

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 28 MARCH 2019****COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls, West and Yates.

PART ONE**83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

83.1 There were no declarations of interest in matters appearing on the agenda.

84 MINUTES

84.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 31st January 2019 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

84.2 The minutes of the Budget Council meeting held on the 28th February 209 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

84.3 The minutes of the Special Council meeting held on the 5th March were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

85 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

85.1 The Mayor stated that she was pleased to announce that the Tenancy Services Team had won the Elderly Accommodation Counsel Older People's Awards. The team had received Gold for Hazelholt and Bronze for Churchill House. The award was based on resident feedback and in addition, Hazelholt had also been selected as one of 27 schemes in the UK for a national award. She stated that the team were particularly pleased given some of the challenges seen in the city to be recognised by our residents in these schemes. Scheme manager, Kathy Boyce had done a fantastic job of developing the scheme and community into the vibrant one it was today. The Mayor

then invited Councillor Hill to come forward with members of the Team to collect the award.

- 85.2 The Mayor noted that today's meeting was the last full Council meeting for a number of councillors who would be retiring in May and wished them well for the future and thanked them for their services over the years to the Council and the city. She hoped to see them at future civic events.
- 85.3 The Mayor then reminded councillors of the sleep out at the i-360 on the 6th April in aid of her charities and noted that Councillor Druitt had volunteered to join her for the duration of the event.

86 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

- 86.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.
- 86.2 Councillor Wealls presented a petition on behalf of Mr. Hawtree and signed by 105 residents concerning the Hove Library.

87 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 87.1 The Mayor reported that one written question had been received from a member of the public and invited Mr. Hawtree to come forward and address the council.
- 87.2 Mr. Hawtree asked the following question; "Would Councillor Daniel please tell us the current state of the earlier decision to stock our libraries with every classic work?"
- 87.3 Councillor Daniel replied; "A few years ago the library service carried out a project to fill gaps in the stock of classic literature and purchase replacement copies where needed. Libraries continue to fill gaps where they are identified and often appreciate the help we get from readers with this through their suggestions for purchase."
- 87.4 Mr. Hawtree asked the following supplementary question; "This arose originally when Councillor Carol Theobald pointed out the lack of Charles Dickens in the Jubilee Library and so now all these years later in light of what you have just said and in preparing for this brief, perhaps salient, encounter did you think to ask what instructions have been given about this nature of classic books selection to the book selectors at Bertrams who carry out the bulk of this work how do they keep track of the books that we need?"
- 87.5 Councillor Daniel replied; "Yes I can give some explanation. It would be impossible for us to ever claim to stock every classic work for a number of reasons. One it is defining classic, what is a classic? and I think we could probably speak for some hours on that. Not all titles are in print, although libraries do attempt to get hold of some works which would be maybe considered classic we can't always get hold of them and we balance the purchase throughout the council's financial year between purchasing classics and also responding to new published literature to meet the tastes of a wide-ranging audience. So, as you know from previous questions/ exchanges that we have had both

here and in committee the library service already retains the responsibility for books selection and carries out that role in a number of ways. The technical thing is called purchasing profiles for obvious book buying such as, again, the latest publications and so forth and also the library staff themselves select some more specialist and not forgetting that we want locally focused stock in our libraries as well. They retain that control and what we welcome is any public feedback if there is a work that they are looking for and can't find to let us know, that is the best thing that anyone can do."

87.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for attending the meeting and putting his questions and noted that concluded the item.

88 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

88.1 The Mayor reported that two deputations had been received from members of the public and invited Ms. Borrill as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.

88.2 Ms. Borrill thanked the Mayor and stated that "On behalf of Brighton and Food Partnership I am requesting that the city of Brighton and Hove becomes a signatory to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact. The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact is an international voluntary agreement. There is no financial contribution needed, and no specific obligation to do anything as a result. It is a pledge, if you like, with the core message that we will seek to develop "sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse." It was initially signed by over 100 international cities in Milan in 2015, and now has been signed by 181 cities. The existing UK signatories are London, Birmingham and Bristol.

We are recommending that Brighton & Hove becomes a signatory as the aims and ethos closely reflect the city's existing approach, as set out in our city-wide Food Strategy, and our city's vision of developing a 'healthy, sustainable fair food for all.' Becoming a signatory will add value and prestige to our existing local activity and be a chance to promote it to a wider audience. Signing up will also support our city's bid to become the first Gold Sustainable Food City in the UK, which we are on track to achieve in 2020.

Finally, becoming a signatory will showcase our city's approach and achievements to an international audience. With 200 actions and 100 partners, and with cross-party support, our city's Food Strategy Action Plan has been described by Sustainable Food cities as the most ambitious example of a food partnership approach in the UK. Indeed, we are sometimes asked why, given our leading global position on a joined-up citywide approach to food, Brighton & Hove is not already a signatory.

Thank you for your consideration."

88.3 Councillor Mitchell thanked Ms. Borrill for presenting the deputation and for all the work with the Food Partnership in raising awareness and helping to tackle social inclusion. She noted that many of the proposals outlined were already part of the citywide Food Strategy and she hoped that these and the others would be taken forward and that a report could be brought to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in June in relation to the deputation and the suggestion to sign up to the Milan Pact.

- 88.4 The Mayor thanked Ms. Borrill for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee on the 25th June for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.
- 88.5 The Mayor then invited Mr. Stack as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 88.6 Mr. Stack thanked the Mayor and stated, he had circulated information to all councillors prior to the meeting and noted that he had previously attended a council meeting to seek support and a willingness from the council to work with him and other local music venues. He stated that Grassroots Brighton & Hove was a new organisation which had come together in the hope to make a collaborative association for the benefit of all. Its objective was to provide a focal point and facilities to foster greater local community activity and bring residents, the local business community, artists and smaller organisations together to improve the quality of life in Brighton & Hove. It offered strong working relationships with other local community services and a base for outreach and signposting people to other local services. He noted that Live music in Brighton generated an estimated £112m per annum for the local economy and was an essential force in giving the city its dynamic and vibrant edge. This deputation sought to make councillors and council staff aware the unique and pivotal role that Grassroots Brighton & Hove undertakes, our important role as community hubs and what we will now bring to the city as a formal association. He hoped that the council would now work with the organisation to support local venues and help to ensure their viability and the city's economy.
- 88.7 Councillor Robins thanked Mr. Stack for attending the meeting and acknowledged the role of music venues in the city. He welcomed the fact that the local live music organisations and stakeholders were coming together in partnership, to support each other and to help grow and sustain the industry in this city. He noted that was why the Live Music Venue Roundtable was set up, in response to a petition that you yourself brought to this meeting some years ago. As the Roundtable included elected members, council officers and stakeholders from across the live music industry in the city, including yourself, it would therefore be the ideal place to bring your Grassroots Brighton & Hove Action Plan and discuss your ideas. The next meeting was in June and he wanted to thank Mr. stack for his continued enthusiasm for live music in the city and looked forward to hearing progress about this from the Roundtable.
- 88.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Stack for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee on the 20th June for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

