



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**COUNCIL
ADDENDUM**

4.30PM, THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2012

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

ITEM		Page
57.	WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.	1 - 2
58.	DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.	3 - 8
(a)	Parking Charges – Mr. Raggio (copy attached).	
(b)	Music Service Cuts – Mr. Turvey (copy attached).	
59.	PETITION DEBATE	
	Music & Arts Services Cuts. Amendment from the Conservative Group – Proposed by Councillor Ann Norman (copy attached).	9 - 10
60.	WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.	11 - 18
63.	EAST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS AND BRIGHTON & HOVE WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN	19 - 22
(i)	Extract from the proceedings of the Cabinet meeting held on 19 th January 2012 (copy attached).	
(ii)	Amendment from the Labour & Co-operative Group – Proposed by Councillor Hamilton (copy attached).	
65.	NOTICES OF MOTION.	23 - 28
(a)	Accept the Council Tax Freeze. Amendment from the Labour & Co-operative Group – Proposed by Councillor Hamilton (copy attached).	
(b)	Rail Fare Rises. Amendment from the Green Group – Proposed by Councillor Davey (copy attached).	
(c)	Ultra-Fast Broadband for Our City. Amendment from the Green Group – Proposed by Councillor Jason Kitcat (copy attached).	

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

(a) Ms Bridget Fishleigh

“Since the Save Saltdean Lido Campaign, presented a petition to Council in October, there appears to have been some activity from the Council. However can you outline in detail what activities the Council have undertaken since that time including the results of that activity and what activity is scheduled to take place over the next few months?”

Councillor Bowden, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation & Tourism, will reply.

(b) Mr Ted Kemble

“Would the Cabinet member for transport please clarify and justify why it is necessary to take out a complete lane in each direction to install a cycle lane that is twice the width of the cycle lane in Grand Ave?”

Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport & Public Realm, will reply.

(c) Mr Adrian Morris on behalf of Ms Julia Davis

“The council acts as trustee for the pleasure ground called The Level and holds the freehold, which is subject to: 1) covenants drawn up in perpetuity in 1822 designed to keep the land free from development, and 2) 1954 byelaws forbidding the use of bicycles.

As trustees, can the council provide details under what Act it obtained the freehold and what legal processes need to be followed to obtain planning permission for the new skatepark/BMXpark, including potential appropriation of land and amendments of bye-laws, and how & when these are expected to be implemented?”

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of two Deputations has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(a) Deputation concerning Parking Charges
Mr Raggio (Spokesperson)

“The traders & business permit proposal price is not welcomed.

We believe that, at a time of economic turbulence, Brighton & Hove City Council should be doing everything it can to support local traders and other businesses, not making things more difficult for them.”

Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport & the Public Realm, will respond.

(b) Deputation concerning Music and Arts Services Cuts
Mr Turvey (Spokesperson)

Let me start by re-iterating the added value the music and arts service provides to the cultural and artistic capital of our City. The Music and Arts Service has been built over many years on the principle of music for all and reaches children and young people with disabilities as well as many from disadvantaged backgrounds thanks to its inclusive approach. It's clear from the 4234 signatures of support and the many testimonials we have received - a selection of which can be found in Appendix A - that the value of this long-standing and outstanding service in Brighton and Hove cannot be quantified. As one of the testimonials points out the music service is 'like an alternative youth service' and the effect of even the revised cuts would be 'more far reaching than just a few less trumpet players in town.' So let us look at what is proposed and the potential impact if the proposed cuts go through.

You have a graph (Appendix B), which models the proportions of the combined central grant and local subsidy cut. The central government grant will be cut by £109K to £238K - a 33% reduction. However, by far the biggest impact remains the Green-led proposal to cut from £249K to approximately £133K per year if spread evenly over the 2 years. Although this was trumpeted in the recent press release by the Greens as an improvement of three quarters on their initial savings, when one considers that this is based upon the net savings, it still represents a 54% cut to the local subsidy. This remains a far greater cut than

many other services face to a subsidy that is a great deal less than a tenth of 1% of the whole council budget. The revised cut still represent a significant risk to the service, which is left facing a significant reduction in these two funding streams. So what are the potential risks?

The children who benefit most from the music service are those whose parents cannot afford instrumental music lessons. The music service has been built over many years on the laudable principle of music for all, pitching its lessons at a fair and accessible rate for lower-middle income families and offering subsidies of up to 80% towards the costs of lessons for those from low incomes. These inclusive principles should be celebrated because they mean that musical talent is allowed to shine regardless of the socio-economic background of the child or what school they attend. If lower-middle income families are faced with making up for the shortfall of these combined cuts, it will simply price them out of being able to afford lessons for their children, resulting in a further significant reduction in income for the service and impacting upon its viability as a going concern for all.

