

Brighton & Hove City Council**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE****4.00pm 3 April 2008****HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Oxley (Chair); Councillor Mrs. Brown (Deputy Chair), Councillor Mrs. Mears (Deputy Chair), Councillors Elgood, Fryer, Hamilton, Hawkes, Kemble, Meadows, Mitchell (OS), Mrs Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Randall, Taylor and Theobald.

PART ONE**ACTION****185. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS****(A) Declarations of Substitutes**

185.1 Councillor Fryer declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute for Councillor Wrighton.

(B) Declarations of Interest

185.2 Councillor Mears declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item No's 207 and 218, in respect of the Open Market and stated that she would leave the meeting during consideration of the items.

(C) Exclusion of Press and Public

185.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100B(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

185.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items appearing on Part 2 of the Agenda.

186. Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 March 2008.

186.1 **RESOLVED** – That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6 March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

187. Chairman's Communications.

187.1 The Chairman stated that he wished to take Item No.196 after the Members' letters in view of the interest in the matter, and then Item No.211 as the Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel, Mr. Keane was in attendance.

188. Callover

188.1 **RESOLVED** – That with the exception of the items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate.

189. Public Questions

189.1 The Chairman noted that no public questions had been submitted for the meeting.

190. REQUEST FOR REPORT OUTLINING OPTIONS TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS OF THE WASTE CONTRACT.

190.1 Councillor Fryer introduced her letter and requested that a report be brought forward detailing what aspects of the waste contract could be renegotiated, in order to address concerns around recycling and the ability to achieve a zero waste strategy.

190.2 The Chairman stated that there was a need to recognise that the waste management contract had been signed by a number of parties and had been entered into, which meant that it could not be unilaterally re-negotiated. He noted that a review of the contract had been built into the agreement and therefore did not feel that a further report would be beneficial at this time.

190.3 **RESOLVED** – That the letter be noted.

The Chairman noted that the following three items all referred to the similar issue of the closure of post offices and therefore suggested that they be taken together in one debate.

191. SAVING OUR POST OFFICES.**192. COUNCIL RUN POST OFFICES.****193. POST OFFICE.**

- 193.1 Councillors Randall, Mitchell and Elgood introduced their letters and expressed their concern over the number of closures and suggested that officers should contact colleagues in Essex to see if proposals there to maintain post office services could be replicated in Brighton & Hove.
- 193.2 The Chairman noted the concern and stated that he had asked officers to contact their counterparts in Essex and to report back on the options for Brighton & Hove.
- 193.3 **RESOLVED** – That the letters be noted and that both Members and the public be kept informed of the investigations being undertaken by officers so that their views could be taken into account.
- *194. HOUSING GREEN PAPER.**
- 194.1 Councillor Mears introduced the report which outlined a range of options and opportunities offered in the Housing Green Paper for councils to play a more active role in the creation and continuity of local communities (for copy see minute book).
- 194.2 Members of the committee welcomed the report and noted that a further report would be brought forward in due course.
- 194.3 **RESOLVED** –
- (1) That the range of options and opportunities offered in the Housing Green paper be noted and that these are to be examined in detail in order to ascertain whether a sustainable case can be made for further development in order to support strategic housing and other priorities in the City;
 - (2) That it be noted that external financial and legal advice is being sought in order to support officers to undertake the detailed analysis of the practicalities of taking forward any Housing Green Paper options or opportunity; and
 - (3) That it be noted that the Chairman of Housing is committed to ensuring that a detailed report on this analysis of options be brought forward through the Council decision making process and the case made to enable the further development of any appropriate model.
- *195. CARBON MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME.**
- 195.1 Councillor Mrs Norman introduced the report, which provided an update on the progress of the council's Carbon Management Programme (for copy see minute book).

195.2 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Carbon Management Programme Annual Report be noted; and
- (2) That consideration should be given to increasing the Size of the Carbon Management Fund in due course.

