

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL**

4.30pm 9 OCTOBER 2008

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Peltzer Dunn (Chairman), C Theobald (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Allen, Barnett, Bennett, Mrs Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Mrs Cobb, Davey, Davis, Drake, Duncan, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Fryer, Hamilton, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Janio, Kemble, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lainchbury, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, Mrs Norman, K Norman, Older, Oxley, Pidgeon, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smart, Smith, Steedman, Taylor, G Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, Wells, West, Wrighton and Young

PART ONE**14. STATUTORY OR VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE BY COUNCILLORS OF INTERESTS IN MATTERS APPEARING ON THE AGENDA.**

- 14.1 Councillor Pidgeon declared a personal interest in Item No.25 (f) Notice of Motion, as his wife was blind.
- 14.2 Councillor Mears declared a personal interest in Item No.24 Food for Life Partnership Standards, in respect of the provision of food for school meals.

15. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 17 JULY 2008 (COPY ATTACHED).

- 15.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2008 be approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

16. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 16.1 The Mayor asked the Council to stand and hold a minute's silence as a mark of respect for the death of ex-Councillor Ted Furey, which was reported at the Annual Meeting, who served with much distinction as a Labour Councillor for East Sussex County Council during the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- 16.2 The Mayor also asked that Council stand as a mark of respect for Ian Long who had retired from the council in 2007 as the Director of Housing & City Support, a post he had

held since 2003. He had been with Brighton & Hove City Council since its creation in 1997 and passed away on the 26th September.”

- 16.3 Following the minute’s silence the Mayor then announced that was pleased to present these three prestigious national awards to council given by the Institution of Highways and Transportation in June. The awards had been won against strong competition from other worthy schemes across the country and were a testament to the council’s commitment to the environment and are tribute to groundbreaking, innovative ideas that made a real practical difference to people’s lives.
- 16.4 The first two were for New Road which had won the National Transport Awards 2008 for ‘Walking and the Public Realm’ Category, and the Transport Management Practitioners 2008 Urban Design Category. Since its reopening in June last year New Road had been transformed from a street busy with traffic into a popular ‘shared space’ pedestrian area which had received praise from residents, businesses and visitors. The scheme was now recognised as a world class example of a shared space scheme and had been visited by groups as far apart as Vancouver and Plymouth.
- 16.5 The Mayor invited Councillor Geoffrey Theobald to come forward and receive the awards.
- 16.6 The third award was the Good Communications Awards 2008, Telecoms Innovation and was for the Talking Bus Stops. Brighton & Hove was the first area in the country to introduce talking bus stops, where blind and partially sighted people received spoken information about bus services. A small key fob activated the Talking Bus Stop as it was passed and a voice informed the person which bus stop they were at. By pressing a button on the key fob a further message was heard giving details of which buses were coming and when. The system had already revolutionised people’s lives and one user had said that his Talking Bus Stop key fob was as important to him as his mobile phone.
- 16.7 The Mayor then invited Councillor Brian Pidgeon to come forward to receive the award.
- 16.8 The Mayor then stated that he was delighted to announce that the Finance & Resources department of the council had received the prestigious Investors in People Award. He noted that Catherine Vaughan, the Director had made this her top priority for her new department and it was successfully delivered in the planned timescale. He stated that the Director was particularly proud of the award as it gave recognition for organisations that develop their staff to deliver service and business improvement.
- 16.9 The Mayor noted that Councillor Jan Young, who was the Cabinet Member for Finance had requested that Councillor Ann Norman, who was the previous lead member for Finance & Resources should come forward to collect the award on behalf of the Directorate. This was in recognition of the support that she had given to the directorate as Lead Councillor and the fact that the award recognised the achievement that came under her leadership.”
- 16.10 The Mayor then invited Councillor Ann Norman to come forward to receive the award.
- 16.11 The mayor stated that he was very pleased to inform Council that it had been awarded the South East Employer’s Charter for Member Development, making the council only

the 9th authority in the South-East to achieve Charter Status. The achievement had been the result of excellent work co-ordinated by the Member Development Working Group and staff within Democratic Services and he hoped to be able to present the Charter at the next meeting.

- 16.12 The Mayor then informed the council that as part of his charity events, he was holding a coffee morning on the 22nd October at Brighton Town Hall, which would include a tour of the Police Museum, and a night at the Greyhound stadium on the 6th November at 7.00pm. He hoped Members would support both events.
- 16.13 The Mayor also drew Members attention to the work of Councillor Bennett in supporting the Pink Dolphin Appeal, and the latest fund-raising scheme of providing re-useable carrier bags for a minimum donation of a pound.

17. TO RECEIVE PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS.

- 17.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors. He reminded the council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the councillor presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 17.2 Councillor Marsh presented a petition signed by 41 residents concerning traffic and the need for a crossing at the gyratory at Lewes Road.
- 17.3 Councillor Davis presented a petition signed by 269 residents concerning traffic speeds in Highdown Road.
- 17.4 Councillor Davis presented a petition signed by 252 residents requesting the commemoration of Katherine Mansfield's residence in Rottingdean.
- 17.5 Councillor Hamilton presented a petition signed by 129 residents concerning the increasing of book stocks and opening hours in the city libraries.
- 17.6 Councillor Kennedy presented a petition signed by 324 residents concerning safe pedestrian access into Preston Park.
- 17.7 Councillor Carden presented a petition signed by 288 residents concerning road safety in Chalky Road, Portslade.
- 17.8 Councillor Meadows presented a petition signed by 19 residents of Meadowview, concerning the provision of the bus service.
- 17.9 Councillor McCaffery presented a petition signed by 131 residents concerning the replacement of the statue for Steve Ovet in Preston Park.
- 17.10 Councillor Caulfield presented a petition signed by 22 residents of Egginton Close requesting the replacement of grass verges with parking spaces.

- 17.11 Councillor Caulfield presented a petition signed by 493 residents requesting the extension of resources for the Noise Patrol Team.
- 17.12 Councillor Morgan presented a petition signed by 78 residents concerning parking enforcement measures in Maresfield Road.
- 17.13 Councillor Fallon-Khan presented a petition signed by 21 residents, concerning the need for fencing at Hove Park Bowls Club.
- 17.14 Councillor Mrs Drake presented a petition signed by 20 residents concerning parking measures in Highbank.

18. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 18.1 The Mayor reported that three written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr. Furness to come forward and address the council.

- 18.2 Mr Nigel Furness asked the following question:

“Could Councillor Theobald please tell us how much revenue this authority received in the past year from the cans and other metals left out for recycling or put in communal recycling bins?”

- 18.3 Councillor Theobald stated that “The price of metals is high at the moment and we are receiving good levels of income from cans, which was £16,000 in 2007/08 and £13,000 from other metals.

You may like to know that the total income in 2007/08 to this authority from all its recycling (which includes glass, paper, cardboard, plastic bottles) was £548,000.”

- 18.4 Mr. Furness asked the following supplementary question:

“Thank you Councillor Theobald for that illuminating answer which brings me to the point, why does it state in ‘The Argus’ that profits are shared with Veolia, while in another article it is stated that aluminium cans, which now fetch, by the way, around £1.65 per kilo in scrap value, are donated to the charity Alupro in order to provide one orange tree per ton to be planted in Malawi? In these hard pressed times doesn’t charity begin at home, Councillor?”

- 18.5 Councillor Theobald responded, “What we read in ‘The Argus’ isn’t necessarily accurate and it is difficult to answer a question such as that but all of us will have different views on charity giving, whether it is to charities abroad or charities in this country.”
- 18.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Furness for his questions and invited Mr. Hawtree to come forward and address the council.
- 18.7 Mr. Hawtree asked the following question:

“Could Councillor Smith please tell us what steps he will be taking to commemorate Katherine Mansfield's crucial, 1910 residence in Rottingdean?”

18.8 Councillor Smith stated that “There are no plans in the forthcoming public event programmes to commemorate Katherine Mansfield’s residence in Rottingdean in 1910. She was an author, born in New Zealand, but spent much of her life here. She knew D H Lawrence and I believe she led quite a bohemian lifestyle. Mr Hawtree may like to nominate Katherine Mansfield to the Commemorative Plaque Panel which is chaired by John Small of the Regency Society. Further information on this can be provided by the City Council’s Head of Tourism, Adam Bates.”

18.9 Mr. Hawtree asked the following supplementary question:

“Thank you Councillor Smith. I think you have been ‘Googling’ the subject and not very much comes up when you look Katherine Mansfield and Rottingdean up. We need books and even though her letters and notebooks do not survive from that period, a great deal else recalls that first visit to the sea, since New Zealand as you mention, and the sound of it in Rottingdean prompted the start of her greatest writing while craving library books.

Councillor Smith can I call upon Katherine Mansfield now to ask you wouldn’t it be a much better honour than going to the Plaque Committee, instead to open Rottingdean Library more than three days a week as this authority still falls short of the national standards as Councillor Hamilton has said?”

18.10 Councillor Smith responded, ““We are reviewing our plans for opening hours and are one of the largest authorities for buying books. I am sure the people of Rottingdean appreciate the works of Katherine Mansfield, but having looked on Google and been unsuccessful, I am not sure how many books you would have to read to find out more about her.”

18.11 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for his questions and stated that Mr. Hooper was unable to attend the meeting to put his question and therefore a written answer would be given by Councillor Theobald.

19. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

19.1 The Mayor reported that one Deputation had been received, which concerned the increased level of traffic on Highdown Road, and invited Mr. W. Shaw, as the spokesperson, to come forward and address the council.