However, the music lessons which the Music Service provides are only one of the many services made accessible to children in the City. Every single Primary school child is able, under the Soundmakers programme, to spend 15 weeks learning a musical instrument, irrespective of their background. The expectation under the budget cuts is that Primary schools would take on the funding of this, but with Primary budgets already the tightest in the education sector, it is difficult to see how all the primary schools would be able to maintain the Soundmakers programme.

Brighton and Hove is a relatively wealthy city with a plethora of private schools and many parents wealthy enough to pay premium rates for private music tuition. Faced with fewer pupils able to take up affordable instrumental lessons through state schools and the music service we could easily lose our dedicated team of highly trained and committed instrumental teachers as they are forced to seek employment for their skills within the private sector where there is never any question of their value or benefit educationally.

Without a music service, learning a musical instrument is primarily a solitary activity. Taking part in one of the many choirs, bands or orchestras, which the Music Service provides changes this. It allows children from all walks of life to mix in a musical setting. It is quite striking how many long-standing friendships are struck up which reach outside of school boundaries, to the benefit of all concerned. It's also noticeable how working together on musical ensembles develops a sense of community shown by the impeccable approach to this campaign by the young people involved.

It is a seductive idea that the Music Service budget could be cut and the higher level groups, such as Brighton Youth Orchestra, could be maintained. However, BYO is at the top of a graded ladder of orchestras and ensembles. Cut the rungs beneath and, in time, there will be no pool from which the talent will rise. There is a real opportunity now to redress the risks outlined by reviewing the local subsidy again to see if it can be used to further cushion the blow to the service. Finally let us also just remember that the Music and Arts Service is one

of the key services at the core of this City's musical, cultural and artistic heritage as the testimonials (Appendix A) I will leave you with show and as Howard Blake made clear in his support for our campaign saying:

"Brighton is famous throughout the world for its music. To remove assistance would be a devastating blow. I have always been immensely grateful to Brighton, since without it, as a composer I probably would have never existed."
Howard Blake, Composer

Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, will respond.

HOWARD BLAKE OBE FRAM (Composer). What on earth are Green thinking of? Green IS music and I thought I was in favour of Green. Music is the sound of nature and peace and eternity. I am now sometimes described as a world-famous composer (certainly with The Snowman, the rest perhaps when I'm dead). I learnt to be a pianist, composer and conductor in Brighton. My knowledge of classical music came from the free Brighton record library in the early fifties. Also from having a free pass to the BPO rehearsals in the Dome and going on a free school trip to Glyndebourne. I acted at the free Downs primary school, won the 11-plus to the free Brighton Grammar School, where I sang lead roles in G and S and later got distinction in S-level Music. My Brighton piano teacher Christine Pembroke coached me to win the scholarship to the Royal Academy for piano and composition and I was supported by a university grant. This led to my lifelong professional music career. My first recognition as a composer came from winning the composition class at The Brighton Competitive musical festival in 1958. Brighton is famous throughout the world for its music. To remove assistance would be a devastating blow. I have always been immensely grateful to Brighton, since without it, as a composer I probably would have never existed.

TASMIN LITTLE (Concert Violinist). "I am writing in support of the Music Service at Brighton and Hove as I understand that it is under the threat of cuts. This is very worrying to me as the relatively small amount of money allocated to the Arts can make a vast difference to the lives of so many people and can be of huge benefit to the community as a whole. I began the violin at my local, state primary school in London and it is only because of state-funded opportunities that I was able to fulfil my dream of becoming a professional concert violinist. Music can be a lifeline to many people of all ages and backgrounds, helping them to work through difficult emotions, find courage and have faith in themselves. Music provides a meaningful and personal outlet and, in addition to providing a valuable and joyous experience for the individual, the families and greater community are also enriched. I urge you to reconsider your plans to cut the funding to this vibrant and successful Music Service – it is something to be proud of, not to do away with."

SIAN CAREY, school student. I'm in my 8th year of learning the violin and 5th of learning the flute. On a Saturday morning I did 3 years of Junior choir and I'm in my 3rd year of youth choir. I've done Saturday strings, violin group, flute group and still do wind ensemble and wind band. I did 2 years on violin in BHJYO and am now doing flute in it. Thanks to the music service I've tried keyboard at sound makers, viola, piccolo, alto flute and music theory. I've always done lots of courses in the summer. Lots of my friends do music and I've met loads of new people through doing music. It's really amazing and I wouldn't have done any of this without the music service.