89 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

- 89.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of three such petitions, however since the publication of the agenda she had been notified of the withdrawal of one of the petitions, Item 89 (3) Youth 4 Strike Action for Climate Change. She would therefore take the remaining two petitions in turn.
- 89.2 The Mayor then invited Mr. Wright to come forward to present the petition relating to Madeira Arches.
- 89.3 Mr. Wright thanked the Mayor and stated that 2,908 online signatures had been obtained., along with 210 on paper in only two months, which he believed showed the strength of feeling for this issue. He stated that whilst there had been consultation it appeared that the council was seeking to renovate one of the arches at Madeira Drive that was not typical of those along the Drive. The tenants and business at Madeira Drive all believed that it would be better to restore one of the other arches east of Royal Crescent as it would not affect the others. The tenants had also spoken with the owners of Concorde 2 who were interested in having an arch restored closer to the venue. He therefore asked for further consideration of the options and discussions with tenants before a final decision was taken.
- 89.4 Councillor Robins thanked Mr. Wright for presenting the petition and acknowledged the views that had been made in relation to the renovation of the arches. He noted that there had been a successful lottery bid for the western end and that crowd funding had been sought to support the improvements for the eastern end. He also noted that any restoration to the arches would require enabling work and from a structural perspective it was felt that this should start at one end. He was happy to ask officers to continue discussions with the tenants the lead petitioners and hoped that they could work together to find an agreed way forward.
- 89.5 Councillor A. Norman thanked Mr. Wright and stated that she believed the issues raised concerned many of those in the chamber and hoped that the necessary repairs could be started and the arches restored to their former status. She felt that if the restoration started at the western end then it was more likely to encourage footfall along the arches as more people would see the improvements being made.
- 89.6 Councillor Druitt stated that the campaign to restore the arches was close to his heart and he fully supported the petition. He had previously raised the issue at the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee and was disappointed to see the proposed three arches that would be restored initially. They were not typical examples of the arches and he hoped this could be reconsidered. He noted that the local traders supported the renovation of the arches and felt their views should be taken into consideration. The crowd funding project had been successful but had been based on the restoration programme that was different to what was being proposed.
- 89.7 Councillor Robins noted the comments and stated that he was keen for the council and traders to work together to find the best way forward for the restoration programme. If the arches near to the Concorde 2 were more typical examples then they could be

considered, and he therefore hoped that further information could be brought to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee in June.

- 89.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Wright for attending the meeting and presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 89.9 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee meeting on the 20th June 2019.
- 89.10 The Mayor then invited Mr. Noble to come forward to present the petition relating to Valley Gardens Phase 3.
- 89.11 Mr. Noble thanked the Mayor and stated that 1,426 people had signed the petition and noted that residents and local businesses wanted to have a say in how Valley Gardens was developed. The area was likely to change for ever and everyone wanted to see investment in the Old Steine area, but it was felt that the current plan failed to deliver. He stated that the consultation to date had been inefficient and had not involved those directly affected. There was a clear need for more open dialogue and to enable all interested parties to engage in the development of a design plan for Valley Gardens Phase 3. He believed that there was no reason not to engage with everyone and for the plans to be delayed until a full consultation had been undertaken.
- 89.12 Councillor Mitchell thanked Mr. Noble for presenting the petition and noted that a full and open consultation had been held the previous Spring. There had been no preconceived view on the plan for Valley Gardens and options were taken forward with over 800 responses and a preferred design developed. There was further consultation on the preferred design and this was then reported to committee and refined before being submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The design was then approved to go forward to the next stage and she did not see the need to pause the work or put the £6m government funding at risk. The council would continue to involve stake-holder groups and have discussions with event organisers. The plan put people first and balanced transport, public and economic benefits.
- 89.13 Councillor Wares welcomed the petition and noted that there were a number of groups and people who had an interest in the project and the majority had taken action to get their views heard. However, the council was not listening to stake-holders which was clear from the petition and at the last committee meeting. If the project went ahead based on the current design, it was likely to harm the economic prosperity of the area.
- 89.14 Councillor Littman thanked the petitioner for attending the meeting and noted that the proposals were not universally welcomed, but he believed positive amendments had been achieved and the work should not be delayed.
- 89.15 Councillor Mitchell stated that the revised preferred design had been democratically agreed at the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee and there was a clear commitment to continue with consultations going forward to the design stage. She wished to thank everyone who had contributed to the project to date and hoped that it would be taken forward.

89.16 The Mayor thanked Mr. Noble for attending the meeting and presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.

89.17 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting on the 25th June 2019.

90 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

90.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

Item 98 - Valley Gardens Phase 3 (Royal Pavilion to Seafront) Results of Public Consultation and Approval of Final Preliminary Design.

Item 99 - Procurement of Assessment Service for Rough Sleepers.

Item 100 - Contract Award for the Provision of a "Safe Space to Stay" Service Funded from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

Item 101 - HRA Borrowing Cap.

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

90.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 98 - 101 had been reserved for discussion; and

90.3 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that the following reports on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

Item 93 - Appointment of an Independent Person.

Item 94 - Pay Policy Statement 2019/20.

Item 95 - Code of Conduct for Employees.

Item 96 - Review of Parts of the Constitution including the Code of Conduct for Members and related Arrangements.

Item 97 - Reports of the East Sussex Fire Authority.

(c) Oral Questions from Members

90.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions in relation to those items that had not been called.

91 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

91.1 The Mayor reminded Council that written questions from Members and the replies from the appropriate Councillor were taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum which had been circulated prior to the meeting as detailed below:

(1) Councillor: Druitt

91.2 What measures are being taken in advance of the summer to maintain safety in the city centre, most especially in and around Regency Square, Clarence Sq., Bedford Sq., Norfolk Sq., St Nicholas' green spaces, Duke Street and Western Terrace which suffer high levels of anti-social behaviour, drug taking and even public defecation for much of the year but most especially during the summer, bearing in mind neither the council nor the police have been able to do very much about the problems in previous years?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

91.3 The council works closely with partners to ensure that issues such as those described by Cllr Druitt are addressed as quickly and appropriately as possible.

Monthly partnership tactical tasking and co-ordination meetings are held to discuss and adopt solutions for issues / individuals / locations that are causing particular concern in the city. Relevant council departments are also involved.

I will ensure that that the locations identified by Cllr Druitt are included in these discussions and actions identified to address them.

(2) Councillor Druitt

91.4 The independent traders in the city centre are much of what gives Brighton & Hove its vibe and its appeal for visitors. Yet many continue to struggle with high rents, unfair business rates, and antisocial behaviour on their doorsteps. Many of the issues (e.g. rents and rates) are not ones the council has direct control over, but the council does have control over other things such as street cleanliness, graffiti, levels of anti-social behaviour and the way it collects business rates and enforces arrears. What is the council doing to support businesses struggling to stay afloat, especially those in areas that have faced declining trade such as Preston Street and Duke Street?

Reply from Councillor Robins – Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee**City Environment**

91.5 Preston Street and Duke Street are visited on a daily basis and cleaned both by a street cleansing operative on foot and by the mechanical sweeper.

The Environmental Enforcement Service has joined the council, having previously been delivered by an external contractor. City Environment has been reviewing their future deployment arrangements, as well as coming up with new ideas on how to tackle

environmental offences, including littering, fly-tipping and graffiti. Environmental Enforcement Officers have also recently completed a series of educational visits to businesses across the city to remind them of their responsibilities with regards waste management.

A Graffiti Reduction Strategy was agreed at Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in January 2019. City Environment is currently developing an action plan detailing how the strategy will be delivered by the council and its partners. The Strategy focuses on four key areas to reduce and remove graffiti to enhance the local environment through: prevention, enforcement, removal, and monitoring and measuring.

Brighton BID

91.6 The Council also works with the Brighton BID which is a private limited company that supports 517 businesses in the BID area. Preston Street is in the BID but Duke Street is not. The BID levy is 1.25% of a businesses' rateable value, currently bringing in £1.8m over five years. The BID delivers projects which include the provision of on street City Centre Ambassadors and a range of additional services to help make the BID levy as cost neutral as possible, for example, negotiated reductions with NCP car parking, a business cost reduction services to bring down utilities outgoings as well as discounts on professional services and advertising. In terms of the key issues raised:

- **Street Cleansing:** Since the BID came in to being in 2006, there has been an 'agreement' with the City Clean for additional cleansing in the city centre. The BID Ambassadors are in regular contact with the team at City Clean and call in issues as and when such as fly tipping, homeless community paraphernalia etc.
- **Graffiti removal:** The BID does not get involved with direct removal of graffiti but suggests to its members to get private sector support or to ask the council for help.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** The City Centre Ambassadors are at the front end of managing anti-social behaviour on a daily basis with excellent links with Sussex Police and the Business Crime Reduction Partnership and regularly attend agency meetings convened to support the street community. An increasing amount of work is spent engaging with the Street Community at around 50% of their time.

