

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 3 DECEMBER 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present : Councillors Daniel (Chair); Councillor Marsh (Deputy Chair), Nemeth (Opposition Spokesperson), Gibson, Moonan, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn and Phillips

Invitees: Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, BME Police Engagement Group; Joanna Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project

PART ONE

27 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

27a Declaration of Substitutes

27.1 Councillor Moonan declared that she was present in substitution for Councillor Cattell and Councillor Gibson declared that he was present in substitution for Councillor West.

27b Declarations of Interest

27.2 Councillor Moonan referred to Item 36 on the agenda, "Fundraising George Street Hove". Councillor Moonan stated that she had sought legal advice in respect of this matter as George Street was in her ward and in concert with her ward colleague, Councillor Wealls she had sought to ascertain the potential scale of this problem in representing residents and those who ran businesses/operated charity shops in George Street. Councillor Moonan had been advised that this did not constitute a pecuniary or prejudicial interest and she would therefore remain present at the meeting during its discussion and contribute to any discussion thereon.

27c Exclusion of the Press and Public

27.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("The Act"), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press

and public were present during that item, that there would be disclosure to them of confidential information, (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information as defined in section 100(1) of the Act).

- 27.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any item on the agenda.

28 MINUTES

- 28.1 Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that technically, given the debate which had taken place the Committee had agreed to note the report, rather to receive and note it.

- 28.2 **RESOLVED** – That subject to the amendment set out above, the chair be authorised to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2018 as a correct record.

29 PRESENTATIONS

- 29.1 There was a presentation from representatives from the Red Box Project in relation to countering period poverty.
- 29.2 It was explained that the Red Box project was a community based, not for profit initiative which aimed to support young people throughout their periods by providing boxes filled with free period products to local schools. The project had been set up by three friends in March 2017 in Portsmouth when this issue had first hit the headlines and recognising that the need was nationwide they had invited individuals from across the country to be part of this movement and the response to date had been overwhelming.
- 29.3 In Brighton and Hove the project had been set up in November 2017 and currently 18 primary, junior and secondary schools were being supported, a total of 23 boxes per month were placed in schools and there were 11 collection points across Brighton and Hove including the one located in the Reception Area at Hove Town Hall.
- 29.4 The project would either contact a school or they would approach the project expressing a need for a Red Box. A box would be packed and delivered fully stocked with a selection of donated products. The most appropriate location for the box was agreed with the school and staff were encouraged to make students aware of the project and where the products available could be located. The aim of the project was to quietly ensure that no young person in need went without these vital products.
- 29.5 Research which had been carried out nationally was detailed and it was clear that education was key. The projects aim for the future was to have a Red Box in every school in Brighton and Hove and to improve accessibility to period products; to help reduce the stigma surrounding menstruation for all genders and to improve the education and support available in respect of the physical, emotional and mental effects of menstruation.
- 29.6 Following the presentation Members had the opportunity to ask questions before proceeding with the remaining business of the meeting. The Chair, Councillor Daniel,

commended the work which had been done in highlighting and seeking to address what was clearly a very real problem for a number of young women.

29.7 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the presentation be received and noted.

30 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

30.1 The Chair stated that it was a busy time of the year and that there were a number of areas of work that she wished to highlight.

Hate Crime Week

30.2 During Hate crime week in October the Communities team had launched a zero tolerance to hate crime poster campaign with Brighton & Hove Buses – hopefully some of those present would have seen those. The team had also run a social media campaign, producing 10 short films featuring individuals from different communities in the city talking about standing against hate. The films had received thousands of hits and really positive feedback.

30.3 The had also been working hard on building trust and confidence in different communities to report hate crime. Working with a diverse range of community groups and the police the team was developing work on the role of witnesses in standing up to hate and reporting hate incidents.

30.4 The Clare project supported by the council's communities' team had also hosted a very moving and well attended remembrance service on Trans Day of Remembrance. It had been fantastic to see councillors from all the parties in attendance and actively showing their support and solidarity with the Trans community.