GEORGIA JENKINS, age 15. I started learning the violin with the music service when I was eight, I now am the leader in the Brighton and Hove Youth Philharmonia. I really enjoy it, it is the highlight of my week! My violin playing has greatly benefited from being in the Philharmonia I would not be at the level I am now without orchestra. Our tour which was scheduled for the Easter holidays was recently cancelled for the first time in 16 years, everyone at orchestra was extremely disappointed, if our orchestra was taken away completely, I don't know what we would do! My friends from orchestra are better than any of those I have ever made at school; they will be my friends for life! I also learn the Guitar with the music service; this is definitely very enjoyable too!

JADE NICKOLOFF, age 10. To the Council Learning keyboard is important to me because it is fun and I am very good at it and want to learn more it makes me happy and I can express my feelings, for instance when I am sad I play sad tunes and when I am happy I play jolly tunes. When I play the keyboard I create a world of my own. The idea of not being able to do lessons will make me really sad. Please don't stop my lessons or make it so expensive that my parents can't afford to pay for them.

EMILY HALL, trainee music teacher. Hi. I would be delighted to lend my voice to the campaign to stop the cuts to Brighton and Hove music service. I was a member of BYO back in 2003 and went to numerous violin summer schools with Brighton and Hove music service as a child. I used to travel over 20 miles to attend these, as music services in my area were nowhere near as supportive, inclusive and creative. It is due to my experiences with Brighton and Hove music service that I realised that I could contribute to group music and make a difference. I went on to study music at Dartington, become a professional violinist and singer, and am now training as a music teacher. It would be tragic to lose the superb creative outlet that the music service was

for me, and continues to be for hundreds of young people today. The teachers and players who ran those groups inspired my young musical life, and without them I don't think I would have had the confidence to be doing what I am today.

REBECCA, former music service participant. The experiences that I've gained out of the Brighton and Hove Music Service are invaluable. The skills that I gained and the people I met have stayed with me to the present day, and the memories that I have from the opportunities that the Music Service enabled will stay with me for life. For any young person growing up in Brighton and Hove, the opportunity to become involved with the Music Service is an incredibly important one: in shaping them as individuals, as well as broadening and enhancing their prospects outside of their academic life. For me, the involvement in various ensembles offered by the Music Service facilitated a very welcome departure from the routine and repetition of school life and enabled me to express myself through an outlet for which I felt passionate. This experience was heightened through being able to share it with many who felt the same. I know many who would agree, and the idea that this opportunity would be taken away is preposterous, unfathomable and leaves me with great sadness.

BETH RANDALL, professional musician and parent. We are the envy of the Country with our fantastic music service. My daughter started the violin aged six at Downs Infants School and under the expert tuition of Clive Morgan progressed amazingly well. Her involvement in the orchestras further aided her development musically and at the age of ten she won a coveted place in The National Children's Orchestra. We thank the staff of the Brighton and Hove Music Service for allowing her potential to be discovered. But more importantly, we should cherish the work they do for all students in Brighton and Hove. It is universally acknowledged that engagement in musical activities has manifold benefits - educationally, socially and musically. Please, please, reconsider these cuts. Music fuels the spirit - allow the young people of Brighton to continue to be enriched.

E. ENFIELD, parent. I am writing with concern about the proposed cuts to the music service in Brighton and Hove. This is an outstanding service and not only helps makes the city the thriving artistic environment which attracts many visitors and in turn boosts the main industry i.e. tourism, but it also acts as an alternative youth service. The children who participate in the many music classes and ensembles tend to become highly motivated and keen to participate which stops them becoming disenchanted with education and hanging around at a vital time in their lives. It also fosters a sense of belonging to the community, nurturing good citizens and often preventing children from being bullied at school. This is not just about middle class children having subsidised music lessons but about nurturing and protecting the thriving community in which we all live. To cut all the funding for this service is short sighted and the effects will be more far reaching than just a few less trumpet players in town. Please reconsider this draconian cutting to a service which puts back into the city in so many ways.

CS, parent. Virtually everyone in my family is considered 'tone deaf', and I didn't think my daughter was musical when she was little. She couldn't sing in tune at all. But she did enjoy going to the children's music group with Peter Walker from Year 1. Then she begged to start in a violin group at junior school. I reluctantly agreed, thinking it would be a disaster. I have to admit I misjudged her. She now plays violin in the Brighton and Hove Youth Philharmonic Orchestra and sings (in tune!) with the Youth Choir. None of this would have been possible if she hadn't had a chance to try out music with B&H Music Service and I'm profoundly grateful to their wonderful teachers.

