

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 12 DECEMBER 2017

JUBILEE LIBRARY (PUBLIC MEETING)

MINUTES

Present: Colin Vincent (Chair), Mike Bojczuk, Francis Tonks and Penny Morley

Co-opted Members: John Cook (Older Peoples Council), Jack Hazelgrove (Older People's Council) and Michael Whitty

PART ONE

358 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

358.1 Apologies were received from John Eyles, and also from Valerie Mainstone.

359 MINUTES

359.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

359.2 Mike Bojczuk explained that the reference at 357.1 in the November minutes to a lack of clarity with regard to OPC finances concerned OPC cheque-book stubs having been left blank. These have now been reconciled with payments made and there is no discrepancy. Mr Bojczuk also told members that OPC officers had met recently with BHCC to discuss transitional funding from April 2018. Simon Newell, Head of Policy, Partnerships & Scrutiny at BHCC has confirmed that £5K funding will be made available as a cash payment. Members agreed that Mr Bojczuk should request the transfer of this sum as soon as possible.

359.3 Members agreed to include an item on the January 2018 OPC business meeting agenda to discuss possible OPC meeting venues from April 2018.

359.4 The Chair told members that there was no news yet on the Open Market toilets. However, he reminded members that there was a toilet available on the first floor of the Open Market (there is a lift to this toilet).

360 OLDER PEOPLE PUBLIC HEALTH/AGE FRIENDLY CITIES

360.1 This item was introduced by David Brindley, BHCC Public Health Programme Manager.

- 360.2 Mr Brindley briefly outlined the history of the Age Friendly Cities (AFC) programme, noting that Brighton & Hove joined in 2013. Although some good work has been done in making the city more age friendly, the local AFC programme requires refreshing
- 360.3 In response to questions from members, Mr Brindley agreed that there was an issue with a lack of older people actively driving the AFC work (e.g. in terms of older people sitting on the AFC Steering Group). This would be addressed.
- 360.4 In answer to questions about the number of AFCs in the UK, Mr Brindley said that he thought there are around 13, but he would send round a link to the relevant website to confirm.
- 360.5 There was discussion of the successes and failures of the AFC project to date. It was noted that the link between the city Age Friendly Forum and the AFC Steering Group was key, with the Forum informing the work of the Steering Group. However, this relationship has not worked well.
- 360.6 Mr Brindley noted that the AFC work features in the most recent Director of Public Health Annual Report (copies will be circulated to members) and that AFC is an important strand of Brighton & Hove Caring Together.
- 360.7 Members noted that there was an initial enthusiasm for AFC amongst BHCC Councillors, particularly from former Councillor Geoffrey Bowden. However, this interest has not been maintained.
- 360.8 Mr Brindley told members that he would seek to review AFC progress to date; to update the Terms of Reference to reflect the current situation (e.g. making the link to Brighton & Hove Caring Together clear); to forge close ties with the Dementia Friendly Alliance and with Carer groups; and to re-model the AFC Steering Group. Local people will be involved in the work going forward, partly via on-line surveys/consultations (although the issue of digital exclusion is recognised by Public Health and alternatives will also be employed).
- 360.9 There have been some achievements to date, with AFC ideas embedded in commissioning practices, particularly in terms of Falls Prevention (DB will circulate more information on this).
- 360.10 The Chair suggested that it would be helpful if the AFC work reported directly to a BHCC committee, and Mr Brindley agreed, noting that this should be the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 360.11 Suggestions for areas that AFC could usefully focus on included: housing (i.e. what can be done to encourage older people to down-size), urban design (i.e. street-lighting which illuminates pavements rather than roads); and the enforcement of the ban on pavement cycling.

