

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY CABINET COMMITTEE
3.00PM 19 JANUARY 2009
COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL
MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Caulfield and Fallon-Khan

Also in attendance: Councillor Denise Cobb (Lead Councillor for Sustainability)

Other Members present: Councillors Steedman and Wakefield-Jarrett

PART ONE

15. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

15A Declarations of Interest

15a.1 There were none.

15B Exclusion of Press and Public

15b.1 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Sustainability Cabinet 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 nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, 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 100I(1) of the Act).

15b.2 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

16. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

16.1 The Chairman stated that she was delighted to see more people in attendance. She added that the Administration took sustainability issues seriously and welcomed the opportunity for debate.

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

17.1 **RESOLVED** – The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

18. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

18.1 **RESOLVED** – That all items be reserved for discussion.

19. PETITIONS

19.1 There were none.

20. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

20.1 There were none.

21. DEPUTATIONS

21.1 There were none.

22. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

22.1 There were none.

23. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

23.1 There were none.

24. NOTICES OF MOTION

24.1 There were none.

25. PROCUREMENT CODE OF PRACTICE - SUSTAINABILITY

25.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Finance & Resources concerning the council's revised Procurement Code of Practice for Sustainability (for copy see minute book).

25.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that, as a big purchaser of goods and services, the Code of Practice demonstrated the council's commitment to protecting the environment while growing the economy, with particular emphasis on local procurement to support local jobs.

25.3 The Cabinet Member for Central Services added that the Code of Practice would also contribute to the council's corporate priority of making better use of public money.

25.4 The Cabinet Member for Housing commented that the Code of Practice would be used when tendering and letting the 10-year contract for repairs to and maintenance of the council's housing stock.

25.5 Councillor Steedman welcomed the report and requested that minimum specification standards, such as those identified by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), be incorporated into the Code of Practice alongside the general principles. He also suggested that specific targets be set for the future. Alternatively, he requested that

officers monitor procurement and report back to the Cabinet Committee on the actual standards reached in relation to sustainability.

25.6 The Contract Management Advisor explained that officers were encouraged to thoroughly explore the market place to identify best practice and that by setting minimum standards the council may inadvertently limit its achievements with regard to sustainable procurement.

25.7 The Chairman commented that it was important that the council led by example and should push for best practice rather than minimum expectations. She confirmed that monitoring would be carried out and that Members would be kept up to date with performance.

25.8 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the principles within the revised Code of Practice outlined in Appendix 1 be noted.
- (2) That the revised Code of Practice be endorsed and approved.

26. URBAN BIOSPHERE CITY STATUS

26.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning proposals for Brighton and Hove to achieve the status of Urban Biosphere City (for copy see minute book).

26.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that the Urban Biosphere concept had real potential for improving the look and feel of the city in many ways. She added that the proposed timescale was appropriate and that it would be important to communicate the concept to the public clearly. She requested that officers consider an alternative working name to 'Urban Biosphere' when the proposal goes public, to ensure its meaning is understood.

26.3 The Cabinet Member for Housing added that the council had already begun to show its commitment to this concept through the work carried out at Wild Park in Moulsecoomb, and that this had also benefited the community in a number of ways.

26.4 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the council's commitment to work towards designation of Brighton & Hove as an Urban Biosphere be affirmed.
- (2) That the integration of the Urban Biosphere target into the work programmes of the City Sustainability Partnership and 2020 Community Partnership be sought.
- (3) That, working with the 2020 Community Partnership, an agreed strategy and costed action plan to set out the steps required to achieve Urban Biosphere status be published.

27. SUSTAINABLE CITIES INDEX

- 27.1 The Cabinet Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning Brighton and Hove's ranking in the 2008 national Sustainable Cities Index (for copy see minute book).
- 27.2 The Lead Councillor for Sustainability explained that the Index showed Brighton & Hove to be very near the top of the sustainability league in the UK.
- 27.3 The Chairman added that while the city had dropped on place in the ranking, this did not detract from the achievements made.
- 27.4 In response to concerns from Councillor Steedman the Cabinet Member for Central Services confirmed that the council was working to improve the city's ecological footprint.
- 27.5 The Cabinet Member for Housing added that both council and private sector housing had a role to play in this and that these issues were at the forefront of recent and forthcoming measures.
- 27.6 **RESOLVED** - That having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Committee accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That the content of the report be noted and that the Cabinet Committee considers what might be done to improve performance across all indicators.

28. DRAFT ONE PLANET LIVING PLAN FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

- 28.1 The Cabinet Committee received a verbal update concerning the Draft One Planet Living Plan.
- 28.2 The Head of Sustainability and Environmental Policy explained that the Draft One Planet Living Plan had been issued partly to address the city's ecological footprint and had come about through the consideration of the 10 principles of One Planet Living by One Brighton. The ideas contained in the Draft Plan were very complex and the next step would be for officers and Members to give it careful consideration before taking any further action.
- 28.3 Councillor Steedman supported the concept and hoped that the council would take it forward once work had been completed.
- 28.4 The Chairman confirmed that officers and Members would be considering the Draft Plan and ensuring that it could be delivered in the city.
- 28.5 **RESOLVED** – That the information be noted.

The meeting concluded at 3.36pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of