19.2 Mr. Shaw thanked the Mayor and stated that:

“We have a problem in our street with traffic and I am sure you hear this a million times. Ours has become very much more acute in recent times and there are two reasons for this, one of which is there is an extraordinary demographic there. We are right in the middle of six great Brighton schools, we have Stanford Infant, Stanford Junior, Davigdor, Somerhill, BHASVIC, Cardinal Newman, if you look at a map we are straight in the middle of these.

In the last ten years the demographic has become extreme, you know there is an amazing amount of children living in that area. I reckon there is something like 70% of flats and houses that now have children under 18 living in them, which is extraordinarily high.

You have the ability to confirm these figures by going to the Education Department; they will be able to confirm how extraordinary it is. If you want to, come down at Halloween and you will see hundreds of children out in that street at night. It is quite remarkable.

This adds to another problem, we are a very wide, very long, very straight road coming off of Dyke Road and a brilliant thing has happened, we have traffic lights at the end of BHASVIC College because the students are all 16 year olds who would walk straight in front of a lorry unless those lights are there. It is really good but if you are coming along Dyke Road and you wish to turn into Old Shoreham Road and you see the traffic backed up, around rush hour, you zoom down our street at 40mph to try and cut through. This was not happening a year ago. It has really increased as a real problem now and that is exactly the time these kids are coming back from school. It is a very pressing problem and I would be very grateful if you could set a date when you can consider this problem as quickly as possible.

I would be very grateful if you could take this seriously because something very bad is going to happen and a lot of the people who came along earlier on have seen things that would make your heart leap if you saw it. There have been very close near misses this year and we do not want to see any of those actually having the same situation as that terrible thing in Portslade.”

- 19.3 Councillor Theobald stated that “I do take this very seriously indeed as I do all of these. I do find that wherever I seem to go somebody somewhere calls me over such an issue and recently at the cricket ground a very good friend of mine tackled me on this very subject, so already a resident of Highdown Road has spoken to me about this and has mentioned this to me.

I do understand and I had asked officers to check the casualty data for Highdown Road, which includes information both before and after the completion of the crossing in June, which you mention, and I was very pleased we were able to undertake that last year. This investigation has shown that there is currently no change in that data.

Council officers have also, and I asked them to do this, covertly measured traffic speeds in Highdown Road this week during the afternoon peak hour. The average speed recorded was 26mph with the highest recorded speed being 31mph. Unfortunately, from your point of view, this confirms there is no reason to take immediate action. However, I will and I have asked officers to continue to monitor the situation because, as you say, this is a situation which has got worse since the pedestrian crossing went in so it will be continuously monitored because this Administration takes very, very seriously safety measures, particularly where children are involved so please rest assured that we will continue to monitor this situation.”

- 19.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Shaw for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the Deputation. He explained that the points made had been noted and along with the

petition presented by Councillor Davis, would now be referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting. The persons forming the Deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action taken or proposed in relation to the matters set out by the Deputation.

20. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

20.1 The Mayor reminded the council that councillor's questions 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.

20.2 The Mayor then invited the Member responsible for the written question to ask one relevant supplementary question and for that to be answered accordingly, along with any additional supplementary question from another Member as detailed below.

20.3 (a) Councillor Fryer asked:

"There have been recent reports from many constituents about employees and sub-contractors of the council carrying out building works or clearing rubbish, for example from the beach, throwing things which could easily be recycled.

Can Councillor Theobald tell us what training and facilities currently exist to raise the council's employees and sub-contractors awareness of possibilities for recycling?"

20.4 Councillor Theobald replied:

Contracts & tendering

Within the tender documents for all contracts the council encourages contractors to reduce all unnecessary waste, re-use and to recycle wherever possible.

For example, our new Gully & Soakaway Contractor, Conway, empties the silt and water from gullies & soakaways and transfers the waste to a recycling plant. This separates this waste into oils and fuels, sand, three grades of gravel, metal and clean silt. Excess water is cleaned and used to clean aggregates.

New facilities

The council's new in-house waste and recycling contract provides an excellent opportunity for the council to make significant improvements by:

- mainstreaming recycling collections to all buildings across the council;
- increasing the range and quantity of materials that can be recycled;
- supporting staff in their efforts to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill from council offices.
- Offering an improved recycling service to schools.

Staff awareness and training

The council supports a successful Environment Champions programme with 120 members of staff who voluntarily champion sustainability – including recycling – in their work environments.

A new e-learning tool is about to be launched, providing all members of staff with the opportunity for improving their knowledge in all areas of sustainability. Waste recycling and reduction features strongly.

A new sustainability course specifically designed for managers has also been devised, showing managers how they can set up systems and practices to help reduce and recycle waste.”

20.5 Councillor Fryer asked a supplementary question, “Many residents of Brighton and Hove are shocked at the amount of waste left on the beach every day, especially in the summer months. It is not good for tourism which is very important to Brighton and Hove’s economy but would Brighton and Hove, therefore, be able to launch a zero waste campaign regarding those beaches along the lines of that which was done in Estonia which saw 50,000 people mobilising to clean their country on the same day?”

20.6 Councillor Theobald replied, “As you know I am always willing to hear any questions, particularly positive questions that are put that might help this situation, so could I just say to you that we will certainly consider it.”

20.7 (b) Councillor Fryer asked:

“Could the two members of the Arts Commission receiving a Special Responsibility Allowance undertake to give a regular report to the Council of extra duties incurred and carried out as a result of their special responsibilities together with a vision of how they see their role emerging?”

20.8 Councillors Older and Davis replied,

“The Brighton and Hove Arts Commission is an independent Cultural Partnership which was established by the City Council. The Special Responsibility Allowance made available to Councillors Older and Davis is in recognition of the time allocated by them to the Arts Commission in addition to other council duties. This is to take part in Arts Commission meetings, working sub groups, to attend Arts Commission advocacy events and other meetings as requested by the Chairman. For example; to date, particular responsibilities allocated by the Chairman include asking Councillor Older to lead on the new constitutional arrangements as they relate to the Arts Commission and Councillor Davis to lead on the input for the Arts Commission on the Local Development Framework.

The record of their duties, along with other Arts Commission members, is contained in the minutes and records of the Arts Commission itself which are published on the Arts Commission website.”

- 20.9 Councillor Fryer asked a supplementary question, "There is a great deal of evidence which highlights the value of the arts to all members of society, including improving health and wellbeing, education and a quality of life. In this age of cuts to arts funding resulting in many artists who provide a the community struggling to survive, do Councillors Older and Davis agree that it would be better for the £2,000 currently being spent on a Special Responsibility Allowance for four meetings per year, to go directly to artists and art organisations?"
- 20.10 Councillor Older replied "As it is an independent body you must be aware of why we take it so seriously along with the arts culture in this city. The Arts Commission is an independent body that works independently from the council. That was the whole point of it with a representation from the Members of the Council. The Commission reports to the Cabinet Member of Culture, Recreation & Tourism and Cabinet and there is an additional accountability through scrutiny for Culture, Tourism & Enterprise. The Commission reports to the council as a whole which you have asked them to do. We do not believe it is necessary to give the last accountability above and if all the representatives that sit on the outside bodies start to report to Council, we would not have time for any other business. The Special Responsibility reducing in value last year should demonstrate our commitment to the arts. We also made the Tourism & Recreation Sub-Committee a main committee last year. As you can see from our written answer, which shows two things we both had an input into and I am sure there will be other things in the future. I presume Councillor Fryer is aware that I do not actually get the responsibility allowance as I already receive one from the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee."
- 20.11 Councillor Davis replied, "I wasn't part of the Administration or involved in any way in the process of deciding Special Allowances for any councillors but I do believe it is important that the arts are recognised as an integral part of the city's wider culture and of its economy. It is right that the current Administration recognises this too by giving the Arts Commission its special status.

I mean for the interest of Members I advocate and champion the arts and the Arts Commission in many places and in many ways. I sit on the Brighton & Hove Business Forum, the Brighton & Hove Philharmonic Orchestra. I am on the Culture, Tourism & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee. I am Opposition Spokesperson for Culture, Recreation & Tourism Cabinet. I am also on the Board of the Brighton Carnival. I am a paid up Friend of the Brighton Festival. I am responsible for the arts at the local school of which I am Governor. I am a founding member of the Friends of St Ann's Well Gardens which has a number of arts events on throughout the year. I was also a Board Member of Lighthouse which promotes digital arts in the city. I spent four years in the House of Commons working for three Shadow Arts Ministers and over twenty years in television and the creative industries.

I can assure Councillor Fryer that that kind of commitment and expertise working in the open market is worth a great deal."

- 20.12 (c) Councillor Morgan asked:

"Can Councillor Theobald, Brown or Mears confirm that this authority has submitted a response to the proposals in the Government's Youth Crime Action Plan which came

out in July for consultation and which is backed by significant new Government funding? Responses from local authorities and other interested parties were requested by 17 October, so if a response has been submitted, can details be given of what consultation was undertaken via the Community safety Forum, CYPT or other bodies in the city please?"

20.13 Councillor Mrs. Brown replied,

"The Youth Crime Action Plan was received from the Government during the Summer in late July. The council was not invited to respond to any formal consultation process although within the body of the Plan there were questions posed about the long term strategies proposed.

The Plan sets out a 'Triple Track' approach to reduce youth crime. Each Local Authority Area being required to put in place a comprehensive package of enforcement and punishment; non-negotiable support and challenge; and better and earlier prevention.

Some of the specific proposals in the Plan are already being delivered in Brighton & Hove as a result of our successful partnership working and the fact that both the CDRP and CYPT have already been awarded trailblazer or pathfinder status for various strands of the Plan. Examples of this are; the Challenge and Support grant which has been pooled by the CDRP and CYPT to enable a City wide growth in youth crime prevention teams as part of the Targeted Youth Support Strategy; and the Family Pathfinder which will work closely with the Family Intervention Project to deliver joined up services to our most needy and problematic families.

