

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 3 JULY 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Daniel (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Moonan (Deputy Chair), A Norman (Opposition Spokesperson), West (Group Spokesperson), Bewick, Cattell, Knight, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn and Simson

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1a Declaration of Substitutes

1.1 There were none.

1b Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

1c Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items contained in the agenda.

2 MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED –** That the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017 as a correct record of the proceedings.

3 PRESENTATION(S) - UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX -WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

3.1 Before proceeding to the formal business the Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed Dean Spears, Head of University Housing Services and Lenny Rolles, Head of Public Affairs

from the University of Sussex and invited them to outline the University's work in the community in respect of:

Ambassadors and how their work has impacted on the community (including befriending); and

Street Marshalls

- 3.2 It was explained that there was a four point strategy to the University's community engagement approach namely, to resolve enquiries from residents and partners, fund four large-scale community clean ups, to fund Community Ambassadors who contacted 7,000 households at the door step and funding a late-night Street Marshalling Scheme to help students to get home safely at night. There were 21 Student Ambassadors, in 3 Wards surrounding the campus, they knocked doors and engaged in dialogue with local residents and provided signposting to housing advice, City Council services, local events, community groups and volunteering opportunities with the intention of bridging the gap between students and residents. Community Ambassadors attending residents group meetings with officers and provided feedback on what they had learned from chatting to residents.
- 3.3 The ethos behind Street Marshalling and how it operated in concert with the Police and other partners was also outlined. Beacon Security Services had been contracted by the University to provide mixed gender patrols with community safety accreditation and operated three nights per week, Wednesday - Friday from 10.00pm-4.00am in Hanover and Elm Grove, the Lewes Road Area and Coldean and Moulsecomb. Patrols were focused on main streets and night bus routes offering advice to students and residents. The Marshalls had had 365 encounters during their initial period of operation involving people walking alone or in groups, not just students. This work had involved chatting to individuals/groups and advising them on getting home safely, reminding those moving through the city about their noise levels and providing basic first aid to members of the public. The Street Wise team had also alerted the emergency services on a number of occasions.
- 3.4 Following the presentation Members had the opportunity to ask questions.
- 3.5 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the presentation be received and noted.

4 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

Chair's Welcome

- 4.1 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, opened her communications by welcoming Committee Members old and new, and also members of the public, to the first meeting of the Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Equalities committee in the council new municipal year. Michelle Elson from the CCG was welcomed as were Chief Inspector Christopher Veale from the Police (who would be attending future meetings, Cllrs Ann Norman, Ken Norman, Gary Peltzer Dunn, Pete West and Amanda Knight. The Chair stated that they would all bring a great deal of knowledge and experience of supporting and championing communities and equalities in our city. I am excited to have you all round the table to continue to develop and deliver this committee's agenda. I know you

are all passionate about and committed to all the people of this city and will work with me to keep the collaborative ethos that I and your predecessors have built around this committee. We still have much to do on our agenda and I know you're all keen to get going.

Disability Pride – 9 July 2017

- 4.2 Disability Pride was set to take place on Sunday 9 July from 2pm until 7pm on New Road Brighton; a celebration of and for all people with all disabilities, the first Disability Pride in the UK. The voluntary group leading and organising the event had been liaising with New York who will be holding their Disability Pride on the same day as would Italy and Switzerland. There would be stalls and stages offering music, performances, food, education, arts and comedy (among other things).

Trans Pride, Brighton

- 4.3 Trans Pride Brighton, was now in its fifth year, and had an array of events in July.

As a registered charity run solely by volunteers, Trans Pride aimed to inspire all trans, intersex, gender variant and queer people to help make a real difference by celebrating trans lives and gender diversity. By promoting equality and diversity through visibility, Trans Pride attempted to eliminate the discrimination which trans people faced.

As part of Trans Pride the city was holding its second Trans and Non-binary Conference on Thursday 20th July. Going from strength to strength the second conference gives us - the city - the opportunity to demonstrate our on-going commitment to improving the lives of trans and non-binary individuals, and working together on what and how to make change happen.

There are some amazing speakers lined up for this year's conference including Jack Monroe, Sabah Choudery and MJ Barker.

Later the same day there is a free Trans and Non-binary Open Mic Night at The Yellow Book Brighton, York Place, Opposite St Peters Church.

All performances by trans and non-binary folk. There will also be a raffle running alongside this, to raise money for Trans Pride Brighton.

Culminating in an amazing weekend of Trans visibility and celebration with the Trans March from the Marlborough Pub to Brunswick park at noon on Saturday 22nd, and the Trans Pride park event at Brunswick square 1pm – 6pm.