Brighton & Hove Faith Covenant

30.5 The Chair stated that she was also pleased to be able to update that following the Committees' decision at its last meeting that the council and the city's faith communities had signed up to the Brighton & Hove Faith covenant on November 18th as part of celebrating inter-faith week.

Refugee Re-Settlement Programme

30.6 The thirteenth Syrian family had arrived in the city under the government's refugee resettlement programme. All of the families had arrived into private rented properties, with most landlords agreeing to rents within Local Housing Allowance rates. Some of the children had already achieved excellent attainment at local schools, having picked up their education after many months or even years of interrupted schooling. The Communities Equality and Third Sector Team continued to successfully manage the programme, negotiating with landlords and co-ordinating a large partnership of agencies and departments were involved in receiving and integrating the new families.

30.7 Early in the year the communities' team working with staff from Families, Children and Learning directorate and from key voluntary sector organisations had been successful in securing funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to

develop an ESOL hub in the city. The Chair was pleased to be able to announce that the previous Friday a hub co-coordinator had been recruited and that this work would go live in the New Year. The project would bring together and strengthen the city's offer for migrants who needed to improve their English language through ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages – ESOL), a key aspect of helping new arrivals to settle and become integrated into the life of the city.

Third Sector Investment Programme in the City

- 30.8 Talking of money, the Chair explained that working with Ottaway Limited, an independent consultant, officers had been evaluating the impact of the council's Third sector Investment Programme and early indications were that:
- community and voluntary sector partnerships generated around £6m income through partnership bids as a result of the Council's Third Sector Commission funding, a return on investment of approx. £3 for every pound spent;
 - the council and CCG's funding impacted directly on 35,959 beneficiaries across the city, exceeding targets set at the commencement of the programme by 142%

The full and final evaluation report would be presented to NICE committee in January.

Safer Neighbourhoods Service: Week of Action

- 30.9 Last but not least, the Chair wished to inform the Committee that officers from the Safer Neighbourhoods Service would be participating in a week of action to help tackle county lines, cuckooing and modern slavery following a county summit on VVE which had taken place in November.
- 30.10 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the Chair's Communications be noted and received.

31 CALL OVER

- 31.1 All items appearing on the agenda were called for discussion with the exception of the following which were agreed without discussion.

Item 37 - Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio;
Item 38 - Field Officers: Implementation Progress Report

32 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

32a Petitions – Hove Carnegie Library

- 32.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, noted that one petition had been received signed by 202 people which had been presented at Full Council on 18 October 2018. The wording of the petition is set out below and the lead petitioner Mr Hawtree was invited forward to present and speak to his petition:

“To receive the following petition signed by 202 people, presented by Councillor Wealls and referred by the meeting of Full Council held on 18 October 2018:

“We ask that with next Libraries Plan, due in January in, this Council includes a report to the Committee to explain the situation which has led to a disproportionate reduction in the number of new books being brought for Hove’s Carnegie Library. Indeed, it has seen a cut to the previously ring-fenced Book Fund greatly exceeding the stated overall cut of 25%.

We also ask that there be a reversal of this Administration’s reduction in the Carnegie’s opening hours.

What’s more, with funding and new books steered towards Brighton’s Jubilee Library, we ask for a review of the method of overall stock selection (many good books are not being chosen in advance for any library). Our town’s central, Carnegie Library now appear to be regarded by the Administration as merely a branch library. Such an oxalic attitude to the Carnegie Library is counter to its stained glass and lift door, which proclaim: “Floreat Hova.”