The Government have recently announced that they will make up to £700,000, over two years, available to the City to support the implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan and we have been consulting across our Partnerships on our proposals which we will put to officials from the Youth Task Force in October. Discussions have taken place at –

- The Youth Justice Strategy Group
- The Crime and Reduction Partnership
- The Targeted Youth Support Development Group
- And at the Community Safety Forum on 6 October."

20.14 Councillor Morgan asked a supplementary question, "Does Councillor Mrs Brown think that in-house consultation on the Government's Youth Crime Action Plan has been sufficient and given her Party's supposed concerns over youth crime and anti-social behaviour, should not this important issue have come before a Council meeting or appeared in City News or the Council's website so that the public could have their say?"

20.15 Councillor Mrs. Brown replied, "It was not statutory consultation, the Government just said they would welcome responses to some questions and, in fact, we have done much more than that. We already work very closely with the police and the Youth Offending Team. We have consulted widely about this Action Plan as it said in the reply and we have concentrated on the initiatives that we would like to work on initially, as the lead-in time is quite short this report wasn't even put out until the end of July. Our officers are meeting with representatives from the DCFS tomorrow to discuss these initiatives face to face and negotiate with them the actions that we will be taking forward. We intend to

build on our present good practice and some of our partners will also be present at that meeting. It is the actions and the outcomes that are important Councillor Morgan not the answers to a few written questions.”

20.16 Councillor Alford asked a supplementary question “Would the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People be able to give us a little bit of information about any initiatives that she is supporting with regard to the Youth Crime Action Plan?”

20.17 Councillor Mrs. Brown replied “There are a number of things that we want to do but just to mention a few: we want to increase the night time detached Youth Work Team that works alongside the police and the anti-social behaviour workers in areas where the young people particularly congregate. These youth workers will also undertake health education work, distributing information and talk about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

We will also provide more positive activities for young people on Friday and Saturday evenings. We have already consulted widely with young people and they are keen to have more arts, music and IT activities.

We would also like to extend our family intervention project which delivers joined-up services to our most needy and problematic families and particularly to focus on these teenage years.

All these projects will complement the work we are already doing with young people and enhance our preventative strategies.”

20.18 (d) Councillor Davis asked,

“The Engineerium is a beautifully restored working Victorian pumping station and museum of mechanical antiquities which has been closed to the public for over two years. Could the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & tourism tell us how he is facilitating the re-opening of this important building so residents and visitors can once again enjoy this important part of our city’s heritage.”

20.19 Councillor Smith replied,

“The Engineerium in Hove is in private ownership and is currently closed. The information on their website states that ‘a period of intense planning’ has begun. It continues to state that it will reopen in the future, however no further information is available. I have written to the owners directly to ascertain a timetable for the refurbishment works together with a projected reopening date for this valuable asset to the city. As soon as I receive a response I will inform Councillors.”

20.20 Councillor Davis asked a supplementary question, “I hope we will receive updates from you and I wondered if you would commit to being more proactive and call a meeting with the owner of the Engineerium to make sure that it doesn’t stay closed for several more years?”

20.21 Councillor Smith replied, “I have already written to Mike Holland asking to have a personal meeting with him so that we can discuss it. I am like you, I think it should be open. It’s one of our treasures and the sooner we get it open again and all the tourism

attraction it holds, I am all for it, so I will report back after I have had a meeting with Mike Holland.”

20.22 (e) Councillor Mitchell asked,

“In order to encourage participation in community activities such as the popular Baby Boogie sessions at the Jubilee Library, will Cllr Smith take whatever steps are necessary to remove the parking charge for babies buggies and ensure that the sessions are properly supported and promoted?”

20.23 Councillor Smith replied,

“A small charge of £1 per buggy was introduced on 1 September to go towards maintaining the regular drop-in Baby Boogie sessions that are run in 11 of our libraries across the city. For five years preceding this, we have been fortunate in attracting external funding for the Pre-School Music and Rhyme project of which Baby Boogie is an integral part, but we do now need to make some direct income to maintain this service.

Users of the service have suggested to us in the past that we should consider levying a charge to help keep the service going if grant funding was no longer available, and unfortunately we are now at the stage where this has become necessary.

The reason for charging £1 per buggy rather than per child was to keep the sessions as affordable as possible for families with more than one child under five. The charge was approved by the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee last year, and it was agreed that this and other charges would be reviewed this year. We will take this opportunity to reconsider the methodology of charging to see if some other arrangement would be more appropriate.”

20.24 Councillor Mitchell asked a supplementary question “Would Councillor Smith agree that it would be more open and transparent to charge for the Baby Boogie sessions themselves if that is what he wants to do, rather than apply this buggy parking charge that parents are seeing as very underhand?”

20.25 Councillor Smith replied “I agree with you entirely. When it comes to the budget in December I am sure we will be discussing other ways and means and if we have got to raise money we will do it then.”

20.26 Councillor Hawkes asked a supplementary question “Could Councillor Smith tell me why the very, very popular Dads’ Baby Boogie was cancelled? It seems quite tragic that when we are working very hard, the work is excellent but to encourage fathers as well as mothers and to just cut that one out is quite disgraceful. We have put out these leaflets and then cut something that is so important.”

20.27 Councillor Smith replied “We have just received some money for this and it will be starting again in November.”

20.28 (f) Councillor Mitchell asked,

“If Councillor Theobald agrees with me that Brighton and Hove’s heritage seafront railings make an important contribution to the city’s visual identity, will he authorise the removal of the ivy that is completely covering Kemp Town’s promenade railings and is turning them into a hedge?”

20.29 Councillor Theobald replied,

“Thank you, Councillor Mitchell for the question on the seafront railings along the Kemp Town promenade. I would agree that the ivy covering the railings does detract from the heritage of the area and a programme of grounds maintenance works will be undertaken to cut back the ivy on the actual railings.

A review will also be undertaken to consider the ongoing management of the issue due to steep slopes and the extensive growth that has taken place over many years.”

20.30 Councillor Mitchell asked a supplementary question, “I would just like to ask Councillor Theobald why it has taken a question put by myself in order to get some management on removing this large amount of ivy from the Kemp Town railings?”

20.31 Councillor Theobald replied “I really do find it quite amusing in many ways that Councillor Mitchell constantly asks these questions after twenty years or twenty-five years of running this council and asks me why this isn’t happening and why that hasn’t been happening and I keep saying to you Councillor Mitchell, well, what on earth have you been doing for the last twenty years? All I can say is it must grow very quickly, I have an expert sitting in front of me who tells me that ivy does not grow quickly and so therefore Councillor Mitchell I think this should have been dealt with earlier. The fact of the matter is, as I have said to you, that we are dealing with this: it is going to be dealt with in the same way as we dealt with the Bandstand, the Madeira Lift and so many other initiatives in what, just over a year we have achieved all these things, so Councillor Mitchell just watch this space.”

20.32 Councillor Duncan asked a supplementary question “Given Fat Boy Slim’s generous offer to contribute a proportion of revenues from future events on Kemp Town beach to a green proposed Madeira Drive Improvement Fund to pay for works just like this, can Councillor Theobald confirm what arrangements he has put in place to set up such a fund or to take Fat Boy Slim up on his offer?”

20.33 Councillor Theobald replied “I think we need to talk about this. I have explained this before that we can’t ring-fence monies for particular issues. We use the monies to go across community events, and we have already heard, all of us in various wards in this city take advantage, our communities do, of monies which are spread around. If we are just going to target for one particular issue then those will lose out. I don’t want that to happen and I don’t think my colleagues on the council would either.”

20.34 (g) Councillor Marsh asked,

“If the Cabinet Member for Environment agrees that, during this time of international economic hardship, residents of Brighton and Hove should be given every opportunity to access and cheaply grow their own seasonal, fresh fruit and vegetables, can he tell me when the report requested by my Labour colleague over a year ago on the re-letting of

abandoned allotment plots, a review of plot tenancy arrangements and opportunities for increasing the number of allotments will be produced?"

20.35 Councillor Theobald replied,

"I agree and we have been working very hard with the Brighton and Hove Allotment Federation to improve the service. Many of the improvements are in the day to day management of the service and we have identified allotment sites that were run down over the past 10 years or so that we can reopen. For example, we are about to re-open 30 new allotments on Whitehawk Hill, which had previously been abandoned, and we have taken over the management of 8 new additional plots in Ovingdean.

I think it is important that Members can assess this service and have the opportunity for making recommendations for further improvements. For this reason I have asked that Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee take a look at the service and I hope you can be involved in that process. I am surprised that you are not aware that I have asked Scrutiny to look into this."

20.36 Councillor Marsh asked a supplementary question, "I am, of course, aware that you have requested this goes to Scrutiny but this falls under your remit, you have the responsibility and power to reopen these waiting lists which now have over 2,000 people on them, many of them my constituents. When will you stop passing the buck on this issue, taking some direct action to reopen the waiting lists and take action against tenants of unattended allotments?"

20.37 Councillor Theobald replied, "I find that amazing, absolutely amazing. One of the advantages of having Scrutiny Committees, and this was what was said time and again, was that one could use Scrutiny Committees to actually look at things, discuss them ad nauseam and then come forward with positive ideas.