For full information about the conference and Trans Pride visit transpridebrighton.org

Brighton and Hove Pride, 4-6 August 2017

And last but not least we have Brighton and Hove Pride 4th to 6th August.

So I'm wishing all our L, G, B and T, our non-binary, our intersex, gender variant and intersex residents and visitors happy and safe celebrations.

Additional items:

Amazing 100 Metre Water Slide Brighton! Local charity Amaze is bringing a daring, giant, 100 metre water slide to Brighton on Saturday 15th July 2017. In Brighton's beautiful Wild Park. 1000 riders have the unique chance to book now to speed down the most fun, adrenaline-filled slide in the city, with bubbles, blow up cushions and all proceeds will help local families with disabled children. As well as the slide Heart FM will be pumping the tunes, there's a bouncy castle and other entertainment for younger kids, the fire brigade are bringing an engine and the Mayor is visiting.

Brighton & Hove Impetus will be launch their annual Yellow Rose campaign on Sunday 30 July, the UN International Day of Friendship.

The yellow rose symbolises friendship, and the Yellow Rose Campaign is all about connecting people, building communities and helping to spread awareness about isolation in Brighton & Hove - and how people can get involved with Impetus to help tackle this issue. This year Impetus are taking the Yellow Rose campaign out to community events throughout the month of August, aiming to reach Moulsecomb & Bevendean, Patcham & Hollingbury, Hangleton & Knoll, N & S Portslade as well as more central areas such as Queen's Park, Hollingdean and Hove. If anyone has an event they'd like to invite Impetus to, or for more information on the campaign contact - info@bh-impetus.org

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5a Petitions

- 5.1 Councillor Daniel, the Chair, noted that a petition by containing 668 signatures had been put forward by Ms Cook representing 38 degrees. Ms Cook was invited forward to speak in support of her petition set out below:

"We the undersigned, are asking Brighton & Hove City Council to 1) assess the impact of fireworks on the people and the domestic and wild animals in the community and environment of Brighton & Hove 2) consider what alternatives might be available (for example to investigate if there is a way to reduce noise but keep the spectacle. Silent firework displays could, for example, pave the way for fabulous musical events with music instead of explosions accompanying the fireworks and 3) review the sale of fireworks to the public for private use with particular reference to the allowable sound volume."

- 5.2 The Chair, thanked Ms Cook for her petition and responded in the following terms:

”The Council shares people’s concerns about the impact of fireworks on wildlife and pets.

We ask the public to follow the RSPCA advice on how to keep their pets safe during firework season.

There are lots of simple things that the public can do to help pets deal with fireworks. By preparing in advance before fireworks start pets are better able to cope with the noises.

Large scale firework events, in the city, are organised by private companies. The council ensures that these event organisers comply with health and safety requirements.

The Fireworks Regulation 2004 restricts the times fireworks can be used and prohibits of supply of excessively loud fireworks. This is enforced by the Police and Trading Standards.

Thank you for the innovative idea of silent fireworks with music. I will pass this idea on to the councils Events Team, to see if they can promote the idea with events organisers.

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/fireworks>

5.3 **RESOLVED** – That the content of the petition and the Chair’s response be received and noted.

5b Written Questions

5.4 There were none.

5c Deputations

5.5 There were none.

6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

6a Petitions

6.1 There were none.

6b Written Questions

6.2 There were none.

6c Letters

6.3 There were none.

6d Notices of Motion

6.4 There were none.

7 COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS PORTFOLIO

7.1 The Committee considered a report the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing, the purpose of which was to provide Members with an update on the programmes which sat within the Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio, which included:

Community and neighbourhood hub development (physical and virtual);
Community collaboration;
Neighbourhood governance; and
Enforcement and inspection (development of the Field Officer role)

7.2 It was noted that following the Committees' agreement to the programmes to be covered in July 2016. Good progress had been made in each of those areas and progress reports on each of them were set out in the appendices to the report. The overarching principle was to put communities at the heart of service delivery and to focus services on community needs and to target those in most need; to enable residents to have a greater involvement in decisions and to enable more people to do more for themselves and each other. There was an emphasis on making services easier to use and to provide digital services and help using them. Also, to facilitate the sharing of information and resources, to drive greater collaboration between service deliverers, to improve satisfaction levels by involving residents and to improve relationships with residents. One of the key features of the programme had been the input given by local partners. It was important to continue to increase effectiveness against a backdrop of diminishing resources, this approach would provide a better website/officer interface and would enable greater targetting of resources, the same level of coverage would be provided for each area of the city but how it was provided would vary dependent on the individual needs of communities and work on developing hubs was being carried out with local groups.