32.2 The Chair responded in the following terms:

The next Libraries Plan is not due to be presented to council until 2020, as the current plan covers 2016-2020. The book fund for Hove Library for this year is exactly the same as it was last year and the reduction in spending on stock over the last five years has been fairly similar in Hove and Jubilee libraries as shown:

Over last 5 years:	2013-14	2017-18	% reduction
Hove Library	£80,800	£59,591	26.2%
Jubilee Library	£218,250	£167.323	23.4%

The percentage of book fund spent reflects the level of use by the public, and Hove library already has 32% of the amount of book stock compared to Jubilee Library, yet it receives 27% of the number of visits. In addition to this spend on stock for the specific library locations; the Libraries Service also purchases a significant amount of electronic books, newspapers and magazines which can be accessed by all library members, regardless of location.

For many years, Hove Library was open for 45.5 hours per week. In August 2016 this was increased to 50 hours per week including opening on Sundays. Budget pressures and low levels of visits to Hove Library on Sundays lead to the removal of Sunday opening in April 2017, bringing the opening hours down to 44 per week, only 1.5 hours per week less than before August 2016. Any claim that many good books are not being chosen in advance for any library is totally rejected. Brighton & Hove has a healthier book fund than many other library services, and there is a stock policy that sets out in detail how stock is selected and managed and this was approved by Members some years ago. Stock selection uses information about the local library communities, and stock profiles of each type of stock, supplemented by information on what is borrowed or asked for in each library. This informs the choices of new publications and back lists to fill gaps. Anyone can recommend new purchases if they feel there is something missing.

The significant investment in the refurbishment of Hove Library this year, and the success of plans to make the library sustainable through the attraction of new partners into the building, belies the claim that Hove Library is regarded as ‘merely a branch library’. There has been some great feedback from library users since the refurbishment:

“Love how it all looks and the staff desk is more welcoming and in the right place”

“This library looks wonderful, so light and spacious can’t wait to rediscover it all”

[Children’s lib] “This looks so good, I love the soft play area and the new kinder boxes”

32.3 Councillor Nemeth stated that the Committee had the ability to request a further report on this subject should it wish to do so. The Legal Adviser to the Committee, the Deputy Head of Law, Elizabeth Culbert confirmed that whilst that was the case, in this instance the Committee would need to indicate its rationale for doing so as a full review of the current Library Plan detailing and seeking approval of proposed spending for all Brighton and Hove Libraries would be put forward for consideration in the new year looking at the service in totality. To consider this matter if it was considered to be urgent would require an urgency meeting of the Committee.

32.4 Councillor Daniel confirmed that having noted Mr Hawtree’s concerns she was willing to ensure that the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee were aware of them when considering the next budget. Mr Hawtree confirmed that was acceptable to him and the Committee therefore agreed to note and receive the Chair’s response.

32.5 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the Chair’s response to the petition be noted and received.

32b Written Questions – Out of Hours Service, Measures to Protect Residents - Student Houses

32.6 It was noted that a written question had been received from Mr Mead who was invited forward to put the following question:

“When is Brighton Council going to implement a strategy to protect their residents?
Urgent Actions needed are:

Re-instating the “Out of Hours Service” and a complete review of the rules;
All universities must manage one central database for student accommodation details;
Ensuring that all HMO’s have a plate outside every front door giving their contact details;
Letting Agencies must include a night time noise clause in all contracts – Otherwise, I really do fear anarchy will inevitable ensue.”

32.7 The Chair’s response is set out below:

“The out of hours Noise Patrol service currently operates Friday and Saturday 22.00 hours – 03.00 hours.

Since 2011 the total number of complaints to the weekend Noise Patrol Service has declined. In 2017 there were 221 complaints.

Two officers work together and deliver the service Citywide, which depending on the call pattern could result in significant travelling times, and delayed response times for our customers. Concerns have also been raised about the safety of the staff.

Changing environment and changing social trends are presenting new risks to the staff that deliver this service. Where someone is causing a disturbance and under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol then stopping the noise that night rarely happens for a variety of reasons, access denied, risk, and lack of cooperation. What can practically be achieved on the night to stop the noise safely and without risk is becoming an increasing challenge.