- 361.1 This item was introduced by James Hengeveld, BHCC Head of Finance (Planning and Reporting) and by Cllr Dan Yates, Chair of the Brighton & Hove Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 361.2 Mr Hengeveld outlined the budget challenge for BHCC, making a number of points:
- Over £100M of Government funding has been lost in recent years and there is increasing demand for key services.
 - This is the second year of a four year budget plan that will see very significant savings made in each year.
 - There are plans for a 5% Council Tax increase next year (including the social care precept).
 - The council's Capital Programme is around £150M, mainly in housing and highways investments. This does not include other major projects that the council is enabling but not paying directly for (e.g. Circus St)
 - The position on Business Rate Retention is unclear, with the Government having initially promised 100% retention but with no legislation anticipated which would enact this. In any case, increased retention is likely to be accompanied by decreased funding in other areas or by additional responsibilities for councils.
 - The Government announcement of a local government pay offer was higher than expected. This is welcome, but creates an additional financial pressure.
 - The council has responded to inflation by increasing most fees & charges by 2%.
 - There have been significant demand-led cost increases, most notably in terms of Learning Disability services and services for Looked After Children.
 - This year's budget plans faced a £13.2M shortfall. Plans were announced at November Policy, Resources & Growth committee to close this gap by making £12.1M savings. This leaves a gap of around £1M. However, these figures will change between now and year-end and the Government Finance Settlements will not be finalised until January, so more work on the budget will be required.
 - The council is doing all it can to deal with the issue of empty properties, charging full Council Tax on holiday homes and 1.5 times the standard CT rate for properties empty for more than two years.
 - The social care precept has raised £3.8M in the current year. This has been spent on increasing wages for care home workers and funding additional pressures in learning disability, mental health and physical disability services. Better Care Fund (BCF) payments have also increased in the past year and have been used to fund social care services. However, this has been offset by reductions in the New Homes Bonus.
- 361.3 In response to a question on higher Learning Disability (LD) costs, Mr Hengeveld told members that these were caused by a mixture of increasing complexity of needs, clients living for longer, the impact of changes introduced following the Winterbourne View enquiry, and the transfer of responsibility for some people's care from the NHS to the council without a matching transfer of all care costs.
- 361.4 In answer to a question about the integration of BHCC and CCG budgets, Cllr Yates explained that The CCG sets its budget later and in a different way to BHCC which limits the ability to integrate planning. However, the CCG is also facing significant budget challenges and will no longer be in a position to pick up costs from the council.

- 361.5 In response to a question from the Chair on where this year's social care cuts would fall, Cllr Yates told members that there had been a focus both on extracting maximum value from contracts (including identifying and eliminating duplication with NHS services); and on anticipating areas where demand is reducing (e.g. for day services). It has consequently been possible to reduce expenditure without significantly reducing services.
- 361.6 In answer to a query from the floor on the increased cost of the Integrated Community Equipment Store (ICES) contract, Cllr Yates told members that the previous contract has significantly underestimated activity and costs. The revised contract figure represents a much more realistic estimate of the true cost of supplying community equipment. There is a drive to recycle equipment, but whilst this is definitely cost-effective for more complex/expensive equipment, recycling costs can outweigh purchase costs for more basic items.
- 361.7 In response to a request from Francis Tonks for a leaflet detailing community equipment, Cllr Yates agreed that this could be useful, but noted that the market is changing rapidly meaning that a leaflet would quickly go out of date. More important is ensuring that carers are fully provided with up to date information on equipment and adaptations via the Carer's Hub.
- 361.8 In response to a question from the floor on HMOs paying business rates and on students contributing to Council Tax, Cllr Yates confirmed that the council has lobbied Government on both these issues, as have many other local authorities. There was discussion of the impact of increasing student numbers on the city, with Cllr Yates noting that the University of Brighton is not planning to raise student numbers, and the University of Sussex only plans for marginal increases in the next few years.
- 361.9 In answer to a question on the missing £3M parking revenue, Mr Hengeveld told members that there was little realistic prospect of getting this money back and most of it has now been written off.
- 361.10 In response to a question about the impact of budget plans on council staff, Mr Hengeveld told members that about 90 posts would be deleted, with further posts (e.g. Royal Pavilions) transferring to other organisations.

362 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

- 362.1 Members noted that the speaker at the January 2018 meeting will be Brian Doughty, BHCC Head of Adult Assessment (to talk about BHCC budget proposals for adult care services); and at the February meeting, Dr David Supple, Chair of Brighton & Hove Clinical Commissioning Group (to talk about CCG alliance plans and the progress of Brighton & Hove Caring Together). Members will agree a speaker for the March 2018 meeting in January.

