





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

Overview & Scrutiny

Title:	Scrutiny Panel on Letting Agents
Date:	17 December 2010
Time:	10.00am
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall
Members:	Councillors: Elgood (Chair) Randall Simpson
Contact:	Sharmini Williams Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer 29-0451 sharmini.williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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AGENDA

1. Procedural Business**1 - 2**

(copy attached)

2. Evidence from Witnesses

Brighton & Hove Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB): Ann Johnson (responsible for Social Policy) & Vicky Watson (Bureau Director)

3. Evidence from Witnesses

Brighton Housing Trust (BHT) – John Holmström (Assistant Chief Executive), & Phil Oakley (Private Rented Sector Initiatives)

4. Evidence from Witnesses

Bonett's Estate Agents - Paul Bonett (Director) & Murray Kerr (Manager – Lettings)

5. Evidence from Witnesses

Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) Trading Standards/Licensing: Tim Nichols (Environmental Health & Licensing) & Annie Sparks (Divisional Environmental Health Officer)

6. Evidence from Witnesses

Leaders : Carole Charge (Technical and Compliance Director) & David Thorne (Branch Manager (Brighton Western Road))

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk. Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Sharmini Williams, (01273 29X0451 – email sharmini.williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email scrutiny@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Date of Publication – Monday, 13 December 2010

Agenda Item 1

To consider the following Procedural Business:-

A. Declarations of Interest

- (1) To seek declarations of any personal or personal & prejudicial interests under Part 2 of the Code of Conduct for Members in relation to matters on the Agenda. Members who do declare such interests are required to clearly describe the nature of the interest.
- (2) A Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a Select Committee has a prejudicial interest in any business at meeting of that Committee where –
 - (a) that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the Executive or another of the Council's committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
 - (b) at the time the decision was made or action was taken the Member was
 - (i) a Member of the Executive or that committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee and
 - (ii) was present when the decision was made or action taken.
- (3) If the interest is a prejudicial interest, the Code requires the Member concerned:-
 - (a) to leave the room or chamber where the meeting takes place while the item in respect of which the declaration is made is under consideration. [There are three exceptions to this rule which are set out at paragraph (4) below].
 - (b) not to exercise executive functions in relation to that business and
 - (c) not to seek improperly to influence a decision about that business.
- (4) The circumstances in which a Member who has declared a prejudicial interest is permitted to remain while the item in respect of which the interest has been declared is under consideration are:-
 - (a) for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the item, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise, BUT the Member must leave immediately after he/she has made the representations, answered the questions, or given the evidence,
 - (b) if the Member has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee, or

- (c) if the Member is the Leader or a Cabinet Member and has been required to attend before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or Sub-Committee to answer questions.

B. Declaration of Party Whip

To seek declarations of the existence and nature of any party whip in relation to any matter on the Agenda as set out at paragraph 8 of the Overview and Scrutiny Ways of Working.

C. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is confidential and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for the public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.