KAY WATTS, parent. I am writing as I'm saddened to hear of the short sighted decision to cut funding to MAS services. Both my son and daughter have benefitted from these classes; the teaching is of an exemplary standard and the staff's enthusiasm to pass on knowledge to the children is priceless. They make music fun to learn! I am delighted that my teenage son spends many hours practising guitar, instead of hanging out on the street, possibly getting into trouble and causing the Council expenditure in other areas. If MAS funding is reduced, Brighton is going to lose a gem of a service that we will not be able to recreate easily, and would be a blight for the City that wants to show its worthy of its new 'City' status. Music is one of the few areas that brings together people of all class and colour and many less well off people will no longer be able to afford the service if fees rise, including my children. At the moment the fees are only just affordable if you have a low income but are not eligible for subsidy. Please think again, for the sake of the next generation of children and the benefits to our community into the future.

Council	Agenda Item 59(a)
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

MUSIC AND ARTS SERVICES CUTS

Insert an additional recommendation (2) to the recommendations listed in the report as detailed below and shown in bold italics:

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Budget Cabinet Meeting on the 9th February for consideration; and

2.2 That the Cabinet give consideration to ensuring that the Music Service remains fully funded for at least two years.

Proposed by Cllr Ann Norman

Seconded by Cllr Wealls

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions listed on pages 41 - 44 of the agenda have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers listed below:

a) Councillor Hyde

“As a Brightonian I am very distressed at the Administration’s proposal to sell off the iconic mayoral number plate – CD 1 to raise a one-off sum of money. Can I ask the Leader of the Council to confirm that no more articles, historically associated with the mayoralty, will be sold off?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

“In these tough economic times and with the authority facing an above-average cut of a third to our grant from Government, we have to take every opportunity to protect services by looking for savings across the Council.

I can confirm that there are no plans in the administration’s budget proposals to sell any other items associated with the mayor’s office”

b) Councillor C Theobald

“How much will children’s music fees be increased by from 2012/13 as a result of the proposed ending of all Council subsidy to the Music Service and is the Cabinet Member concerned that this will make it considerably less likely that children from lower income families will learn to play a musical instrument?”

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

“We have listened to the views of people in the city and will be preserving all funding for the music service from the council this year and only reducing funding by 25% next. Central government cuts mean there is a reduction in funding and we therefore need to ensure that we support those children in most need. The service will concentrate on ensuring that children from less well off families continue to access our services.

The fees for Music & Arts service activities such as instrumental tuition will increase by 7.5% from April 2012. This takes into account inflationary pressures and also forms a part of a package of measure being taken to address the reduction in the level of Government grant available for the service as lead partner of our developing Music Education Hub. The subsidised tuition scheme available to families on low incomes will remain in place as will the subsidised instrument loan scheme, which is a central part of the service offer to support access and to enable children to practice and develop their musical skills.”

c) Councillor Peltzer Dunn

“Can the Cabinet member for Housing please tell me whether the Ainsworth House redevelopment contract was awarded before Christmas as she stated at the last Council meeting and when is she expecting building work to start?”

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“I am pleased to confirm that Kier Property (part of the Kier Group) was appointed as preferred contractor on 23 December 2011, following a comprehensive procurement process.

The contract has been drawn up for signing and sealing by both parties. We expect this to be completed next week. Kier will then take formal possession of the site and commence works shortly.

The Tenants Working Group, which has been involved with every aspect of this project from the start, will be liaising closely with Kier during the build process to ensure that the 15 new environmentally friendly council homes meet our key requirements.”

d) Councillor Janio

“Welcome new regulations issued by the Government mean that Local Authorities will now have to secure support from the local business community before introducing any workplace parking levy scheme. As this was one of the Administration’s key manifesto pledges, will Cllr. Davey please confirm if any discussions with local businesses have taken place on this and, if so, what level of support he found?”

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm.

“Thank you for your question Councillor Janio.

I recall the question on this subject that Councillor Carol Theobald asked my colleague Councillor Kennedy at the council meeting in July 2011.

Councillor Kennedy indicated that the inclusion of workplace parking charges in our election manifesto reflects our commitment to sustainable transport. Transport measures to reduce the impact of congestion and pollution on the city are an integral part of the administration’s priorities.

Councillor Kennedy also clearly stated that any decisions would be based on engagement, in this case primarily with the city’s business community.