This is an opportunity to look again at how our residents are protected from unreasonable noise. A safer more effective out of hours noise service is being launched from the 7th December. This is part of the new Field Officer Team working across the city 7 days a week. Core hours for the team are 12.00 to 20.00. However, flexible contracts will enable Field Officers to work outside of these hours to meet community needs. In addition the Environmental Protection Team will still be responding to more complex cases and are able to visit out of hours and leave recording equipment in resident's homes.

Since the initial launch of the Field Officer Team in September 2018 all new domestic noise complaints are investigated by a Field Officer with the aim that perpetrators will be visited to discuss the impact of their actions. We are already seeing the value and benefit of this face to face contact and how it is stopping cases escalating. It is proposed that this face to face approach will continue as part of the review of how we deliver noise services out of hours.

From 7th December 2018, residents will be able to email or phone in noise complaints at weekends, and a Field Officer will be in touch within 24 hours with the offer of a visit that day. This allows face-to-face dialogue immediately following an incident and an environment where the impact of a disturbance can be properly discussed and, hopefully, stop the problem escalating.

Currently there is no single database for student accommodation details. This is data held by a number of different student accommodation providers and not under the control of the Council. However, where noise arises from a premises occupied by students we work closely with letting agents, Sussex and Brighton Universities and the other student colleges to resolve complaints.

The Council is not party to the terms of private tenancy agreements between individuals and private landlords and is therefore not able to impose conditions on these third party agreements.

The Council is unable to require the contact details of occupiers to be displayed on the front door of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

The introduction of the field officers is an opportunity to modernise how we deliver noise services out of hours, and review how this resource could better serve our communities and be better value for money. As the role of Field Officer is developed throughout 2019/20 the delivery of out of hours noise services will be kept under review. "

32.8 The Chair invited Mr Mead to as a supplementary question should he have one. Mr Mead did not, stating that he simply wanted to re-iterate that the incidents of late night/early morning disturbance which he and his neighbours had suffered over a prolonged period of time had had a detrimental impact and that he had welcomed the opportunity to raise that in a public forum and hoped that the points he had made could be taken forward in addressing these problems.

32.9 The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing stated that in order to seek a resolution to the problems currently being experienced by Mr Mead and his neighbours, precise details would be obtained from him separately in order to enable them to be addressed. The Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that she would speak to Mr Mead following the meeting.

32.10 **RESOLVED** – That the position be noted.

32c Deputations

32.11 The Chair noted that three deputations had been forwarded from the meeting of Full Council held on 18 October 2018. She had given a full response to each of them at that time and so each of the deputations was to be presented to the Committee for noting and receiving, she had also however used her discretion as Chair to invite each of the deputees to address the Committee. The wording of each petition was set out in the circulated Committee papers as was an extract of the minutes of Council in respect of each setting out her detailed response.

Child Refugees

32.12 Mr Moore addressed the Committee on behalf of Ms Ortiz who was unable to be present. Mr Moore stated that he welcomed the opportunity provide an update in respect of the current position. He explained that 10 places would be made available this year and a further 10 the following year and that the “Hummingbirds” scheme operating in Brighton & Hove was part of a larger scheme run by “Safe Passage” with the aim of creating 10,000 child refugee places over a 10 year period. Those representing the organisation had met recently with Emily Thornbury MP to brief her about their work and to explain their strategy going forward. The involvement by the city council and expression of continued support going forward greatly welcomed and in concert with pledges by other local authorities had a positive impact.

32.13 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the deputation be noted and received.

IHRA Defintion of Antisemitism

32.14 Ms Edmond referred to her original deputation to council stating that in view of the decision taken at Full Council at its meeting on 18 October that was the decision which was currently in place. There were however, 10 questions/additional matters which she (and those whom she represented) wished the Council to consider and respond to.

32.15 The Chair responded that as the deputation had already been responded to it was not possible to consider these additional matters without prior notification. Details of these

questions were provided to the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing in order that they could be addressed and responded to further outside of the meeting.