Scrutiny to my mind shouldn't just be purely responding to what the Cabinet are suggesting. Scrutiny should be used, in my opinion and I would have thought most of our colleagues, to actually look at things and I thought that by suggesting that this issue be dealt with by Councillor Morgan's Scrutiny Committee, he would have been very pleased because it would have given him and other colleagues, who I know have expertise with allotments (I can think of one looking straight in front of me), and they can use that expertise by coming forward with some good ideas. If this council does not want me to put things to Scrutiny so that Scrutiny can come forward with some good ideas, that is what happens in other parts of the country, but you might like to know that waiting lists have reduced and the average time a person needs to wait for an allotment has been reduced, Councillor Marsh, from 18 months to 12 months, so that we have already moved and if you can work your maths out, we have already achieved that bit in just over 12 months. All newly let allotments are being halved in size to create good size plots and we are increasing actions against allotment holders who do not cultivate their plots. I take this seriously because, you know, I have allotments in my own Ward and I am aware of the satisfaction that this gives and it's something that we all ought to encourage and I certainly wish to do that.

I, along with Councillor Smart who looks at these things for me, have investigated and we have looked at a number of allotments in the city, because this is something that we

take very seriously, but I do want the Scrutiny Committee to have a look at this and to come forward with some jolly good ideas. I hope, Councillor Marsh, that you will take the advantage of feeding into this if you have an interest in this."

20.38 Councillor Smart asked a supplementary question "Does Councillor Theobald agree with me that our allotments are an integral part of this city and its local communities and that they are one of the last community spaces that crosses all boundaries of age, beliefs and ways of life that really bring people together and that they are safe in the hands of this Administration. "

20.39 Councillor Theobald replied "Yes."

20.40 (h) Councillor Kennedy asked,

"It is almost twelve months since this council passed a motion regarding tackling the blight of single-use plastic bags in the city. Can the administration's Sustainability Spokesperson advise me as to whether plastic bags have yet been eliminated from Brighton & Hove?"

20.41 Councillor Mrs Cobb replied,

"Clearly in a city the size of Brighton & Hove, this is not something that is going to happen overnight – nor is it something we can do alone... but I can report substantial progress:

1. We are phasing out plastic bags in our own retail operations, and have launched a "Bag for Life" made from recycled plastic bags, the bag which costs £1.49, featuring the simple message "Clean City, Clean Sea". We have already sold about 700, and are selling up to a hundred a week, through the Library and Pavilion shops, the Visitor Information Centre and many of our other libraries.
2. We have also begun selling them into local shops, and this will increase as the result of a seminar for local retailers on packaging we are arranging with the support of professionals in the (eco-friendly) packaging industry.
3. We have done extensive research into the city's supermarkets practices – as they give out most of the free plastic bags - and most have responded to our challenge already, or begun to: the Co-op, for example, is moving to 5p corn-starch bags; Marks & Spencer is charging for bags too as part of its "remind, reward and require" approach; Asda stopped handing out free plastic bags first in Brighton thanks to our campaign and we continue to support local initiatives by campaigners and independent shops to reduce plastic bag use. All of this is clearly having a real impact. Anecdotally we hear, and you can see for yourself – far fewer plastic bags are being used in Brighton than elsewhere – already.
4. We have already substantially increased our environmental education focus in schools on plastic litter and the sea. In June and July we sponsored a Cool Seas Roadshow jointly with the Marine Conservation Society for 10 primary schools reaching an amazing 2,700 children with messages about beach litter and introducing the marine

environment to children in a hands-on, visual and dynamic way with a big focus on plastic bags and litter in the sea.

We also commissioned a local artist and a local film-maker to work with five more primary schools in a week's workshops using waste from the beach to make 3D stories about sea litter and plastic bags. The resulting animation work will be shown in a film launch in November, with an exhibition in Jubilee Library early next year.

We even sponsored an Eco-Bags Panto at Benfield School in Portslade that highlighted the problems of rubbish, especially plastic bags that end up in the sea."

- 20.42 Councillor Kennedy asked a supplementary question, "I thank the Deputy Leader for her comprehensive answer to my question and I applaud the progress made so far in seeking to tackle the blight of single use plastic bags in this city.

I look forward to seeing this work continue and I would be grateful if the Deputy Leader could advise me as to when the supermarket summit which is referred to on this council's website will be taking place and also what, if any, liaison work is being undertaken with community campaign groups such as 'Plastic Bag Free Brighton'?"

- 20.43 Councillor Mrs Cobb replied, "Unfortunately, due to the economic climate we feel at the moment there are much more important things than looking at that particular event, although we may well hold it in the future but it has been postponed for the time being."

- 20.44 Councillor Caulfield asked a supplementary question "Could Councillor Cobb tell me if she thinks in this economic climate the proposed 20p tax on each plastic bag by the Green Members of this Council would have actually encouraged retailers to provide alternative bags at the check-out or would have, in fact, been just an unfair tax on the lowest paid members of our community?"

- 20.45 Councillor Mrs. Cobb replied "No. However, charging for bags does encourage shoppers to reuse and bring their own bags. In the budget on 12 March 2008 the Government announced that it will bring forward legislation in the Climate Change Bill to enable it to require retailers to impose a minimum charge on single use carrier bags. If sufficient progress is not made on a voluntary basis these powers will come into force in 2009. The Government will consult meantime on the operation of the charge and how to ensure that the money raised goes to environmental charities."

- 20.46 (i) Councillor Kennedy asked,

"The introduction on 31 March 2008 of Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 allows local authorities outside London to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to motorists who park alongside dropped kerbs or more than 50cm from the kerb in a Special Enforcement Area. Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment tell me if this council has any plans to apply these new powers in Brighton & Hove?"

- 20.47 Councillor Theobald replied,

"Whilst Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 allows local authorities outside London to issue Penalty Charge Notices for double parking and parking on dropped

kerbs there is a requirement to indicate the ban with traffic signs and road markings on every street. Clearly this would be very expensive and time consuming for us to introduce citywide.

Through correspondence with David Lepper MP, the Assistant Director of Sustainable Transport has lobbied the Department for Transport to remove the requirement to sign and line the ban.

We recently received a response from the Minister of State for Transport advising that the Department is consulting local authorities on making a small change to the Regulations to clarify that these prohibitions can be enforced without traffic signs or road markings on every road. The consultation ends on 21 October."

20.48 Councillor Kennedy asked a supplementary question, "Those of us who represent the city centre wards know only too well the severe problems which are presented by double parking and I welcome Councillor Theobald's response to my question regarding the new powers afforded to local authorities under Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 which are designed to penalise drivers who persist with this selfish practice.

Could Councillor Theobald confirm whether or not this council will indeed adopt these powers if the Minister of State for Transport removes the requirement to sign and line and, if so, whether the additional revenue generated by the issue of Penalty Charge Notices can be ring-fenced for sustainable transport improvements which will benefit pedestrians and cyclists?"

20.49 Councillor Theobald replied, "I am all in favour of local councils having the opportunity to do this and I have indicated that but as far as implementing this, that will be a matter for consideration."

20.50 (j) Councillor Hamilton asked,

"The booking office at Hove Town Hall for events staged at The Brighton Centre and The Hove Centre is advertised as being open 26 hours a week. In practice it hardly ever seems to be open. The cafe at the King Alfred Leisure Centre, relaunched with much publicity a few months ago, is now permanently closed. I have received complaints about both of these unsatisfactory situations. What plans does the Conservative Administration have to provide the public with a proper service at these two locations?"

20.51 Councillor Smith replied,

"Box Office:

In recent months there have been staff shortages on a number of occasions caused by the long term sickness absence of key members of the Box Office team. Given the high volume level of business through the main Brighton Centre Box Office it has been necessary on these occasions to concentrate our resources to best effect. The venues currently have 87 concerts on sale (12 events are at Hove) plus 33 performances of Holiday on Ice, which together have a gross box office value of £3.9m. The Brighton Centre also has on sale 90 sessions of public skating. On those occasions when it is not possible to maintain a physical presence behind the box office counter in Hove Town Hall reception there is a red telephone adjacent to the counter for customers to contact

the Brighton Centre Box Office direct. This enables customers to still purchase tickets for events at either venue without payment of a booking fee. There is always a staffed presence for on-the-day/night sales when there is an event on in the building. It is also worth noting that there has been a major change in the way in which our customers choose to purchase tickets. Ticketmaster now account for 73% of all box office sales (57% of which are online ticket purchasing) with Agents/Secondary Sales accounting for a further 8%. Although still a valuable service, the venues' front of house box offices only account for 19% of ticket sales.

King Alfred Café:

With regards to the King Alfred café, the tenant who operated the café for many years terminated their agreement in April 2008 as they felt it was no longer financially viable.

Despite the redevelopment another operator was found on a trial basis but, unfortunately, after six months this operator has also found that it is not financially viable to run the café. Considerable effort was made by both the operator and leisure centre staff to make a success of this arrangement. However, such a lack of viability is not restricted to the King Alfred and has affected other Leisure Centres, for example, the café at the Prince Regent Swimming Complex was converted to a fitness gym many years ago.

Vending machines are available at the King Alfred which provide a basic service of drinks and snacks.

When there is greater certainty on the future of the King Alfred, there will be the opportunity to review both the provision of food and beverage together with the use of the café area."

20.52 Councillor Hamilton asked a supplementary question, "I would just like to follow up on the King Alfred please. At the time of setting this year's budget we were told that there would be no cuts in services. Do you accept that the withdrawal of a café facility at the King Alfred is a service cut?"

20.53 Councillor Smith replied "Not really. If you cannot get anyone to run a business it doesn't take place so really we have got the self-catering bit there and the kiosk on the King Alfred. When the council decides what the long term use for the King Alfred is, we may be in a position to do something."

20.54 (k) Councillor Oxley asked,

"If the Cabinet Member for Finance will estimate the cost of disaggregating Brighton and Hove City Council, into two separate Councils and if she will state the figure?"