Engagement remains a priority of this administration and any decisions or changes will take into account responses from with people who live and work in the city.”

e) Councillor A Norman

“At the last Council meeting, in response to a question from Cllr. Carden on Cityclean, Cllr. West stated that “over 4 years there will be a cut in council public spending of 33%”. Would Cllr. West or Cllr. Kitcat please take the opportunity to correct this misinformation and apologise for misleading members and residents about the Council’s Budget?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.

“The response from Cllr West to Councillor Carden’s question about gutter clearing and weeds and grass in North Portslade should have read by way of context that the Council is experiencing a reduction in its formula grant of 33% over 4 years, not a reduction in council public spending of 33% as stated. This was indeed an error but should not detract from the fundamental point that this council is seeing unprecedented reductions in funding. This is not just in relation to the main formula grant but a whole range of other government funding sources. These austerity measures are ill-considered and damaging to the economy.”

f) Councillor Peltzer Dunn

“Will the Cabinet Member for Housing provide an estimate of the number of City Council properties that are currently sub-let and will she join with myself and the Leader of the Council in welcoming the Government’s recent initiative to make sub-letting of council housing a criminal offence?”

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“The administration recognizes that there is a dire need for good quality affordable housing in the city, and that there is a ‘perfect storm’ brewing with significant Government changes to housing benefits and a stall in house-building across the country.

We are fully committed to tackling tenancy fraud and broadly welcome the government’s proposals to make sub-letting of council housing a criminal offence. Social housing is an important commodity for people in need, and abuse of its provision will not be tolerated.

The Audit Commission has estimated in their report ‘Protecting the public purse’ that there is a 2.5% level of tenancy fraud in London with an assumption that there is a 1% level in other parts of the country .

On this basis it could be estimated that up to 120 Council properties are sub-let at any one time in Brighton & Hove. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that levels of subletting have historically been below the national average in Brighton & Hove, but may be on the increase. There have been 64 reports of suspected tenancy fraud in the Council’s housing stock since April 2011.”

g) Councillor G Theobald

“Given the offer from the Government of £2.6 million to the Sussex Police Authority to freeze their council tax precept in 2012/13, can the Council’s representative please update members on how he intends to vote, on behalf of the residents of Brighton & Hove, at the forthcoming Authority Budget meeting?”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety.

“Thank you for your question. There have been several debates throughout the year on the Sussex Police Authority Budget for 2012/13. All are available to watch using the webcast facility on the SPA website, and I urge interested members to watch the debates in full.

The SPA budget will be agreed at a special meeting to be held on February 16th. Only at that meeting will I have full access to all the relevant facts: it would be irresponsible of me to prejudge my position at that meeting, and I won't do so here.

That said, I have made my position fairly clear throughout the debates: that I will vote in line with residents' wishes to keep our streets safe in the face of enormous cuts to the Sussex Police budget imposed by Government “C the cuts, about £50m in three years, will hit local policing hard.”

h) Councillor G Theobald

“At the last Council meeting I asked Cllr. Davey if he would provide a figure for the budgeted parking income (both on and off street) for 2012/13. In his answer he only told me how much extra will be raised by the Administration’s new proposals so please could he now give me the total figure for the whole city?”

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm.

“The budgeted parking income (both on and off street) for 2012/13 (exclusive of Penalty Charges income, for which the council has no control over charging level) is £19,807,760

[Note: In 2012/13, Penalty Charge income is budgeted at £4,890,280]”

i) Councillor Cox

“At the CMM on 30th November it was stated by the Administration that their proposed increases in city parking charges will lead to a 15% reduction in people parking across the city. Have they undertaken any research which would show a) how many of these people will simply take their trade to other shopping centres

outside of the city where parking is either much cheaper or free? and b) what the estimated loss in turnover to local businesses in the city will be?"

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm.

"The Visitor Survey conducted by the council in 2009 shows that the key factors for customers when choosing where to visit include the quality and range of shops, cultural activities, events and natural attractions like the beach.

The cost of parking actually accounts for a relatively small proportion of visitor spend and does not play a significant role in overall choice. It may, however, influence the choice of transport mode, which in turn could help to improve the visitor experience with reduced congestion and reduced pollution.

Research also shows that where towns have attempted to attract visitors by making parking very cheap, or free, the actual impact has been at best insignificant.

On this basis, we do not expect there to be a loss in turnover to local businesses as we expect visitors to continue to come to Brighton and Hove."

j) Councillor A Norman

"Can the Cabinet member for Children & Young People please tell me the value of the contract between Brighton & Hove City Council and Resource Futures / the Sussex Wildlife Trust to deliver environmental education in the city's schools, when this contract was awarded and by whom?"

