickles urging them to take action to deal with the housing crisis by:

1. Diverting a proportion of the £75 billion of quantitative easing away from the banks and devoting it to launching a national social housing building programme of 100,000 homes a year over the next three years, to shorten the national housing waiting list and create thousands of jobs and apprenticeships and training in the

building industry, the building supply chain and professional services like architects and surveyors;

2. Ending the sale of council homes and abandoning their proposals to increase Right to Buy discounts for council tenants; and
3. Abandoning plans to introduce 80 per cent market rents for new housing association homes and relets and new council homes, which will lead to increased housing hardship and homelessness.

It also calls on the city's three MPs to lobby Ministers in support of the council's case on these three points."

**51.5 The motion was carried.**

**(b) City in Bloom Brighton & Hove**

51.6 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor C. Theobald on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor A. Norman.

51.7 Councillor West moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which was seconded by Councillor Duncan.

51.8 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor West had not been accepted by Councillor C. Theobald and therefore put the proposed amendment to the vote which was lost.

51.9 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

"This Council believes that a visually attractive and well looked after Brighton & Hove not only benefits the local economy by increasing visitor numbers, but also helps to make the city's residents feel proud of where they live.

This Council recognises the priority that the previous Administration gave to maintaining and improving the city's parks, gardens and general street scene through measures such as planting additional flowerbeds, decorating vacant shop fronts, cracking down on graffiti and removing estate agents boards from central Conservation Areas.

Furthermore, this Council agrees that this level of investment in the city's appearance will be more important than ever in 2012, when the city will host the Olympic Torch and the Queen will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee.

Therefore, this Council notes with grave concern the decision by the current Administration to review its funding for the City in Bloom project. City in Bloom, which has enjoyed the support of the previous two Administrations, brings together volunteers, community gardeners and businesses from across Brighton & Hove, with one aim – to make the city a more attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

This Council agrees that the £30,000 spent funding City in Bloom is far outweighed by the economic benefit it brings to the city and the civic pride that it engenders amongst



local communities. Furthermore, the knock-on effects of withdrawing the funding could include cancellation of the city's hanging baskets contract and turfing over of flower beds in the city's parks and gardens.

Therefore, this Council urges the Cabinet to rule out any cuts to City in Bloom when putting forward its budget proposals for 2012/13."

**51.10 The motion was carried.**

**(c) Drop the Bill**

51.11 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Morgan on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Marsh.

51.12 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

"The Coalition: Our Programme for Government', promised:

- a) "that health spending increases in real terms in each year of the Parliament"; and,
- b) to, "stop the top down reorganisation of the NHS".

However, this council notes that just over one year later:

- a) the NHS has been cut in real terms by £800 million; and,
- b) the Health and Social Care Bill includes the biggest reorganisation in the history of the NHS, at a cost of £2 billion.

Moreover, this council is concerned that the Health and Social Care Bill risks:

1. breaking up the NHS and creating an unfair postcode lottery with no national standards;
2. increasing waiting times and a two-tier NHS as it scraps the cap on hospitals treating private patients at the same time as watering down guarantees on NHS waiting times;
3. turning the NHS into a full-blown commercial market, putting competition before patient care, allowing private companies to cherry-pick quick profits;
4. undermining the bond of trust between doctors and patients as it creates conflicts of interest where financial incentives could interfere with medical decisions;
5. wasting money and creating bureaucracy in spending £2 billion on a re-organisation at the same time as asking the NHS to find £20 billion worth of efficiency savings.

Patients in Brighton & Hove are already starting to see the NHS going backwards, with more local people having to wait longer for vital tests- for example, over 2,000 local people waited over six weeks for hospital cancer tests after being referred by their GP, compared to just over 100 patients facing similar delays last year.

Furthermore, many thousands of people have already called on the Government to stop, including 1,500 local people who recently signed a local petition to 'Save the NHS' and this council fully supports city residents in this campaign.

For the reasons outlined above, this council believes that this Government should drop the Health and Social Care Bill.

Therefore this council resolves to:

1. Write directly to the Prime Minister and the Health Secretary urging them to drop the Health and Social Care Bill; and
2. Call on the Members of Parliament representing Brighton & Hove to actively oppose the Health and Social Care Bill in Parliament

**51.13 The motion was carried.**

**Motion to terminate the meeting:**

51.14 In accordance with Procedural rule 17, the Mayor noted that the meeting had been in session for over four hours and she was therefore required to move a closure motion to effectively terminate the meeting.