32.16 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the deputation be noted and received.

IHRA Definition

32.17 The Chair stated that she had received prior notification from Ms Sharpe that there was nothing which she wished to add to her original and that she was happy therefore for it to be noted and received.

32.18 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the deputation be noted and received.

33 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

33a Petition(s)

33.1 There were none.

33b Written Questions

33.2 There were none.

33c Letters

33.3 There were none.

33d Notices of Motion - Rough Sleeping

33.4 The Committee considered the Notice of Motion put forward by the Conservative Group as set out in the circulated papers proposed by Councillor Nemeth and seconded by Councillor Peltzer Dunn which had been amended subsequently. It was noted that a further Notice of Motion had been received from the Green Group proposed by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Phillips both of which are set out below.

33.5 The Conservative Group Notice of Motion as Amended read:

“This Committee:

1. Recognises:

- i) For many decades rough sleeping and homelessness has increased nationally;
- ii) That national government acknowledges under the current regulatory framework there is “broken housing market” which has failed to enable sufficient truly affordable housing contributing to homelessness;
- iii) Alongside local rough sleeping strategies, government reforms are urgently needed to address the structural pressures causing homelessness;

2. Expresses great concern over the Administration’s handling of Brighton & Hove’s rough-sleeping situation where the number of rough-sleepers has more than doubled in

recent years (78 in 2015 to 178 in 2017), which leave Brighton & Hove as the local authority area with the second highest number of rough-sleepers in the country.

3. Calls for an emergency statement to be sent to all Councillors confirming:

- (i) That members of the administration decided to undertake a rough sleeper count this year rather than a more comparable rough sleeper estimate;
- (ii) Details of how much greater in average percentage terms, estimates have been than counts in Brighton & Hove for all the years where both measures were undertaken;
- (iii) What measures are in place to assist rough sleepers in the City over the forthcoming winter;
- (iv) What plans are being drawn up to address dire safety conditions in and a lack of provision of emergency and temporary accommodation; and
- (v) Exactly how all funding streams, including large sums recently announced nationally by HM Government, are being put to best use.

4. Calls for an emergency Officer report with options on (i) ways to work to tackle rough-sleeping on a cross-party basis, as happened so well last winter on the Brighton Centre Night Shelter Cross- Party Working Group; and

- (ii) The arrangement of an urgent multi-organisation meeting to bring together as many homelessness groups as possible to ensure that all solutions are being considered;

5. Requests that the rough-sleeping responsibilities of NICE Committee, Housing and New Homes Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board are urgently brought together under the auspices of a single committee, Housing and New Homes to address concerns over strategy and accountability.”

33.6 The Green Group, Notice of Motion stated:

“a)That an additional clause 1 be added and subsequent clause be re numbered accordingly

1.Recognises

- i) For many decades rough sleeping and homelessness has increased nationally
- ii That national government acknowledges under the current regulatory framework there is a "broken housing market" which has failed to enable sufficient truly affordable housing contributing to homelessness
- iii Alongside local rough sleeping strategies, government reforms are urgently needed to address the structural pressures causing homelessness

a) Amend clause 2 as shown by deleting i) and replacing with a new i) and ii) and re number subsequently

- i) That members of the administration decided to undertake a rough sleeper count this year rather than a more comparable rough sleeper estimate;
- ii) Details of how much greater in average percentage terms estimates have been than counts in Brighton and Hove for all the years when both measures were undertaken.”

33.4 Councillor Nemeth stated that he had considered it imperative to draw attention to and further highlight this important and severe matter and had therefore felt compelled to submit his Notice of Motion. Councillor Peltzer Dunn stated that whilst acknowledging the work which had been undertaken to date he was of the view that it was important to carry this work forward in a concerted and co-ordinated fashion.

