

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOODS, INCLUSION, COMMUNITIES & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE

4.00pm 19 MARCH 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Daniel (Chair); Councillor Moonan (Deputy Chair), A Norman (Opposition Spokesperson), West (Group Spokesperson), Greenbaum, Meadows, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn and Simson

Invitees: Chief Superintendent Lisa Bell (Sussex Police); Chris Clark (Clinical Commissioning Group); Anusree Biswas Sassidharan (BME Police Engagement Group); and Jessica Sumner (Hangleton & Knoll Project)

PART ONE

63 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

Screening of Short Film “The Silent Child”

Before proceeding to consider business of the meeting including the presentation given by representatives from the St Giles’ Trust the Committee and Members of the Public attending the meeting had the opportunity to attend a screening of the Oscar winning short film entitled “The Silent Child”.

63a Declaration of Substitutes

63.1 Councillor Greenbaum was present in substitution for Councillor Knight and Councillor Meadows was in attendance in substitution for Councillor Bewick. Jessica Sumner was in attendance in substitution for Joanna Martindale. Chris Clark was welcomed in attendance on behalf of the CCG.

63b Declarations of Interest

63.2 There were none, although Councillor Daniel the Chair referred to the fact that she worked for Hamilton Lodge School and College for deaf children and that in that capacity she had used her discretion and invited a pupil of the school and representatives on behalf of the deaf community to address the Committee and in order

to facilitate their involvement the meeting would be signed by representatives of the British Sign Language Association.

62c Exclusion of Press and Public

62.3 In accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“The Act”), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, that there would be disclosure to them of confidential information, (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information as defined in section 100(1) of the Act).

62.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded during consideration of any item appearing on the agenda.

64 PRESENTATION(S)

64.1 Evan Jones and Elroy Palmer were in attendance on behalf of the St Giles’ Trust SOS Project to outline the work being undertaken in order to address County Lines across the South East also, the countrywide links that were established and the on-going work which was taking place. Their work comprised a number of inter-related strands which included support work in concert with other agencies/partners, preventative work and training/outreach programmes.

64.2 Work was being undertaken in partnership with missing people organisations in order to offer flexible support to young people and children in order to help them to exit county lines drug distribution networks, reconnect with their families and move away from drugs, crime and exploitation. Preventative was also undertaken with young people at risk of gang crime which aimed to help prevent them becoming caught up in this lifestyle. Ex-offenders trained by the Giles’ Trust worked within schools to educate particularly with regard to weapons, this programme was based in London but was also delivered in locations outside the capital.

64.3 In addition, the SOS Training Outreach Programme (S.T.O.P.) delivered increased understanding of gangs and associated issues for professionals and front-line practitioners. Course elements included gangs; girls at risk of sexual exploitation; non-violent resistance; reducing and managing conflict, amongst other topics.

64.4 Chief Superintendent Lisa Bell stated that the Police recognised the important contribution provided which worked in concert with and dovetailed with the work being undertaken by the Police.

64.5 Following the presentation Members had the opportunity to ask questions before proceeding to consider the remaining business on the agenda, Messrs Jones a Palmer were thanked for their informative presentation, applauding the work that was being carried forward to address this.

65 MINUTES

65.1 It was noted that Councillor Penn had attended the previous meeting in substitution for Councillor Moonan.

65.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2018 be approved and signed as a correct record.

66 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

“My Pronouns Are ...”

66.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and referred to “My Pronouns Are” explaining that the following week the council and other partners in the city would be encouraging staff to voluntarily wear badges pointing out that you could not assume what someone’s gender or pronouns were. That afternoon’s meeting was being used as an opportunity to launch this campaign and those attending the meeting may have noticed that badges and postcards explaining this were on display at the entrance to the meeting room.

66.2 Everyone defined their own gender and we should respect other people’s identities and rights. These days there was more freedom and safety to be yourself but there was still more work to do. We needed to increase education and awareness in the city and beyond as a person might not match what you expected and might not be defined easily. Making assumptions could be hurtful and distressing, so it was helpful to know what pronouns people used. If someone’s pronouns differed from what you assumed it was for you to adapt and to remember that it was ok to ask. These badges were a small step towards making positive change happen and sent a message that people should be free to be who they truly were.