***196. A NEW CONSTITUTION FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE.**

- 196.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the proposed new constitution for the city council (for copy see minute book).
- 196.2 The Chairman introduced the report and stated that a terrific amount of work had gone into producing the proposed new constitution, and he wished to convey his thanks to the respective Leaders of the Groups and those officers involved in bringing the constitution to the meeting. He believed that the constitution provided an open and transparent decision-making system which could be taken forward and noted that there would be some finessing to it over the next 6 months and year.
- 196.3 Councillor Elgood acknowledged the amount of work that had gone into bringing the constitution forward, however he still regretted the loss of the committee system. He was concerned about the lack of consultation in respect of the new constitution and would be bringing a number of amendments to the council meeting on the 24 April. He also noted that Green Group had submitted an amendment and he would be supporting that in due course.
- 196.4 The Chairman noted the comments and the fact that the question of when the council should move to a Leader & Cabinet model had been debated on a number of occasions. He was aware of the concerns held by Councillor Elgood and felt that some of these could be addressed during discussions prior to the council meeting.
- 196.5 Councillor Mitchell stated that she believed there was a need to move forward and wished to add her thanks to the officers, Group Leaders and the Leader for their work in developing the constitution. She also had some reservations about aspects of the constitution but hoped these could be resolved in due course.
- 196.6 Councillor Theobald stated that it was a complex document and not one that residents were really interested in, which was shown by the number of responses to date. He also wished to thank the officers for the work undertaken in enabling the constitution to be brought to the meeting.

- 196.7 Councillor Mears wished to give her thanks to the Leaders Group and officers for their work and stated that she believed it provided an open and transparent decision-making system.
- 196.8 Councillor Taylor stated that he could not support the recommendations of the report and that there would be a number of detailed amendments from the Green Group submitted to Council on the 24 April. Whilst he had intended to move an amendment today he felt it was appropriate to wait and therefore withdraw it at this time. He was concerned over the lack of consultation and ability for Members to debate the issues and felt that the process should be delayed.
- 196.9 The Chairman noted the comments and stated that discussions were still ongoing in respect of parts of the constitution but overall he felt the council had a constitution that it could adopt.
- 196.10 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND -**
- (1) That the work undertaken in preparing for a new constitution following the decision of Policy & Resources Committee on 29th November 2007 be noted;
 - (2) That the responses received to the statutory advertisement setting out proposals as approved by Council on 13th March 2008 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be noted;
 - (3) That the draft New Constitution for Brighton & Hove as set out in Appendix 2 to the report including the size of committees as set out in paragraph 19 and Appendix 4 be noted and approved;
 - (4) That, in accordance with Section 29 of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 71 of the Local Government and the Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the adoption of a Leader and Cabinet Executive as detailed in the draft constitution set out in Appendix 2 to the report be agreed;
 - (5) That the new constitution should come into effect immediately following the Council's Annual General Meeting on 15th May 2008;
 - (6) That the newly established Governance Committee undertake a review of the constitution's operation after 6 full months of implementation and a detailed review of its impact after 12 full months and report its findings and any recommendations to Full Council;
 - (7) That both the actions taken to support the effectiveness of the new constitution and the transition arrangements proposed as set out in the report be noted;

- (8) That the meeting timetable set out in Appendix 5 to the report be approved;
- (9) That the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer (jointly or separately) be authorised to take all steps necessary or incidental to the implementation of the new constitution;
- (10) That the Head of Law be authorised to make minor alterations to correct any typographical, numbering or other presentational errors and to take all steps necessary to comply with the requirements of section 29(2) of the Local Government Act 2000 regarding publicity, inspection of the constitution etc.. and
- (11) That Full Council be recommended to approve the resolutions of the Committee as set out above.

***197. LOCAL INVOLVEMENT NETWORK (LINK) PROCUREMENT OF A HOST ORGANISATION.**

- 197.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the progress made in contracting a Host organisation to establish, maintain and support the Brighton & Hove Local Involvement Network (LINK), (for copy see minute book).
- 197.2 Councillor Taylor sought assurance that the award of the contract would include safeguards around the breadth of the programme.
- 197.3 Councillor Ken Norman stated that three organisations had been invited to tender and following evaluation it was recommended that CVSF should be awarded the contract. He believed that the assurance requested by Councillor Taylor would be met by the Host organisation.
- 197.4 **RESOLVED –**
 - (1) That the progress made so far on procuring a Host organization be noted; and
 - (2) That the appointment of the Brighton & Hove Community and Voluntary Sector Forum (CVSF) as the Host organisation for the Brighton & Hove LINK be approved.

