

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 1

4.00PM, THURSDAY, 27 JANUARY 2022

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

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ADDENDUM

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Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 90

Subject: Restore Council Services
Notice of Motion from the Conservative Group

Date of meeting: 27 January 2022

Proposer: Councillor Mears
Second: Councillor Bell

Ward(s) affected: All

This Council:

1. Notes concerns that have been raised by residents at the ongoing drop in service quality throughout the pandemic across various services areas, such as Housing and Parking;
2. Further notes that the Council has failed to communicate a plan to residents detailing when and how services will be restored to their previous standard; and
3. Calls for such a plan to be drawn up, presented as a report to Full Council in February April, and communicated to residents thereafter.

Supporting Information:

Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 90(d)

Subject: Green Group Amendment to 'Restore Council Services'
Conservative Group NoM

Date of meeting: 27 January 2022

Proposer: Councillor Clare

Seconder: Councillor Druitt

Wards affected: All

That the motion be amended as shown in ***bold italics***.

This Council:

1. Notes concerns that have been raised by residents at the ongoing drop in service quality throughout the pandemic across various services areas, such as Housing and Parking;

2. Notes that the pandemic continues to present challenges not just to council services, but to services in all sectors across the city. Recognises that the emergence of new variants shows that the council must continue to work both in emergency mode and recovery mode and this means that there may regrettably continue to be delays to services.

3. Recognises the extreme cuts to the council's budget over the last 12 years mean that even prior to the pandemic the council was struggling and councils across the country have gone bankrupt because of the Government's failure to fund them properly

~~2. 4~~ Further notes that the Council has ***used council communication channels to highlight changes to services where possible and delivered publications direct to residents on where they can gain help.*** ~~failed to communicate a plan to residents detailing when and how services will be restored to their previous standard; and~~

~~3. 5.~~ ***Understands that for such a plan to be drawn up performance and service improvement is presented in as a reports to relevant committees which can be referred to Full Council in February, and communicated to residents thereafter. This includes:***

5.1. The Parking Annual Report presented to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee on Tuesday 18th January 2022

5.2. Regular performance reports to Housing Committee

5.3 KPI reports which are reported to this committee.

Motion if carried to read:

Brighton & Hove City Council

This Council:

1. Notes concerns that have been raised by residents at the ongoing drop in service quality throughout the pandemic across various services areas, such as Housing and Parking;
2. Notes that the pandemic continues to present challenges not just to council services, but to services in all sectors across the city. Recognises that the emergence of new variants shows that the council must continue to work both in emergency mode and recovery mode and this means that there may regrettably continue to be delays to services.
3. Recognises the extreme cuts to the council's budget over the last 12 years mean that even prior to the pandemic the council was struggling and councils across the country have gone bankrupt because of the Government's failure to fund them properly
- 4 Further notes that the Council has used council communication channels to highlight changes to services where possible and delivered publications direct to residents on where they can gain help.
5. Understands that performance and service improvement is presented in reports to relevant committees which can be referred to Full Council this includes:
 - 5.1. The Parking Annual Report presented to Environment Transport and Sustainability Committee on Tuesday 18th January 2022
 - 5.2. Regular performance reports to Housing Committee
 - 5.3 KPI reports which are reported to this committee.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 90(d)

Date of meeting 27 January 2022

LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

Restore Council Services

That changes are made as shown below in ***bold italics*** and strikethrough.

This Council:

1. Notes concerns have been raised by residents at the ongoing drop in service quality throughout the pandemic across various services areas, such as Housing and Parking;
2. Further notes that the Council has ***yet*** failed to communicate a plan to residents detailing ***what lessons have been learned from the pandemic in terms of service delivery***, ~~when~~ and how services will be ***redesigned in light of these*** ~~restored to their previous standard~~; and
3. Calls for such a plan to be drawn up, presented as a report to ***the Recovery Sub-Committee of the Policy & Resources Committee*** ~~Full Council in February~~ ***April***, and communicated to residents thereafter.

Proposed by: Cllr Evans

Seconded by: Cllr Allcock

Motion to read if carried:

This Council:

1. Notes concerns have been raised by residents at the ongoing drop in service quality throughout the pandemic across various services areas, such as Housing and Parking;
2. Further notes that the Council has yet to communicate a plan to residents detailing what lessons have been learned from the pandemic in terms of service delivery, and how services will be redesigned in light of these; and
3. Calls for such a plan to be drawn up, presented as a report to the Recovery Sub-Committee of the Policy & Resources Committee in April, and communicated to residents thereafter.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 97

Date of meeting 27 January 2022

OFFICER AMENDMENT

Arrangements for Council and Committee Meetings

That the recommendation 2.2 be amended with the deletion of the text as struck through and paragraphs 3.14.2, 3.14.5 and 3.15.1 (3) be amended as shown with strike throughs and amendments as shown below in ***bold italics***

2.2 That the Committee agrees option A (14) ~~or option B (40)~~ regarding number of attendees at full Council meetings as set out in paragraph 3.12 and recommend them to full Council for approval.

