

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4.00PM 16 JUNE 2008

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Morgan (Chairman); Janio (Deputy Chairman), Davey, Davis, Drake, Smart, Wells and Wrighton

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declaration of Substitutes

Councillor Wrighton was substituting for Councillor Rufus.

1b Declarations of Interests

There were none.

1c Exclusion of Press and Public

In accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it was 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 100I (1) of the said Act.

RESOLVED: That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

This was the first meeting of this Committee.

3. CHAIRMAN' S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to this the first meeting of the Environment and Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee and introduced the Interim Head of Scrutiny, Ian Glossop, who said he would be working closely with Members and officers to

develop a robust work plan. He was pleased to be helping raise the profile of Overview and Scrutiny at Brighton & Hove.

3.2 The Chairman said he had been co-opted on to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission as a non-voting member; this would ensure a continuing link between this committee and the Commission.

3.3 It was also important to establish working relations with the Cabinet Member, who would be invited to the next meeting.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

4.1 There were none.

5. MEMBER'S LETTERS

5.1 There were none.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

6.1 There were none.

7. ECSOSC TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROCEDURE RULES

7.1 The Interim Head of Scrutiny introduced the report of the Director of Strategy and Governance, on the Committee's Terms of Reference.

7.2 He reminded Councillors and officers of the role of the Committee, the processes for call-in and scrutiny reviews and said a robust work plan was needed to focus Overview and Scrutiny work on the key issues.

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

8. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY - REVISED PREFERRED OPTIONS

8.1 The Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy – revised Preferred Options which had been presented to the Cabinet meeting on 12 June.

8.2 Members noted that the Council was probably one of the leading Local Authorities in the South-East and possibly nationally in developing the Core Strategy.

8.3 The Chairman commented that ideally this document would go to overview and scrutiny before Cabinet. The Committee asked to be sent copies of the Local Development Scheme which was scheduled to go to Cabinet on 10 July and the Transport Assessment report.

8.4 The Committee discussed development areas in Hove, car-free development, affordable housing, open space, and allotments.

8.5 The Chairman thanked the officers and asked for a further report to Committee in about a year.

8.6 RESOLVED – That a further report be requested for mid-2009.

9. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY - BACKGROUND STUDIES

9.1 The Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy – Background Studies which had been presented to the Cabinet meeting on 12 June.

9.2 RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AND THE COUNCIL'S FORWARD PLAN

10.1 The Interim Head of Scrutiny presented the report of the Director of Strategy and Governance on the working of the Council's Forward Plan and how Overview and Scrutiny might wish to use it.

10.2 He said consideration of the Forward Plan would form part of the discussion at Overview and Scrutiny pre-meetings.

10.3 The Chairman said the Committee may wish to consider decisions to be made that had not been included on the Forward Plan. He aimed to Chair the Committee in a similar way to Parliamentary Select Committees which could look at overall strategy as well as focussing on detail where needed. He was keen to build good working relationships with the Executive and develop a work programme that was well focussed on strategic issues.

10.4 RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

11. TOWARDS A WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11.1 The Interim Head of Scrutiny presented the report of the Director of Strategy and Governance. He stressed the importance of developing an agreed Committee work plan.

11.2 The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Councillor Ian Davey agreed to form a work planning group with scrutiny and technical officers to bring a final draft work plan for approval to the next meeting, 15 September.

11.3 Possible matters for inclusion on the work plan were suggested (in no particular order):

1. Air quality action plan
2. Cumulative Impact Assessment, public safety and the night-time economy
3. Air quality and Noise
4. Neighbourhood Policing and the Community Safety Forum
5. Street lighting
6. Opportunities presented by the 2012 Olympics

7. Integrated Transport
8. Cycle demonstration town
9. Parking and night-time economy
10. Parking enforcement

11.4 RESOLVED – that a work group meet and report back as minuted above at 11.2.

12. LOCAL AUTHORITY CRIME AND DISORDER COMMITTEES

12.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Governance on local authority crime and disorder committees.

12.2 Members heard that Police Reform Green paper (report paragraph 3.7 refers) was not now due until July 2008 and in view of the importance of the community safety aspect of the committees' overview and scrutiny role and the work of the Community Safety Forum, asked to be kept updated.

12.3 RESOLVED – that a further report be presented to a future meeting of ECSOSC.

13. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO CABINET

13.1 Comments on the Corporate Plan would be taken forward to 12 June Cabinet.

14. ITEM TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

14.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 5.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of