***198. ICT FUND.**

- 198.1 Councillor Mrs Norman introduced the report which set out the proposals for the use of the 2008/09 ICT Fund to help achieve the council's business objectives (for copy see minute book).
- 198.2 **RESOLVED –** That the allocation of the ICT Fund as set out in the report be agreed.

199. ASSET MANAGEMENT FUND 2008 – 2009.

199.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Property, concerning the Asset Management Fund (AMF) 2008/09, which was a new capital fund to support property improvements (for copy see minute book).

199.2 **RESOLVED** – That the recommended AMF bids totalling £1.0m as itemized at paragraph 3.3 and detailed in Appendix A to the report be approved.

200. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09 AND 2009/10.

200.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing, which sought approval from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme for the next two financial years 2008/09 and 2009/10 (for copy see minute book).

200.2 **RESOLVED** –

(1) That the HRA capital programme of £16.271 million for 2008/09 and £12.173 million for 2009/10 be approved; and

(2) That the commencement of the tender process for essential structural works to Somerset House and Wiltshire House high rise blocks be approved.

201. ADAPTATIONS CAPITAL BUDGET.

201.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care and Housing, concerning a proposal to allocate funding for housing adaptations for disabled people in circumstances where alternative council funding was not available (for copy see minute book).

201.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Adult Social Care capital grant allocation from the Department of Health of £150,000 be allocated to the Adaptations capital budget in 2008-9 in addition to the funding already allocated, as set out in paragraph 4 of the report.

202. PLANNED MAINTENANCE BUDGET ALLOCATION 2008-0 AND PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE COUNCIL'S OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS.

202.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources, which detailed the proposed 2008/09 allocation of improvement and repair works to civic offices, historic, operational and commercial buildings within the Corporate Planned Maintenance Budget of £500,000 (for copy see minute book).

202.2 **RESOLVED** – That the financial allocation to an annual programme of works to the operational buildings at an estimated cost of £4,128,810 as detailed in Appendices A and B to the report, in accordance with Financial Regulation A.5.6.7 be approved.

***203. CAPITAL PROGRAMME, 2008/09.**

203.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services, concerning the allocation of funding available in the Capital Programme under New Deal for Schools Modernisation, structural Maintenance, New Pupil Places and Schools Access Initiative cost centres for 2008/09 (for copy see minute book).

203.2 **RESOLVED -**

- (1) That the allocation of funding on the basis set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.31 of the report be agreed;
- (2) That the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 3, 4, 5 and 6 be agreed.

***204. PROCUREMENT STRATEGY FOR THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT STOCK.**

204.1 Councillor Mears introduced the report, which sought approval for the revised procurement strategy for the council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA) stock and commencement of the procurement of long-term partnering agreements for the delivery of comprehensive repairs, maintenance and associated services to the housing stock (for copy see minute book).

204.2 **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the revised procurement strategy for comprehensive long term partnering agreements for the repair and maintenance of the council's housing stock be agreed; and
- (2) That commencement of the procurement process by issuing the invitation to tender for the comprehensive, 10 year, long term agreements once the preparatory work has been completed be agreed.

***205. DECENT HOMES DOOR REPLACEMENT CONTRACT 2008-10.**

205.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing, which sought approval for delegated authority to award a two-year contract for the decent homes door replacement programme to the best value supplier, procured through the London Housing Consortia (LHC), in accordance with Contract Standing Order CSO 9.3 (for copy see minute book).

205.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing be given delegated powers to approve the award of the decent homes door replacement contract 2008/2010, following financial due diligence and cost comparisons of the unit rates for the companies on the LHC framework, following consultation with the Chairman of Housing and Opposition Spokesperson.

***206. CYCLICAL REPAIRS AND RE-DECORATION TENDER FOR COUNCIL MANAGED HOUSING STOCK COMMENCING ON 16 MAY 2008.**

206.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Care & Housing, which sought approval of the award of a fixed two-year contract to carry out external & internal communal redecorations and associated external minor fabric repairs to the council's housing stock on a programmed priority basis (for copy see minute book).