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

"The budget for environmental education was formerly used to fund the post of a council officer. A review upon the post being vacated in 2010 under the last administration recommended that the budget be used to fund a tender for the work.

During the 2010/11 academic year School Futures, with the support of the Sustainability Team, undertook consultation with schools and other connected council services and produced a tender document. The tender required bidders to design and deliver an environmental education service supporting the councils' key aims and interest was expressed from all sectors. A shortlist of five were asked to bid and the panel, made up of officers from School Futures, the Sustainability and Procurement teams, awarded the contract to a bid from, the not for profit company, Resource Futures in September 2011. Their bid was submitted in partnership with local charity, the Sussex Wildlife Trust, who will be delivering the bio-diversity elements of the contract.

The contract is for three years from November 2011 and will cost £46,500 for Year 1 and £40,000 for each of Years 2 & 3. The contractor will support the city's

schools in working towards Eco Schools Awards, offer training to school staff, arrange workshops, conferences, assemblies and competitions for pupils and support the work of council teams advising schools on energy, transport and waste issues. A steering group of eco contacts from the city's schools has been formed to advise upon need and future direction and the council is monitoring progress."

k) Councillor K Norman

"Can the Cabinet member confirm how much extra money Brighton & Hove will receive as part of the Coalition Government's 'new deal' to help enable older people to continue to live comfortably in their own homes?"

Reply from Councillor Jarrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

"While I welcome the announcement of the 'New Deal for Older People', I can't give you any details, as the coalition government has not shared this information with local authorities yet. I will provide an update once more information is available".

l) Councillor G Theobald

"Given that it is now over 12 weeks since the new Agency Workers Directive, signed up to by the previous Labour Government, was introduced, can the Cabinet Member please give me a more accurate picture of the additional costs to the local authority and across the city as a whole?"

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.

"The agency worker regulations came into force on the 1st October 2011 and any uplift in cost would be from 24th December 2011. Therefore, the first real uplift will be reflected in the January figures which we will not see until the February data comes out. However, I have asked HR to update you as soon as those figures are available.

Agency workers who were on continuous assignments of twelve weeks prior to this date received pay and benefits comparable to permanently employed council staff. However, December saw the council's costs from the use of agency workers drop to its lowest level at £171K. The costs for the same period in 2010 were £269k.

The costs would have been held down by the holidays over the Christmas period but the figure continues to reflect the council's reduction in agency spend.

We are expecting an uplift in costs in January as all agency workers will be entitled to additional holiday entitlement as a result of the new regulations. It is also a five week month without the distortions created by the extended Christmas

holiday. We would expect that the January figure will still be less than that for the comparable period in 2011.”

m) Councillor Bennett

“In their local election manifesto the Green Administration made a commitment to create a ring-fenced fund for communities to make local environmental improvements. Can the Cabinet Member for Environment please update Council on how this is progressing?”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety.

“Thank you for your question. As you know the Government is imposing enormous budget cuts on the city and this council, reducing the amount of money available for core services to the city's most vulnerable.

In this context I am delighted to report that we have been able to embed a dedicated funding stream for Environmental Sustainability projects into this Council's grants programme, which supports smaller organisations across the city.

In 2011/12 this fund paid out grants of approximately £25,000 to beneficiaries including the Friends of Saunders Park, Bevendean Community Garden, the Brighton and Hove Fair Trade Steering group, and many others. In 2012/13 we anticipate that the fund will be worth a similar amount.”

n) Councillor Farrow

“It is being reported that there are proposals for the overall budget for Community Development to be cut by £100k. Would the Cabinet Member for Communities please confirm the exact amount of the cut that is being proposed and will he state what Community Development support will continue within Moulsecoomb and Bevendean Ward to enable this much needed work to continue.”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety.

“Thank you for your question. I am delighted to confirm that there is no cut in the Community Development budget in the proposals that the administration will put before Council next month.

The £400,000 budget for community development will be targeted at those areas where need, inequality and capacity are greatest. It will also support measures to improve local democracy and hand control of neighbourhood budgets to local people.

The allocation to Moulsecoomb and Bevendean in 2012/13 will be approximately £65,000 per year.”

Council

26 January 2012

Agenda Item 63

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:**Date of Meeting:** 15 December 2011**Report of:** Strategic Director: Resources**Contact Officer:** Name: Mark Wall Tel: 29-1006

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Wards Affected: All**CABINET MEETING**4.00pm 19th January 2012**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Randall (Chair); Councillors Bowden, Davey, Duncan, Jarrett, J. Kitcat, Shanks, Wakefield and West.