363 GREY MATTERS

- 363.1 John Cook told members that Grey Matters has been offered a gift of £2200. This has been accepted and working on receiving it is progressing, although the Chief Executive has recently spent an extended period of time during Jury duty which has delayed

things. When it is received the money will be used to purchase new equipment which will enable the production of more programmes.

363.2 New volunteers with useful technical skills have also been recruited recently. A Directors' meeting will be called in the near future.

363.3 In response to a query from Mr Whitty, Mr Cook confirmed that Grey Matters is a Community Interest Company and has no formal connection with the OPC.

364 MEMBERS' UPDATE

364.1 Penny Morley:

- **Health & Social Care Network** - Attended meeting on 21st November coordinated by Community Works with presentations from BHCC officers and CCG's Jane Lodge. Adam Doyle CCG discussed the joint relationship between health and the voluntary sector. BHCC officers presenting were Jessica Harper, Commissioning Manager & Emma McDermott Head of Communities & Equalities. The CCG made clear that they would want to evaluate the contribution of the voluntary sector in some objective way. He also outlined yet further organisational name and structure changes re CCG & STP.
- **City Wide Connect** - Attended North/ Central hub meeting on 22nd November. This is co-ordinated by Possability People across the City. A wide range of participants from organisations across the City discussed - Transitioning from work to retirement, Bereavement, Building Carer Friendly Communities, Digital, Ageing Well and Long-term health conditions. Bus company accessibility officer was very willing to talk to any groups that would want further information.
- **Tower House** - Attended a meeting organised by Possability People (PP) on the 27th November. Mixture of BHCC, OPC & PP people. PP gave an update on the views of people & their carers that were moved from Tower House to other venues. Principally Barford Court, Ralli Hall, Somerset & Wayfield Avenue. Transport, Communication, Choice & Control and Costs were all raised as themes from the survey. Discussion held about lessons to be learnt from the way the process was handled. Tower House has now re-opened as a day centre run by St Vincent de Paul with lunches on Wednesday & Thursday. Contact 01273-54904 or towerhouse@svp.org.uk.
- **CCG Big Conversation** - attended STP meeting on the 30th November – now called Sussex & East Surrey Sustainability & Transformation Partnership. By 2020/21 the financial gap estimated to be £900 million if no changes made to way services provided. Currently has no powers to make decisions on behalf of the 24 organisations in the STP but this could change in future but only by Parliament.
- **Age Friendly City** - attended a Steering group meeting on the 7th December and future structure and terms of reference under consideration. Presentations given by Fabrica & South East Arts about their work for older people in the City. Gay dementia play at Brooke Mead, Albion Street on 15th February at 11.00. Contact 01273 234009 or rainbow.cafe@switchboard.org.uk for details.
- **Posh Club** - live cabaret & afternoon tea for over 60s coming to Brighton & Hove running every Friday 12 to 3.00 from the 13th April for 10 weeks and will be at Ralli Hall, Hove. They contacted OPC, made contact and they will be advertising shortly and looking for volunteers. See www.facebook.com/ThePoshClub1/.

364.2 Francis Tonks:

- Laid a wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of Brighton Heritage conservation Commission
- Attended the Pensioner Convention meeting
- Attended a Culture Framework meeting
- Attended Research Group meetings. The Research Group will begin interviewing older people in the new year. The Group is considering extending its purview to include issues around housing. A speaker from the floor welcomed this and suggested that this should include the problems encountered by older owner occupiers.

364.3 John Cook:

- Has been assisting at Tower House – driving the coach. Tower House now offers lunches on Wednesdays and Thursdays for lonely and isolated people. This will be extended to include Tuesdays and Fridays in the new year.
- Attended a CCG event on dementia and spoke about the fragmentation of services. However it was disappointing to see so few service users at the meeting and Mr Cook wrote to the CCG about this. Mr Cook has subsequently been invited to join a CCG Primary Care Reference Group which will help plan for constructive public engagement on primary care issues.