66.3 The Chair stated that she would like to encourage everyone at the meeting including speakers and partners to wear a badge if they wished and to share their support on Twitter and Facebook using # MyPronounsAre.

66.4 The Chair stated that in closing she just wanted to say that this had been a team effort by many organisations in the city, and that she wanted to personally thank the support and collaboration from the council’s campaigning partners including local NHS trusts, Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, the Universities, American Express, Healthwatch, Trans Alliance, LGBT Switchboard, All Sorts Youth Project, The Clare Project and the council’s very own LGBT Worker’s Forum.

66.5 **RESOLVED** - That the content of the Chair’s Communications be received and noted.

67 CALL OVER

67.1 All Items on the agenda were called for discussion with the exception of item 71 the recommendations contained in which were agreed without discussion.

68 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

68a Petitions

68.1 There were none.

68b Written Questions

68.2 It was noted that two public questions had been received. The questions and responses given in respect of each are set out below:

Hove Carnegie Library

68.3 A question had been received from Mr Christopher Hawtree who was invited to put his question.

“Would Councillor Daniel please tell what stages have been reached in the proposals for a nursery and café at Hove’s Carnegie Library”.

The following response was provided:

“I am pleased to tell you that we are finalising the agreements with the nursery and the café that are going into Hove Library, and that if all goes well, both facilities will be up and running in September. We will be announcing further details as soon as we can.

We are still waiting for Listed Building Consent for changes to Hove Library to accommodate the nursery and café. Once this is received, the works will take place, together with some building maintenance and improvements such as some new flooring and decoration in some parts of the library. The library will remain open during these works, although sections will need to be cordoned off while work takes place.”

Mr Hawtree was invited to ask a supplementary question. He asked whether/when it was agreed that a nursery facility would be provided and whether members had been made aware that the existing radial shelving which dated from 1908 would need to be removed and the rationale for that decision. It was agreed that information would be provided following the meeting and would be set out in the minutes. This is set out below:

“The ‘radial shelves’ to which Mr Hawtree refers can be found in the semi-circular part of the ground floor of Hove Library. In total there are 180 radial shelves and 109 wooden shelves around the windows, total 289 shelves in this area. The current proposals for the ground floor will see 48 radial shelves and 33 wooden shelves around the windows removed. This will leave 132 radial and 76 wooden shelves around the windows left, i.e. 72% of the shelving in that area. All of the shelves taken out will be replaced in other parts of the ground floor as part of the changes.

The rationale for this proposal is that the removal of the staff facilities in the basement means alternative facilities are needed elsewhere in the library. The existing staff office on the upper floor is being widened to accommodate staff office facilities, but a small staff kitchenette and rest room is also needed. The potential locations for this facility are limited, and as utilities are being provided on the ground floor for café facilities, it made sense to locate the staff kitchenette next to the café so that the same water and waste pipes can service both.

PSPO’s in Brighton and Hove

68.4 The following question had been received from Ms Angela Barnet. Ms Barnett was invited to put her question and also had the opportunity to ask one supplementary question should she so wish.

“Before implementing PSPO’s in Brighton & Hove we were assured that the new prohibitions would not disproportionately affect gypsies, travellers or the homeless. In the light of the review report showing that 123 warning letters were issued only to “encampments” and additionally that PSPO’s were used as a method to encourage homeless people sheltering in tents to move, how are you going to ensure that future use of this legislation, will not result in further persecution of rough sleepers, gypsies and travellers, especially considering the new Government Guidance and the lack of available alternative provision in the city?”.

68.5 The Chair gave the following response:

“A light touch approach had been applied to this issue in Brighton and Hove and PSPO’s had only been used to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area that was detrimental to the local community’s quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of that area which applied to everyone. Whilst a sensitive approach was applied the Council had to balance the needs of all in the city including those of neighbouring residents.”

68.6 Ms Barnett asked further what approach the Council was adopting to ensure that the travelling/homeless community were not unfairly effected by the potential draconian measures which were contained within PSPO’s.