20.55 Councillor Young replied,

"Thank you Councillor for a very interesting question. As I am sure you will be aware the council has not undertaken any financial analysis associated with the splitting of the existing council. However, I can give you the reorganisation costs associated with creating the unitary council in the first place, which at today's prices would be about £15million. These costs were recovered over approximately three years from the

savings generated by bringing the councils together. Creating two separate councils would not only lead to significant reorganisation costs but each council would cost more to run with duplication in the administration of services and a loss of economies of scale in the provision of most services. Financial analysis undertaken prior to the last reorganisation also showed that a separate Brighton Unitary Council and Hove Unitary Council would be financially unviable. Council taxpayers in both new councils would therefore be faced with higher council tax bills and poorer services.”

20.56 Councillor Oxley asked a supplementary question, “I am grateful to the Cabinet Member for Finance for indicating that any disaggregation of Brighton & Hove City Council in her estimate could be around £15m. She alludes, at the end of her written response to me, that that would lead to higher council taxes and poorer services and I would be grateful if she could give us some further detail on that?”

20.57 Councillor Young replied, “The council is already facing a tightening financial position which the separate councils would also face. In addition they would have to fully meet all the extra costs of reorganisation. For example, if the reorganisation costs were £15m then council tax would need to increase £161 or 13.5% or extra savings of £15m would need to be made in the budget. The extra costs associated with running two councils rather than one will add to the tax burden and the savings needed in services. As a Hove resident this may be a nice idea but it is not a financial reality.”

20.58 Councillor Carden asked a supplementary question “I would like to ask how much it would cost to set up a third authority for Portslade because I firmly and honestly believe the people of Portslade would run for it tomorrow?”

20.59 Councillor Young replied “As it’s £15m for two, maybe half of that, so if your residents of Portslade are quite happy to pay that then perhaps you should look at it more.”

20.60 (I) Councillor Marsh asked,

“Would the Cabinet member for Council confirm the pricing structure for hiring rooms/facilities in our Council owned leisure centres?”

20.61 Councillor Smith replied,

“Thank you Councillor Marsh for your question on the pricing structure of facilities within the council leisure centres.

Due to the large range of activities and facilities that are available within the leisure centres, guides are produced detailing the scale of charges. I have arranged for officers to send you copies of this information for council owned leisure centres.”

20.62 Councillor Marsh asked a supplementary question, “First of all can I thank Councillor Smith for his reply to my original question and for this very useful guide that he sent me. However, my question was actually about the rates for room hires within the leisure centres and not all the wonderful and great activities that are actually publicised in this guide, so not a lot of help there.

What I really want answered please is why it is that I have received complaints from my residents in Moulseccomb and Bevendean regarding the lack of community rates for room hire? I contacted leisure centres operated by DC Leisure on our behalf and found that none were prepared to offer community rates. Can you confirm have you axed the community rates scheme or if it is still around why is no-one aware of its existence?"

20.63 Councillor Smith replied, "All communities have got different rates, like when you have your councillors' surgery there may be only one of you there or two of you, and you get different rates for the sizes of the rooms. I think that based on the different size and the occupancy of rooms in all our venues and that there, but obviously I will look into it for you and come up with a more concrete answer."

20.64 Councillor Watkins asked a supplementary question "If Councillor Smith would ask the Scrutiny Committee that is responsible for his department to reinvigorate the scrutiny that we actually had on the charges of council owned properties, etc, I think three or four years ago and maybe this could be brought back to life again and we could check how best a one it actually was. It was a very interesting one.

We were promised that, in fact, our recommendations would be carried out. I think we are still waiting for that to happen actually but it was a very useful exercise and I think it would help in looking at how we charge for different parts of the community and how we charge for commercial, so I think that if Councillor Smith was agreeable, that this, in fact, would be a way of progressing this."

20.65 Councillor Smith replied "Thank you for the information Councillor Watkins, I will look into the matter and if necessary ask the Scrutiny Committee to review the situation."

20.66 (m) Councillor Randall asked,

"What is the effect of the credit crunch on the council's investments?"

20.67 Councillor Young replied,

"Like many organisations with substantial funds to invest the council is reviewing its investment policies all the time to reflect the rapidly changing market conditions. The Annual Investment Strategy for 2008/09 approved by Full Council earlier this year has provided a robust framework to minimise the impact of the turmoil in the financial markets.

- Firstly the ratings applied to each financial institution to assess credit worthiness ensure investment is made in only the highest quality names. Where institutions are rated downwards then these are either suspended or removed from the council's lending list.
- Secondly the investment parameters for each financial institution, such as the maximum amount invested in each institution and maximum period any investment in a particular institution can last, are regularly reviewed to ensure risk of loss through non repayment is minimised.

The financial crisis has meant short-term interest rates are higher than would normally be the case. These higher rates combined with better than expected council cash-flows has resulted in higher levels of projected investment income to the council of some £600,000 in the current financial year.”

20.68 Councillor Randall asked a supplementary question, “Well, I understand today that we have to thank the financial wizards who work in our department for moving last year £1m out of the Icelandic Banks which have now caused so many problems, so I think we should start off by applauding them. However, the situation changes daily and since the answer that I have been given by Councillor Young was written things have changed. I think what I would like to know is if we can have regular updates and constant reassurances that there are no further threats to either jobs or services in this council? I think all Councillors need to be kept abreast of that and indeed the general public.”

20.69 Councillor Young replied, “I was actually going to take the opportunity to advise the Members and the residents of Brighton & Hove City Council that we have no deposits in the Icelandic Banks. We suspended transactions with the one that we had about a year ago after picking up concerns in the market place about the Icelandic Banks expanding too quickly.

As you know our watchword is caution. We are very aware of our responsibilities in managing taxpayers money and are very careful both about whom we invest with and how much we invest. Clearly, as Councillor Randall said the overall financial situation is changing quite quickly and in an unpredictable way and in the current climate we will continue to monitor the situation on a daily basis and indeed, if necessary, on an hourly basis. I know we can rely on excellent investment staff to steer a clear path through what will be difficult times.”

20.70 (n) Councillor Randall asked,

“What is the effect of the credit crunch on the East Sussex Pension Fund investments?”

20.71 Councillor Young replied,

“The East Sussex Pension Fund is administered by East Sussex County Council. Investment decisions are made by the Pension Fund Investment Panel on which the council has two representatives.

The Panel is required to take a long-term view when setting investment policy and regularly reviews the mix of investments. Over the past few years the Panel has overseen a reduction in the proportion invested in equities and replaced this with cash and other fixed term investments.

The turmoil in markets has given rise to a reduction in the value of the Pension Fund from £1.7 billion to £1.6 billion over the six month period to 30 September 2008 but the Fund still remains in a strong position to meet both its short-term and long-term pension liabilities.

The reduction in the Fund's value will not affect the council's pension contributions to the Fund which were set in 2008/09 for three years. The next review will be carried out during 2011 and any changes to the council's contribution rate will be made in 2011/12."

20.72 Councillor Randall asked a supplementary question "Councillor Young will know that in 2004 a hole of about £60m was found in the Pension Fund which was a cause for some concern amongst some people in this room and the other 7,000 or so people who work for this council. We now know that there is quite a large reduction over the last six months in that Fund. Again I think it is deeply important that the council keeps the staff, in particular, informed about what the situation is with the Pension Fund. It is a very, very serious subject.

Incidentally, if East Sussex had invested more in ethical pensions and with ethical building societies they might not be in so much trouble but please could I again ask for information to be given on a regular basis and for everything to be transparent so we know what is happening?"

20.73 Councillor Young replied, "The response to your question was quite comprehensive as you know but I will take it upon myself to monitor, maybe not on a daily or an hourly basis but monthly to make sure that things are in accordance."

20.74 (o) Councillor Meadows asked,

"Would the Cabinet Member agree that Wild Park should be as accessible as possible to residents in Moulsecomb and Bevendean, especially those who are old, young and disabled?"

20.75 Councillor Theobald replied,

"Yes I do agree, but I am unsure whether your question relates to a specific difficulty of which I am unaware of.

I am pleased to say that we have planning permission for the Wild Park toilets and contractors are expected to start on site in November, with the facility opening in January, which will have a ramp installed. This means that not only will the toilet be accessible, but the ramp will also serve the café."

20.76 Councillor Meadows asked a supplementary question, "First of all I would like to thank Councillor Theobald for his answer and it would have made an excellent second supplementary, however it is not my supplementary.

Could the Cabinet Member commit to situating a controlled pedestrian crossing between Wild Park and the Barcombe Road shops? Many of my constituents have complained about the dual carriageway that separates them from their homes and Wild Park. They are prevented from crossing safely and easily, especially when they have young children or are elderly and disabled.

Can the Member please tell me whether he will guarantee the health and safety of residents by installing a controlled pedestrian crossing for this part of Moulsecomb?"

- 20.77 Councillor Theobald replied “Well I did try and consider what your supplementary questions might have been and I have to confess that I did not come up with that one.

I would have thought that if your residents think what you say they think then you would have put a petition in, or you would have written, or you would have asked a question directly on that particular point to have enabled me to have responded, so I can't give you a specific answer to that question and I don't think you expected me to.”

- 20.78 Councillor Marsh asked a supplementary question “I am really quite upset and angry about this, in fact Councillor Meadows and I have both been very busy consulting the residents and consulting with officers asking for this particular crossing to be installed.

This is if you like and we hoped it was the first and only bit of the process that you would make this commitment, because I don't know how many more children will have to be injured or how many more dangers we have to go through before you will commit to this. Of course if you won't then you will find us presenting petitions and having deputations and demonstrating and doing everything that we can to make this a safer place for residents in our Ward.

Would Councillor Theobald not agree that this is a matter of the highest priority and urgency for the residents of our Ward?”

