

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CULTURE, TOURISM AND ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
MEETING

4PM, 25 September 2008

HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors Bill Randall (Chairman), Pat Drake (Deputy Chairman), Melanie Davis, Pat Hawkes, Amy Kennedy, Craig Turton, and Carol Theobald.

Also in attendance:
Councillor Ted Kemble, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects

Apologies: Sally McMahon, Head of Libraries and Information Service

PART ONE

17 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

17a Declarations of Interests

17.1 *There were none*

17b Exclusion of Press and Public

17.2 In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in section 100 (1) of the said Act.

17.3 **RESOLVED** - *That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.*

18a MINUTES – 19 June 2008.

At paragraph 9.5. Members raised concerns about Pool Valley, relating to parking and toilet provision. It was noted that the matter had been referred to the Environment Scrutiny Committee to discuss in the context of their work plan.

18a.1 **RESOLVED** – *That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman.*

18b MINUTES – 10 September 2008

At paragraph 14:3 change Sea Scouts to Sea Cadets. Amend typographic error in the heading.

- 18b.1 **RESOLVED** – *That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to the above amendments.*

19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 19.1 The Committee agreed to begin with the items on the Foredown Tower (item 25), Annual Library Plan (item 24) and the Work Programme (item 26). This would be followed by the discussion with the Cabinet Member (item 22).

20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 20.1 *There were none.*

21 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 21.1 *There were none.*

22 CABINET MEMBER FOR ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT AND MAJOR PROJECTS, COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE

- 22.1 [NB: This item was taken after agenda item 26 and before agenda item 23.]

The Cabinet Member outlined his main areas of responsibility, which related to Enterprise and Major Projects. These included Economic Development - supporting the economic growth of the City through four main functions:

1 Developing land & buildings to help create jobs: providing information on available commercial space; acting as a conduit between developers and the Planning department; acting as a formal consultee on all commercial planning applications.

2 Local economic research & Information: providing research information on the city's demography, business sectors and economic indicators.

3. Support for enterprise and business growth: providing a referral and information service to those seeking business advice; producing a business directory to encourage business to business networking; working closely with many of the city business associations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Partnership; providing funds to support the Business Improvement District which has seen the level of retail crime reduce significantly in the area.

4. Workforce development and employment: ensuring that the targets and aspirations set down within the City Employment and Skills Plan (CESP) are met; and securing external public funds to support a range of projects that will provide employment and training for workless residents.

- 22.2 The Cabinet Member noted that the current priorities in Economic Development were:
- Completing and delivering the Business Retention & Inward Investment Strategy (BRII) which the Cabinet Member would wish CTEOSC to look at in due course;
 - Delivering the City Employment & Skills Plan (CESP);
 - Further development of the 'Futures' model which links businesses to training providers;
 - Development of a city markets strategy that will ensure that markets enhance the retail offer in localities;
 - Monitoring progress against the Local Area Agreement targets for Economic Development;
 - Taking forward the recently endorsed Social Enterprise Strategy for the city.
- 22.3 The Cabinet Member outlined the future challenges:
- Business Support Simplification - a government initiative that would change the face of business support in the city; they are working with business support agencies and SEEDA to facilitate the transition and ensure that business can access the services that they need.
 - The Economic downturn was likely to impact on business in the city and they are working with partners to develop interventions and support that would help mitigate the effects.
 - The development of key sites was likely to be affected by the downturn.
 - Regional competitiveness rested on the ability to respond to the changing economic climate; the ability to meet the skill needs of existing and emerging sectors; and, the need to build commercial links beyond the city boundaries.
 - Public Funds for regeneration would be limited in the coming year; he was promoting greater levels of partnership working in order to maximise the available resources.
 - Tackling Worklessness was achieved in the authority in four main ways: as an employer; as a provider of services; as a procurer of local services; and as a civic leader.
- 22.4 The Cabinet Member then outlined a list of the Major projects that were the other main area of his responsibility, including: American Express/Edward Street; King Alfred; Preston Barracks; Open Market; Brighton Centre; City College Capital Strategy; Released Land at Falmer; Circus Street; Community Stadium; Black Rock (Brighton International Arena); Marina (Whole Site); i360 / West Pier; Shoreham Harbour; New Records Office & Resource Centre ('The Keep'); and London Road / St James's Investments.
- 22.5 Committee Members asked a number of questions on major projects and the Cabinet member offered to circulate a paper on this. Members also requested an update on major projects at future meetings. Following a question on the 'political vision' for the future, the Cabinet Member stated his aim was to grow the economy whilst protecting the environment. He offered to return to the Committee at a later date to provide further information on this issue.
- 22.6 **RESOLVED:** *that the Cabinet Member be thanked for his attendance and be invited to a future meeting.*