68.7 The Chair responded stating that she understood Ms Barnett’s concerns, confirming that a blanket approach was not used when dealing with encampment and other traveller sites across the city. No one had been fined and the Council took its welfare role towards those who were vulnerable very seriously. In the case of individuals who were homeless or had identified issues they were signposted towards appropriate services. Where issues had been identified in relation to on-going issues at specific/identified sites albeit sensitively, those issues could not go unaddressed and the needs of all living in that community had to be balanced very carefully. She further stated that she would be happy to facilitate further engagement on this matter outside of the committee process.

68c Deputations

Why BSL is Important to me

68.9 Ayesha Denny from Hamilton Lodge School was invited to put her Deputation. She explained the importance of British Sign Language (BSL) to her and the importance of the work carried out to ensure that pledges contained in phase 1 of the project were carried forward. Signers on behalf of BSL were present throughout and in connection with the following item on the agenda, Item 70, “Progress Update on British Sign Language (BSL) Charter”.

68.10 Having listened to Ayesha’s submission it was welcomed and its contents noted by the Committee.

68.11 **RESOLVED** - That the contents the deputation be received and noted.

Buzzfeed News Article - Gender Identity Pronouns Campaign

68.12 Dr Samuel Hall was invited to speak to his Deputation the contents of which are set out below:

68.13 “Beginning with the trans scrutiny 2013, followed by a needs assessment published in 2015, BHCC has a track record of listening to and advocating for trans rights. There is a history of political and municipal support ranging from public health funding to the facilitation of the now well established annual trans pride event.

A sub group maintaining continuity of this early adoption of advocacy for trans and non-binary inclusion has established an annual conference in partnership with the university of Brighton and has initiated the imminent pronoun badge campaign. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to raise the profile of trans and non-binary identities by participating in this initiative designed to coincide with trans day of visibility on 31st March. This is an exemplary campaign highlighting the inclusion of a minority community and which has already enjoyed some very positive press coverage. In reality it is not only trans and non-binary people who benefit from the discourse around gender. We all do. The artificial barrier created by gender is both oppressive and toxic, anything that challenges and opposes enforced gender roles and expectations is progressive for modern society. Advocating for trans rights is a risky business with detractors and naysayers quick to criticize, but this council’s track record and reputation with the local trans and non-binary community and beyond is important. We stand on the right side of history and it is being noted both at home and abroad. Moving forward B&H has an opportunity to pioneer a ground-breaking reconfiguration of health and social care services for trans and non-binary people with NHS England now actively seeking pilot schemes. This is a chance to design and deliver an integrated health and social care model which gives parity of esteem to mental health services alongside physical health, to create future-proof interfaces between a deprived community and service providers, and to model partnership working between the public and voluntary sectors which maximizes community engagement in both design and delivery. We should not be missing this opportunity to build something enviable in terms of joined up care at a local level.”

68.14 The Chair welcomed Dr Hall’s submission, the contents of which were received and noted by the Committee.

68.15 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

Issues New Road, Brighton

68.16 Mr Lyndon Brooker was invited to speak in support of his Deputation the contents of which are set out below:

“My partner and I both reside and work on New Road, and have done so for the past three years. We regularly encounter issues that we feel require more attention from the council. These include regular acts of anti-social behaviour from people drinking alcohol

on the street, large late night gatherings of revellers, with all that entails, and daily problems with amplified buskers and music at all hours. Aside from the personal distress and disruption this causes to our daily lives, and business, it also leads to visible incidents of violence, drug-taking, graffiti, littering, and poses a risk to traffic and pedestrians. We have logged well over 500 calls to the police over the past 36 months. Whilst the Police are working with us to tackle some of these issues, they have neither the resources nor the powers in some instances to effectively address them.

In an ideal world, and having had numerous conversations with the Police, residents and businesses of New Road, as well as staff and security at the Royal Pavilion and its gardens, and the Theatre Royal Brighton, we plan to petition for the removal of the benches that seem to be the source of all of these issues. In the meantime we would like the council to consider:

Up-to-date signage for busking and street drinking and clearer road signs. There is currently no signage regarding busking laws. And signs regarding alcohol consumption are inadequate and out of date legally.

