

**ENTERPRISE
EMPLOYMENT &
MAJOR PROJECTS
CABINET MEMBER
MEETING**

Agenda Item 2

Brighton & Hove City Council

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

5.00pm 5 MAY 2009

COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Kemble (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Turton (Opposition Spokesperson)

PART ONE

56. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

56a Declarations of Interests

56.1 There were none

56b Exclusion of Press and Public

56.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act), the Cabinet Member for Enterprise, Employment and Major Projects 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 nature 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, 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 100I(I) of the Act).

56.3 **RESOLVED** – that the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

57. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

57.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes held on 23 March 2009 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member.

58. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Open Market

58.1 The Cabinet Member reported that the Open Market project continued to make good progress through partnership working between the Open Market Traders Association, The Hyde Group and the council and had taken another step towards the realisation of a new covered market for London Road.

58.2 Triodos Bank had confirmed by letter to the Market Traders Association that it would provide a conditional loan of £1,000,000 to assist the redevelopment of the Open Market. This loan would be taken on by the Community Interest Company to be formed to take on the management and operation of the new market. Hyde would now look to complete the work required for a full planning application, which would hopefully be submitted in the Summer. Subject to the planning decision, works could start on site early in 2010.

Be Local, Buy Local

58.3 The Cabinet Member reported that the Buy Local project started in December 2008 to promote the benefits of shopping locally to residents and to offer retailers free promotional opportunities.

58.4 There was a successful PR campaign at the time of the launch, including coverage in The Argus, idea.gov.uk and New Start magazine. A second campaign to mark 100 traders signing up to the scheme occurred in March.

58.5 Approximately 180 traders were now signed up, nearly double the target of 100. Visibility of window stickers was strong in the North Laine, parts of Hove and increasingly Kemp Town, providing continued awareness to residents and visitors as well as positive publicity to the council. An additional campaign to deliver window stickers to traders was due to commence in May 2009.

Business Lifebelt

58.6 The Cabinet Member reported that Business Lifebelt sessions started in February 2009, involving one-to-one clinics, workshops and two large events. 160 businesses had already received direct support through Business Lifebelt, with over 90% of feedback being either 'good' or 'excellent'.

58.7 The main business lifebelt event was taking place on Wednesday 13th May at Hove Town Hall as part of The Brighton & Hove Business Show. 20 business support partners would be present to offer advice to attendees.

59. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

59.1 Item 66 was reserved for discussion.

60. PETITIONS

60.1 There were none.

61. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

61.1 There were none.

62. DEPUTATIONS

62.1 There were none.

63. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

63.1 There were none.

64. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

64.1 There were none.

65. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

65.1 There were none.

66. UPDATE ON THE CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN - MID YEAR EVALUATION

66.1 The Cabinet Member considered an update report of the Director of Culture & Enterprise on the mid-term evaluation of the City Employment & Skills Group (CESSG), and the progress underway for agreeing the priorities for 2009/10 (for copy see minute book).

66.2 The City Employment and Skills Plan Mid-Term Evaluation Interim Report was attached as appendix 1. The Future Priorities and Evaluation Framework was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

66.3 The Cabinet Member received a presentation from the Economic Development Manager and David Howells from Rubicon Regeneration. Presentation slides are attached to the minutes.

66.4 The Economic Development Manager reported that the situation had changed since the evaluation report and thematic action plan had been produced. The Job Seekers Allowance count had gone up this year by 55%. 25,000 people were claiming benefit. The recession was affecting businesses locally including retail, construction, financial services and hospitality. Meanwhile, 23,000 residents had no qualifications. This posed a challenge which required cross sector working. Meanwhile, partners were being

asked to sign up to the CESSG Accord. Consultation was underway and a meeting on 14 May would finalise the Action Plan and Accord.

- 66.6 The Cabinet Member asked about governance arrangements. It was explained that the performance team had agreed to help in setting up new systems to track performance against the new priorities. A new structure for tracking should be in place by September 2009.
- 66.7 Councillor Turton referred to Section 2.3 of the City Employment and Skills Plan Mid Term Evaluation. He asked for examples of lobbying and collaboration. The Economic Development Manager replied that CESP were lobbying the DWP to try to make things easier for local providers.
- 66.8 **RESOLVED** – Having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendation.
- (1) That the City Employment & Skills Plan mid-term evaluation report be noted and that the Thematic Action Plan for 2009/10 be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 5.34pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of