206.2 **RESOLVED** –

(1) That a contract be awarded to the best bid following appraisal and recommendations from the council's external advisors; and

(2) That the Director, Adult Social Care & Housing be given delegated powers, following consultation with the Chairman of Housing and Opposition Spokesperson to award the contract and take all other steps necessary for the implementation of the proposals.

***207. OPEN MARKET – UP-DATE AND CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT OPTIONS.**

207.1 Councillor Peltzer Dunn introduced the report, together with an extract from the proceedings of the Major Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on the 14th March 2008, which outlined the current status of the Open Market proposal and options for the future direction of the project (for copy see minute book). He believed the traders association had been very positive and hoped that with Hyde Housing Association's involvement the project could be brought to fruition.

207.2 RESOLVED –

- (1) That in view of the continued progress made by the project, Option 1 be approved as described in section 8 of the report where the lock out period ending on 19 April 2008 be extended by eight months to 19 December 2008;
- (2) That officers continue to support the Open Market Traders Association and Hyde Housing Association to prepare a development proposal with draft Heads of Terms and draft Development Agreement to be reported back to the Project Board;
- (3) That if the Open Market Traders Association and Hyde Housing Association have not brought forward draft Heads of Terms and draft Development Agreement for the redevelopment proposal that are acceptable to the council as landowner by the new deadline of 19 December 2008, then officers should move to Option 5, as described in section 8 of the report, and work with the stallholders and Hyde to develop a procurement package where the council would then seek a developer prepared to deliver the vision and work in partnership with the stallholders and Hyde; and
- (4) That an agreement in principle and subject to further information from the Open Market Traders Association, that the Board of the proposed Community Interest Company to be established by the Open Market Traders Association as a company limited by guarantee includes minority representation of the council and that no one interest should have majority representation.

Note: Councillor Mears having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision.

***208. NEW HISTORICAL RECORD OFFICE AND RESOURCE CENTRE – PROJECT UPDATE AND FUNDING OPTIONS.**

208.1 The Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services, which provided an update on the current status of the New Historical Record office project ('The Keep'), (for copy see minute book). The report also detailed the options and funding solutions that had been examined and sought agreement top the council becoming a project partner.

208.2 RESOLVED –

- (1) That the options and funding solutions that have been examined, as set out in the report be noted;
- (2) That the city council should now become a formal partner in The Keep Project as detailed in section 9 of the report, such approval confirming agreement by the council to fund up to 1/3 of the forecast cost (up to a maximum sum of £0.167m) to enable further development of the scheme up to Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 1 application stage;
- (3) That 'in principle' agreement to the council's longer term funding commitment to support the capital cost of delivering The Keep subject to (a) satisfactory resolution of the issues set out in Section 11 and 12 of the report and (b) the funding position being reviewed following the outcome of the Stage 1 Heritage Lottery application in December 2008 be agreed;
- (4) That agreement to officers working on the funding solutions outlined in paragraph 6.2 of the report to secure the council's maximum in principle contribution to this project of £5.345m which includes the development cost in (2) above be approved; and.
- (5) That it be noted that council officers would continue to work closely with colleagues at East Sussex County Council to explore the detailed delivery, project management, governance and finance arrangements for The Keep and that final confirmation of the council's longer term financial commitment to the project will require formal approval at a future meeting of the Culture, Recreation & Tourism and Policy & Resources Committees or their successor equivalents under the new constitutional arrangements.

209. PROPERTY DISPOSALS UPDATE.

209.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources, concerning the annual update on site disposals within the property non-operational (investment) and operational portfolio (for copy see minute book).

209.2 **RESOLVED** – That the implications of the current property climate, the progress achieved on disposals over the year 2007-08 and the report be noted.

***210. ROCK 'N' RIDE EVENT.**

210.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment, concerning the staging of Rock 'N' Ride in Stanmer Park on Saturday 30 August 2008, and the granting of landlord consent for the event (for copy see minute book).

