

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION
4.00PM 21 OCTOBER 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL
MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mitchell (Chairman); Pidgeon (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Bennett, Mrs Cobb, Morgan, Randall, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins and Hyde

Also Present: Councillors Jan Young and Ayas Fallon-Khan

PART ONE

42. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

The Chairman stated at the beginning of the meeting that the meeting was being filmed and held in archive. Any members of the public who did not wish to be recorded on camera could sit in the public gallery to observe the meeting.

Councillor Warren Morgan (non-voting Member) was substituting as a voting Member for Councillor Anne Meadows

Councillor Watkins was substituting for Councillor Paul Elgood

Councillor Hyde was substituting for Councillor Averil Older.

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 100I (1) of the said Act.

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

43. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

44. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman told the meeting that the new Head of Overview and Scrutiny Tom Hook, had been appointed and would be starting from 5th January 2009.

She welcomed to the meeting the Cabinet Members Councillors Jan Young and Ayas Fallon-Khan to introduce their reports.

45. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

46. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were none.

47. NOTICES OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

There were none.

48. 2008/2009 QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT REPORT; NEW PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Head of Improvement and Performance introduced the report which had been considered by 18 September Cabinet meeting.

The Head of Improvement and Performance answered questions on

- 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education or training
- Perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- Re-offending rates of prolific and priority re-offenders
- Workless residents helped back into work

The Committee agreed to ask for the Quarter Two (July to September) performance report to be presented to the next meeting on 2 December.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the new performance management arrangement be noted.
- 2) That OSC receive twice-yearly performance reports in full; where possible before Cabinet receives them, plus the Quarter 2 report at its next meeting.
- 3) That it be noted that the five scrutiny committees will receive extracts relevant to their remit from the performance reports, as necessary.

49. TARGETTED BUDGET MANAGEMENT MONTH 4

The Interim Head of Finance and Resources introduced the report setting out the forecast outturn position on the revenue and capital budgets as at the end of July 2008 (Month 4). The report had been presented to Cabinet on 18 September.

Asked about energy costs, particularly as regards the Museums Service, he said he said there would be additional pressures, especially in the next financial year. Regarding concessionary bus fares (report paragraph 3.10 refers) he said in his view the council could only have budgeted as it did. He confirmed there was still a risk of a further bus fares increase later in the year.

RESOLVED

- 1) That the report and replies be noted
- 2) That the Commission note that an additional OSC meeting has been arranged on 3 February 2009 to consider the 2009/2010 budget proposals.

50. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor Jan Young (as substitute for Councillor Dee Simson, the Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion and Internal Relations) introduced the report on Consultation Feedback on the Community Engagement Framework. The final document was scheduled to be signed off by Cabinet and the Stronger Communities Partnership on 20 November and by 2020 Community Partnership Board on 2 December.

Councillor Young said the CEF was a high-level strategic partnership document for the 2020 Community Partnership and its members. However a communications plan would be produced and an appropriate version developed for community and voluntary groups and residents.

Members welcomed the report and the moves to encourage residents to become involved. They noted there was only one elected BHCC Councillor serving on the Stronger Communities Partnership and suggested that additional elected Members would reinforce Councillors' roles as Community Champions.

Answering questions the Head of Policy and Senior Policy Officer said the Stronger Communities Partnership would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Framework and monitoring its impact. The individual members of the Stronger Communities Partnership would lead on delivering the priority actions within the Framework and it was for Overview and Scrutiny to use its powers to monitor public organisations' adherence to the Framework.

The officers also replied to questions on the possible risks of transferring assets and on the consultation process.

Some members felt that LSPs can appear less open to the public. The Commission agreed that it would be helpful if the minutes of the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum could be made available, and Members notified.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Stronger Communities Partnership consider additional elected members to serve on the the Partnership in recognition of their roles as Community Champions.
- 2) That minutes of the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum meetings be made available to Members.
- 3) That subject to the above at 1) and 2), the final draft be endorsed.

51. DRAFT ICT STRATEGY 2008 - 2012

The Interim Director of Finance and Resources introduced the initial ICT Strategy 2008 – 2012 which was scheduled to be considered by Cabinet on 20 November.

He said a new Assistant Director, ICT to be appointed in November, would be bringing forward the final draft version.

The Interim Director and the Head of ICT replied to a number of queries:

- there have been moves to integrate ICT between services and this was being led by business/service needs
- in future there would be more flexibility in home- working and work patterns
- in the Councils' future moving towards on-line services, residents who were not IT-capable would be taken into account – so there will still be a variety of access options and information disseminated in other formats
- some IT systems are not compatible with partners,' particularly with health partners, but we are starting to bridge the gaps
- data sharing and legal situation, was a continuing issue

RESOLVED –

1) that the officers be asked to take into account the above comments in developing the strategy.

2) to note that the initial strategy will be revised together with a development plan by March 2009.

52. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE; WORK PROGRAMME

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission noted

- 1) Progress in taking forward the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- 2) The additional OSC meeting scheduled for 3 February 2009

3) The Scrutiny Panels that have been established

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

There were none.

54. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