23 CREATIVE WORKSPACE STUDY

- 23.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Creative Industries Manager on the recently produced Creative Workspace Study (for copy see minute book).
- 23.2 The Committee heard how beneficial it is to the city that Brighton houses so many creative practitioners, as this was likely to be the economy of the future. In the current economic climate it was felt that a realistic level of growth is 2.5% for the next 18 months. Only 40% of these creative workers are occupying purpose built office space. The figure of 650,000 sq ft of workspace needed for the city over 10 years, at 2.5% growth, was an 'aspiration for the city'.
- 23.3 In response to a question, Members were told that the Planning Service had made an excellent contribution to the study and sat on the steering group. It was important to retain these links when implementing the recommendations.
- 23.4 Members asked how the figure of 150sq ft per person had been calculated and were told it was based on industry figures from architects and planners. However, some creative workers may need more space. Visual artists are thought to need a minimum of 200 sq ft and even more for members of the performing arts.
- 23.5 The Committee were told that there would be a formal action plan meeting on October 14th. This would discuss practical details such as how to engage private sector landlords. It was likely that existing mechanisms would be used to implement the report, such as Economic Partnership sub-groups, and the Commercial Properties database.
- 23.6 Members suggested that it would be useful to look at ways of providing flexible workspace, such as making temporary use of empty space or using church halls.
- 23.7 It was noted that Brighton was a place that organisations were choosing to work in – for example, Linden Labs who created "SecondLife". Members praised the report and commented that it would help to maintain the city's 'cultural offer'. Additionally, future links must be maintained with schools, and higher and further education institutions.

23 RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Committee endorses the report and its findings; and*
- (2) That the Committee receive ongoing reports from the Director of Cultural Services on the progress and implementation of the recommendations. The first report to be in April and then potentially on an annual basis.*
- (3) That any future redevelopment affecting the New England House creative industries cluster protects the cluster in terms of the number of businesses co-locating, their position close to Brighton station and the rents payable.*

24 ANNUAL LIBRARY PLAN

- 24.1 The Director of Cultural Services thanked members for attending the scrutiny workshop. Their useful contributions had been taken on board in the plan and it was confirmed that the Library Plan would be going to Council on 4th December.
- 24.2 Members asked if it could be made clear where scrutiny had made an input into the plan, for example in highlighting the need to increase the stock of books. The Director confirmed that the covering report for the plan would highlight the contribution made by Scrutiny members.
- 24.3 Members expressed their concern that only a small percentage of library materials are for children. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to send members a breakdown of expenditure on libraries' materials, by category e.g. children's fiction.
- 24.4 Members asked why a charge has been introduced for buggy users attending the Baby Boogie sessions at Jubilee Library. The Committee requested that the Executive be informed that they were not happy with the introduction of this charge. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to pass on the Committee's views. He explained that the charge had been introduced after the loss of some external funding, following earlier feedback that users would be prepared to pay for these sessions. Members were told that the charge will be reviewed in December to see if it has had any adverse effects. The Committee agreed to keep a watch on this issue.
- 24.5 Members were offered the formal chance to review the Library plan at the November 13 meeting of CTEOSC. This was agreed.
- 24.6 The Committee asked how the restructuring of the library staff was progressing. They had heard some concerns expressed about these changes. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to report back to the November CTEOSC meeting on the progress of this restructuring.

- 24 **RESOLVED** – (1) *That the Committee review the final Library Plan at the next meeting of CTEOSC on 13 November 2008, and*
(2) *that the Director of Cultural Services reflect the Committees' view on the charges at the Jubilee Library on to the Cabinet Member.*

25 FOREDOWN TOWER

- 25.1 Members heard that the amendments and new recommendation they had made to the original Foredown Tower report had been agreed by the Cabinet Member for Culture, Tourism and Enterprise at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 16 September 2008. It was agreed that this provided a lifeline to the Foredown Tower.
- 25.2 Members asked to be kept informed of the progress. The Director of Cultural Services agreed to provide regular verbal updates to the committee on the progress of Foredown Tower and a written report to the meeting on 5 February 2009.

25.3 Following a question, the Director of Cultural Services confirmed that the Council will require a formal business plan and legal plan from the Sea Cadets. These plans will then be assessed.

25. RESOLVED –

(1) that the Committee would receive regular verbal updates on the Foredown Tower; and

(2) the Committee receive a written report at 5 February 2009 CTEOSC.

26 WORK PROGRAMME

26.1 Members were advised that a number of the work programme items had been rescheduled. This meant there would be full agendas for the meetings in November and February.

26.2 The Committee agreed that they would like to hear short presentations from external organisation at meetings where appropriate.

26.3 Members requested a written update on major projects at future meetings.

26.4 The Director of Cultural Services promised to provide information that had been requested by Cllr Older about two sustainable events at Madeira Drive.

26.5 **RESOLVED –** *(1) That members agreed the draft Work Plan for 2008/9.*

27. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET OR THE RELEVANT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

27.1 There were none.

28. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

28.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5.45 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2008