



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

# **HOUSING & NEW HOMES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM**

**4.00PM, WEDNESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2018**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**



# ADDENDUM

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65	<b>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>1 - 4</b>
(b)	List of Public Questions (copy attached).	



**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by members of the public who either live or work in the area of the authority.

**i) The following written question has been received from John Hadman.**

**Night shelter at the Brighton Centre**

“Given that the Council funded “outreach work” to identify rough sleepers who would benefit from the availability of this night shelter; that work has been ongoing for nearly a year to identify a site for this shelter; that six full time employees have been recruited; and 25 volunteers have been, or are being, trained could you provide figures for the numbers of people using the facility each night, the number of people refused access, and the number of users transferred to the Brighton Centre from other places of accommodation?”

**ii) The following question has been received from Barbara Roberts**

**Legal action against B&HCC leaseholders on the Bristol Estate**

“Within nine working days of the Chair of this committee saying “We can confirm that we are not attempting to win litigation at all costs“, the Council made an Application to the Property Tribunal naming 39 Respondents; a common tactic putting the maximum amount of pressure on residents over the Xmas and New Year period. Presumably the council officer who wrote the Chair’s response knew this.

There were errors in the Application. Was this due to action being rushed through just prior to the holiday period or poor and incorrect record keeping by the Council?”

**iii) The following written question has been received from David Croydon.**

“Those parts of the Mears Group contract that I have been allowed to see are, mostly, very good. In the light of further information being published regarding fraud, of 468 post inspections of work carried out by the subcontractor through Mears only 30 failed.

However, when internal audit carried out 39 ‘door to door’ inspections, 8 of which had already been passed by Mears, 7 out 8 of these failed for “significant overcharge”.

Will the Committee support the call by Councillor Mears, made over a year ago, for an investigation into the Mears/B&HCC contract?”

- iv) **The following written question has been received from Madeleine Sailani.**

**Knightguard Security Ltd**

“I have been made aware that a director of a company called Knightguard is being allowed to survey and, generally, condemn entrance doors across the city? Does the committee appreciate that any profit from the new doors fitted goes to the very same company?”

- v) **The following written question has been received from Clare Hudson.**

**Children in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation**

“Confirmation was given at the last Committee meeting that no children have lived in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks. Does this mean that these children have been moved to permanent accommodation within the six week period or on to other emergency or temporary accommodation?”

- vi) **The following written question has been received from Nichole Brennan.**

“In light of the figures provided by Dr Tim Worthley of the 17 homeless people (average age 46) who died in 2017 in Brighton and Hove I must question the adequacy of the Council’s implementation of SWEP. The Executive Director for Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing referred to the fact that “Government statute is three nights below zero” in order for SWEP to be triggered. Could the Committee clarify which statute?”

- vii) **The following written question has been received from Kiah Garrett.**

**Agenda Item 66(d): Council Owned Short Term Homelessness Accommodation**

“This item is to be warmly welcomed. It is a pity that the “Supporting information” is not comprehensive and the proposals are lacking in detail. It is of the utmost importance that this policy is not treated in the same manner as the policy to have a Council run night shelter decision was treated a year ago. Will the Committee ensure this initiative is kept out of the hands of property developers? Will the Committee ensure community involvement and impose a tight time schedule to buy/build/refurbish appropriate accommodation?”

- viii) **The following written question has been received from Maria Garrett.**

**Agenda Item 69: Housing First**

“Housing First, introduced in Finland, **places homeless people in permanent housing** before they become afflicted by issues such as addiction and mental illness. It removes any initial complicated tests, and in essence trusts individuals to turn a corner independently, with support provided further down the

line. A 2017 report by EU housing organisation Feantsa, named Finland as one of the only EU countries not in the midst of a homelessness crisis. The Centre of Social Justice recommended that the UK government consider the experimental approach. Does the Committee agree?”

**ix) The following written question has been received from Keith Marston**

**Agenda Item 67: Housing Revenue Account Energy Strategy**

“The Council is considering an up to date Energy Strategy. However, given this will prioritise energy efficiency solutions with the aim of mitigating fuel poverty” it is strange that household income is excluded as this is directly related to the definition of “fuel poverty”.

Why is this not included in the strategy and will the Committee consider a review of the draft strategy by experts clearly beyond influence of interested parties from a business perspective and based upon an ecological and up-to-date technical analysis?”