- 33.5 Councillor Gibson spoke in support of the Green Group Notice of Motion stating that whilst supporting the Notice of Motion as framed they were of the view that it could be refined further. Councillor Phillips concurred in that view.
- 33.6 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, stated that whilst both Notices of Motion would be put to the Committee for consideration in the order in which they had been received, she considered that there were a number of inaccuracies in that put forward by the Green Group and could not therefore support it; the Conservative Group Notice of Motion was also one which she was unable to support overall, although there were elements of it with which she could agree; although in her view neither represented a positive response nor acknowledged that work that had been undertaken to address this problem. Whilst should agree with the content of the Notice of Motion in part she was unable to support it elements of it with which she profoundly disagreed.
- 33.7 Councillor Moonan concurred with the Chair, stating the Working Party which she Chaired was Cross-Party and had worked collaboratively in order to seek solutions to this growing problem which had in her view been exacerbated by central government policy. Input from fellow Members had always been welcomed and that would continue to be the case. Comparable arrangements were in place to those in previous years and there were also very successful interagency arrangements in place in seeking to address this problem. A very successful meeting had been held with representatives from St Mungo's recently which would build on previous successful co-agency working. Councillor Moonan also stated that the collaborative cross party working achieved already had been beneficial and would certainly continue. She intended (via officers) for an all Member briefing on this issue to be arranged at an early date.
- 33.8 Councillor A Norman enquired whether details were available regarding the number of ex-service personnel who were rough sleeping as it was acknowledged that those from this group could have particular vulnerabilities. The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing stated that these figures could be provided to Members outside the meeting. It was hard to ascertain how accurate that figure would be however as records were collated on the basis of information volunteered by any individual. The Executive Director which also, outlined the pathways which were used in order to direct individuals towards the appropriate agencies to assist them.
- 33.9 Councillor Morgan considered that this issue needed to be seen in the context of the national position which was dire. This Council had done a great deal in order to assist individuals in hardship against the backdrop of its own diminishing resources. Councillor Marsh, the Deputy Chair, agreed.
- 33.10 It was noted that if agreed the Notice of Motion could be noted for further future action at this stage.
- 33.11 A vote was taken on the proposed amendments in turn. The Conservative Group amendment, as amended was agreed on a vote of 6 to 4.
- 33.12 A vote further vote was then taken on the Green Group Notice of Motion which was defeated on a vote 6 to 4.

Note: It was noted that an all Member Briefing detailing existing processes and action being taken going forward would be arranged for an early date in 2019.

33.13 **RESOLVED** - That the Conservative Group amendment as set out in paragraph 33.5 above be agreed noted and received.

34 COUNTERING PERIOD POVERTY

34.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children and Learning which had been prepared in response to a petition asking Brighton & Hove City Council to implement a policy for the distribution of free period products to schools to counter period poverty.

34.2 The report provided an update on the work of the volunteer run group Red Box in Brighton and Hove schools (in addition to the project's own presentation about their work), both in terms of access to products and the stigma attached to talking about periods. The report also gave examples of other activity in the city to help with period poverty and recommendations for action the council might wish to support, enable or take. It was noted that the document setting (Appendix 1) setting out the council's own strategy had used some of the work of Chella Quint of the "Period Positive" project and that an amended document acknowledging this had been placed on the Council website.

34.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, commended the report and the work which had been undertaken by the Red Box Project, and was pleased to note the work that was in place to seek to ensure funding and sponsorship in order to secure this work in future, including fundraising and approaches to local businesses.

34.4 Councillor A Norman also commended the excellent work carried out and enquired regarding ways in which members could provide support for this valuable initiative. It was highlighted that this issue was one surrounded by secrecy and about which girls were embarrassed in the longer term the aim was to open up dialogue so that those who needed assistance were not embarrassed to seek help and that this was taken forward as part of the sex education programme.

34.5 Councillor Morgan was pleased to note that sponsorship was being sought from local businesses and other sponsors, noting that Brighton and Hove Football Club for example were already involved with this project. Councillor Marsh stated that this was an amazing project.