Economic Strategy

91.7 The Council has recently agreed a new Economic Strategy and Visitor Economy Strategy as part of creating the conditions for businesses to thrive. Our vision for the Economic Strategy is underpinned by five themes which are vital to delivering economic growth and providing a greater quality of life for residents. A diverse set of actions have been identified to support the delivery of this strategy over the next five years.

The five themes are:

- **A growing city** that unlocks its capacity for growth, through the delivery of homes, space, and infrastructure and through the evolution of a better connected economy.
- **An open city** that achieves its potential evolving as an attractive, welcoming and modern place for investors and visitors alike

- **A talented city** which recognises the role that skills and the labour market has to play in driving economic productivity and inclusive growth outcomes.
- **A fair city** which is inclusive and responsible, encouraging engagement and participation across our communities and working to ensure the benefits of growth are distributed fairly.
- **A sustainable city** which looks to the future, focusing its economy on sustainable solutions to future challenges in order to protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of its residents and act as a leader in developing a robust response to climate change.

Living Wage Campaign and Campaign to End Unpaid Work Trial Shifts

91.8 The work the Council is doing around the Living Wage campaign and the campaign to end unpaid trial shifts supports the end to any form of exploitation within the city. By making this a priority within the city's economy the council is ensuring that through decent wages there is more money circulating and therefore more spend with local businesses.

(3) Councillor Janio

91.9 At the last Full Council, I asked why the Labour Administration did not attempt to remove Hangleton Bottom from the Waste and Mineral Sites Plan. Her answer informed me who the other partners were in the plan, when it was signed and what period it covers. It did not answer the question. I am not permitted to ask the same question again, but could Cllr Mitchell explain any investigations that the Labour Administration has taken to identify other sites that could be safeguarded for use as a Waste Transfer Site in preference to Hangleton Bottom – an area that is more suitable for mixed use Development.

Reply from Councillor Mitchell, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

91.10 The site at Hangleton Bottom is allocated for waste management use in the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Sites Plan 2017. It is important that we have an up to date Waste and Minerals Sites Plan in place.

You can be assured that during the preparation of this Plan, officers did review the allocation. A comprehensive site search exercise was undertaken with 97 potential locations across Brighton & Hove and East Sussex which were assessed in detail against 29 different criteria. This process led to three safeguarded site allocations included in the Plan – Hangleton Bottom is the only waste allocation in Brighton & Hove. The other are two sites in East Sussex (at Lower Dicker and Hailsham).

The site allocations proposed were carefully considered by the independent Planning Inspector during the Public Examination of the Sites Plan and were considered 'sound'.

The need for waste management sites and the site allocations will be next revisited at the review of the Sites Plan before 2026.

(4) Councillor West

91.11 The Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan offers a considerable opportunity to support an increase in active travel with all the clear benefits that will bring, including: reducing carbon footprint, traffic congestion, air pollution and the cost of travel, while also improving health and road safety.

It's very clear in the DfT guidance that the LCWIP should be a collaborative project with stakeholders fully engaged in the process, and not merely seen as consultees to a consultant led plan.

The first stage of the LCWIP process is to agree on governance. That should rightly be done by a steering group comprising members, including our cross-party cycle champions, and at least two co-optees representing local cycling and walking organisations. A key initial task for this group should be to develop with officers the LCWIP brief for consultants. It should also be tasked with informing spending priorities for additional LTP funds and development of a multi-million-pound capital bid to the LEP for active travel funding.

Would Councillor Mitchell agree that such an inclusive approach, ensuring the strengths of our active travel community are properly embraced in shaping and delivering investment in active travel, is the best and right approach; and will Councillor Mitchell therefore take the opportunity to initiate this?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

91.12 The Government's recommendation that councils should develop a Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (or an L C WIP as it has become known) is fully recognised and, as I have confirmed on previous occasions, I am pleased to be able to report that work is now underway to enable the plan to be produced in a timely manner.

And I can fully reassure you that the work is being led by officers; but support from consultants will need to be sought at the appropriate time, especially to fulfil the technical requirements and techniques that the Government would like to see included, such as the use of modelling tools. The £75,000 pounds that has been secured within the Budget for 2019/20 will enable this to happen, and also ensure that the process is fully resourced to enable a comprehensive plan to be produced – a comprehensive plan that will be based on good governance, and informed and shaped by stakeholder engagement and public involvement. These will be a critical part of the first stage of the process and they will be set out, within an anticipated timescale, in a Scoping Report that will be brought to the next meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in June to enable members to consider it and approve it. At that point, we will also know which Administration will be leading this work, and which councillor will be in roles that will enable them to be fully briefed about the L C WIP, and to also participate in the process as it moves forward.

Officers will therefore be following the approach set out in the Governments' guidance document– scoping the plan, gathering information, planning cycling and walking networks, and proposing prioritised improvements – and, through the agreed governance arrangements, they will be ensuring that each stage is fully completed.

They will therefore leading the strategic planning that is required and are already developing the brief that we will need consultants to follow to help us develop the plan. The brief will be significantly shaped by the technical guidance issued by the Government, and that work needs to be started now to enable us to develop the plan and be ready at the earliest opportunity to bid for external funding, or allocate our own budgets, to invest in the cycling and walking infrastructure improvements that the city's residents and visitors both need and deserve.

I hope that I have therefore reassured you that this will not be a consultant-led plan which excludes or marginalises stakeholder input from any sector within the city, but that it will be a plan that draws on all the local knowledge and experience that exists amongst people, organisations and communities within the city which will provide safe, high quality and accessible routes and facilities that allow people to make walking and cycling their first choice for local journeys.

(5) Councillor Gibson

91.13 If all projected (received up till April 1st, 2023) and usable RTB receipts (already received) were utilised to build new council homes at the 30% rate allowed by government what would the estimated total spend be? If this total spend produced new council homes at an average cost of £220,000 a home how many new council homes would this yield?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.14 The total usable RTB receipts received and those projected up to 1st April 2023 total £87.266m. This level of receipts would support the delivery of 396 homes assuming an average cost per property of £0.220m. At this point in time receipts assumed for quarter 4 of 2018/19 and beyond are based on projected receipts, therefore the total usable receipts are subject to change.

(6) Councillor Gibson

91.15 What is the total number of homes sold under the RTB so far this financial year (as of 20th March 2019)? And adding this total for this year so far to RTB sales in previous years since 1st April 2015, how many homes had been sold as of the 20th March (between 1st April 2015 and 20th March 2019)?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.16 The total number of homes sold under the RTB as at 20th March 2019 is 55. Since 1st April 2015 the council has sold a total of 232 homes under the RTB

(7) Councillor Gibson

91.17 Can you confirm that the table which collates rough sleeper count and estimate data below is correct and given that the table that rough sleeper estimates in the same year have been consistently higher than counts undertaken in the same year was it wise to switch from estimates to counts in November 2018 (in an election year)?

Rough sleeper counts and estimates

Year	10/11	2011	12/13	2013	2014	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Rough sleeper count	14	36	43	50	41	?	?	?	64 (Nov)
Rough sleeper estimate		76		90	132	78	144	178	?
% of estimate that is a count in the same year		47%		56%	31%				

Reply from Councillor Moonan, Lead Member for Rough Sleepers

91.18 The official November count is not the way Brighton & Hove City Council monitors levels of rough sleeping. Other ongoing robust methods are used throughout the year, which enable us to say with confidence that the number of rough sleepers has reduced significantly.