- 20.79 “Unless I have got the data, unless I have got the facts, unless I have got the information in front of me, I cannot possibly give an answer and you should realise that. It is ludicrous to come along and make those sorts of claims and expect me to say yes, no or what have you. One needs these things and there is a priority system right across the city. You should know that you were running this council for the last 20 years, you should be aware of that.”

21. CALL OVER OF REPORTS OF THE CABINET, CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

- 21.1 (a) The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

Item 22 – Equalities & Inclusion Policy, Cabinet 18 September 2008
Item 23 – A Housing Local Delivery vehicle, Cabinet 24 September 2008
Item 24 – Food for Life Partnership Standards, Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 24 September 2008.

- 21.2 (b) As all the items on the agenda had been called, the Chief Executive was not required to confirm the approval of reports which had not been called.

- 21.3 (c) There were no oral questions from councillors in relation to matters that had not been called.

22. EQUALITIES & INCLUSION POLICY - FOR DECISION

- 22.1 Councillor Mears formerly moved the report of the Cabinet, which recommended the adoption of a new Equalities & Inclusion Policy.

- 22.2 Councillor McCaffery welcomed the report and stated that she had intended to move some minor amendments; however she would raise these within the scrutiny process and with officers separately.
- 22.3 Councillor Elgood welcomed the revised policy and stated that he felt it was heading in broadly the right direction and was pleased to see the corporate-wide approach that had been taken. He also welcomed the opportunity for the Overview & Scrutiny Organisation Commission to have considered the policy and put forward views to the Cabinet. With the policy in mind, he hoped that a Dignity in Employment policy would be forthcoming to complement the Equalities & Inclusion Policy and that Members would have the opportunity to feed into the process.
- 22.4 Councillor Simson stated that it was a key policy for the council and its partner organisations, which would be reviewed regularly by the City Inclusion Partnership. She hoped that further improvements would be made over the next year and noted that a working group had just begun to look at the development of a Dignity at Work Policy, with a view to having a draft policy drawn up for consultation.
- 22.5 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the policy and stated that its success would depend on well it was implemented with the council and by partner organisations.
- 22.6 Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett stated that it was a very important document and particularly welcomed the reference to domestic violence. She was however, concerned as to how the public and Members would be able to raise any matters in respect of the policy following the ending of the Equalities Forum and the City Inclusion Partnership not being open to the public or having cross-party representation.
- 22.7 Councillor Randall welcomed the report and stated that it was a very important document; however, he was concerned that it left a gap in not taking into account the discrimination and prejudice suffered by older people. He hoped that in any review this issue could be looked at and incorporated.
- 22.8 Councillor Mears thanked the Members for their positive comments and stated that she was happy to give consideration to addressing the concerns around older people, although she noted that there was reference to age within the policy document. She stated that she expected her Cabinet Members to lead on the issue in their respective areas and noted that the council had been nominated by Stonewall as the second best local employer.
- 22.9 The Mayor offered his congratulations to Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett on her maiden speech, and noted that recommendations of the report had been moved and sought confirmation from the council.
- 22.10 The motion was carried.

Refreshment Break

- 22.11 The Mayor stated that in view of the time and in wishing to give the opportunity for a full debate on the next item, he proposed to adjourn the meeting for the refreshment break.
- 22.12 The meeting was then adjourned at 6.10pm.
- 22.13 Following the refreshment break, the Mayor sought to reconvene the meeting at 6.40pm, however, having consulted with the Chief Executive, the Mayor noted that the meeting was inquorate and in accordance with procedural rules adjourned the meeting for a further five minutes.
- 22.14 The meeting was then adjourned at 6.40pm.
- 22.15 The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6.45pm.

23. A HOUSING LOCAL DELIVERY VEHICLE - FOR DECISION

- 23.1 Councillor Mears formerly moved the report and the recommendations.
- 23.2 Councillor Randall welcomed the report in principle and the intentions behind the proposed Local Delivery Vehicle. He queried whether the leasing of up to 500 homes over 5 years would be achieved and whether the management would remain in the council's control. He also hoped that sustainability considerations would be at the heart of the improvement programme such as the use of renewables and water conservation. He hoped that assurances would be given to tenants in terms of their position and relations with the council and felt that more questions would need to be answered to satisfy concerns held by tenants and councillors.
- 23.3 Councillor Simpson stated that she supported the proposal in principle but also felt that there was some work required to ease concerns. She was unsure about the financial position and felt that further consultations were required with tenants as matters progressed as there had not been sufficient time to discuss issues prior to the report coming to council. She therefore sought reassurance that the usual consultation mechanisms would be used and that the representations of the Housing Management Consultative Committee to the Cabinet on the 24th September would be taken on board.
- 23.4 Councillor Caulfield stated that she was proud to present the report to council. It had been the culmination of a great deal of work involving tenants, councillors and officers, and she wished to place on record her thanks to those officers involved. The proposal to establish a Local delivery Vehicle had resulted from the withdrawal of finding by the Government following the tenants' 'no-vote' to the question of stock transfer. It was felt that this would provide the best means of raising finances to enable a programme of works to bring the council's housing stock up to the Decent Homes Standard as a minimum. She believed that there was a need to safeguard the position of tenants and to ensure that in today's climate all tenants had a decent home to live in. There would be no net loss to the housing stock or the leasing of secured tenancies as a result of the proposed Delivery Vehicle. Should the council approve the recommendations, then it would be the start of the process and she would ensure all interested parties were involved in taking matters forward.

- 23.5 Councillor Elgood stated that there was a need to take action and the proposed Delivery Vehicle offered a way forward. However, he held some concerns such as who would retain responsibility planning applications, would there be an opportunity for cross-party representation at the proposed Cabinet Sub-Committee, which was yet to be established, and how would overview & scrutiny be involved in the process.
- 23.6 Councillor Fryer welcomed the report and stated that she wished to echo the thanks given to the officers involved in bringing the matter forward. She also had some questions with regard to nomination rights, leaseback arrangements, the question of charitable status and consultants' fees, which she hoped could be addressed.
- 23.7 Members of the council welcomed the report and recognised the need to find a means whereby the shortfall in resources could be found to enable the housing stock to be brought up to the Decent Homes Standard. Members noted that approval for the scheme from the Secretary of State was required and that a great deal of work had been undertaken since the no-vote in 2007. It was recognised that further work was required to enable answers to be given to concerns raised and that close financial monitoring would be imperative.
- 23.8 Councillor Mears noted the comments and thanked the Members of the council for their indicative support to the proposed Delivery Vehicle. She believed it offered a way forward and as Leader of the Council would ensure that there would be open and transparent consultation and decision-making throughout the process. She confirmed that the council would retain 100% nomination rights and that break-clauses would be included in the agreement. There were a number of options to be explored in terms of whether to use public or private investment, to seek charitable status etc. and these would need to be consulted on and discussed as the process developed. However, approval of the recommendations had to be given and then approval sought from the Secretary of State before such matters could be addressed. She was hopeful that approval would be given, officers had already explored the concept and held discussions with government officials and she wished to pay tribute to their work to date in that respect. She also wished to personally thank the Chief Executive for his inspirational support in this matter.
- 23.9 The Mayor noted that the recommendations of the report had been moved and sought confirmation from the council.
- 23.10 The motion was carried.

24. FOOD FOR LIFE PARTNERSHIP STANDARDS - FOR INFORMATION

- 24.1 Councillor Older introduced the report which outlined the Food for Life Partnership scheme and the role of the city schools in meeting or working towards the bronze standard. She noted that St. Andrews school in Hove had reached the standard and it was hoped others would follow. She also noted that it was hoped at least one school would attain flagship status in 2010 when the option to enter the national scheme was open to East Sussex schools. In the meantime it was intended to seek further funding to support schools in working towards bronze and silver standard.

- 24.2 Councillor Steedman welcomed the report and stated that he believed it was an excellent initiative which should be supported and hoped would see all schools reaching gold standard eventually.
- 24.3 Councillor Hawkes welcomed the report and stated that some schools were almost at the bronze standard and she was sure would reach it shortly. However, there was a lot required to reach silver standard and an impact both in terms of costs and resources which would need to be considered before schools could begin to work towards the next level.
- 24.4 Councillor Mrs. Brown welcomed the initiative and stated that there would be a need to monitor the benefits and cost implications, but the aim was for all schools to reach the bronze standard.
- 24.5 The Mayor noted that the report had been referred to council for information and sought confirmation from the council.
- 24.6 The report was noted.

25. NOTICES OF MOTION.

(a) Impact of School Costs on Families

- 25.1 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Hawkes and seconded by Councillor Morgan.
- 25.2 Councillor Fryer moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Duncan and accepted by Councillor Hawkes.
- 25.3 Councillor Mrs. Brown moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Older, which was put to the vote by the Mayor and lost.
- 25.4 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

“Every child in Britain has the right to a free, state education, yet for many families meeting the costs of school uniform, school trips and specialist equipment poses a real challenge that can contribute to debt and financial hardship.

This council seeks to play its part in ensuring that financial help and advice available to families in relation to the broader costs of attending school are effectively communicated and recognises that a child’s confidence and ability to learn can be affected by their not having the same opportunities as others due to an inability to pay.

This council notes that:

- Latest figures published by the Campaign to End Child Poverty a coalition of charities and campaign groups including Save the Children and the TUC show that

50 per cent of children in Brighton Kemptown, 39 per cent of children in Hove and 37 per cent of children in Brighton Pavilion are living in poverty.

- In a 2007 survey of parents undertaken by the Schools Costs Coalition, 3/4 of parents of secondary school children and 2/3 of parents of primary school children found it difficult to meet the costs of school uniforms and school trips.
- There is a lack of knowledge about available financial assistance.
- There is widespread concern that the children of families unable to meet these costs are more likely to suffer bullying and to be disciplined as a result.
- That the Government's new Admissions Code to be implemented in September 2008 does, for the first time, make clear the importance of limiting the cost of school uniform and school trips.

