

# BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

## CULTURE, REGENERATION & HOUSING COMMITTEE

5.00PM – THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2003

COMMITTEE ROOMS 2/3  
BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

### MINUTES

Present: Councillor Hazelgrove (Chair); Councillor Allen (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Framroze, Kemble, Mears (Opposition Spokesperson -  
Regeneration), Older, Randall, Smith (Opposition Spokesperson - Culture),  
Tonks, Turner and Watkins

### PART ONE

### ACTION

#### 1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

##### 1A Declarations of Substitutes

<u>Substitute Councillor</u>	<u>For Councillor</u>
Councillor Watkins	Davidson

##### 1B Declarations of Interest

There were none.

##### 1C Exclusion of Press and Public

1.1 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.

1.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items 8A and 8B inclusive.

#### 2. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

2.1 There were none on this occasion.

#### 3. MINUTES

3.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2003 be approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **4. PETITIONS**

4.1 The Committee considered a petition present by Councillor Smith at Council on 3 April 2003 relating to "Keep Sussex Skating Association" (KSS) in the following terms:-

"Brighton & Hove City Ice Arena – Brighton – Black Rock Site – Re-Development.

KSS Wish List 2003 - A new SS Brighton City Arena:-

We the undersigned support the KSS Wish List which calls upon Brighton & Hove Council to re-instate the local heritage - a full sized Olympic Ice rink. Please bring back the Brighton Tigers Ice Hockey and the glittering ice shows." (7003 signatures).

4.2 Councillor Smith who had presented the petition at Council expressed his support for a rink in Brighton & Hove capable of staging international events, stressing the positive benefits which could accrue for the City as a result, and that it could have regional / national standing and could be comparable to the facilities currently provided in Nottingham. He was of the view that the Black Rock Site if it could be utilised at least in part for this purpose could provide an excellent opportunity.

4.3 Other Members considered that at this stage it would not be appropriate to express support for any particular site in the City, but welcomed the petition, noted the scale of support for an ice rink and expressed their support for such a facility in Brighton & Hove.

4.4 The Acting Assistant Director of Environmental Services explained that the public consultation process in respect of future uses for the Black Rock site was underway and that a number of options were to be considered including provision of an Olympic standard ice skating facility. Given the level of support for this option it was proposed that the petition should be forwarded to the appropriate Officer who was dealing with this within the Council's major projects team in order that the petition and the comments contained therein could be considered as part of that consultation process.

4.5 It was agreed (given the nature of the information to be disclosed) that responses to Members questions relating to the existing ice rink situated in Queen's Square would be dealt with in non- public session.

4.6 **RESOLVED** : The Committee welcomes the petition, expresses its support for the concept of an Olympic standard stadium in Brighton and Hove and agrees that the petition itself be forwarded to the Council's Major Projects Team to enable it to be considered as

feedback received relating to the public consultation in respect of the Black Rock site.

## **5. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL REFORM**

5.1 The Committee considered a report of the Acting Director, Housing and City Support detailing the development (following the decision taken by the Committee at its meeting held on 7 November 2002) of a Private Sector Renewal Policy under the Council's new powers to provide assistance to improve living condition in Brighton & Hove, in accordance with local conditions and policy priorities (for copy see minute book).

5.2 Members welcomed the report and particularly welcomed proposals to build up a list of locally "approved" builders, following invitation to be placed on the list to be followed up by a rigorous vetting process. The Acting Director of Housing and City Support agreed to clarify whether or not a sealing of £3,000 on the total sum granted, or whether several applications relating to different work, each element not exceeding £3,000 would be permitted; he was of the view that the former was the case. The need to seek to ensure that stringent fire precautions were applied in respect of houses in multiple occupation were also cited.

5.3 **RESOLVED** : That (1) the Private Sector Renewal Policy appended as Appendix 2 to the report be adopted with an effective date of 1 July 2003 ; and

(2) That public notice is given of the adoption of the policy and a copy is made available for inspection free of charge at all reasonable time at City Direct, Hove Town Hall.

## **6. CASH INCENTIVE SCHEME 2003**

6.1 The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director, Housing and City Support proposing implementation of a cash incentive scheme in 2003 / 4 and that the current scheme be amended (for copy see minute book).

6.2 Members fully supported the scheme, but considered that it would be appropriate to adopt a "time - limit" after which time the Council could not be deemed as having responsibility re-provide housing support for those assisted under the scheme; the Assistant Director agreed to address this issue presenting further reports for consideration by the Committee and to clarify whether or not it would be appropriate to assist tenants anywhere in the world rather than the UK and EU which could be considered discriminatory.

6.3 In expressing support for the proposed amendments, a Member suggested that the level of incentive available be increased. However, the Assistant Director explained that during that as the previous allocation had not been taken up; that it would be appropriate to

monitor current take up and to revisit this if appropriate in the light of operation.

**6.3 RESOLVED** : That (1) The City Council runs a Cash Incentive Scheme for tenants in 2003/4;

(2) The eligibility criteria of the scheme be amended to restrict grants to current City Council tenants that have been tenants for at least the last 2 years;

(3) The limit of the property value be raised from £110,000 to £135,000 ; and

(4) The tenant can purchase anywhere in the EU rather than just the UK, reflecting guidance issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

#### **6A. RIGHT TO BUY SCHEME - REDUCTION IN MAXIMUM DISCOUNT**

By reason of the following circumstance, the Chair of the Committee was of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency as the Council's expression of interest to be included in the initiative required submission to the ODPM before the next meeting of the Committee.

The special circumstances for non compliance with Council Procedure Rule 19, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100b(4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not to be considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that the inclusion of the Council in the ODPM's list of authorities to be invited to join the initiative was not announced until 18 June.

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director Housing Strategy and City Support outlining the implications of the announcement made by Keith Hill MP, the new Minister for Housing and Planning on 18 June 2003 regarding the authorities in England which the government regards as under the greatest housing pressure (for copy see minute book).

**RESOLVED** - That (1) recognition by the government that Brighton & Hove is an area of "greatest pressure" be noted; and

(2) That it be agreed that following consultation with relevant officers, and provided that there are no substantial objections, that the Acting Director of Housing and City Support be delegated that the Acting Director of Housing & City Support take all action necessary to ensure that Brighton & Hove is included in the list of authorities where the maximum Right to Buy discount is reduced.

#### **7. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

7.1 There were none.

**SUMMARY OF EXEMPT ITEMS**

**8A. NON- PUBLIC MINUTES : 20MARCH 2003**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2003 and in response to questions arising from the non-public minutes and which was also exempt, further information was provided by officers.

The Chair was authorised to sign the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2003.

**8B. QUEEN'S SQUARE ICE RINK**

The Acting Assistant Director Environmental Services updated Members regarding the current position in respect of the ice rink in Queen's Square. This information was exempt by virtue of the negotiations which were currently in train between the Council and a third party.

The meeting concluded at 6.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2003

CR&Hsg?030619 Mins