- Action from Environmental Health to enforce council bylaws (busking), particularly at weekends and late at night.
- Since the large majority of late night revellers seem to be mostly foreign (predominantly Spanish) visitors, we would ask the council contact local language schools, asking them to deter their students from congregating on New Road late at night.
- Work with relevant agencies and the Police to engage with the individuals presenting persistent antisocial behaviour.”

68.17 The Chair gave the following response:

“The Council is currently agreeing wording for new Public Space Protection Order alcohol restriction signage. The signs will be ordered and updated in the near future. The Community Safety team will keep in touch with you to keep you up to date on the progress of this. Police do have the authority to remove alcohol under dispersal powers contained within the Anti -Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 without the need for signage. We currently have no signage relating to busking anywhere in the City but officers will consider whether it would be appropriate to introduce this taking into account the issues you are experiencing and whether budgets and resources would allow it. I understand that some of your neighbours have been supported by Council Officers to develop an A board which they display outside of their premises reminding buskers of the ‘one hour, no drums no amps’ rule and officers would be happy to support you to do something similar.

Environmental Health Officers will respond to complaints about buskers during office hours if they have resources to do so and if they occur at weekends the Council’s noise patrol service can respond on Fridays and Saturdays between 10pm and 3am. However officers will not approach where there is a risk to their personal safety for example where they are surrounded by groups of intoxicated people at night without Police owing to the risk of conflict. Over the summer we will be recruiting to some new roles within the Council introducing field officers who will work seven days a week up until eight o’clock in the evening and we will ensure that they are aware of the issues you have outlined and move buskers on when they are witnessed in contravention of the bye

laws. The Council will consider contacting language schools and ask them to remind their students to be mindful of their behaviour.

The Council is already working with partners across the City to deal with issues around persistent anti- social behaviour. There is a regular street community partnership meeting with partner agencies such as Sussex Police, Equinox and St. Mungo's that identifies individuals and geographical areas where behaviour is causing the most harm to members of the public and puts in place multi-agency plans to address these, with consideration given to both support and enforcement interventions. The partnership tactical tasking and co-ordination group consisting of police, Council departments and third sector organisations, has adopted Street Community issues as a priority, and New Road has been among the geographical priority areas targeted on a multi-agency basis for the last several weeks. Issues of anti- social behaviour can be reported to the Council's casework team on 01273 292735, and where individuals can be identified who are engaged in repeated anti-social behaviour, the Casework Team will work with partner agencies to address this behaviour. This has already happened in relation to a number of individuals identified on New Road."

68.18 Whilst noting the response and action being taken Councillor West was of the view that some of the actions suggested by Mr Brooker were worthy of further investigation, and should form the subject of a further report to Committee. A number of other Members were in agreement and following a vote it was agreed that a report would be brought back to Committee as soon as it was practicable to do so, October 2018 was anticipated.

68.19 **RESOLVED** – That a report detailing measures which could be used to ameliorate existing nuisance in New Road be brought back to Committee as soon as it was practicable to do so.

Needs of the Deaf Community

68.20 Ayesha Denny presented a further Deputation setting out the needs of the deaf community in Brighton and Hove particularly in terms of listening to them and providing opportunities for them to communicate their views.

68.21 The Chair and Members of the Committee stated that they had welcomed Ayesha's input and thanked her for attending in order to represent the views of the deaf community. The Chair commended her contribution as an articulate young woman.

68.22 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the Deputation be received and noted.

69 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

69a Petitions

69.1 There were none.

69b Written Questions

69.2 There were none.

69c Letters

69.3 There were none.

69d Notices of Motion

69.4 There were none.

70 PROGRESS UPDATE ON BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE CHARTER

70.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Inclusion, Communities and Housing which provided an update on progress made following the Committees' agreement in March 2017 to sign the British Deaf Association's British Sign Language Charter. It was noted that the Committees' decision had been taken following feedback received from Deaf and British Sign Language (BSL) user communities in the city in response to the work carried out by the Fairness Commission in 2016. The Commission's recommendations had included a recommendation that:

"The access and rights for Deaf people who use British Sign Language, the council should sign up to the British Deaf Association's (BDA) Charter for British Sign Language and implement the five pledges set out within it."