This council therefore resolves to:

Give its support to the 'Adding up' campaign led by the Citizen's Advice Bureau that highlights the range and impact of school costs on families and gives guidance to schools on how those costs can be mitigated.

Instruct the Chief Executive of Brighton & Hove City Council to write to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families urging him to:

- Ensure the Government keeps its 1999 promise to half child poverty levels by 2010 and eradicates child poverty from the UK by 2020.
- Accept the requests in Early Day Motion 1234 from John Battle MP that a statutory duty is placed on local authorities to provide uniform grants for families in receipt of maximum child tax credit.
- For the Government to identify a budget for the provision of standardised school uniform and school trip grants to Local Authorities.
- Consider making the school costs requirements of the new Admissions Code enforceable via the Schools Adjudicator who should have the power to investigate on behalf of parents.
- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People to give consideration to bringing forward a report to an early meeting of the Children & Young People's Trust Board setting out the council's approach to working with schools to ensure that families are informed of support available, how the LEA will achieve compliance with the new Admissions Code in relation to keeping school costs low and explores the provision of an appropriate sum within the 2009/2010 budget for the LEA to use as grant funding in this regard."

25.5 The motion was carried.

(b) Fair Tips for Hotel and Restaurant Staff

- 25.6 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Morgan and seconded by Councillor Davis.
- 25.7 Councillor Oxley moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Hyde which was put to the vote by the Mayor and carried.
- 25.8 Councillor Duncan moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Rufus, which was put to the vote by the Mayor and lost.
- 25.9 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

“A significant part of Brighton and Hove’s economy is dependent on the hospitality sector, with many hundreds of restaurants and hotels employing thousands of staff to serve their customers.

This council welcomes the tightening of legislation by the Labour Government, which will now prevent businesses from making up the minimum wage of their staff with money from tips or service charges. This was a result of the Fair Tips Charter Campaign by Unite the union, and while recognising there are honourable owners of hotels, restaurants, and other hospitality outlets who ensure that all gratuities are paid to their staff in addition to at least the minimum wage without deductions, acknowledges that this is not always the case.

This council is also aware that HM Revenue and Customs class service charges, cover charges, gratuities and tips as gratuities for national insurance contributions purposes, yet many hospitality establishments still treat these as extra payments to the proprietors and do not pass them on to their staff and often use them to pay for extras such as ‘customer walk outs’ and breakages.

This council supports responsible businesses who:

- Pay all employees at least the minimum wage with 100% of tips added on top as a bonus with no hidden charges.
- Reach agreement on how tips are shared with those staff directly.
- Make no deductions from tips to cover breakages, till shortages or customer walk-outs.
- Make all rules for the distribution of tips and service charges available in writing for staff and customers on request.

However, this Council notes that it is not local councils, but the Government’s HM Revenue & Customs department who are responsible for policing the minimum wage and national insurance contributions, and, therefore, resolves to write to them requesting information on the actions being taken to ensure that the national minimum wage is enforced fairly and effectively in Brighton & Hove.”

25.10 The motion was carried.

(c) Sexual Violence

25.11 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor McCaffery and seconded by Councillor Hawkes.

25.12 Councillor Simson moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Mears and accepted by Councillor McCaffery.

25.13 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

“This council welcomes the proposed strategy to combat sexual violence and abuse in the public domain as well as the domestic domain as set out in the Community Safety Strategy proposed for 2008 – 2011 and recommends increasing the support provided to victims. Reduction in the level of sexual violence is now a performance indicator for the first time.

The government’s guidance confirms that sexual violence and abuse in adulthood are massively under-reported by both male and female victims. This council notes that 98% of offenders are male and 82% of victims are female.

Women suffer from rape in much greater numbers than men. Women have a greater fear of rape than any other crime. Moreover the conviction rate is only 6%.

57.5% of sex workers reported that they had experienced violence or abuse and, of those, only 12.5% had reported those incidents to the police.

Research indicates a strong correlation between alcohol and sexual violence and that perpetrators and victims of assault are likely to have consumed alcohol.

This Council notes that the most successful method of tackling sexual violence is through multi-agency working as local authorities are reliant on the police to catch and prosecute those who commit sexual violence.

This Council notes that the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership are producing a holistic strategy to tackle sexual violence due to be published by January 2009.

This council proposes that the Cabinet Member for Community Affairs, Inclusion & Internal Relations gives consideration to ensuring that:

- Strategies to reduce sexual violence and violence against women be given as high a priority as domestic violence in all council policies such as the Licensing Act, the Sex Workers Strategy, Gender Equality Action Plans, and HR Policies.
- The correlation between alcohol consumption and sexual violence be recognised when drawing up safety strategies, for the “night time” economy (such as closely monitoring and reviewing the number of premises selling alcohol, and lobbying the

Government to give local authorities greater control of the licensing of establishments offering sexual stimulation)

- Provide appropriate and effective support to the victims, such as crisis centres and counseling recognising the majority are victims are women.
- When recommendations are produced by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership they are used to inform the council's approach to the provision of appropriate financial support to those third sector organizations who have the experience to provide appropriate support."

25.14 The motion was carried.

(d) Renewable Energy Tariff

25.15 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Steedman and seconded by Councillor Wakefield-Jarrett.

25.16 Councillor Oxley moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Cobb and accepted by Councillor Steedman.

25.17 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

"This council notes:

- that the UK produces less than 2% of its total energy from Renewable Energy sources and is at the bottom the European Renewable Energy 'league table'.
- that countries in the European Union that have adopted a fixed term Renewable Energy Tariff such as Germany, Italy and Spain have seen a substantial rise in the percentage of their energy from renewable sources.
- that by establishing a framework and requirement for local renewable energy generation Brighton & Hove will make a significant contribution to carbon dioxide reduction and enjoy greater protection from cost instability. Such uncertainty over future energy costs makes it extremely difficult for both public and private sector organisations in our City to forward plan.

Therefore this council:

- Supports the amendment to the Energy Bill currently before Parliament that calls on Government to establish a Renewable Energy Tariff within 12 months for the generation of local renewable heat, renewable power and renewable gas.
- Notes that the amendment – the 'new clause 4' – is supported by the front benches of both the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties in the House of Commons but not by the Labour Government.
- Requests the Chief Executive to write to the new Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband MP, calling on the UK Government to act with urgency and to ensure the adoption of a Tariff for local energy under the current Energy Bill

which has been delayed over the summer, and to copy his letter to appropriate lobbying bodies.”

25.18 The motion was carried.

(e) Review of Gurkha Rights

25.19 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Harmer-Strange and seconded by Councillors Elgood and Janio.

25.20 Councillor Harmer-Strange informed the council that as a result of the recent High Court Ruling announced on the 7th October, in accordance with procedural rule 13.5 he wished to alter his notice of motion to reflect the outcome. As the designated Secunder on the motion Councillor Elgood formerly seconded the amended motion.

25.21 Councillor Marsh moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Mitchell, which was put to the vote by the Mayor and lost.

25.22 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

“In November, residents of Brighton & Hove will once again mark the dedication and commitment of those who have served in and supported this country’s armed forces.

This Council:

Welcomes the opening in Reading of the first UK office of the United British-Gurkha Ex-Servicemen’s Association.

Recognises that Gurkhas have played an active front line part in the British Army’s activities in times of war and peace for nearly 200 years. In this period approximately 300,000 have fought alongside United Kingdom soldiers, with 45,000 of them being either killed or wounded.

Acknowledges that the Government announced in September 2004 a change in immigration rules that allowed Gurkhas who had served in the British Army to settle in the United Kingdom with their families.

Notes with concern however that this offer has only been extended to cover those Gurkhas who had served at least four years and been discharged after 1st July 1997.

Welcomes the High Court’s decision acknowledge the “moral debt of honour” to the Gurkhas and overturn the Government’s unlawful denial of full immigration rights to the Gurkhas.

Notes the Government’s agreement to review all Gurkha immigration cases by the end of the year.

Expresses concern that the Home Secretary has made no commitment ending the discrimination of Gurkhas and may still deny Gurkhas the right to remain in the UK despite the landmark High Court ruling.

Wishes to highlight that the Government has made no announcement on giving Gurkhas a fair deal on their pensions and they are still denied proper remuneration for their sacrifice and long years of service.

In view of this, this Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and the Secretary of State for Defence, asking them to:

1. accept the High Court ruling and change the immigration rules for ex Ghurkha soldiers and their families,
2. consider their rights of citizenship and voting,
3. offer Gurkhas a fair deal on their pensions.”

25.23 The motion was carried.

(f) Supporting the Blind and Visually Impaired People in Brighton and Hove

25.24 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Pidgeon and seconded by Councillor Smith.

25.25 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

“This Council notes the recent publication of ‘Good Practice in Sight’ (October 2008) by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and supports its advocacy of the well-being of people who are blind or visually impaired.

We also note the support for the report from The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and the Department of Health.

In accordance with Good Practice in Sight, this Council supports the increase in person-centred delivery of care services as a way of offering each individual the most appropriate support.

This Council:

1. Praises the implementation of the ‘Putting People First’ concordat that gives visually impaired people access to individual budgets, accompanied by comprehensive advice and support so that they can make best use of them.
2. Calls on the Director for Adult Social Care to continue to acknowledge and support the particular needs of blind or visually impaired people and maintain the high standards of care they receive from Brighton & Hove City Council during the transition to greater self-directed budgeting.