Also in attendance: Councillors G. Theobald (Conservative Opposition Spokesperson) and Mitchell (Labour & Co-operative Opposition Spokesperson).

Other Members present:

PART ONE**168 PROPOSED SUBMISSION EAST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS, AND BRIGHTON & HOVE WASTE AND MINERALS PLAN**

168.1 The Chair introduced the report and noted the progress of the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan (WMP), which would eventually replace much of the council's adopted Waste Local Plan and Minerals Local Plan. He noted that the WMP would provide planning policy for the management of all wastes and the production of all minerals in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, including that part of the South Downs National Park within East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. He also noted that Council would be asked to approve the plan and the production of a Proposed Submission Waste and Minerals Plan prior to statutory public consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

168.2 Councillor Mitchell welcomed the report and noted that it would be submitted to council for approval. She also referred to page 226 Built Facilities and queried how the definition had changed for Hangleton Bottom to aerobic digestion. She also hoped that the Planning Inspector would agree with the decision that London's waste would not have to be accounted for within the plan.

- 168.3 The Head of Planning and Public Protection informed the meeting that the WMP did not change the allocations for Hangleton Bottom and Hollingdean Depot and noted that a separate Site Allocation Document would be produced to follow the Plan.
- 168.4 The Chair noted the information and stated that there was a need to amend the recommendations at 2.2 to take account of changes to publication dates by East Sussex County Council. The proposed public consultation would commence on the 24th February rather than the 21st and paragraphs 3.5 and 4.1 should be amended to reflect the change so as to read 24th February to 10th April 2012.
- 168.5 **RESOLVED:** That Council be recommended:
- (1) To note the analysis of the response to the consultation on the draft Waste and Minerals Plan;
 - (2) To agree the Proposed Submission Waste and Minerals Plan (PSWMP) and its publication for statutory public consultation for a six week period commencing on 24 February 2012;
 - (3) To agree that the document be subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State subject to no material changes, other than alterations for the purposes of clarification, improved accuracy of meaning or typographical corrections, being necessary; and
 - (4) To authorise the Strategic Director, Place to agree any alterations for the purposes of clarification, improved accuracy of meaning or typographical corrections to the text of the PSWMP with East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority prior to consultation.

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT**EAST SUSSEX, SOUTH DOWNS AND BRIGHTON & HOVE WASTE AND MINERALS LOCAL PLAN**

Insert an additional recommendation (2) to the Cabinet decision as detailed in the addendum papers as shown in bold italics:

Cabinet Resolution:

168.1 **RESOLVED** – That Council be recommended:

- (1) To note the analysis of the response to the consultation on the draft Waste and Minerals Plan;
- (2) ***To note that the issue of site allocation, including that of Hangleton Bottom, will be considered as part of the Waste Sites Development Plan Document which will be coming to Council for approval;***
- (3) To agree the Proposed Submission Waste and Minerals Plan (PSWMP) and its publication for statutory public consultation for a six week period commencing on 24 February 2012;
- (4) To agree that the document be subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State subject to no material changes, other than alterations for the purposes of clarification, improved accuracy of meaning or typographical corrections, being necessary; and
- (5) To authorise the Strategic Director, Place to agree any alterations for the purposes of clarification, improved accuracy of meaning or typographical corrections to the text of the PSWMP with East Sussex County Council and the South Downs National Park Authority prior to consultation;

Proposed by Cllr Hamilton

Seconded by Cllr Fitch

Council	Agenda Item 65(a)
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

ACCEPT THE COUNCIL TAX FREEZE GRANT

Delete text as struck through in paragraph one below and replace with text as shown in bold italics and insert additional paragraphs two and three below as shown in bold italics.

“This Council ~~warmly welcomes~~ **notes** the offer of Government grant funding worth £3million that would enable a council tax freeze for Brighton & Hove’s residents in 2012/13. It, therefore, profoundly regrets the Green Administration’s stated intention to turn down this money and instead increase council tax by 3.5% for each of the next 3 years.

However, it also notes with concern that the government has taken £28m from the overall budget in the last two block grant allocations.

Furthermore, the council regrets that both the previous Conservative administration and the current Green administration have failed to take the key decisions needed to reduce back office bureaucracy and duplication, stream line the layers of management and pursue a programme of joint delivery of services with partner organisations and prevent as far as possible cuts to front line services.

The Administration’s refusal to accept the £3 million flies in the face of public opinion. Currently, over 7,000 residents have taken part in the Argus referendum on the subject and 70% have indicated that they would like a council tax freeze. The Argus’ public-spirited campaign to consult as widely as possible with the residents of Brighton & Hove contrasts sharply with the Administration’s consultation exercise which involved only forty eight residents, whilst incurring a cost of almost £10,000.