70.2 It was on the basis of those recommendations that agreement to sign the BDA's British Sign Language (BSL) Charter had been made. This report provided an update covering work undertaken over the last twelve months.

70.3 It was explained in answer to questions, that The BSL Charter had been designed as a vehicle to remove direct and indirect discrimination, empower local D/deaf communities and to resolve conflicts between service providers and D/deaf people. The Charter comprised several phases and comprised five pledges although the council had initially undertaken to sign up to three of them within the first stage of the project. The remaining two pledges which were: to ensure access for D/deaf people to information and services and to ensure that staff working with D/deaf people could communicate effectively in BSL, had been included in phase 1 engagement work and progress had been made in those areas.

70.4 The Council had officially signed the BSL Charter on 10 June 2017 at Hamilton Lodge School during their community fete. Ayesha Denny who had signed on behalf of the D/deaf community had already presented her Deputation on this subject and the Chair, Councillor Daniel commended her valuable contribution.

70.5 Councillor West commended the report and gave his own perspective based on his own experiences as a hearing aid wearer. He referred to the difficulties experienced by those who were deaf or had hearing loss notwithstanding the availability of hearing loops in Council buildings and the need for meetings and equipment to be used in such manner that it facilitated involvement by those from the deaf community. For instance the volume and pitch of the microphones in use that day which was such that I could still be difficult for those present to understand/engage fully with what was going on and the need to use a variety of means of communication. If there was the ability to provide a

remote transcription service in relation to meetings he considered that would be useful and that, that was worthy of further investigation.

70.7 The Committee commended the report and voted unanimously that the recommendations set out in it be agreed.

70.8 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee note the progress that has taken place against the pledges contained within the BSL Charter during phase 1 of the project.

(2) That the Committee approve the action plan (appendix 1) which has been drawn up from feedback received during phase 1 engagement with local D/deaf communities; and

(3) That the Committee instructs officers to bring a further progress report, on the delivery of the action plan.

71 OXFORD COURT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER CONSULTATION SUMMARY

71.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to feedback to Committee on the statutory consultation which had been carried out regarding the proposed Oxford Court Public Space Protection Order, and to recommend action based upon that.

71.2 The Committee agreed to the recommendations set out in the report without discussion.

71.3 **RESOLVED** - That the committee grant the proposed Oxford Court Public Space Protection Order (as set out in appendix 1) to the report.

72 ST JAMES COURT PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

72.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to describe concerns around criminal and antisocial behaviour taking place in and around the alleyway at the southern end of George Street Brighton, and to consider the value of a Public Space Protection Order authorising a gating scheme partially closing the alley to general access as a remedy for those concern. It was noted that the site plan was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

72.2 It was explained that local residents including those representing the St James' Community Action Group representing people living/and or working around St James' Court had raised concerns regarding the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour in the vicinity, particularly around the southern most entrance outside residential properties. Issues raised had included reported drug dealing and public drug use, persons publicly injecting and overdosing, street fouling, disorderly and intimidating behaviour. The clear view of those living/working in the area was that significant problems were caused by the presence of the alleyway.

72.3 In answer to questions it was explained that alternative interventions, aside from access restriction had been considered, but because of the nature of the activities taking place and the role that the alleyway played in them no other alternative had been identified

which would successfully resolve matters on a sustained basis. The nature of the activities reported was considered to be detrimental to public safety and to impact upon those living and operating businesses in the area and this impact was such that it was felt to justify the access restrictions which would be imposed by this proposed order.

72.3 The Committee commended the report and the action proposed.

72.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee give approval for a statutory public consultation on the draft St James' Court Public Space Protection Order as set out in appendix 1 to the report.

