

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 9 MARCH 2010**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

# **DECISION LIST**

## **Part One**

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### **146. INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW OF WHISTLEBLOWING ARRANGEMENTS**

*Contact Officer:* Ian Withers

*Tel:* 29-1323

*Ward Affected:* All Wards

**RESOLVED** - That the findings, key issues and agreed actions arising from the internal audit report at Appendix 1 be noted and in particular the audit opinion that gives reasonable assurance and concludes there are no significant weaknesses, whistleblowing arrangements compare well with other local authorities examined.

### **148. REVIEW OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES**

*Contact Officer:* Mark Wall

*Tel:* 29-1006

*Ward Affected:* All Wards

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, as set out in its report which is listed as Item No. 79(b) be recommended to Council for approval.
- (2) That the Chief Executive be authorised to amend the Brighton & Hove Members' Allowances Scheme to reflect the foregoing, to submit to Council for adoption and to issue the revised scheme following council approval.
- (3) That the allowance payable to each of the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be increased by the council's salary inflation of 1% for 2010 with effect from 14 May 2010, (i.e. the day after the Annual Council meeting and in line with the effective date recommended by the Panel for increases in Members' Allowances), in recognition of their time commitment and their important role.

## 149. E-PETITIONS

*Contact Officer:* Elizabeth Culbert                      *Tel:* 29-1515  
*Ward Affected:* All Wards

### RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Committee agrees and recommends to Council the following:
  - (a) That the current e-petitions facility be retained.
  - (b) That the changes to the E-Petitions Guidance be approved.
- (2) That the likely changes that will be required to the Council's petition arrangements when the relevant provisions of the Local Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (LDEDC) come into force be noted.
- (3) That, given the delay in bringing into force national legislative changes and associated Statutory Guidance, officers bring a further report to the Governance Committee with a draft amended petitions scheme when the LDEDC Act provisions are in force.

## 150. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ACT 2009

*Contact Officer:* Oliver Dixon                                      *Tel:* 29-1512  
*Ward Affected:* All Wards

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

## 151. COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGAGEMENT

*Contact Officer:* Nicky Cambridge                                      *Tel:* 29-6827  
*Ward Affected:* All Wards

### RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Committee notes the public engagement work underway, the Framework and plethora of models developed according to community needs and priorities, **and agrees to establish a cross-party working group.**
- (2) That the Committee notes the formal review of Strengthening Communities Commissioning activity and agree that the Review should provide a way forward in providing recommendations for public engagement in the future. This will test the existing models and examine the need for further community decision making opportunities, (e.g., looking at LATs and how they feed into the Community Safety Forum etc).
- (3) That the outcomes of the review should include:

- A mapping and overview of the different forms and structures for public engagement that exist in the city, such as neighbourhood groups (e.g. LATS), and citywide representative activity, (such as that developed by the Community and Voluntary Sector Forum).
  - An analysis of the costs and benefits of community and neighbourhood engagement, including a breakdown of the costs and value of different models.
  - An analysis of the links between the Council's democratic and constitutional opportunities for engagement and those at grass roots level.
  - A quantitative and qualitative analysis and mapping of the various targeted neighbourhood initiatives in the city such as Family Pathfinder, Adult Advancement Centres and Turning the Tide, evaluating what works and determining any fundamental principles for future neighbourhood activity. Where possible, the review would include partner involvement in this and include Neighbourhood Policing and the PCT's work on health inequality.
  - An analysis of the value of the Council's current Discretionary Grants Programme in helping to support public and neighbourhood engagement.
  - To develop new policy and approach in line with the Council's organisational change processes and the move towards stronger commissioning, creating public value and desire to support local communities and economies and enable co-production of solutions at the local level.
- (4) That the review be completed by September 2010, (in time for the Council's budget setting processes), and submitted to Governance Committee and Cabinet, (as required by the constitution), for consideration and incorporating into budget approaches for 2011/12.
- (5) That the Committee receive written updates at every meeting between now a September 2010 and, where appropriate, Governance Committee attendance and involvement be requested in key aspects of the Review process.

## **152. PROPOSALS FOR TRANSFORMING MEETINGS OF FULL COUNCIL**

*Contact Officer:* Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis                      *Tel:* 29-1500  
*Ward Affected:* All Wards

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the **Governance Committee:**
- (i) Supports the proposed amendments to Council Procedure Rules as set in paragraphs 4.3 (closure motion moved by Mayor), 5.4 (Members' Questions) 6.2 (Notices of Motion) and 8.2 (speaking times) and recommends to Council that they be approved.
  - (ii) Agrees that, subject to Council approval, the changes come into force immediately after the Annual Council meeting in May 2010.

### **153. PROTOCOL FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DURING FUTURE WARD NAME CHANGE CONSULTATION EXERCISES**

*Contact Officer: Paul Holloway*  
*Ward Affected: All Wards*

*Tel: 29-2005*

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That consideration of a proposal to change a ward name be triggered by the submission to the Council of a petition signed by 5% of residents, or 500 people, whichever is greater, who are on the Electoral Register, and who provide a permanent address that can be verified as being within the ward in question.
- (2) That, further to recommendation 2.1, the relevant ward councillors be consulted and their views taken into account before a report is put to the Governance Committee to consider authorising a formal consultation on the proposal.

### **154. DESIGNATED POLLING STATIONS FOR 2010 GENERAL ELECTION**

*Contact Officer: Paul Holloway*  
*Ward Affected: All Wards*

*Tel: 29-2005*

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Committee notes the Returning Officer's designation of the Children's Centre, West Hove Infant School, as the polling station for the designated areas SY, within Wish Ward. (SY is an internal ward area reference used by Electoral Services Team.)
- (2) That the reversion to Craven Vale Resource Centre as a polling place for the designated areas DY, part of East Brighton ward, and ES, part of Queens Park ward be noted. (DY and ES are internal ward area references used by Electoral Services Team.)

### **155. CHILDREN'S SERVICES SECTION 75 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS**

*Contact Officer: Steve Barton*  
*Ward Affected: All Wards*

*Tel: 29-6105*

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Committee notes the proposed principles of the S75 agreements as set out in Appendix One and the proposed governance arrangements as set out in Appendix Two and makes any comments in relation to those known to Cabinet at the time for its meeting on 11 March 2010.
- (2) That the Committee notes the proposed new duties in relation to establishing Children's Trust Board outlined in paragraph 4.1 of the report and notes that these proposals will be taken forward by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

NB The above decisions will be implemented after close of business on 16 March 2010 unless they are called in.