3. Context and background information

3.14 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3.14.2 **Reduce items coming the *Policy Committees***: reports coming to committee should be essential business and, unless there is good reason, reports for information or noting should generally be avoided ***or dealt with in public engagement meetings, if this can be agreed with opposition spokespersons at pre-meets.***

3.14.5 **Limiting speakers**: it is proposed that on matters debated at the main meeting, ***groups are encouraged to limit their number of speakers*** be generally limited to one per group.

3.15 Enhanced Officer Delegations

3.15.1

~~(3) To comply with legal requirements such delegation shall be unfettered and, although the Officer is required to consult with Group Spokespersons on the issue of whether delegated powers should be used and the merits of the proposed action, he/she shall not be obliged to follow the views of the consultees on the substantive decision.~~

Recommendations and updated paragraph 3 to read if carried:

- 2.1 That Committee agrees the proposals set out in this report regarding arrangements for Council and committee meetings (except paragraph 3.11 dealing with attendance numbers) and recommends them to Council for approval.
- 2.2 That the Committee agrees option A (14) regarding number of attendees at full Council meetings as set out in paragraph 3.12 and recommend them to full Council for approval.

3. Context and background information

3.12 Attendance- numbers

- 3.12.1 For the budget Council meeting on 24 February, we are anticipating a full attendance of all 54 Councillors. For other full Council meetings, Members are recommended to consider reduced attendance. Reduced attendance can only be implemented by voluntary agreement. If there is no agreement, each Member and each group will have to decide for themselves. Given the restriction on available seating and lack of suitable alternative venues, Members are recommended to adopt options A or B from the following options:

A. Minimum attendance to meet the requirement for a quorum

The quorum for full Council meetings is 14. If the 14 seats were allocated proportionately to the Groups and the Independents, the party split would be:

Greens:	5
Labour:	4
Conservative:	3
Independents:	2

B. Reduction to accommodate 40 Members in the main Chamber- This would mean about 40 Members attending in the main chamber with no members in the public gallery. If this were agreed, the party split would be:

Greens:	15
Labour:	11
Conservative:	10
Independents:	4

C. Reduction to 46 with 6 Members sitting in the public gallery-We have had an update from security that, if Members are to be seated in the public gallery alongside members of the public, they would have concern. There are also complications on the selection of members and suitability of the seating area. Relocating the seating for the press may release 2 seats on the ground floor, but it would still be not very convenient. If this option were adopted, the proportional party split would be:

Greens 17
Labour: 13,

Conservatives: 11
Independents 5.

D. Full Attendance

It would be possible to provide seating for all members with the minimum social distancing and screening provided. But this is an option that is not recommended.

3.14 POLICY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3.14.1 There are a number of committee meetings taking place over the following months and it is proposed that Committee Chairs, following consultation with opposition spokespersons and Officers are encouraged and authorized to adopt the following proposals.

3.14.2 **Reduce items coming the Policy Committee:** reports coming to committee should be essential business and, unless there is good reason, reports for information or noting should generally be avoided or dealt with in public engagement meetings, if this can be agreed with opposition spokespersons at pre-meets.

3.14.3 **Engagement sessions:** If none of the reports coming before the committee require an actual decision, Members should consider, instead, holding a virtual engagement session. Where this is agreed, it is important to note that the meeting will not have the status of a committee meeting and it should not be described as such. It will be an engagement session with members of the committee attending virtually.

3.14.4 **A mixed arrangement:** Members could agree to take the public engagement items that do not require a decision (public and member questions) and items for information only in an engagement session before the main meeting limiting the in-person attendance to matters that require decisions or are required by law to be considered by the Committee.

3.14.5 **Limiting speakers:** it is proposed that on matters debated at the main meeting, groups are encouraged to limit their number of speakers.

3.14.6 **Decision-making process for the above:** It is proposed that the above arrangements, if applied, are agreed by the Chair following consultation with opposition spokespersons and advice from officers. Where the Chair so decides, it may involve moving the whole meeting to an engagement session or transferring some items of business to the engagement session to be dealt with virtually.

3.14.7 It should be noted that any matter that requires a decision or is required by law to be considered by full Council or a Committee cannot be dealt with at the engagement session and has to be discussed at the in person meeting of Council or Committee.