73 REVIEW OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES PUBLIC PLACES PROTECTION ORDER

73.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing, the purpose of which was to consider the effectiveness of the Parks and Open Spaces Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which had been implemented in April 2017 under section 59 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. The report documented the proactive approach taken by the council in monitoring the Parks and Open Spaces PSPO which would be in place until January 2020.

73.2 It was noted that PSPO's were intended to be used to deal with a particular nuisance or problem in an area that was detrimental to the local communities quality of life by imposing conditions on the use of an area which applied to everyone and were designed to ensure people could use and enjoy public spaces safe from anti-social behaviour and the order had been drawn up covering the areas identified in the report where there had been substantial evidence of anti-social behaviour.

73.3 Councillors Meadows and Moonan welcomed this initiative and sought further confirmation regarding the approach used to address issues which arose as a result of an increasing number of people occupying tents rather than sleeping rough and whether there was an evidence to suggest that that the PSPO had resulted in displacement. It was explained that as a result of joint working between the police and council officers' people had received appropriate support to enable them to move on from areas where anti-social behaviour had been reported. Where possible, individuals had been placed in accommodation or reconnected to support areas outside of the city in instances where they had no local connection. Whilst there had been concerns that displacement would occur this did not appear to have been the case.

73.4 In answer to further questions from Councillor West it was confirmed that in relation to PSPO sites and unauthorised encampments, officers had carried out welfare checks and advised those there that a PSPO was in place. In instances where people were in breach and had not moved on warning letters had been issued and in the majority of cases, combined with the option of moving on to a transit site where appropriate had enabled unauthorised encampments to be moved where no other welfare issues were involved.

73.5 Members commended the report and the work that had been undertaken.

73.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee notes the review undertaken in relation to the impact and enforcement of the Parks and Open Spaces PSPO as set out in the report.

74 UPDATE ON POVERTY PROOFING THE SCHOOL DAY

- 74.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Families, Children and Learning which provided an update on progress on the agreement given to address the Fairness Commissions recommendation that: “The Council, working with city schools, should bring to Brighton and Hove the “Poverty Proofing the School Day” initiative to ensure no child missed out on the opportunities and experiences at school in consequence of low family income.”
- 74.2 The Senior Adviser Education Partnerships, Hilary Ferries, introduced the report and set the national context for this work also referring to the work carried out by Child Poverty Action Group in outlining the impact of poverty on outcomes for children and young people and in particular for education. In Brighton and Hove diminishing the gap between the outcomes for pupils in disadvantage and their peers had been identified as a key priority. As a result of the Fairness Commission recommendation agreement had been given to a “Poverty Proofing the School Day” process funded for a two year period.
- 74.3 It was noted that the “Poverty Proofing the School Day” audit was intended to seek to ensure that the voices of children and young people in school were heard and that opportunities were provided for other stakeholders to participate. Reports on the audit gave schools feedback on their systems enabling the leadership teams within individual schools to reflect on those findings, to celebrate successes and to see if there were any changes they could make to remove barriers for families that were struggling financially. A group of researchers, staff from schools across the city and a team from the Local Authority had been trained to lead and to carry out the audits.
- 74.4 At the end of the audit process which included a parent/carer questionnaire, a governor questionnaire and a staff questionnaire, responses to the questions were analysed and a report written. The lead researcher went back to the school to discuss the report and any next steps as appropriate. The number of research days was determined by the size of the school. Pilot schools had helped to review and refine the process and details were provided of the schools which had taken part to date.
- 74.5 The Chair, Councillor Daniel, welcomed the work which had been undertaken to date and referred to the emerging areas for consideration which had been identified. In relation to school trips it appeared that the approach adopted differed greatly between schools and she considered that it was important that parents and schools were made aware of Trust Funds and other funding sources that were available to assist with funding school trips, whilst acknowledging that the range of strategies currently in place generally worked well.
- 74.6 Councillor Daniel stated that she considered based on her own experience that schools needed to adopt a far more sympathetic approach to school uniform. For those families with limited money at their disposal it was an unnecessary additional burden to purchase school uniform which displayed the school logo, rather than an identical plain item in the same colour which could be purchased from supermarkets for example at a fraction of the cost. These issues needed to be addressed and it was hoped that details

of how this and the other issues identified were being carried forward could be included in the follow up report to Committee.