7.3 Councillor Simson stated that whilst she welcomed the approach being used she had some concerns, in communities where there might not be strong community groups what would be done ensure that the appropriate level of engagement took place and that groups used to inform future strategy were representative of their communities. The Executive Director, Larissa Reed explained that fundamental changes were needed and a timescale had been factored in which allowed would enable wide-ranging dialogue to take place. Community Leaders and Councillors would have an integral role in leading on that too.

7.4 Councillor Moonan stated that she commended the approach being adopted, in her view progress had been made in a short space of time and provided the inbuilt flexibility to adapt and make changes as necessary, the digital solutions proposed were exciting and should be cheaper than more traditional means of engagement; she awaited further update reports with interest.

7.5 Councillor Cattell stated that as a newly appointed member of the Committee she welcomed the apparent progress which had been achieved within a relatively short period of time and the digital first approach being encouraged.

- 7.6 Councillor Peltzer Dunn expressed support for the work completed to date and the proposed approach going forward but queried references to the Section 106 element. The Head of Legal Services, Corporate Law, Elizabeth Culbert that the Section 106 Agreement had been drafted such that it could be amended to reflect what the Council was actually going to do.
- 7.7 Councillor West stated that whilst supporting the approach he had concerns regarding the role of the Field Officer, how that would interface across departments and was anxious that role did not become overloaded. He considered it was important to quantify that role in order to ensure that it worked well. Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred and it was agreed that this aspect and details on funding for Field Officer post(s) would be quantified in the future update report.
- 7.8 Joanna Martindale, Hangleton and Knoll Project, stated that the community and voluntary sector had welcomed the opportunity to offer their input and she was aware that in depth discussions had taken place behind the scenes and felt sure that this would feed through into future reports to Committee throughout the year. The Chair, Councillor Daniel stated that she the input from the voluntary was considered both valuable and an integral part of the process.
- 7.9 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee agrees the aims and objectives of the Portfolio as presented in Section 3.1 of the report with its focus on service improvement through increased involvement of the community and collaboration of service providers in all sectors;
- (2) Agrees the direction of travel of the Communities & Neighbourhoods Portfolio of programmes as described in Appendix 2;
- (3) Agrees the strategy to take forward the neighbourhoods working model as outlined in Section 3.6 and Appendix 3, building upon the existing strengths of local communities, and according to levels of need and existing assets;
- (4) Agrees that the work of the Communities & Neighbourhoods Portfolio will support ward councillors in their leading role in neighbourhood working;
- (5) AgreeS to the establishment of a task and finish cross-party working group to give strategic leadership to the Communities & Neighbourhoods Portfolio work, to be chaired by Councillor Daniel; and
- (6) Agrees the council’s commitment to collaborative working and to being an active partner in the development and delivery of neighbourhood action plans.

8 COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK

- 8.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing which was intended to to give members an oversight of the new city Collaboration Framework and to agree the principles, guidance and commitments set out in the Framework. The Collaboration Framework would complement the existing Community Engagement Framework and had been designed as a practical tool and a policy document which was centred on collaborating for better

outcomes, with and between residents, across services and sectors. This work formed part of the wider Communities and Neighbourhoods Portfolio.

- 8.2 The report highlighted the need for widespread effective collaboration and acknowledged that many organisations in Brighton and Hove already collaborated effectively but there was still room for improvement. The city's partnerships formed an excellent foundation; however, the aim of the Framework was to get every service in the city to rethink how it operated and to consider how, through better or more collaboration, they could maximise the impact of their work for the benefit of service users or beneficiaries.
- 8.3 Councillor Simson commended the report and welcomed the capacity building approach and the recognition that it was often easier to effect improvements externally rather than internally. Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred agreeing that the report was clearly written and that he found the information contained in the appendix very informative.
- 8.4 Councillor Moonan noted that this report built on that previously considered by Committee considering that it was critical to ensure that mechanisms were in place to ensure that staff/structures worked differently.
- 8.5 Joanna Martindale, Hangleton and Knoll Project, explained that she was aware that a lot of work had already taken place which was ongoing.
- 8.5 Councillor West welcomed the report which sought to maximise resources and sought the best possible outcomes particularly for those who were vulnerable. He sought clarification regarding funding streams and the manner in which the various steering groups referred to work in practice.
- 8.6 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Commtee agrees the principles, guidance and commitments set out in the Brighton and Hove Collaboration Framework; and
- (2) Agrees the council's commitment to collaborative working and to being an active partner in embedding this in practice through the development of a cross-sector steering group to develop and implement a Collaboration Action Plan.