51.15 The Mayor moved the closure motion and put the matter to the vote which was lost and therefore resulted in the continuation of the meeting

**(d) Intelligent Commissioning and the Community & Voluntary Sector**

51.16 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Wealls on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor Simson.

51.17 Councillor Gilbey moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group, which was seconded by Councillor Lepper.

51.18 Councillor Randall moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which was seconded by Councillor Follett.

51.19 The Mayor noted that the amendment moved by Councillor Gilbey had been accepted by Councillor Wealls and the amendment moved by Councillor Randall had not been accepted by Councillor Wealls. She therefore put the proposed amendment from the Green Group to the vote which was lost.

51.20 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This Council recognises and values the hugely positive impact of Brighton & Hove’s thriving local community and voluntary sector (CVS). It is estimated that the local CVS contributes £96 million to the local economy each year with approximately 19,200 volunteer positions, giving 57,600 per week of volunteer hours.

Furthermore, this Council strongly supports the principles of the Intelligent Commissioning process in the provision of public services in the city, as outlined in the Cabinet report of April 2010. In particular:

- It should result in the best people, delivering the best outcomes at the best value for the taxpayer,
- That there should be a genuinely level playing field between the Council and the **local** CVS (including social enterprise, co-ops and mutuals),
- That service provision should be embedded within the local community.

This Council warmly welcomes the contribution that the local CVS has made to the development of the Intelligent Commissioning process to date and embraces the enhanced opportunities that it brings for the sector.

However, this Council notes with concern that the Intelligent Commissioning process appears to have lost much of its initial impetus in recent months and acknowledges real concerns from the local CVS that services will not be commissioned on a genuinely level playing field.

Therefore, this Council requests that Cabinet:

1. Renews its commitment to further developing the Intelligent Commissioning process as a potential means of delivering higher quality and better value services to the residents of Brighton & Hove; and
2. Takes the principles outlined in this notice of motion fully into account in any future commissioning decisions.

**51.21 The motion was carried.**

**(e) The Disproportionate Impact of Government Cuts on Women**

51.22 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Powell on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Phillips.

51.23 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Powell on her maiden speech.

51.24 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

“This council notes the Government has embarked on an unprecedented cull of public services. Budgets have been slashed in all areas, from health and education to the legal aid service and benefits for the neediest in our society.

Women are the main victims of these cuts, according to the Brighton Women's Centre. More women than men work in the public sector, many of them part-time, and face unemployment as a result of the Coalition's attack on public services. Indeed, according to research released in the Autumn by the GMB, 66.4 per cent of the jobs lost by councils this year were held by women, and female unemployment is rising across the board.

Other Government cuts, like those to tax credits for example, further penalise women.

Researchers from the House of Commons Library calculate that 73 per cent of the £2.37 billion the Chancellor plans to raise from changes to tax credits and a cap on public sector pay will come from women who will lose £1.73 billion. Deep cuts in social housing budgets are condemning a rising number of local women to homelessness and poor housing.

In its continuing work to end discrimination against women and others, the council recently adopted a new Equality Impact Assessment policy requiring the impact of all budget proposals to be analysed to make sure equalities implications are considered as part of any proposal. The council also supports organisations such as The Fawcett Society and the TUC who have been campaigning hard to ensure gender equality issues are factored in to the way cuts are made to ensure women don't bear the brunt.

Specifically, we note and support the Fawcett Society's 'Life Raft for Women's Equality' campaign [1], which calls on the Government and councils to do four things:

1. Help support families
2. Help support women and girls who are the victims of violence
3. Help make work pay for low-income mothers
4. Help protect women from poverty in retirement

This council therefore resolves to:

- (a) Support Cabinet in its work to make Brighton & Hove City Council a 'best practice' authority in equality terms;
- (b) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the city's three MPs, expressing this council's concerns and asking them to support the Fawcett Society campaign and other campaigns aimed at achieving greater equality for women;
- (b) Endorse its support for the 'Life Raft for Women's Equality' campaign and work more closely with the Fawcett Society."

[1]

[http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/A%20Life%20Raft%20for%20Women's%20Equality%20FINAL\(1\).pdf](http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/A%20Life%20Raft%20for%20Women's%20Equality%20FINAL(1).pdf)

**51.25 The motion was carried.**

**52. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Mayor thanked everyone and wished them a very happy Christmas before formally closing the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.55pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