These methods are the B'think multi agency IT system which records rough sleepers as well as those in supported accommodation. This system allows us to look at the changing picture of rough sleepers over weeks, months and years.

The cumulative number of individuals recorded on Bethink for at least one night per month is below. It does not mean that all of these number of people were rough sleeping every night of the month, many will have been on the streets for a much shorter period of time. There is a constant change of individuals within the rough sleeping community as people are supported off the streets, and as more arrive. The number of rough sleepers also includes those who are known to have accommodation but have been found rough sleeping.

March 2019 (to date): 85 individuals
 February 2019: 72 individuals
 January 2019: 78 individuals
 December 2018: 67 individuals
 November 2018: 118 individuals
 October 2018: 96 individuals

This data is used in conjunction with the regular street counts undertaken by St Mungo's and as set out below.

March 2019 66 people found
 January 2019 30 people found
 November 2018 64 people found (national count)
 September 2018 78 people found

This data is part of the monitoring agreed with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government as part of our grant funding. The November national count represents a one-day snapshot within these wider data gathering activities.

The table is not wholly correct as the estimates undertaken in 2013 and 2014 were not undertaken in November, they were undertaken in March so they are not directly comparable with the count figures which were undertaken and verified in November.

The official counts and estimates undertaken in November have all been undertaken to strict guidance laid down by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government and independently verified by Homeless Link. Both methods have their limitations and only seek to produce a one night snapshot of the situation in the city.

The guidance provided is clear on who can be counted and the definition of rough sleeping that is to be used. We have been clear that the count in 2018 and the estimate in 2017 are not comparable to each other due to the different methodologies used.

(8) Councillor Gibson

91.19 The much heralded, very welcome and desperately needed additional 10 (government funded) Housing First Placement support packages are due to start 3 days after full council on Monday 1st of April. Can you confirm that 10 additional properties have been identified along with 10 (“revolving door”) homeless clients are lined up to go and ready to move in as soon as the money is available?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.20 Officers from Health and Adult Social Care and Housing are working through options to secure the 10 units of accommodation to support the expansion of Housing First. Officers are currently reviewing 4 units of temporary accommodation that could be utilised to support the expansion and looking at other options.

Where individuals are eligible under the housing allocation policy will also be supporting people to access properties through the Council Interest Queue.

(9) Councillor Gibson

91.21 If 10 Housing First placements are not yet ready to move into accommodation, how many properties and people have been identified so far?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.22 There are a number of suitable clients identified and the sources of accommodation as set out support those who would be eligible through the housing allocations policy and the Council’s Interest Queue and also those that currently do not but who might benefit from the Housing First Model.

The support for those people placed into accommodation under the Housing First model will be provided by St Mungo’s who are mobilising staff teams in preparation for the expansion of the service. The support that is offered under the Housing First model provides a highly personalised approach to working with individuals often with multiple

and complex needs and the existing housing first units have demonstrated the positive impact this model can have on outcomes for those in the service.

(10) Councillor Gibson

91.23 Given that BHCC has had many months to make arrangements for Housing first placements and given that they will make an important contribution to helping 10 individuals and easing pressure on supported accommodation at a time when the closure of the West Pier project is putting services under strain, how do you think the MHCLG will react if we do not have the placements up and running on the 1st of April? Will failure to do this on schedule damage our credibility with MHCLG and jeopardise our prospects for securing further funding?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.24 The Council has been successful in securing significant additional investment from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Council Officers are in regular contact with them regarding progress on the mobilisation and outcomes of this funding.

Any expansion of Housing First needs to be carefully managed and units of accommodation scaled up in a planned way.

The plans submitted to the MHCLG reflects the needs to expand this model in a planned way and ensure that individuals are settled in well to their property and accessing the support provided, the MHCLG are fully supportive of this approach.

(11) Councillor Gibson

91.25 Given Housing and New Homes Committee's desire to redress the under allocation of properties to the council interest queue and given that over the period since the commencement of the allocations plan the queue has been under allocated, can this under allocation be redressed by making Housing First allocations with immediate effect in conjunction with an associated support package?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.26 The Council has taken action to redress the previous under-allocation to the Council's Interest Queue through working with Health and Adult Social Care and Families, Children's and Learning and we are on target to achieve the full 10% this year. We work more closely now with colleagues in Health and Adult Social Care and Families, Children and Learning to ensure that we are maximising the Council Interest Queue. We are currently actively looking to see how many of the properties in the Council Interest Queue we can use for Housing First. We need to do this alongside other schemes which, for example, use the Council Interest Queue to prevent children being looked after by the Local Authority. Housing First clients placed in council properties through the Council Interest Queue will need to be eligible under the housing allocation policy and have substantial support in place right from the beginning of their tenancy.

(12) Councillor Gibson

91.27 Given that the very welcome all year night shelter is funded to open from 1st April 2019, can you confirm that a building has been obtained for use? And if it is not ready, when you plan for the shelter to open?

Reply from Councillor Moonan, Lead Member for Rough Sleepers.

91.28 We are very pleased that due to careful financial management we were able to identify funding, approved last month, for an all year-round night shelter for rough sleepers for the coming year. This will complement our current SWEP provision, which operates on one of the lowest triggers in the country. We hope to open the all year-round night shelter as soon as possible, so officers are working to identify an appropriate property at the moment. Once a suitable building has been identified officers will work to procure a service provider with experience of running homeless services. Opening the all year-round night shelter is a high priority, but we do have to find a building that is suitable so that a really effective service can be provided.

(13) Councillor Gibson

91.29 National figures on how well councils used their borrowing opportunities (under the cap) reveal that on 1st April 2018, Brighton and Hove Council were in the top quarter of councils failing to spend the borrowing available under the cap and that neighbouring councils of Lewes, Eastbourne, Adur and Wealden had all used proportionately more of the borrowing available. Having not made the most of borrowing opportunities so far and given the housing crisis in our city, (given we now have a new chair of housing) will you undertake to use the 31m + unused borrowing under the previous cap and more to ramp up the council house building programme so that it achieves its potential in the future?

Reply from Councillor Hill, Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

91.30 The borrowing cap sum for each authority was calculated by the Government back in 2011 using a complex set of calculations which were in part based on assumed levels of debt for each authority at that time. It is therefore very difficult to make comparisons between authorities and the use they have made of the borrowing available to them. Since self-financing was introduced for HRA's in 2012, Brighton & Hove City Council's HRA has only needed to borrow in order to increase the supply of new homes (new build or purchase). Conversely, many other authorities have needed to borrow to fund their own capital programme and will therefore always have higher levels of new borrowing. It is also the case that the HRA has made efficiency savings and in-year cost savings which have enabled it to fund more works directly from revenue rather than needing to borrow. In summary, to use the amount of new borrowing as a measure of investment in new homes will not give an accurate picture. Overall, a better measure is how many new homes have been delivered. Since the council started building council homes again it has developed 197 new homes across around 16 projects. It has another 12 currently under construction at Kensington Street, and sites are currently identified for a total of around 500 more homes.

The council is committed to increasing the supply of affordable housing in the city as demonstrated in the recent report 'HRA Borrowing Cap' to Housing and New Homes

Committee on 13th March 2019. This outlines the work to date and the ongoing pipeline of projects for building and purchasing new affordable homes as well as the resources being invested for supporting such an ambitious programme. Also, Budget Council recently approved the HRA capital Investment Programme for 2019/20, and indicative budgets for 2020/21 and 2021/22, with a total investment of £53.6m in new homes, £37m of which is estimated to be funded through borrowing. This exceeds the £31m which the council had available to it before the removal of the borrowing cap.