34.6 Councillor Peltzer Dunn welcomed the report and the work carried out by the Red Box Project in highlighting this issue, some of the figures were horrifying and he hoped that measures were in place to assist in providing broader parental education. There was also an element of parental responsibility involved too and it was regrettable that young women were placed in such an embarrassing position. the Consultant, Behaviour and attendance, Sam Beale confirmed that national guidance was awaited aimed at raising awareness of this issue and that it was planned to incorporate this into the schools sex education programme.

- 34.7 Joanna Martindale, Hangleton & Knoll Project congratulated the scheme and the it's work in seeking to remove the stigma surrounding period poverty. In answer to questions it was confirmed that information and posters was provided with each box in order to roll out publicity.
- 34.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That Committee supports one-off funding of £3,620 be made available from within existing 2018/19 budget provision for the start-up cost to fund Red Boxes for all secondary, primary, junior and special schools in Brighton & Hove;
- (2) That the Committee notes that Red Box will be seeking sponsorship from the business community in Brighton & Hove and that the council encourages the private sector corporate social responsibility group to support the ongoing delivery of Red Boxes to Brighton & Hove schools;
- (3) That the Committee supports the continuing work of the council's PSHE education service and school nursing service in supporting schools to reduce stigma and shame related to periods and provide education on puberty and changes within the body;
- (4) That Committee notes the activity taking place in community settings in the city to tackle period poverty especially that of food banks and libraries; and
- (5) That Committee approves the council using its internal and external communication channels to promote donations to Red Box.

35 FOOD POVERTY ACTION PLAN

- 35.1 The Committee considered the final progress report in relation to the Food Poverty Action Plan which had been forwarded by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting held on 13 November 2018 in order that members could receive it and note its contents.
- 35.2 The Committee had received a presentation in relation to the earlier draft document which had been submitted for information. At that time the Committee had pledged its support and had requested that the final Action Plan be referred back to it for information in order that it could be updated in relation to progress made.
- 35.3 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, commended the report and all of hard work which had been put into preparing and implementing the Action Plan which had been widely acknowledged as an outstanding and valuable piece of work. The Plan had won the 2016 Community Works Sector Star Award for "the most innovative commission or public sector service". It had received lottery funding and there was now a programme for rolling out this approach nationally and the Mayor of London was using as a model for support for the London Boroughs.
- 35.4 Councillor Morgan welcomed both the report and the work which stood behind it notwithstanding that he had concerns in relation to the longer term sustainability of such projects against a backdrop of increasing poverty, in some instances a result of the potential impact of the further roll-out of Universal Credit was that a number of working families found themselves unable to support their families. He had concerns therefore that there would be increasing pressure on the limited resources available.

- 35.6 Councillor Marsh stated that during her recent mayoral year she had had the opportunity to witness the work of the Brighton Food Partnership at first hand and had found it very impressive.
- 35.7 Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, stated that in reflecting on the work carried out it was both heart-warming and heart breaking. Joanna Martindale was in agreement commenting that the fact that the Brighton Food Partnership were leading on this nationally was important in that it indicated that there was a co-ordinated strategy in place in Brighton and Hove which had acted as a catalyst for addressing a challenging situation rather than being paralysed by it.
- 35.8 Councillor K Norman stated that the in depth analysis and strategies identified in the report were to be welcomed. As a Member of the Health and Wellbeing Board he could confirm that body had agreed recommendations which would enable this work to continue to its next stage.
- 35.9 Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred with all that had been said and was of the view that in order to acknowledge the value of this work that in addition to noting and receiving the contents of the report it should also be commended. The Chair, Councillor Daniel stated that she would be happy to support the proposed amendment and the Committee concurred unanimously in that view.
- 35.10 **RESOLVED** – That the final progress report and Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action Plan 2015-18 be received, noted and commended.