- 210.2 Councillor Smith introduced the report and stated that it was a new event for the city, which he believed should be supported and would prove to be an exciting addition to the events taking place throughout the year. He also noted that further information had been given to the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee at its meeting in terms of the timings and issuing of tickets etc...
- 210.3 Members of the committee expressed some reservations with regard to the impact on the surrounding neighbourhood and how noise levels and numbers attending would be monitored. It was suggested that ward councillors should be fully briefed on the event organisation and the allocation of tickets and camping facilities etc...
- 210.4 The Director of Environment noted the concerns and stated that the Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee at its meeting the night before had agreed in principle to the event going ahead, subject to the outcome of detailed negotiations with the promoter. She stated that there would be a number of aspects to be clarified and conditions to be met before the final approval for the event was given. She also noted that discussions had yet to be held with the tenanted farmer in terms of camping facilities.
- 210.5 The Chairman noted the concerns raised and suggested that the recommendations should be amended to reflect them and the updated information in respect of the event.
- 210.6 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) That “in principle” landlord’s consent for the staging of Rock ‘N’ Ride in Stanmer Park on Saturday, 30 August 2008 from 12noon to 11.00pm be granted;
 - (2) That landlord’s consent for camping in the tenanted farmer’s field, subject to the consent of the farmer, from 9.00am on the 30th August until 12noon on the 31st August 2008 be granted; and
 - (3) That “in principle” officers be authorised to enter into formal agreements with the promoter of the event and to determine conditions and fees as appropriate, provided that consent is forthcoming, and subject to ratification by the Director of Environment in consultation with the Chairmen of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

211. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES.*(a) &
(b)**

211.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of its review of Members' Allowances (for copy see minute book). The report also proposed that the allowance payable to the members of the Panel should be increased by the council's salary inflation of 2.2% from 2008 in recognition of their time commitment and role with effect from 16 May 2008, which was the day after Annual Council and in line with the effective date for the proposed increases in Members' Allowances.

The Committee also considered the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the review of Members' Allowances, which was due to be submitted to the Council meeting on the 24th April for consideration (for copy see minute book).

211.2 The Chairman welcomed Mr. Keane, Chair of the Independent Remuneration Panel to the meeting and invited him to introduce the Panel's report.

211.3 Mr. Keane thanked the Chairman and stated that he was pleased to present the report to the Committee. He stated that the Panel had undertaken its review having consideration to the proposed changes of decision-making in the Council and were of the view that a full review should be conducted over the next 18 months, should those changes come into effect. With this in mind, the Panel recommended that the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances should be increased in line with the council's salary inflation of 2.2%. He noted that the Panel had met with the Leader to discuss the impact of the proposed changes and that the Panel would be keen to meet with Members during its next review. He also wished to pay tribute to the support of the officers to the Panel and to thank them for their work.

211.4 Councillor Randall referred to the question of childcare allowance for Members and queried whether there could be an opportunity to review how this was implemented as it was an important factor in enabling people to become councillors and for them to then undertake council duties.

211.5 Mr. Keane stated that the Panel would be more than happy to review the matter and to receive representations from councillors on the issue during their next review of allowances.

211.6 Councillor Meadows noted that there had been a change in the ability to claim travel allowance within the city and queried whether this could be revisited, as she felt the costs involved in travelling across the city had an effect on councillors' ability to serve their constituents.

- 211.7 Mr. Keane stated that the Panel would be willing to look at the matter and again would welcome representations from Members. However, he noted that the Basic Allowance paid to councillors was partly in recognition of such costs and that the council had previously approved the recommendation to only meet travel costs outside of the city.
- 211.8 The Chairman thanked Mr. Keane for his presentation and also asked that his thanks to the officers who support the Panel be recorded.
- 211.9 **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND –**
- (1) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in its report which is listed as Item No. 211(b) on the agenda be recommended to Council for approval;
 - (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the Brighton & Hove Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the foregoing, to submit to Council for adoption, and to issue the revised scheme following council approval.
 - (3) That the allowance payable to each of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be increased by the council's salary inflation of 2.2% for 2008 with effect from 16 May 2008, (i.e. the day after the Annual Council meeting and in line with the effective date recommended by the Panel for increases in Members' Allowances), in recognition of their time commitment and their important role.

Note: Councillors Hawkes and Meadows wished their names recorded as having abstained from voting on the item.