(14) Councillor Deane

91.31 How many prosecutions against perpetrators of tagging and graffiti have there been during the past year, two years and five years?

Reply from Councillor Mitchell, Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

91.32 Over the last five years, the following have been issued:

Year	Number of Fixed Penalty Notices Issued	Number of Prosecutions
2014/15	0	0
2015/16	1	0
2016/17	17	0
2017/18	2	0
2018/19	3	0

One of the issues with tagging and graffiti is identifying the offender. The police and the council do attempt to identify and prosecute; however, it can be difficult to identify those responsible as they are often well practiced at avoiding detection by tagging at night and keeping hidden from CCTV cameras.

If an alleged offender does not pay their Fixed Penalty Notice, the case may go to prosecution. The case may go straight to prosecution if the offence is major e.g. racist graffiti. For both situations, the offender needs to be identified.

92 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

92.1 The Mayor noted that 14 oral questions had been received, although Councillor Deane had notified her that she wished to withdraw her question. The Mayor stated that 30 minutes were set aside for the duration of the item and she hoped to get through all the questions on this occasion. The Mayor then called on Councillor Janio to put his question to Councillor Yates.

92.2 Councillor Janio asked the following question, "The GMB have called for the resignation of the Council's Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Culture over "The Failure of city Clean" I seek clarification regarding Labour's leaked manifesto it shows the GMB logo on the front and I believe several Labour councillors are sponsored by the GMB, does the Leader of the Council support his paymaster's in the GMB or the senior officers and especially the crews that have kept his administration along for the last few years?"

92.3 Councillor Yates replied “I don’t know whether I am declaring an interest or not, as there is not a decision I won’t, but I will declare I am a member of the GMB and proud to be so. I will also be very clear to Councillor Janio this is an opportunity for people to ask for matters of general council policy not of detail and not of general political interest because he doesn’t understand what is going on in the city. He also clearly doesn’t understand it would be entirely inappropriate for me to make comments about the employment of individual Members of this council and in fact it would be against the constitution of this council for me to do so. So I won’t be giving a response on that.”

92.4 Councillor Janio asked the following supplementary question, “Does the Leader of the Council support his paymasters in the GMB or the senior officers and especially the crews who have kept his administration going over the last few years?”

92.5 Councillor Yates replied, “I don’t intend to get into political point scoring.”

92.6 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked the following question, “The communal bins in my ward aren’t overflowing I have read that City Clean have either re-located 3 of them one on Western Street and two in Wilbury Road. I have now sent over 30 emails in the course of the past 24 months about the relocation of these and made a question to Full Council a year ago I have been passed from pillar to post none of this has involved complex committee decisions but are sadly symptomatic of this administration’s inability to get the basics right.

Residents have waited for two years in some cases for these bins to be moved. Will Councillor Mitchell instruct officers to move these bins?”

92.7 Councillor Mitchell replied, “I am very pleased to answer Councillor Mac Cafferty’s question. There are two issues here as I think you are well aware, there are the location of some of the bins and there is a problem with containment capacity across the area. The service is currently reviewing the question of capacity in other areas of the city as well to ensure that it is adequate, and I think as you know we are considering using 3200 litre size bins and are looking for the location of those. This has got to be done in a planned way it isn’t just the case of ‘bunging’ in additional bins all over the show. We are thinking that perhaps streets across a wider area that currently do not have communal bins are consulted on having them because we know those residents use the communal bins in other areas. I am hoping when this piece of work is done we will be able to relieve the current pressures.”

92.8 Councillor Mears asked the following question, “Can the Chair of Housing give any reassurance that after the raid on the HRA budget of nearly £20m that this Administration will ensure that only money earmarked for investment in the housing stock is used properly as intended and not siphoned off to prop up the General Fund?”

92.9 Councillor Hill replied, “The HRA is self-financing and ring fenced in law. Any transfers to or from the HRA to our General Fund are subject to specific guidance and scrutiny and this is to ensure that the HRA does not subsidise the General Fund or vice versa. Transfers between the HRA and The General Fund are subject to review by the Council’s auditors internal and external as are the wider accounts. Finance always ensures that any payment made to the General Fund by the HRA are appropriate and

justifiable and therefore I can re-assure councillors that there has been no raiding of the HRA.”

- 92.10 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, “Following on from Budget Council when Labour voted with the Greens to ensure their budget went through now with the response from the Secretary of State that there is no flexibility on Right to Buy receipts, what step has this Administration taken to address the money taken from reserves for emergency accommodation capital build using Right to Buy receipts as stated in the budget. Will the Chair of Housing give a commitment to actually repay the HRA for the money that has been taken out?”
- 92.11 Councillor Hill replied, “I am not able to give a detailed response to that right now it is quite a detailed question so I will supply a written response, but I will assure Cllr Mears once again that our treatment of Right to Buy receipts and of the HRA is above board it is all scrutinised.”
- 92.12 Councillor Wares asked the following question, “One of the key reasons for bringing litter enforcement in house was so that the rest of the city can have effective enforcement of which deterrent is one. Please could the Chair through you Madam Mayor confirm that the suburbs will see as much litter enforcement activity as the city centres.”
- 92.13 Councillor Mitchell replied, “Yes Madam Mayor I can.”
- 92.14 Councillor Phillips asked the following question, “Now the government has committed to double the number of places on the prep impact trial when will those places be available in Brighton & Hove?”
- 92.15 Councillor Barford replied, “As you are probably aware as you have just mentioned the NHS is looking to expand the trial but at the moment we haven’t had confirmation of the numbers so as soon as we get that then we will be able to give you more detail around that. We are thinking it is probably going to be around doubling the capacity, at the moment they have currently put 235 places available and approximately 204 residents taking part in the trial and we do have to look at the cost impact that it will be because even though the trial is going to be covered by the NHS then we have the clinic appointments that aren’t covered. We think that might be around £63k cost pressure but we do have as you will be aware the additional £93k from sexual health in the budget so that we will be able to manage that but as soon as we actually have confirmation of numbers we will be able to confirm exactly when we can start that.”
- 92.16 Councillor Phillips asked the following supplementary question, “As relationships in sex education is a key element of HIV prevention can this cohort of labour’s councillors confirm that they are in support of this new subject when not all Labour MPs yesterday voted in favour of RSA?”
- 92.17 Councillor Barford replied, yes I can confirm that.
- 92.18 Councillor Nemeth asked the following question, “I think it took a lot of guts for a former labour councillor Andy Winter, the Chief Executive of Brighton Housing Trust to point out the dangers of tents on streets to both those occupying and particularly vulnerable women and to those housing support officers and volunteers helping the unfortunate

occupants. In the real short term as in days a tent can, of course, save a life and this is the compassionate position that any longer can lead to tragedy. We all know this, but it is hard to say publicly especially with the abuse that Mr Winter inevitably received in mind. What is the Administration's position on this matter and in particular on the safety of the more vulnerable occupants and volunteers in mind?"