36 FUNDRAISING - GEORGE STREET, HOVE

- 36.1 The Committee considered a joint report of Executive Lead, Strategy, Governance and Law and the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing which set out the detail requested by the Committee at their meeting on 8 October 2018 regarding the options for curtailing street fundraising activity on George Street, Hove. The Committee were being asked to decide on which option for curtailing street fundraising on George Street it wished officers to pursue, if any.
- 36.2 It was noted that an amendment had been received from the Conservative Group (set out below), proposed by Councillor A Norman and seconded by Councillor K Norman and that this would be taken up when the report's recommendation was considered:

A further recommendation (2) be added:

"Should the negotiations with the Institute of Fundraising fail to deliver a satisfactory and sustainable solution to the issues highlighted in the report, that a new report be brought back to the Committee in January with a recommendation as to whether Clause 3.7 Option C "Seek to create a new bye law" or Option D: "Seek to make a Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 will be recommended for George Street."

- 36.3 Councillor Wealls was invited by the Chair, Councillor Daniel, to address the Committee and he explained that when first approached by constituents he had not been aware that this represented a problem, however, having investigated further he had become aware

that it was. Councillor Moonan stated that she had initially been of the same view, Councillor Wealls and herself were councillors in the same ward and had visited George Street and had spoken to and met with proprietors of businesses there, including charity shops, some of whom considered that this had impacted on their business.

- 36.4 Councillors Moonan and Wealls stated that of some of these charity “Chuggers” were very persistent and those who were elderly or vulnerable found this approach intimidating and felt under pressure to make a commitment which they did not wish to do. Both were pleased at the follow up work which had taken place as a result of them highlighting this problem and that a solution had been sought.
- 36.5 Councillors A and K Norman spoke to their amendment stating that whilst they were also pleased that a solution had been sought wanted to ensure that measures were in place to expedite this matter should the proposed courses of action founder.
- 36.6 The Head of Law, Elizabeth Culbert stated that a further report back in January might be too soon as it would not enable sufficient time for any arrangements set in place to be in and that was accepted.
- 36.7 Councillor Daniel, the Chair, noted all that had been said and was greatly encouraged that this matter had been able to be addressed so quickly. Members of the Committee concurred in that view.
- 36.8 A vote was taken in respect of the proposed amendment and it was carried as further amended to remove reference to a further report being brought back to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in January.
- 36.9 **RESOLVED** - (1) The Committee resolve for officers to pursue negotiations with the Institute of Fundraising with the aim of entering into a new or amended Site Management Agreement as set out in paragraphs 3.10 – 3.14 of the report; and
- (2) That should the negotiations with the Institute of Fundraising fail to deliver a satisfactory and sustainable solution to the issues highlighted in the report, that a new report be brought back to the Committee with a recommendation as to whether Clause 3.7 Option C “Seek to create a new bye law” or Option D: “Seek to make a Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 will be recommended for George Street.”

37 COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

- 37.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing which provided an update on the work that sat within the Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio and included community hubs, collaboration, volunteering and enforcement and inspection in relation to Field Officers. It was noted that there was a separate report dealing specifically with Field Officers appearing elsewhere on the agenda. The Committee had last received a report on the Portfolio in November 2017 and this report was intended provide an update and to indicate the direction of travel for the year ahead.

37.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the progress of the work in the Portfolio;
and

(2) That the Committee supports the ongoing work of the three work streams outlined in the report: Community hubs, collaboration, volunteering.

38 FIELD OFFICERS : IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

38.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing detailing the work which have taken place in implementing the setting up of the Field Officer role. At their meeting on 22 January 2018, the Committee had agreed the business case for the creation of the New Field Officer Team as part of the wider Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio focusing on how the Council delivered enforcement and inspection functions across services to reduce costs to the council and to give a better service to communities across the city.

38.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee notes the contents of the implementation update in relation to the Field Officer Team and agrees that a further report submitted to the July 2019 Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities Committee meeting in order to provide a further update on the work of the Field Officer Team.

39 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

39.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 7.01pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of