74.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the progress of introducing “Poverty Proofing the School Day” to all schools in the city; and

(2) That the Committee instructs officers to bring a further report of the progress of the project back to Committee in 12 months.

75 VIOLENCE, VULNERABILITY AND EXTREMISM

75.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing the purpose of which was to brief the Committee on the threat in relation to child criminal exploitation and gang activity related to county lines, a police term used to describe how gangs from metropolitan areas were now operating elsewhere in the country. The report also outlined the strategy being adopted by the Community Safety Partnership to disrupt activity and to support people in exiting their involvement as victims and perpetrators.

75.2 Councillor Simson referred to the sum of £156,000 which had been allocated in the 2018/19 council budget which would be used to fund a co-ordinator and to fund support to help people out of involvement with organised crime networks and which would include third sector support. Councillor Simson sought confirmation regarding how this would be achieved. The Head of Safer Communities, Jo Player, explained that work was being undertaken in concert with the Head of Children’s Safeguarding currently and advice was being sought from specialist agencies regarding the most appropriate means of delivery. The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing, Larissa Reed confirmed that discussions were on-going. Councillor Simson stated that it would be helpful if Members could be provided with a detailed breakdown of how this sum would be used when the arrangements put into place had been finalised.

75.3 It was noted in answer to questions, that the Community Safety Partnership had developed and was refining a flexible violence, vulnerability and exploitation strategy which would seek to prevent vulnerable people being drawn into organised crime relating to drugs and criminal exploitation by working with third sector youth service providers in order to develop safe exit strategies and pathways for young people who had become involved as victims or perpetrators. A copy of the Strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The Action Plan which would support the strategy was being developed at present and would become more detailed as it progressed.

75.4 Anusree Biswas Sasidharan, MBE Police Engagement Group, stated that in her view it was important that additional powers were embedded into the strategy in order to ensure that robust safeguarding measures ensured that young people whether victims or perpetrators were completely protected. Anusree stated that she was concerned that there had been no mention of the Modern Slavery Act considering that it was important to consider the way that Modern Slavery legislation could be used particularly in work around county lines. The Modern Slavery Act had been used successfully earlier in the year in London in a county lines case. It was essential that good links were set up with partner agencies to explore those options fully.

- 75.5 Chief Superintendent Lisa Bell who was in attendance representing Sussex Police confirmed that the Police and all relevant agencies were working together pro-actively to address this and were investigating strategies used elsewhere across the country to assess what could be usefully replicated across the city and its wider environs, 9 separate strands of work had been identified which needed to feed into the process overall. Public Protection issues were paramount and it was acknowledged that input by those with who had specialist knowledge and experience was often key.
- 75.6 Councillor West stated that he understood that mobile phones in use in this country were available from which calls could be made but not traced although he understood that exchanges made via social media were traceable. Available technology and how that could be utilised was an area which needed to be explored further. He considered that it was important to bring pressure to bear on Central Government to ensure that this issue continued to be given a sufficiently high profile and was kept under constant review. Councillor West stated that in his view this should be the subject of a Notice of Motion. The Chair noted that stating that it was understood that following work undertaken by Parliament, and feedback by the LGA and from London boroughs that guidance would be forthcoming from the Home Office in the near future.
- 76.7 Councillor Peltzer Dunn referred to the co-ordinator role enquiring as to the timing of appointment to that post and whether it was envisaged that there could be “slippage” given that the job description and other details remained to be finalised. The Executive Director, Neighbourhoods, Communities and Housing, Larissa Reed stated that officers were confident that would not occur.
- 75.8 A vote was taken and the Committee voted unanimously that the recommendations set out in the report be agreed and forwarded to Full Council for approval.
- 75.9 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Committee notes the Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation strategy developed by the Community Safety Partnership; and

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND - (2) That the Committee recommends to Full Council that the Council’s Community Safety Strategy is updated to incorporate the Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

76 ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

- 76.1 It was noted that Item 75, “Violence, Vulnerability and Extremism” required approval by Full Council.

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of