364.4 Mike Bojczuk

- Asked a question at BHCC Housing & New Homes Committee on the potential for providing free wifi in the common areas of Senior Housing schemes. BHCC has promised to look into this.
- Has also raised the issue of the provision of dedicated mobility scooter stores in high-rise blocks, particularly as fire safety concerns mean that people may no longer be able to leave their scooters outside their flats. BHCC Housing is now looking at developing storage solutions in at least one block.
- Has been working with Tower House on a digital inclusion project.
- Has attended a Carers' Group meeting focusing on IT solutions.
- Attended an NHS England Carers' Convention.

364.5 Michael Whitty

- Has offered to drive the minibus for Patcham Companions
- The Westdene Barn renovation is progressing and a lunch for older people will take place there on the 19th December.
- The latest Withdean and Patcham newsletter has been sent to 10,000 houses. Mr Whitty has applied for Police & Crime Commissioner funding for the next issue.
- Has negotiated for information on the OPC to be included in The Post magazine.
- Has joined the Patient participation Group for Warmdene.

364.6 Colin Vincent (Chair)

Has been in contact with the developers of the Preston Barracks scheme to discuss the scheme's impact on older people and possible mitigatory measures (e.g. having better

crossings with longer crossing times on the Lewes Road. Has also raised the issue of improving disability access to Moulescoomb station.

TOWER HOUSE

Together with Penny attended event to discuss a report by Possability People: commissioned by Social Services on the closure of Tower House. The proceedings in workshop format led by David Brindle BHCC Public Health Programme Manager and included staff from the Council's Social Services Commissioning Section.

The general conclusion of those taking part was that insufficient time was allowed for representation to be made on issues of the suitability of alternative placements, transport arrangements and cost, all question raised at the time with Councillors and Council Officers by the OPC on behalf of the vulnerable group affected.

SENPEC OFFICERS MEETING

Main topic discussed was National Dignity Day 1st Feb 2018 when a lobby of NHS health and social care providers organised by the National Pensioners Convention to promote adoption of the NPC'S Dignity Code is being organised. Locally it was decided to leaflet the Sussex County Hospital and the Eye hospital.

POLICY, RESOURCES & GROWTH COMMITTEE

First public presentation of the 2017/18 Budget details at this stage evoked little discussion by members present except for a comment by one Councillor that it was "a boring one" notwithstanding the fact that the report indicated it was necessary make saving of £13M in due to increased demand in areas such as dementia, mental health and adults with learning difficulties.

ALBION IN THE COMMUNITY

Attended an all day Wellbeing event at the Amex for men & women receiving or recovering from treatment for prostate cancer and their carers. A range of presentations on issues from dieting to physical activities, mental health and access to a range of other available support.

HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Received a response to the question I raised with the Rob Percy Director of Social Services at the previous HOSC about how the money raised by the 2017/2018 Social Service Precept had been spent. His response was that the money was used to fund living wage increases for home care staff (£1.748m) and changes in the demand/ complexity within mental health, memory, cognitive and learning disabilities (£1.889m)

CARING TOGETHER UPDATE

Presentation by Dr David Supple Chair of B&H CCG and Rob Persey on changes to the way urgent and primary care services will be commissioned across B&H, Horsham & Mid Sussex, High Weald Lewes Havens, and Crawley CCGs. There will also be a combined

management structure along with the rationalisation of administration and clinical activities. Formal shadow working together is scheduled from April 2018.

AGE FRIENDLY CITY STEERING GROUP

With Penny attended meeting chaired by David Brindley who is undertaking a root and branch review of the project's terms of reference and objectives and is considering a more active role for older participants in a revised consultation process with links to the Council's decision making committee structure.

365 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

365.1 A questioner from the floor asked whether the BHCC performance reports referred to by the Chair were available to the public. It was confirmed that the reports seen by the HOSC/HWB working group were included in the BHCC Policy, Resources & Growth meeting papers for 30 November 2017 and are therefore in the public domain.

365.2 A questioner from the floor raised the issue of Brighton & Hove buses using yellow rather than grey hand-rails which would make accessing buses much easier for those with visual impairments. The chair agreed to raise this via Buswatch.

365.3 In response to a question from the floor on OPC involvement with the Valley gardens scheme, the Chair noted that there had been no general consultation with the OPC, although the OPC was involved via Buswatch in the consultation on bus-stop placement within the new scheme.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of