3. Recognises the importance of early intervention services when dealing with people who have recently suffered sight loss and asks that Brighton & Hove care services continue, wherever possible, to be proactive in identifying and assisting those with new sight loss problems.
4. Requests that Brighton & Hove City Council continues to work closely with voluntary sector partners in order to provide a joined-up network of support for blind or visually impaired people and their carers.
5. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the LGA requesting that they disseminate the information and encourage member authorities to implement the best practice recommendations in 'Good Practice in Sight.'

25.26 The motion was carried.

(g) Proposed Changes to Local ITV News

25.27 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Fallon-Khan and seconded by Councillor Older.

25.28 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

"This Council notes with concern the current proposals by ITV to merge the three Meridian news services – Meridian South East, Meridian South and Thames Valley - into one, from the start of 2009. This new regional programme will cover an area stretching from Kent and south Essex in the east to Dorset in the west as well as north to Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

Nationwide, ITV plans to axe local news services and halve regional services whilst cutting up to 50% from regional news budgets.

This Council believes that the proposed cuts will result in a worse service for viewers with new regional services covering wide and inappropriate geographical areas. Ultimately, the result will be that local people are less well informed of local issues.

Furthermore, this Council notes that the Office of Communication's (OFCOM) second review of Public Service Broadcasting, published in September, broadly backed the ITV proposals on news coverage and that OFCOM are now carrying out a consultation on the review, which closes on 4th December.

The Council therefore resolves to:

1. Make representations to OFCOM's Public Service Broadcasting review consultation, urging them to review these plans and act in the interests of the residents of Brighton & Hove, many of whom rely on ITV Meridian news to keep them informed of local issues. Alternative sustainable models should be explored by the Government, OFCOM and ITV themselves to help preserve local news into the future.

2. Write to the City's three MPs urging them to support the Council's response and to make representations to Government to highlight the concern for the loss of local news services."

25.29 The motion was carried.

(h) Extension of TV Licence Concessions for the Elderly

25.30 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Caulfield and seconded by Councillor Barnett.

25.31 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

"This Council calls on the Government to extend TV License Concessions to retired elderly or disabled people living in or sheltered accommodation.

This Council believes that the current system is deeply unjust because it sees some benefit while others get nothing.

At present elderly and disabled people, who live in sheltered housing, can only receive TV license concessions if their accommodation meets the strict eligibility criteria set out by the Government.

One of the most stringent elements of the criteria is that TV license concessions are only granted if sheltered homes have a person (e.g. warden) whose function is to care for the needs of the residents. The individual or warden must either live on site or work in the sheltered accommodation for at least 30 hours a week for the concession to be granted.

This Council thinks that it is wholly unfair that many residents of Brighton and Hove sheltered accommodation (such as those in Hazelholt and Evelyn Court) are excluded from the scheme because they do not have a warden who works more than 30 hours a week.

This Council believes that there is no justifiable reason why not having a warden on-site for more than 30 hours should disbar disabled or retired elderly people from receiving a TV license concession. Furthermore this policy seems contrary to greater personalised care being introduced by local authorities across the country as fewer people will benefit for TV license concessions.

Consequently, this Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Government to ask them to correct this injustice and make TV licence concessions available to disabled and retired elderly residents in sheltered accommodation regardless of whether they have a full-time warden or not."

25.32 The motion was carried.

(i) Food Recycling Scheme

25.33 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor McCaffery and seconded by Councillor Davis.

25.34 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

“Kitchen waste currently makes up one third of the domestic refuse in Brighton and Hove waste stream, which we should be diverting away from landfill or incineration.

Work on a Local Waste Strategy that would have continued the reduction of waste in Brighton and Hove, was started by the previous administration in conjunction with local residents, interest groups and businesses. It is a matter of regret that this strategy has not been published for discussion by this council.

Nineteen Local Authorities carried out kerbside food waste collection pilots under the WRAP, with very good results. They reported:

Collectively the trials provided a service to over 94,000 households and during the trials a total of 4,400 tonnes of food waste was diverted from landfill avoiding the emission of the equivalent of 2,000 tonnes of CO₂ (assuming that all the food waste went to in-vessel composting). Average food waste yields per household served per week ranged from 0.3 kg (bring scheme) to 2.2 kg (kerbside); this is equivalent to each household avoiding the equivalent of between 0.1 kg and 0.99 kg of CO₂ each week.

Such a scheme would continue the good work already started by the previous administration in terms of driving down levels of waste throughout the city.

This council therefore requests the Cabinet Member for Environment to give consideration to applying to the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) for support in setting up a food recycling scheme.”

25.35 The vote was tied and in the absence of a casting vote being used by the Mayor, the status-quo remained and the motion was lost.

(j) The Development of ‘Green Industries’ in Brighton and Hove

25.36 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Randall and seconded by Councillor Kennedy.

25.37 Councillor Turton moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Mitchell and accepted by Councillor Randall.

25.38 Councillor Oxley moved an amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Kemble and accepted by Councillor Randall.

25.39 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion as amended to the vote:

“*This council notes:*

- (1) The critical importance of an expansion of 'green' industries as part of the move to a low-carbon economy in the UK.
- (2) The large-scale 'green collar' employment opportunities offered by any expansion.
- (3) The publication in September of the Government's new industry strategy, *Manufacturing: new challenges, new opportunities*, which promises almost £150 million of medium term support for UK manufacturing to develop skills and to target the opportunities created by the move toward a low carbon economy.
- (4) The conclusion in the *Brighton and Hove City Employment and Skills plan 2008/2011* that 16,000 additional jobs must be created in the city during the next ten years, if we are to get close to reaching the national aspiration of an employment rate of 80 per cent.
- (5) The success of our city in embracing new ideas and new technologies to build and sustain a thriving creative industries sector.
- (6) The recent announcement by the Committee on Climate Change that a cut in carbon emissions of 80% by 2050 is achievable and the statement by the Prime minister on 23rd September that this would create at least one million extra jobs.

The council therefore:

- (1) Requests the executive to consider the potential for supporting and encouraging the development of 'green industries' in Brighton and Hove in the context of the city's new *Business Retention and Inwards Investment Study*, which will be published shortly.
- (2) Instructs the Chief Executive to write to SEEDA to request funding to further promote growth of the 'green economy' in Brighton and Hove."

25.40 The motion was carried.

(k) Sustainable Communities Act

25.40 The Notice of Motion as detailed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillors Simson and Elgood.

25.41 Councillor Mitchell moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Morgan, which as put to the vote by the Mayor and lost.

25.42 The Mayor then put the following Notice of Motion to the vote:

"That this Council

- (i) notes that local authorities and their communities know best how to improve local areas and solve local problems and so should determine how to promote thriving communities; and so

- (ii) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the help and assistance that central government gives to promote thriving, sustainable communities;
- (iii) notes that the Act became law in October 2007 with full cross party support and that this was a result of 5 year campaign run by a coalition of over 90 national citizens organisations called Local Works;
- (iv) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to
- make proposals to government on the action and help government must take or give to promote sustainable communities in that local authority's area, and
 - argue for a transfer of public money spent in that local authority's area and it's related function from central to local control;
- (v) notes that the Act defines the sustainability of local communities broadly, that definition having the 4 aspects of
- the improvement of the local economy,
 - protection of the environment,
 - promotion of social inclusion, and
 - participation in civic and political activity;
- (vi) notes that the Local Works coalition, that campaigned for 5 years to see the Act become law, give a number of reasons for why a local authority should choose to use the Act, those reasons being
1. Assistance from government - Community decline is happening everywhere and local authorities are not able to prevent it on their own. They need government help. This Act gives government a legal duty 'to assist local authorities in promoting the sustainability of local communities'. So by 'opting in' local authorities are, in fact, signing up to receive that 'assistance'.
 2. Power to determine that assistance - The Act also gives local authorities (and their representative body, the Local Government Association) real power to determine the nature of the assistance that they receive from government, as explained more fully in our campaign broadsheet on implementing the Act (contact us for free copies).
 3. Strength in numbers - By opting in, local authorities can act in unison to put in proposals to government supported by their colleagues elsewhere. Joint suggestions by many authorities will make it even harder for the government to refuse to act on suggestions made by local authorities.
 4. Transferring functions and monies from central to local control - The Act also enables local authorities - and thus local authorities acting together - to request the transfer of functions from government or government agencies to themselves. Because decisions on these requests must be made by the LGA and the Secretary of State trying to reach agreement (i.e. in co-operation), this can be

used to regain from central government control of many powers and spending that affect local areas.

5. Access to Central Spending Accounts Information - The requirement in the Act for the government to 'open the books' will mean that local authorities will know just how much extra money they can access if they push for a transfer of functions.
6. Democratic citizen involvement - All politicians (and many local authority officers) talk a lot about lack of public involvement in democracy. The recent Power report showed that the more people think that their involvement matters, the more they are likely to get involved. The very 'hassle' required by this Act (reaching agreement with – not consulting – citizens' panels) empowers citizens. Local authorities may well consider that this is a way of increasing citizen involvement; and

(vii) resolves:

- when invited to by central government, to consider using the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help; and
- to request the Chief Executive to write to local MPs and the Local Works campaign, informing them of this decision.”

25.43 The motion was carried.

26. REFERRED NOTICES OF MOTION

- 26.1 The Mayor noted that the Notice of Motion concerning a memorial for Ken Fines had been referred to the Environment Cabinet Member meeting for consideration under procedural rule 8.2.

PART TWO

27. SCHEDULE OF INITIAL HRA PROPERTIES FOR LEASING TO THE LDV

- 27.1 The information provided within the schedule which had been circulated to Members only was noted.

28. PART 2 ITEMS

- 28.1 The Mayor asked whether or not the information provided in Item 27 should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.
- 28.2 The council agreed that Item 27 contained in Part 2 of the agenda and information thereon should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 10.15pm

Signed

Mayor

Dated this

Day of

2008