9 WELFARE REFORM UPDATE

- 9.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Finance and Resources the purpose of which was to update it on the progress of the government's welfare reform programme and in particular the roll-out of Universal Credit in Brighton and Hove and the council's response to it.
- 9.2 The Head of Revenues and Benefits and the Revenues and Benefits Manager introduced the report and explained that work had been undertaken to analyse and identify the impact of both the recent welfare reform measures put in place by central government and arising as a consequence of the roll-out of Universal Credit which was due to be fully rolled out through a phased approach by the Autumn of 2017. Commissioning work was being undertaken across departments and with other partners and stakeholders in readiness and to ensure that those living in the city likely to be most

effected by these changes could be supported appropriately. The appendix to the report highlighted the key changes which had begun to take effect in the city from December 2016 and included changes in the benefit cap for households with children and for single people and a reduction in work allowances under Universal Credit.

- 9.3 It was explained that the overall impact from changes to the benefit cap was still unclear. Prior to the changes 67 households in the city were affected by these measures. By March 2017, 440 had been impacted, however around 90 of those had been removed as a result of a technical change in the way management support costs were provided by central government for people living in temporary accommodation. There were however a number of new cases each week and some of them were on Universal Credit.
- 9.4 Councillor Bewick commended the report and information contained in the report itself and set out in the accompanying appendix. He considered that it painted a potentially bleak picture stating that it was key to ensure that means by which mitigation measures could be undertaken across all departments were put in place and were included in an action plan going forward.
- 9.5 Councillor Cattell sought clarification regarding the interface with money advice charities to avoid additional hardship as a result of monies allocated for living expenses being spent otherwise for example by a partner. It was explained that those giving advice had been trained to address such issues and that if necessary partners could be treated as a separate household.
- 9.6 Councillor West whilst pleased to note the positive measures which had been undertaken considered that overall this was a matter for serious concern, particularly as money was being taken away from those in the city who were poorest. He was concerned that access to help could be patchy and was concerned that as many avenues as possible were pursued in seeking to assist those individuals in need. He considered that it would be appropriate to forward the report to the Housing and New Homes Committee.
- 9.7 It was explained that work was taking place in concert with housing, but that the issues to be addressed were broader and in some instances required use of discretionary services in collaboration with other partners/providers, for example in order to assist young single homeless people in the city who had different needs to those with families. Access to private rented accommodation was often difficult for those on benefits.
- 9.8 Councillor Moonan welcomed the work which had been carried out to date and was ongoing. It was important however not to create a “tsunami of fear” but to ensure that budgets were not underutilised as a result of individuals falling through the gaps and being missed. Councillor Moonan stated that rough sleepers often fell on the cusp of the safeguards in place, noting that mechanisms were in place to try and project ahead and to engage collaboratively with them by working with adult social care within and outside the council and through partners such as Job Centre Plus for example. Budgetary constraints and the potential for needs being managed to fit the budget available as a consequence were a source for serious concern.

- 9.8 Councillor Peltzer Dunn agreed with what had been said considering that it was very important to provide support targeted to individual need. Some people found it difficult to manage money and it was helpful if some instances money could be paid directly to a landlord rather than an individual. Problems could also arise if benefits were paid in arrears given that rent was usually required to be paid in advance.
- 9.9 Councillor Daniel, the Chair, enquired regarding measures in place in instances where gaps/or delays arose in payment being, she was concerned that this could result in parents and children facing destitution unless there were safeguards in place for emergencies. It was explained that various housing support measures were available, the council itself had some flexibility in the case of emergencies to make discretionary payments-and in such circumstances would also have duties under its homelessness provisions.
- 9.10 Councillor Bewick considered that it was important to be assured that a multi-dimensional solution based focus was adopted, for instance working with the credit union to guarantee rent to private landlords on order to cover their risk for example. The Chair, Councillor Daniel, explained that this report represented the most recent in a of a series which had been brought before the Committee in order to inform Members of the on-going work which had been and was continuing to be undertaken. This Committee had a monitoring role which was integral to that process. As well as the budgetary measures invoked a lot of holistic work had also taken place which included work carried out in the community.
- 9.11 Councillor West stated that he considered that this work was cross cutting over a number of the council's own departments reiterating the pivotal role of housing. The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing stated that the Housing and New Homes Committee had particular responsibilities and had an important role to play. However, there were many other issues for instance access to good food which also had a significant impact and which clearly fell within the interests and responsibilities of this Committee. Councillor West stated that the Committee needed to be confident that the robust emergency planning was in place to ensure that the council was able to help as many people as it could and that work was being carried out proactively across departments.
- 9.12 The Head of Revenues and Benefits confirmed that a further report would come forward to the Committee once full roll (which it envisaged would now be delayed), had taken place.
- 9.13 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, responded to Councillor West's request that the report be forwarded to Housing Committee stating that as much of the overarching work being undertaken fell within the responsibilities of this Committee it would be preferable for a further update report to come back to this Committee during its next cycle and subsequently in order to enable members to monitor this situation.
- 9.14 A vote was taken and Members voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations set out in the report and to receive a further update report to the October cycle of the Committee.