- 92.19 Councillor Moonan replied, "Our position on tents is that we are working very hard over the last four years to reduce the number of rough sleepers in the city so that people aren't having to sleep on the streets whether they are in a tent or out of a tent. We have introduced a whole number of new services including our night shelter, our no second night out hub, we have new accommodation services, we have lowered the figure for our SWEP service and a lot of other services all of which have contributed to significantly reduce the number of rough sleepers within the city. That is our aim that no one has to sleep out and we will continue to work towards that. Regarding tents we have two different tent protocols depending on the land where tent might be found, our first approach is to engage with the individuals in that tent, understand their circumstances. If necessary if the tent is causing a danger, then it has been removed and I think everyone in the city will know that we have worked consistently over the last few years to remove tents within the city."
- 92.20 Councillor Nemeth asked the following supplementary question, "I do acknowledge that there have been improvements in the number of services. I am specifically after an answer rather than the actual protections that are in place. Because the number of tents has increased, we can argue separately about the number of rough sleepers, different question. But the number of tents had definitely increased, and I am really asking what protections are in place because this is a newer conundrum and challenge to tackle. I am asking what protections are in place as in a newer policy that is emerging, newer practises to actually protect the workers, volunteers and those inside the tents?"
- 92.21 Councillor Moonan replied, "As I tried to explain we have a protocol for our approach that works with tents. It has been agreed across all the council departments in consultation with partners, such as the police, our street outreach service it includes how the staff will engage with the rough sleepers, how the tents or any other paraphernalia is removed. The priority of course is the individual in the tent and we engage with them in an attempt to move them on and into our city support services and then tents are removed and, if necessary, they are stored and then returned to that individual. It has been very carefully thought through and I can certainly provide you with more information if necessary."
- 92.22 Councillor Gibson asked the following question, "Whilst it is very welcome that there has been lots of Government funds and there has been very good promotion of action of intervention such as the proposed year round night shelter and the expansion of Housing First, my question relates to the actual practical action that has happened particularly in the context of the 24 homeless beds lost by the closing of the West Pier and the fact that our winter night shelter is now closed, the church's night shelter is now closed and we have two means of alleviating this loss of provision, of which one is Housing First expansion and the other is the all year round night shelter, I am concerned that there is insufficient progress has been made I am aware that Housing First we have known about for six months and we are told that four properties are being reviewed, potentially there should be ten, we have a budget from the Government

similarly with the night shelter we have been promised an all year round night shelter and the building has not yet been found. My question is around the need for a bit of urgency to deliver for people who desperately need these services, will you as Lead for Rough Sleepers pledge that by 1 May to have at least five of the ten Housing First placements in place for rough sleepers with the support that we have go funds for already and to pledge also that a night shelter which we have been told is happening is all the year round and that a building has been identified for that?"

92.23 Councillor Moonan replied, "Housing First, we have had a number of conversations about this and there is a lot of detail in the written question which I am sure you have read carefully. For Housing First there are two elements to it, the support element and the property. The support element funding only comes available in the next financial year, so we have not been able to fulfil those ten places until the support is there because you cannot place these very high needs, vulnerable people into the property without the support. The support is there it is ready, we have the service who are going to run it they are mobilised in terms of the staff. On the property side we have been looking actively at properties, we don't just have four that we are looking at, we have four that we are looking at actively under our temporary accommodation, we are also looking at other social interest queue and the private rented sector etc. We are very close, we can't get the people in yet, but we are very close to placing those ten individuals. They won't all be there on day one, we need to carefully work with each individual client, but we will mobilise the project very swiftly, with a serious sense of urgency.

The same applies to all year round night shelter as the funding becomes available we are actively looking at buildings. There are a number that are being considered at the moment, it does need to be the right building that we can provide the right service in at the right location that will need to be carefully thought through we can't just pick the first one, but we are dealing with it with a very real sense of urgency."

92.24 Councillor Gibson asked the following supplementary question, "I welcome the sense of urgency and therefore invite a statement that the Housing First for which the funding will very shortly be in place and answer the original question and pledge that at least five of those ten places will be in place by 1 May and being realistic I could have said the same about the night shelter but I know there is not a chance of that happening but there is a chance that you might have found a building I am asking you to be ambitious to show some urgency, to concentrate on action and make those pledges, I will support you in trying to achieve them?"

92.25 Councillor Moonan replied, "I can make a pledge, but we are dealing with individuals and you have to look at each case, each piece of accommodation. I would hope that we would have more than five, but we need to deal with it on a case by case basis. I am happy to communicate more information with you as those places get filled. I will certainly, as I have said be, be working as hard as I can with officers in Housing and Adult Social Care and we will get there."

92.26 Councillor Bell asked the following question, "As you well know we welcome the Government funding for the hospital in Brighton which is greatly needed and will be used by all of us. In the original plans for that the traffic was originally going to be coming down the A23 and has been mentioned many a time in this chamber unfortunately the

traffic appeared to be diverted again through Woodingdean which created us quite a few problems, with pollution etc. Since then due to the Lewes Road works and that is forcing more traffic now through Woodingdean which is making it over used and causing traffic jam in a little village a green part of the city as we are an island which is getting really clogged up. I would like to know what as in the Administration you are going to do to relieve the traffic from us because at this moment of time it is continually getting worse and worse?”

- 92.27 Councillor Mitchell replied, “It is the case and in other areas of the city there has been an increase of actually 2.5% in the amount of daily 2-way traffic in Woodingdean over the past seven years along the Falmer Road and during this period there has indeed been a lot of development related activity in the city that has had an effect on traffic patterns and can affect areas away from the city centre. In addition to welcoming the huge investment in the city that these developments are bringing in terms of jobs and homes we have to in turn continue in our efforts to ensure that as many of the car trips as possible can be made by sustainable public transport especially for local journeys that will reduce air pollution for communities and so that is why we have a sustainable transport theme that runs through our local transport planning.”
- 92.28 Councillor Bell asked the following supplementary question, “We have unfortunately experienced on the Falmer Road two fatalities over the past few months, not necessarily due to the heavy load of traffic but unfortunately due to speeding and people using it as a rat run trying to beat the traffic and to get into the city and this is causing us concerns for the safety of our local residents. Could you give me some update on what we can do on that?”
- 92.29 Councillor Mitchell replied, “In the past three years there have been 15 injury causing accidents along the whole length of the Falmer Road. The majority of those collisions did occur at junctions where the main causation factor was “driver failed to look properly”, others had been under the influence of drugs and using a mobile phone while driving. Therefore, while all of those are very regrettable incidents, they are down to driver error rather than the physical layout of the Falmer Road and actually that does have a better record than some other roads in the area. The Aquarium roundabout for example is the highest accident spot in the city. We are working as you possibly know with the Rottingdean Parish Council to look at traffic speeds and to look at how those can be mitigated but also just to generally raise awareness of road safety I think on the part of drivers.”
- 92.30 Councillor Littman asked the following question, “At the meeting of Full Council on 31 January councillors unanimously voted for a motion requesting that the Electoral Registration Officer worked with the council’s Communications Team to run a specific campaign informing all residents of the city including potentially under represented communities of their right to both vote and stand in the local elections to be held on 2 May. That was two months ago there is now less than six days for those who wish to stand to delivery their completed nomination forms and only two weeks left for residents to register to vote in the elections three weeks thereafter. May ask what form the information campaign has taken and if we have any feedback on how success it has been at reaching our most hard to reach residents?”

92.31 Councillor Hamilton replied, “Electoral Services have been undertaking the necessary campaign by ensuring that under-represented groups, including EU citizens, are made aware of their right to vote and stand for elections at the forthcoming local elections.

We have a year-round approach to asking people to register to vote – with a particular emphasis on re-registering when you move house. This is shared directly with residents when they are setting up new council tax or housing benefit accounts, as well as with new council tax bills and through letting agents to new renters.

Register to vote notifications are sent to every single household in the city as part of the electoral canvass. Household notification forms are again sent to every household (in excess of 130,000) in mid-February as initial details of the local elections are shared. 2,600 additional non-statutory email prompts were sent at the end of March to those who have not responded to invitations to register or requests to provide documentary evidence.

Information was shared in the city explaining the registration deadlines and detailing who could register – including EU and Commonwealth citizens who live in the city, and students who are also registered at another address – which is different to national election eligibility.

Resources including posters, news stories, specialised briefings, screen images, and social media are being shared with council services, local media, education providers, community & third sector partners, and community networks across the city – particularly those known to have a high proportion of residents likely to be non-UK national, such as the universities, language schools, large employers and community groups. Communications include posters on all bus routes with a potential reach of 1 million journeys, in 15 busy council-run customer service locations throughout the city, as well as regular social media posts with an average reach of 2.2k.

With around a month to go before the local election, we will continue to communicate the register to vote details alongside the publication of the election notices, the issue of poll cards, key deadlines for postal and proxy voting, how to vote, what you need and where to go. This will include a film on how to complete a postal vote and a reminder to all, but particularly the most vulnerable, that your vote is your own. In addition to this, specialist information such as easy read guidance will be shared with, and from partners.

Members may be aware that, in addition to the Brighton & Hove specific information, the Electoral Commission are running a national local election campaign that includes TV ads, digital and printed posters, news stories and social media. Election information has been supported by promoting Gov.uk’s EU exit campaign which locally has been displayed on bus shelters in the city. Communications on the council website homepage and through our social media channels has included practical information for EU voters including an additional focus on elections and registering to vote.

As of beginning of March, 202,450 are registered to vote in Brighton & Hove – including 16,366 of a possible 19,000 EU citizens. The figure of 19,000 includes EU citizens of all ages. If one were to look at those of voting age only and exclude those under 18, this suggests a healthy level of registration to vote among EU citizens. We will however

continue to encourage people register and vote. Our approach has been and remains purely factual and non-political throughout, focusing on who can register to vote, how and key deadlines.”

- 92.32 Councillor Littman asked the following supplementary question, “Some of the response seemed to reply to the usual ongoing campaign which was referred to in the Motion so that doesn’t count towards the new specific campaign that we asked for. The numbers that you quoted were very healthy and I am pleased to hear that. Is there any indication of what affect the stand alone new campaign that was set up as a result of the Motion has had in addition to what we were doing year round anyway?”
- 92.33 Councillor Hamilton replied, “I gave you the figures for the European Union residents I don’t off hand have the other figures but I am sure that I can get a response and send it to you in writing.”
- 92.34 Councillor Wealls asked the following question, “In your Lead role for Public Health would you agree to ask officers to write on behalf of the council to the Head of CAMHS requesting that they invite and listen to the views of as many of their service users and their families as possible in order to inform their forthcoming review of their services across Sussex and for an update to be provided to the next Health & Wellbeing Board?”
- 92.35 Councillor Barford replied, “It may be useful to know that following discussions with the alliance of CCGs and the three Local Authorities covering the greater Sussex area a review of CAMHs has just started. The Executive Director for Families, Children and Learning is a member of the Oversight Group that will ensure the review is kept on track, together with the statutory Directors of Children’s Services for both East and West Sussex. An Independent Chair has been appointed and also part of the review team are the Lead Manager for Children’s Mental Health & Wellbeing, Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group and the Council’s Assistant Director for Health covering special educational needs and disability. The Terms of Reference for the review have been agreed and it is clear that there will be engagement with service users. The detail of how this will take place has yet to be discussed.

However, the Council are committed to ensure that the voice not only of service users, but families and carers are heard as part of this review so council officers have sought to engage with the review as well as offering opportunities for the reviewing officers to engage with councillors shortly after the elections. In addition, council officers have been asking to ensure that the Youth Council is also engaged in this process, so I am happy to formally request that the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning passes on your request to the Oversight Group seeking assurance that any service user engagement would include their families and carers. I am aware that officers have already forward plans items about the CAMHS Review to both the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to keep the Council up to date with progress and final outcome. I hope this goes someway of reassuring you that the Administration shares you views in terms of affective stakeholder engagement.”

- 92.36 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, “I appreciate that response and we have worked together to make sure that we have co-ordinated on this because it is an incredibly important issue for families and their service users of CAMHs across the city and there is an incredible amount of frustration about this current service

level. It is vitally important that we do this, so my question is just to re-iterate would you join me and Councillor Nick Taylor in writing a hand-over letter to the incoming Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board requesting they receive reports on the feedback CAMHs has received from their service users and their families and how this feedback has been incorporated into their planned service levels. I suggest that our letter requests that the performance of CAMHs is closely monitored as part of the regular work stream of CAMHs?"

92.37 Councillor Barford replied, "I will be very happy to do so, and I would also like to add that I would also like it to go to HOSC."

92.38 Councillor Page asked the following question, "I have been in communication with the GMB today and they have confirmed to me that street cleaning services in the suburbs and residential areas, not the city centre and the seafront, have been reduced in the last four years and I know there are various plans and modernisation in City Clean but can Cllr Mitchell clarify whether there are any plans to restore the cuts in street cleaners in residential areas because I think many of us hear from our residents that their family and friends come to visit Brighton & Hove and they say 'this city is a mess'?"

92.39 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I can give you that assurance because in our budget we have put in an additional £1.4m into City Environment and a lot of that will go into streets and then of course in addition there was the £55k that came from the Amendment that was agreed at Budget Council so I can fully assure you that the street sweeping services in the city will not suffer."

92.40 Councillor Page asked the following supplementary question, "I thought that was good news but Cllr Mitchell ended by saying the street cleaners won't suffer. I was asking if the services would be restored at least to their previous level outside the city centre and the seafront."

92.41 Councillor Mitchell replied, "That is the idea, I didn't say that the street sweepers would suffer, street sweeping will not suffer."

92.42 Councillor Druitt asked the following question, "What guidance has been given by the council to the city's schools around how to deal with the Youth Strikes for Climate?"

92.43 Councillor Hamilton replied, "A letter was sent to all the head teachers of schools and this is a summary of what it said:

Following discussion with schools the council provided a communication to all schools on 12 March. This message noted that we, as a council, are encouraging young pupils to be engaged in both local and global matters and that we also recognise the opportunities for children and young people to express their views about the issues important to them are beneficial to their development as conscientious citizens. The message stressed it was a matter for individual schools to consider, because it is the head teacher and the governors who decide these things, how they respond to the specific proposal for another protest on Friday 15 March and re-iterated the council's clear expectation that all pupils should attend school every school day as made clear in the recent Miss School Miss Out Campaign. The message highlighted the concerns about pupils leaving the school site during the school day to attend the march especially if they are un-supervised and the attendance of a protest that may involve a procession

on roads which are not formerly closed. It was important to remind schools that the council's drive to approve attendance and by inference the legal responsibility for parents to make sure that their children attend school. It was important to advise them with both the clarity, but it was ultimately a decision for individual head teachers to make and reminded them of some of the risks that their young people could encounter should they attend the march unsupervised."

92.44 Councillor Druitt asked the following supplementary question, "It was a slightly odd answer like the council was 'hedging its bets', on the one hand we encourage students to engage in politics and political involvement but on the other hand there are laws and responsibilities and so on. That is all true but the outcome of that leaves confusion everywhere.

Does Cllr Hamilton agree that we should actually be working with schools to facilitate the safe engagement of school pupils in the climate protests without any fear of retribution?"

92.45 Councillor Hamilton replied, "As Chair of the Children & Young People & Skills Committee I think you would not be surprised that I see, hear and agree with the officers and their recommendations because children are placed in a situation – have a day off school and go to the march or miss a day off school. I don't know why it wouldn't be possible to arrange the march at 4pm on that Friday, or on a Saturday morning or on an inset day or during the school holidays. Children shouldn't be placed in a position where if they want to go on a march they have to take a day off school.

We are below the national average in secondary school attendance and I would not therefore in my role want to do anything that would reduce those figures even further"

92.46 Councillor Sykes asked the following question, "I have a written question to January Full Council about this matter and the answer which is in today's minutes on page 28 is 'a response to the written question will be sent directly to Cllr Sykes as soon as possible'. I didn't get a response to that written question. This surprised me as these used to be figures that the council published as part of its KPIs on the website, so you could just go to the website and pull them down. I wonder if Cllr Mitchell has any figures on residual waste arisings?"

92.47 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I remember you asking the question and we have been trying to get to the bottom of being able to give you a definitive response. We have to do that in conjunction with East Sussex County Council who can provide us with the information and the issue comes down to what happens to wood and until we know that and can absolutely bottom that out we are not quite there with the response. What kind of wood? Is it MDF? Is it other kinds of wood because all the different kinds of wood go to different places to be recycled, some goes to bio mass but not wood that contains glue, other kinds of wood are sent to different places and so I am afraid I still can't give you a definitive answer on that but what I can tell you on the latest figures I have got the amount of was sent for energy recovery overall is down and recycling rates are up."

92.48 Councillor Sykes asked the following supplementary question, "The result of high recycling rates should logically be reducing residual waste and so reducing cost to this council. We know that in recent budget rounds we have been asked for extra money to dispose of waste, and now we can't get hold of the waste figures. We should have been able to do this in two months. We can't get hold of the waste figures before an election.

Are this Labour council's boasts about high recycling rates just 'smoke, mirrors and garden waste'?"

92.49 Councillor Mitchell replied, No they are not the full figures for 2017/18. The percentage of waste sent to energy recovery 69.75%.the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting 28.6% not including wood for bio mass and textiles and the percentage of municipal waste sent to landfill 5.3%"

92.50 The Mayor noted that concluded the item and adjourned the meeting for a refreshment break at 6.10pm.

92.51 The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 6.40pm.

93 APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT PERSON

93.1 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the appointment of Helen Aston as Independent Person and co-opted member of the Audit & Standards Committee be approved; and
- (2) That the appointment be made for a period of 4 years, and that the Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to implement a 2-year extension at his discretion, after consulting with the Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee.

94 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2019/20

94.1 **RESOLVED:** That the pay policy statement for 2019/20 as attached in Appendix 1 to the report be adopted.

95 REVIEW OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EMPLOYEES

95.1 **RESOLVED:** That the revised Code of Conduct for Employees as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved with immediate effect; and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to publish the revised Code in the Council's Constitution.

96 REVIEW OF PARTS OF THE CONSTITUTION INCLUDING THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND RELATED ARRANGEMENTS

96.1 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the appendices 1, 2 and 3 to the report referred by Audit & Standards Committee be approved with immediate effect; and
- (2) That the Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to publish the changes in the Council's Constitution and to make any necessary or incidental changes he considers necessary to give effect to them.

97 REPORT OF THE EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

97.1 **RESOLVED:** That the reports from the meetings of the East Sussex Fire Authority held on the 18th December 2018 and the 14th February 2019 be noted.

98 VALLEY GARDENS PHASE 3 (ROYAL PAVILION TO SEAFRONT) RESULTS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL OF FINAL PRELIMINARY DESIGN

98.1 Councillor Wares stated that he had referred the report to highlight the impending harm that approval of the scheme would cause for the area and residents. He stated that the need for improvements to the area was recognised however, the level of opposition to the current proposals needed to be considered and taken into account. He stated that a number of the leading event organisers in the city had expressed their concerns and the impact on being able to book beyond 2020. He also suggested that the project would go over budget and there were questions about that could be accounted for. He believed that there should be further consultation and a delay to the project in order to give further consideration to the best way forward.

98.2 Councillor Littman noted that improvements to Valley Gardens had been a long-standing issue and previous Administrations had either begun to review it or delayed matters rather than seeking to bring forward a project plan. The project had now been through a review process and a preferred design plan agreed, which he believed needed to be progressed and supported.

98.3 Councillor Mitchell stated that the proposed plan had been adapted following consultations and should now be taken forward. It met the requirements of all concerned and she hoped it could be supported and the funding utilised to enable the project to come to fruition.

98.4 The Mayor noted that it was likely to be Councillor Mitchell's final speech as she was standing down and wished to offer the council's congratulations and thanks for her service over the years.

98.5 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.

98.6 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

99 PROCUREMENT OF AN ASSESSMENT SERVICE FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS

99.1 Councillor Meadows stated that it appeared Adult Social Care were operating a different housing policy for allocations to that used by housing officers and referred to pages 270 and 275 of the agenda. She was concerned that this was the case as she believed only one policy should be used. She also questioned whether tenants had been made aware of the situation and why there was no equality impact assessment to the report. She also questioned how the Housing & New Homes Committee was able to have any oversight on the matter and the use of HRA funding to support budgets that were overspent.

- 99.2 Councillor Moonan stated that the supported accommodation provided was completely separate to tenant housing and did not affect the HRA. The criteria used for allocating the supported housing was different to the Housing Policy and did not impact on that. The supported housing service provided an excellent service for people with complex needs and it was a good report which she hoped would be supported.
- 99.3 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.
- 99.4 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

100 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF A “SAFE SPACE TO STAY” SERVICE FUNDED FROM THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 100.1 Councillor Mears stated that she had referred the report to the council as an example of a matter that had come to the Housing & New Homes Committee seeking approval to delegate authority to the Executive Director for Health & Adult Social Care. She believed that it showed the need for an Adult Social Care Committee as in delegating authority to the Executive Director, the Housing & New Homes Committee had no control over the contracts or any feedback. There was a clear need for Members to have oversight of such matters and therefore a need to review arrangements and have an Adult Social Care Committee.
- 100.2 Following requests for clarification, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Health & Wellbeing Board was a Joint Committee with decision-making powers for adult and social care functions and therefore effectively an Adult Social Care Committee.
- 100.3 Councillor Page stated that the Members of the Health & Wellbeing Board worked with their Health counterparts and he believed the Board had been effective. The report referred for information was about housing support and it was appropriate for the Housing & New Homes Committee to consider it. The report had been well debated and he believed current decision-making arrangements were appropriate.
- 100.4 Councillor Moonan noted that the matter had concerned the use of funding that had been provided by government funding for a scheme to prevent homelessness. As such it was appropriate for the Housing & New Homes Committee to consider the report and be aware of the overall context for support to rough sleeping.
- 100.5 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and move that it be noted.
- 100.6 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

101 HRA BORROWING CAP

- 101.1 Councillor Gibson stated that the provision of new homes in the city had to be a priority and whilst he welcomed the up-scaling of the ambition to increase the number of new homes, he did not feel it was enough. There had been 232 homes sold under the right to buy scheme with less than 200 replacing them. He also noted that less than a quarter of

the right to buy receipts had been used and believed that double the number of houses could be added to the available supply. He hoped that the council would do better during the next term and that a clear plan would be identified.

101.2 Councillor Mears welcomed the Government's decision to remove the restriction on the borrowing rate and stated that the council could be more creative in identifying sites for housing. There was a clear deficit of affordable housing in the city and this needed to be addressed, but she was only concerned about the HRA and use of funds for the General Fund rather than the HRA and hoped that the use of right to buy receipts would be allocated to the HRA.

101.3 Councillor Hill welcomed the referral of the report and noted how much had been achieved over the last four-years and work undertaken across various areas to enable the provision of new homes in the city. She noted that the Borrowing Cap had been lifted which was helpful and that the process for utilising right to buy receipts needed to be addressed. She hoped that going forward the Groups would be able to work together to ensure that available funds were used, and new homes provided.

101.4 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted.

101.5 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

102 CLOSE OF MEETING

102.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and following a request from Councillor Peltzer Dunn, noted that the Council agreed to record a vote of thanks to the following retiring councillors:

Councillor Allen	Councillor Marsh
Councillor Barford	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Bennett	Councillor Morgan
Councillor Bewick	Councillor Morris
Councillor Chapman	Councillor A. Norman
Councillor Gilbey	Councillor K. Norman
Councillor Greenbaum	Councillor Page
Councillor Horan	Councillor Sykes
Councillor Hyde	Councillor G. Theobald
Councillor Inkipin-Leissner	Councillor Wealls
Councillor Knight	

The meeting concluded at 7.25pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2019

