

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE & TOURISM SUB-COMMITTEE

5PM – 7 FEBRUARY 2007

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Present: Councillor John (Chair), Councillors Allen, Battle, Mrs Brown, Mrs Drake, Edmond Smith, Older (OS) and Mrs Theobald

PART ONE

ACTION

22 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

22A Declarations of Substitutes

22.1	<u>Councillor</u> Edmond Smith	<u>For Councillor</u> Hawkes
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22B Declarations of Interest

22.2 There were no declarations under this item.

22C Exclusion of Press and Public

22.3 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 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

23 MINUTES

23.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

24 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

24.1 The Chair and Sub-Committee sent their very best wishes to Tony Miller, Director of Cultural Services, who remains unwell. The Acting-Director explained the interim arrangements for covering his responsibilities.

25 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

25.1 Mr Christopher Hawtree asked: "Could Councillor John please tell us the status accorded this Committee in the hierarchy of the Committee system?" The Chair replied: "The Culture & Tourism Sub-Committee is a sub-committee of the Policy & Resources Committee. Having delegated functions of the Council in relation to:

(1) Culture, arts and heritage and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, to exercise the Council's functions in respect of arts, entertainments and cultural activity;

(2) Tourism, Marketing, Libraries and Museums, including conferences, art galleries, historic buildings and their gardens and the functions of the council regarding public records;

(3) To act as the consultee on major events and future policy, in line with the Tourism Strategy."

25.2 Mr Hawtree asked a supplementary question referring to the number of reports on the agenda which are "for noting". The Chair replied that all Sub-Committee members make regular input to the Culture and Tourism strategies and action plans, for example, the Libraries Plan, item 29 on the agenda.

26 BRIGHTON DOME & FESTIVAL LTD

26.1 Nick Dodds, Chief Executive, and Pippa Smith, Head of Education Unit, Brighton Dome & Festival Ltd, made a presentation focussing on the company's education work for people of all ages.

27 PETITIONS

27.1 The Sub-Committee noted the following 223 signature petition presented by Councillor Tonks to council on 7 December 2007

"We, the undersigned readers, call upon Brighton & Hove City Council to increase the book stock in all its libraries as matter of urgency in a city avid for reading in all its diversity."

The Chair replied that Brighton & Hove Libraries has the sixth largest book stock collection and the third highest number of reference books of all 46 Unitary authorities. In 2004-5 the council exceeded the Public Library Standard for number of items added to stock as a result of the pump priming for Jubilee Library, and is striving to achieve the

standard again this year. The council has negotiated high levels of discounts for its book purchases and has achieved around £120,000 worth of additional buying power as a result. Any further increase in numbers of books bought would require an increase in book fund which is not currently possible within existing Libraries resources.

27.2 The Sub-Committee noted the following 184 signature petition presented by Councillor Tonks to council on 7 December 2007.

“We, the undersigned call upon the Council to increase the opening hours throughout the Library Service, including Sundays, as befits life in a twenty-first century metropolis.”

The Chair responded that there have been some increases in opening hours in recent years with two extra afternoons a week in Jubilee Library, and an extra half day in Moulsecoomb, with small increases in Hangleton, Portslade and Mile Oak libraries achieved through efficiencies. These improvements have resulted in an increase in library user satisfaction with opening hours of 11.5%. The Chair advised that, should Labour be heading the administration post the May council elections, it was the intention to respond to public demand by introducing Sunday opening at the Jubilee Library. Councillor Mrs Theobald stated that the Conservative party would also introduce this.

27.3 **RESOLVED** – That the petitions and the responses by Councillor John be noted.

28 LIBRARIES CONSULTATION

28.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning the results of recent consultation (see minute book). The report highlighted the main findings of two public library user surveys which are set by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These are: the CIPFA Public Library User Survey (CIPFA PLUS), and the CIPFA Electronic Public Library User Survey (CIPFA ePLUS). The report also covered the results of some more in depth research into the library needs of black and minority ethnic (BME) communities in the city.

28.2 Members stated that they would like social equity indicators and stock quality assessment data to be provided to a future meeting. It was also requested that a breakdown of expenditure and income be circulated to members. Councillor Older asked to inspect the suggestions made by the public for improving the service.

Sally McMahon

28.3 **RESOLVED** – That the progress achieved be noted.

29 LIBRARIES PLAN

29.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning the medium term action plan for public libraries development as outlined in the Libraries Plan (see minute book).

29.2 The Sub-Committee asked to receive an annual report on updates to the plan. It was also agreed to arrange a visit to the rare and special books collections for members.

Sally McMahon

29.3 **RESOLVED** – That the Libraries Plan be agreed.

30 BRIGHTON AND HOVE ARTS COMMISSION

30.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services updating members on the activities of the Arts Commission of Brighton & Hove in particular the final report on the Urban Cultural Programme (see minute book). Jackie Lythell, Chair, and Julien Boast, Vice Chair, made a presentation on the work of the Arts Commission.

30.2 Mrs Lythell and Councillor Edmond Smith (Convenor of the Sustainability Commission) agreed that the Arts Commission should work with the Sustainability Commission to further the Eco-Brighton arts programme, which raises awareness of environmental issues and provides opportunities for artists to engage in ecological debate.

**Paula Murray
and Thurstan
Crockett**

30.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That the city council continue to support the Brighton and Hove Arts Commission as one of its key city partnerships subject to an annual review.

31 PROMOTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

31.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services which addressed the issues raised in Councillor Edmond Smith's letter of 19 October 2006 (see minute book). The report set out some of the things which the tourism service has done and continues to do to promote the natural environment in Brighton & Hove. The report also suggested action to be taken in future.

31.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the contents of the report be noted.

(2) That the Head of Tourism implement the proposals listed under Section 4 of the report.

32 BRIGHTON & HOVE HOTEL FUTURES STUDY

32.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services concerning the findings of the recently completed Brighton & Hove Hotel Futures Study undertaken on behalf of the

council as part of the Local Development Framework (see minute book).

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

(2) That the Culture & Tourism Sub-Committee approve the Study as a document that assists in delivering the aspirations set out in the Tourism Strategy and recommend that the Environment Committee approve the Study as a background document to inform the formulation of planning policies and consideration of emerging hotel development proposals.

33A SPECIAL EVENTS – MADEIRA DRIVE CLOSURES 2007

33.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment listing special events on Madeira Drive in 2007 (see minute book).

33.2 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

33B EVENTS PROGRAMME IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES 2007

33.3 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment listing special events in parks and open spaces in 2007 (see minute book).

33.4 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2007