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| Subject: | Brighton and Hove Brexit Update: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 18 October 2018 | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 6 December 2018 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: Mark Wall | Tel: 01273 291006 | |
| | E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk | | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

To receive the notice of motion referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations: That the Notice of Motion be referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting on the 6th December, 2018 for consideration.

This Council notes:

- the background of considerable political uncertainty, and continuing evidence of damage, that any form of Brexit will cause to the national economy;
- its previous position agreed in December 2017 in favour of a People's Vote.

This Council further notes that more detail is now available on the potential impact of Brexit on our local and regional economy, such as on our local tourism and hospitality sector

This Council therefore requests:

- That the Chief Executive write to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, reaffirming this Council's desire for a People's Vote;
- That Policy Resources & Growth Committee request our Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Culture to consider strategic risks arising from Brexit that will affect the council and city, and report on this before year end;
- That further to the above, that the Constitution Working Group be requested to review whether future BHCC committee reports are expanded to include a 'Brexit Implications' section in the body of the report, offering an assessment and analysis of any Brexit impact; and
- That Policy Resources and Growth Committee request our Chief Finance Officer to consider the advantages and disadvantages of accepting income from fees, charges and council tax denominated in

Euros to protect this city's income stream and services.

Supporting Information

Recent reports show that up to 250 local projects could stand to lose EU funding after Brexit. <https://bit.ly/2NsCoRv>

According to the latest Visitor Economy Strategy, limiting the sector's ability to recruit or employ foreign nationals including from the EU could challenge many travel and hospitality businesses in the city. [Local businesses are 'already finding it hard to recruit as numbers of available EU workers begin to decline.'](https://bit.ly/2RzwMrR) <https://bit.ly/2RzwMrR>

A survey of more than 2,700 members of Unite, Unison & the GMB found that a majority backed a People's Vote: <https://bit.ly/2MUZowZ>

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 18 OCTOBER 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

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

PART ONE

27 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

27.3 Following this she would then revert to the order of items on the agenda but would also take item 34 (6) – Notice of Motion on Brexit at the same time as Item 31 (2) – Petition for Debate as again these related to the same subject matter.

31 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

31.1 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 2 such petitions. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation for Item 31(1), Improve Brighton & Hove's Recycling Scheme from the Green Group.

(2) A PEOPLE'S VOTE ON BREXIT

31.18 The Mayor then invited Councillor Greenbaum to present the second petition.

31.19 Councillor Greenbaum thanked the Mayor and stated that she was presenting the petition on behalf of Councillor West and noted that it had 1, 399 signatures. She stated that the petition called on the Government to allow a People's Vote on the issue of Brexit. The referendum in 2016 had been the start of the process with a narrow majority in favour of a single choice on limited information. The position had since changed and it was only right that the people should have the opportunity to review the situation and decide on how to proceed.

31.20 Councillor Yates noted the petition and stated that he agreed with the petitioner and noted that the city having voted in favour of remaining in the EU, was likely to support the petition and that the council had already written to the Secretary of State on the matter as a result of a previous notice of motion. He was therefore happy to note the petition in this instance.

31.21 The Mayor than called on Councillor Sykes to move the notice of motion listed as Item 34 (6) on the agenda.

34. (6) BRIGHTON AND HOVE BREXIT UPDATE

34.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Sykes on behalf of the Green Group. He noted the Leader of the Council's comments to the petition and stated that there was a clear need for a people's vote on the issue as it was evident that a number of people had not understood what they were voting for at the time of the referendum. He also noted that a number of politicians in the House of Commons were supportive of a people's vote and accepted that it would be the morally correct thing to do. As things stood it appeared that the country was heading towards political and economic uncertainty which would directly impact on Brighton and Hove. He suggested that as a city, more could be done to prepare for the exit and the possibility of a no deal situation and for Members to be aware of the potential impact.

34.2 Councillor Deane formally seconded the notice of motion and stated the no-one had anticipated the result of the referendum at the time and there had been no plan b for such a result. It was also clear that the claims made by the leave campaign had not come to fruition and should the country leave the EU then it would lose a great deal. She noted that there was always a possibility to reconsider any decision that was taken and yet there appeared to be no such option in this respect, which was not democratic. She believed there was a need to take people's views into account at this time and hoped that the motion would be supported.

34.3 Councillor Janio stated that a people's vote was held in 2016 and the outcome was clear in that the democratic choice was to leave the EU. He did not see the need to ask the people again and suggested that there was a need to support the government in achieving the best outcome for the country.

34.4 Councillor Yates noted that the people of Brighton and Hove had given a clear desire to remain in the EU and as such this should be taken into consideration by the city council. The situation should be a concern for all Groups as custodians of services within the city and there was a need for more understanding of the potential of a Brexit and what a soft or hard Brexit and a short or long transition period would imply. There was a need for the council to understand what the implications of Brexit were for the city and to prepare for the outcome.

34.5 Councillor Inkpin-Leissner stated that he did not understand the Government's position and believed that it was not being taken seriously by the other Member States in Europe. He believed a people's vote would unite the country and make it clear for the Government on how to progress matters.

34.6 Councillor Bell referred to the principal behind the motion and noted that at the last council meeting the Labour and Green Groups had voted together against staff at the Royal Pavilion having a meaningful vote about their position. He also noted that the decision on the Mears housing contract had also been prevented from coming to full Council and yet there was now a call for a people's vote to be held which contradicted the actions taken by the council.

- 34.7 Councillor G. Theobald stated that he had voted to remain but overtime had changed his mind and believed that a considerable number of people in the country just wanted to get on with the process of leaving. He believed a decision had been made and that the Prime Minister should be supported in seeking to implement that decision. If a second vote was taken with a different result what would prevent the argument to hold third vote and so on. In the end he believed the result would be the same and therefore everyone needed to get on with preparing for the impact of leaving.
- 34.8 Councillor Littman stated that there was a need to recognise the democratic right for people to call for a further vote having had the opportunity to consider the matter and potential implications of Brexit.
- 34.9 Councillor Druitt suggested that if the Prime Minister was to be supported to get the best possible deal then it should be to stay in the EU.
- 34.10 Councillor Sykes stated that a people's vote would enable the country to decide one way or the other and for that result to then be taken forward and future trade deals to be negotiated as necessary. He therefore put the motion forward and hoped it would be supported.
- 31.22 The Mayor noted that the debate had concluded and thanked Councillor Greenbaum for presenting the petition and stated that she would take the petition first and then the notice of motion in terms of the voting procedure. She noted that the petition was calling on the Government to agree to a people's vote on the issue of Brexit and therefore it was recommended to note the petition. She then put the recommendation to the vote which was carried by 27 votes to 15 with 3 abstentions.
- 31.23 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted.
- 34.11 The Mayor then put the following motion to the vote:

"This Council notes:

- the background of considerable political uncertainty, and continuing evidence of damage, that any form of Brexit will cause to the national economy;
- its previous position agreed in December 2017 in favour of a People's Vote.

This Council further notes that more detail is now available on the potential impact of Brexit on our local and regional economy, such as on our local tourism and hospitality sector

This Council therefore requests:

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- That further to the above, that the Constitution Working Group be requested to review whether future BHCC committee reports are expanded to include a 'Brexit

Implications' section in the body of the report, offering an assessment and analysis of any Brexit impact; and

- That Policy Resources & Growth Committee request the Chief Finance Officer to consider the advantages and disadvantages of accepting income from fees, charges and council tax denominated in Euros to protect this city's income stream and services.

34.12 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been carried by 24 votes to 19 with 2 abstentions.