- 9.15 Councillor West further proposed that the report be forwarded to the next scheduled meeting of Full Council for information, this was seconded by Councillor Moonan and the Committee voted unanimously in support.
- 9.16 **RESOLVED:** (1) That the Committee endorse the response to welfare reform and the introduction of Universal Credit being taken by officers;
- (2) That the Committee note and comment on the work being done with advice services and other organisations in the city to support outcomes for citizens;
- (3) That a further update report be provided to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee in October; and;
- (4) That the Committee refer the report to Full Council for information and noting.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (1) That Council receive and note the contents of the report.

10 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS REVIEW

- 10.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to enable the Committee to have an overview of the circumstances of the death of X and the subsequent Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) which had arisen from that.
- 10.2 The Head of Community Safety, Peter Castleton, explained that the case of X who had died as a result of self-abuse and neglect and had moved to Brighton shortly before his demise as an individual with complex issues had been difficult to engage with and could exhibit hostile behaviour potentially putting those dealing with them at risk of physical violence. The case review following his death had brought forward a number of issues which were in the process of being addressed. Lessons learned and areas for improvement and action taken going forward were highlighted.
- 10.3 Councillor Norman stated that whilst the report was informative he was concerned that the information contained in it was being considered in the public domain, considering that the individual concerned could be identified. He was surprised that this information was not excluded. Councillor West echoed those concerns. It was confirmed however that information had been redacted as necessary and that the information provided was in the public domain.
- 10.4 Councillor Moonan commended the work undertaken stating that it was clear that valuable lessons had been learned.
- 10.5 Councillor Cattell agreed that the work undertaken had been valuable but was concerned that in a climate of continuing budgetary pressure which resulted in services being squeezed or potentially cut that there was a danger that similar tragedies could occur again. Councillor Peltzer Dunn concurred stating that it was important that measures in place were sufficiently robust to ensure that those exhibiting issues of concern did not slip through the net.

- 10.6 Councillor Daniel, The Chair, also commended the report and its contents suggesting that it would be appropriate for Members to receive further reports as/when appropriate.
- 10.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee consider and note the findings and recommendations from the Safeguarding Adult Review relating to adult X to ensure that learning from the review is put into practice; and
- (2) That the Committee approves the changes in practice which have taken place since the findings were published.

11 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGY

- 11.1 The Head of Community Safety introduced the report which detailed the final draft Community Safety Strategy for 2017 – 20. It was noted that the strategy set out the Brighton and Hove Community Safety Partnership's plans to address crime and disorder in the city which was a statutory requirement under the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act. The draft strategy had been referred to the March 2017 meeting of the Committee at which some suggested amendments had been put forward by the Committee and subsequently by other partner organisations. All of these suggested changes had now been incorporated into the strategy and the Committee were being asked to approve it and to forward it on to full Council for approval.
- 11.2 Councillor Simson sought clarification as to whether the anti-social behaviour team still existed within housing and it was confirmed that it did. Councillor Simson went on to state that whilst commending the strategy she was concerned that cuts in funding could have a negative impact on addressing anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder particularly in outlying areas of the city.
- 11.3 Councillor Peltzer Dunn sought confirmation that if the strategy was approved by Council at its next scheduled meeting on 20 July that it would then be published and any necessary budgetary arrangements made and it was clarified that was so.
- 11.4 Councillor West commended the strategy, which he saw as an integral to the role of the Committee. In his view in the light of recent events where acts of anti-social behaviour and crime had been linked to terrorism it was more important than ever for communities to stand together in order to combat these issues. The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing stated that she had attended a recent conference at which the cities approach to addressing these issues had been commended, which had been heartening.
- 11.5 A vote was taken and Members voted unanimously in favour of the recommendations set out in the report.
- (1) **RESOLVED** - That the Committee recommends to Council that it endorses the strategy and suggested priority area for reducing crime and disorder in Brighton and Hove agreed by the Committee; and

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND :-

(2) That Committee recommends to full Council that the Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2017 – 20 be approved.

12 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

12.1 **RESOLVED** – That the following reports be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of Full Council:

Item 9 – Welfare Reform Update (for information); and

Item 11 – Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy (for decision)

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of