Therefore, without prejudice to the final decision being taken at the Budget Council Meeting, this Council urges the Administration to produce a Budget for the whole city which will take advantage of the £3 million Government grant and deliver a much needed council tax freeze to the hard-pressed residents of Brighton & Hove in these tough economic times.”

Proposed by: Cllr Les Hamilton

Seconded by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Supported by: Cllrs Morgan, Lepper, Farrow, Carden, Robins, Gilbey, Pissaridou, Turton, Fitch and Marsh.

Council	Agenda Item 65(b)
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

RAIL FARE RISES

Delete the wording in paragraph 5 as struck through and replace with the wording shown in bold italics below:

“This council notes with regret the recent rises of up to 11% on rail fares, and how this will impact on many of the 33,500 residents of Brighton and Hove who commute out of the city on a daily basis, many of them to London. Rises in the next two years could be up to 13%.

A Brighton to London season ticket on Southern has risen 7.76%, going up from £3,556 to £3,832, while some off-peak Brighton to London day returns have risen 10.18% to £24.90. A weekly First Capital Connect season ticket from Brighton to London has gone up from £77.60 to £80, and an annual ticket from £3,104 to £3,200 (3.1%).

This council believes that investment by the taxpayer in the rail network, whether the individual is a user of the rail system or not, is an essential part of encouraging the use of one of the more sustainable forms of transport, and that the cost of investment in the network should not be borne disproportionately by rail users.

This council further believes that the Government’s decision to side with the powerful private train operator lobby against commuter and passengers, for example by train companies more freedom to rig the system of fares, so that the busiest routes get biggest fare increases, shows they are desperately out of touch with the spiralling cost-of-living crisis facing so many hard-working families.

This council further believes that ~~a co-operatively owned rail network~~ **a publicly-owned and publicly-run rail network run for social, economic and environmental goals**, where passengers have a stake and a say in the transport they use, would be a better solution to the long term issues involved in promoting this form of transport.

This council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, asking her to review the application of the full increase in fares in the interests of the Brighton & Hove economy, and to consider limiting future rises to 1% above the rate of inflation, as supported by Transport Minister Norman Baker when in opposition.”

Proposed by: Cllr Ian Davey

Seconded by: Cllr Phelim MacCafferty

Supported by: Cllrs Buckley, Bowden, Deane, Duncan, Follett, Hawtree, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Kennedy, Littman, Phillips, Powell, Randall, Rufus, Shanks, Summers, Sykes, Wakefield and West.

Council	Agenda Item 65(e)
26 January 2012	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND FOR OUR CITY

Delete the wording in the fourth and fifth paragraphs as struck through and in the recommendations 1 and 2 below and replace text with that wording as shown in bold italics below:

“Ultra-fast broadband is key to enabling the development of new services and innovative new businesses. Countries and areas with fast, affordable Internet connections have a clear record of strong economic development including South Korea, Finland and Silicon Valley. Ultra-fast broadband is defined as connections having download speeds of at least 80 megabits per second.

Brighton & Hove is a hub of start-up and established new media businesses covering numerous burgeoning sectors such as video games, mobile apps, web development, online media, social media and many more. Our city has the highest level of digital business per head of population; the sector is growing here three times faster than the national average and creating the majority of new local jobs. More than ever given the difficult economic times it is critical that we support and nurture this sector to support economic development and good local jobs for our residents.

This Council notes the government's proposals for a fund to support the roll-out of ultra-fast broadband into a network of super-connected UK cities, each with more than 150,000 homes, a plan which does not include our city.

This Council agrees that as Brighton & Hove is a unique new media hub with ~~125,000 homes it should be justifiably~~ **it should have been** included in the list of eligible cities for the government's broadband funding. **The Council notes recent comments by Jeremy Hunt MP refusing our city's inclusion in the super-connected cities fund, but agreeing to support other avenues for achieving ultra-fast broadband for our city.**

~~This Council notes the urgency of this issue as the closing date for bids is 13th February 2011.~~

Hence ~~and~~ this Council agrees to:

- 1) ~~Support the campaign by~~ **Thank** the city's local MP's **and business groups for their campaign** to "Let Brighton Bid";
- 2) Ask the Chief Executive to write to the minister responsible, seeking ~~our city's inclusion on the list of cities eligible~~ **support** for ultra-fast broadband funding **in our city**;

3) Ask the city's Members of Parliament to continue urgently lobbying Ministers on this issue.

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Phelim MacCafferty

Supported by all Green Group members