3.15 Enhanced Officer Delegations

3.15.1 Given the increased risk and the need to minimise the length of meetings, it is proposed to introduce an enhanced officer delegations scheme. The delegated powers will be in addition to existing normal and urgency powers and are exercisable after consulting the Chair and Opposition spokespersons in each committee. This requires P&R approval and a separate report on the matter is on the agenda. In summary, the proposals are as follows:

- (1) Subject to first consulting with relevant Group Spokespersons, Executive Directors or Members of ELT with delegated powers shall have enhanced delegated authority to make decisions on all matters related to their area of responsibility. This is in line with government advice and reflects the need to reduce the duration of meetings.
- (2) To facilitate consultation with members of all groups, such consultation may take place during committee pre-meetings, or separately if necessary.

3.16: Duration and status of protocol

3.16.1 The above proposals, once agreed, will form the binding protocol for Council and Committee meetings. The Council's Standing Orders shall be applied subject to the above modifications to the extent that is necessary. Without prejudice to the powers of the Mayor or relevant Chair to make a ruling at the meeting, the Chief Executive, after consulting the Monitoring Officer, shall be authorised to rule on the interpretation and application of the rules where there is ambiguity or disagreement. The ruling of the Chief Executive shall be final.

3.16.2 The Council Procedure Rules shall be applied subject to the modification to reflect the above arrangements.

3.16.3 These arrangements shall remain in force until annual Council but may be modified at any time before then, especially if there is change in the levels of risk posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Policy & Resources Committee

Agenda Item 99

Subject: Valley Gardens Phase 3- Extract from the proceedings of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting held on the 18 January 2022

Date of meeting: 27 January 2022

Report of: Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources

Contact Officer: Name: John Peel
Tel: 01273 291058
Email: john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

Action Required of the Committee / Council:

To receive the report from the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration and the recommendations for approval.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee recommends to Policy & Resources Committee that it approves capital borrowing of up to £5.0m to address estimated increased scheme costs arising from new Department for Transport design guidance; significant increases in construction costs and risk management; additional infrastructure, including for sustainable transport and events; as shown in Appendix 2.

Brighton & Hove City Council

Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

4.00pm 18 January 2022

Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

Minutes

Present: Councillor Davis (Joint Chair), Heley (Joint Chair), Lloyd (Deputy Chair), Wilkinson (Opposition Spokesperson), Nemeth (Group Spokesperson), Bagaeen, Fowler, Hamilton, Hills and Platts

Part One

70 VALLEY GARDENS PHASE 3 REVISED SCHEME WITH DETAILED DESIGN PRINCIPLES

70.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Environment & Culture that sought approval of Valley Gardens Phase 3 detailed design and other related matters.

70.2 Councillor Nemeth moved a motion to amend the recommendations as shown in bold italics below:

2.1 Approves the Valley Gardens Phase 3 detailed design as shown in Appendix 1: General Highway Arrangement Plan ***subject to 2.6.***

2.3 Authorises that all Traffic Regulation Orders required for Valley Gardens Phase 3 be advertised in accordance with the standard procedure ***subject to 2.6.***

2.6 Calls for the release of traffic modelling data and simulations to publicly demonstrate that the proposed scheme in its current form results in no increase to average bus journey times.

70.3 Councillor Bagaeen formally seconded the motion.

70.4 Councillor Davis stated that he could not support the motion as it would unnecessarily delay the project and the modal shift it was seeking to achieve.

70.5 Councillor Wilkinson commended the development of the Valley Gardens scheme and stated that the Labour Group could not endorse the amendment.

70.6 The Chair then put the motion to the vote that failed.

70.7 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote that were agreed.

70.8 **RESOLVED-**

That the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee:

- 1) Approves the Valley Gardens Phase 3 detailed design as shown in Appendix 1: General Highway Arrangement Plan.
- 2) Notes that the principles and details outlined in this report will help to inform all final technical matters, with regards to this scheme, in preparation for the procurement of a construction contract by officers in line with the decision made by this committee in February 2019 as outlined in paragraph 7.2 of this report.
- 3) Authorises that all Traffic Regulation Orders required for Valley Gardens Phase 3 be advertised in accordance with the standard procedure.
- 4) Notes the increased budget requirement due to significant delay in delivering Phase 3, additional stakeholder infrastructure commitments, and significant increases in construction costs, as set out in in Appendix 2.
- 5) Recommends to Policy & Resources Committee that it approves capital borrowing of up to £5.0m to address estimated increased scheme costs arising from new Department for Transport design guidance; significant increases in construction costs and risk management; additional infrastructure, including for sustainable transport and events; as shown in Appendix 2.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm

