

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.00am 21 MAY 2013**

**ROOM 126, KING'S HOUSE**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Jack Hazelgrove (Chair), Francis Tonks, Mike Bojczuk, Val Brown, John Eyles and Colin Vincent

**Co-opted Members:** Marion Couldery, Penny Morley and Janet Wakeling

**Others Present:** Councillor Bowden

**PART ONE**

**11. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed Penny Thompson the new BHCC Chief Executive to the meeting.

**12. DISCUSSION WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE PENNY THOMPSON**

The Chief Executive (CE) introduced herself and gave a summary of her background which included twelve years as a social care professional managing in Cleveland, Sheffield, and Haringey amongst others.

Council priorities focus on inequalities, sustainability, engagement and modernising the council.

Major challenges currently facing the council include:

- Waste collection and pay modernisation. The Chief Executive apologised for the current service disruption but stressed that the current system of allowances was not fit for purpose as it discriminatory
- Economic issues and the Greater Brighton initiative
- Refresh of the Local Strategic Partnership
- Within the Council there is a focus on organisational values and performance management

Questions to the CE focused on:

- Who should be leading negotiations with the unions, members or officers? The CE told members that as the Head of paid service it is appropriate that the CE has the power to agree terms with the unions.
- What were the findings of the recent report into BME issues within the council? – Responding to concerns raised by staff the council had commissioned an external review of any potential racism within the council. The CE informed members that the report had raised a number of issues that are being actively addressed in a transparent manner.
- Age Friendly City – had the Chief Executive's full support and presents a good opportunity to ensure that policies across the city are joined up and supporting older people.
- Were older people's issues picked up in Planning reports and recommendations? The CE told members that she was committed to raising the issue of training on older people's issues with planning control.

### 13. MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

Nick Hibberd, Head of Regeneration gave a presentation on current regeneration priorities and answered questions.

- Extra housing was a focus to reduce costs within health and adult social care and give independence to older people for longer
- Engagement with communities was an integral part of the development process and all major schemes should have systematic engagement as part of their plans. Precise arrangements for consultation will depend of the project but older people should always be considered.
- Site management was also an important consideration to ensure that noise pollution does not unduly affect residents.
- Affordable housing targets could be challenging at 40%, on occasion a developer may only be asked to meet a lower target if it is felt the development is still of benefit to the city. In tougher economic times lower targets are more likely to be accepted as fewer developments are coming forward. Ultimately schemes need to be financially viable.

### 14. AGE-FRIENDLY BRIGHTON & HOVE

Annie Alexander updated the OPC on the Age Friendly City (AFC) project.

- The council has been admitted to the World Health Organisation (WHO) network and was working towards the initial baseline assessment.
- A steering group had been formed of major partners including the OPC
- There were 8 domains to work across
- The project will be looking to engage with older people groups
- People's day will be used to engage with people

- A Bid had been made to the Big Lottery Fund re social isolation. Stage 2 of this process would need a third sector organisation to lead the process.
- 12 cities were in the informal UK network with some further ahead of B&H, e.g. Manchester
- The project would need to be wider than BHCC and statutory partners – e.g. Fabrica Gallery looking at how to increase its visitors number from the over 60s.

There was discussion about the resourcing and support for the AFC project. B&H will not be able to provide the same type of support as places like Manchester.

There is a challenge to the OPC and its members as to what they are doing at an individual and collective level to deliver AFC priorities. Should the AFC agenda become the over-riding priority for the OPC?

BHCC and other partners will also need to deliver parts of the project.

The Project Management Team within the council will be approached to provide support to the AFC project. A high level action plan is needed to coordinate AFC.

## 15. BREAK

## 16. MINUTES

The minutes of the 23 April, 2013 meeting were approved.

## 17. ROUND-UP

Jack Hazelgrove informed members that he would not be seeking re-election as Chair at the AGM in September 20 and would be meeting with electoral services to discuss when to hold by-elections. Suggestion is to hold them in the first two years but not in the last two.

Francis Tonks told members that he would be standing down as Vice-Chair at the AGM in September. Francis informed members that the Level development was progressing at a pace; the opening was planned for 14 September, 2013. Francis was undertaking PLACE training to visit hospitals and would be seeking a scrutiny review into food in hospitals.

Councillor Bowden would be the link Councillor for the OPC again for 2013/4.

Marion Couldery, within her voluntary work with the Age UK Helpline, had noticed an increase in calls coming in with higher complex needs and there was a noticeable difference in the issues being raised.

Penny Morley has been attending the AFC meetings.

Mike Bojczuk – Attended a symposium in London on working together to deliver better services. Denise D'Souza was also on the panel. OPC agreed to join the Age Action Alliance.

**18. ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEOPLE'S DAY**

A rota was agreed. Mike would email this around. Leaflets would be made available along with the usual banners and publicity material.

**19. 11 JUNE CITY SUMMIT ADULT SOCIAL CARE EVENT**

Colin Vincent and Penny Morley would be attending this event and be present at the OPC stall.

**20. OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was agreed.

**21. PENSIONER ACTION UPDATE**

Sue Howley was passing on the baton from Pensioner Action. Discussing the future of the neighbourhood groups. Age UK Brighton & Hove have agreed to host the Pensioner Magazine. All paid staff would be leaving by the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

OPC agreed to formally note gratitude to Sue Goodwin and staff at Pensioner Action.

The issue of future funding of the Pensioner magazine was discussed with the Leader of the Council, £15k was needed per annum.

**22. OPC ANNUAL REPORT**

Members agreed to provide Mike with the information for the Annual Report.

**23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of