***212. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT – ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08.**

- 212.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, which detailed the progress made towards the South East Employer's Charter for Member Development and the various learning and development opportunities that had been provided during 2007/08 (for copy see minute book).
- 212.2 Councillor Ken Norman stated that he wished to place on record his thanks and appreciation of the work undertaken by officers in Democratic Services in support of Member Development, and in particular the Members Support Manager. He stated that the Member Development Working Group had regularly reviewed the progress towards the Charter and he hoped it would continue to meet and have cross-party support.

- 212.3 Councillor Taylor stated that Councillor Wrighton had asked that her thanks and appreciation for the support and work of the Member Support Manager and the Democratic Services Team be relayed to the committee. She believed the Working Group had been able to take matters forward and hoped that it would continue to meet.
- 212.4 The Chairman noted the comments and also asked that his thanks to the Member Support Manager be recorded.
- 212.5 **RESOLVED –**
- (1) That the content of the report and the intention of the council to submit for Charter accreditation in September 2008 be noted;
 - (2) That the development activities delivered in 2007/08 together with those planned for 2008/09 to assist in building member capacity be noted; and
 - (3) That an annual report on member development be provided each year to update all members on key achievements and priorities for further work.

213. REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION.

213.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the proceedings of the Sustainability Commission meeting held on the 12 March 2008 (for copy see minute book).

213.2 **RESOLVED –** That the report be noted.

214. REPORT OF THE MAJOR PROJECTS SUB-COMMITTEE.

214.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the proceedings of the Major Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on the 14 March 2008 (for copy see minute book).

214.2 **RESOLVED –** That the report be noted.

***215. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MOVE TO A NEW CONSTITUTION.**

215.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance, concerning the arrangements for the work of the Policy & Resources Committee to be undertaken, should the Council approve the new constitution at its meeting on the 24 April 2008 (for copy see minute book).

215.2 The Chairman noted that this was the last meeting of the committee and therefore wished to thank the Members and those officers supporting the committee for their work and participation over the year. He noted that there had been over 200 separate items considered at the various meetings.

215.3 Councillor Mitchell thanked the Chairman on behalf of the committee, for his stewardship of the committee and his willingness to work collectively on the new constitution.

215.4 **RESOLVED –**

(1) That the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the Act) requiring Brighton & Hove City Council to move to new constitutional arrangements be noted;

(2) That the arrangements for how the work of the current Committee would be discharged under the proposed new arrangements be noted; and

216. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

216.1 The committee considered whether any items should be submitted to the 24 April Council meeting for information in accordance with Procedural Rule 20.3a.

216.2 **RESOLVED –** That no items be referred to Council other than those identified by the respective report of the need to be submitted to Council for approval.

PART TWO SUMMARY**217. PROPERTY DISPOSALS UPDATE – EXEMPT CATEGORY 3.**

217.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Finance & Resources, concerning the annual update on site disposals within the property non-operational (investment) and operational portfolio.

217.2 **RESOLVED** – That the implications of the current property climate, the progress achieved on disposals over the year 2007-08 and the report be noted.

***218. OPEN MARKET – UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF PROJECT OPTIONS WITH PARTICULAR REGARD TO THE LEASE OF 3,4,5 & 6 FRANCIS STREET, BRIGHTON TO FIELDS GARAGE (BRIGHTON) LTD. – EXEMPT CATEGORY 3.**

218.1 The Committee considered an extract from the proceedings of the Major Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on the 14 March 2008, together with a report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services, concerning the Open Market project and the lease of 3, 4, 5 & 6 Francis Street, Brighton.

218.2 **RESOLVED** – That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

***219. BLACK ROCK REDEVELOPMENT - EXEMPT CATEGORY 3.**

219.1 The Committee considered an extract from the proceedings of the Major Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on the 14 March 2008, together with a report of the Director of Environment, concerning the progress to date in relation to the Black Rock Redevelopment project.

219.2 **RESOLVED** – That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

220. TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS AND THE DECISIONS THEREON SHOULD REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

220.1 The committee considered whether or not any of the above items should remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

220.2 **RESOLVED** – That item No's 217 – 219 inclusive contained in Part 2 of the agenda and the decisions thereon remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6.50p.m

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2008