

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

10.15am 17 NOVEMBER 2015

CONFERENCE ROOM 2, JUBILEE LIBRARY, JUBILEE STREET, BRIGHTON

MINUTES

Present: Mike Bojczuk (Chair), Penny Morley, Colin Vincent, Francis Tonks and Lynne Shields

Co-opted Members: Nick Goslett

Link Councillor: Karen Barford (Labour & Co-operative Group)

PART ONE

142 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- 142.1 Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting; he said that one of the founding members of the OPC, Ruth Larkin, had sadly passed away. The Chair called for a minute's silence in the meeting and asked that the committee's condolences were noted.
- 142.2 Apologies had been received from John Eyles.
- 142.3 The Chair told attendees that Fairness Commission leaflets were available; commissioners were keen for older people to take part. The information gathered would be considered by independent commissioners and would help shape the council's direction for the next four to five years.

143 MINUTES

- 143.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

144 BUDGET - JAMES HENGEVELD PRESENTATION

- 144.1 Mr Hengeveld gave an overview on the current and future financial position, the gaps in funding and potential risks to Brighton and Hove City Council's financial situation. He advised members that the council would not know its financial settlement until mid to late December, which would then lead to a budget being set in February 2016.

Mr Hengeveld outlined that the Council in 2015/16 spent £772.6m and that the largest amount was spent on Schools & education £183.4m, Housing Benefit £165m and thirdly Adult Social Care £109.2m. It was also the case that Council Tax only raised £112m which was only 15% of money spent. Much of the monies spent by the Council was ring-fenced and with inflation on ASC services rising more than RPI. There were further

impacts to come on ASC from NIC changes, the living wage and public health cuts which at present unclear. There were overspends on Adult Social Care and the Council was taking steps to control costs through freezing recruitment and other measures

Members heard that there were projected overspends in adult social care, children's services and homelessness, all of which were demand led services with a great deal of inherent uncertainty about demand for services.

144.2 Mr Hengeveld answered questions from the committee and from members of the public.

144.3 In response to a question about whether the council worked in partnership with other neighbouring authorities in order to make savings, Mr Hengeveld said that this was being considered, for example in sharing support services across councils. The council was looking at all its services and considering whether they still needed to be provided, and if so, was there an alternative provider who might be more appropriate. Everything was being considered.

144.4 In response to a question about what would happen if a local authority was to become bankrupt, Mr Hengeveld said that it was likely that central government would intervene and make changes, possibly without taking local need into account.

144.5 In response to a question about the use of consultants, Mr Hengeveld said that there were occasions when consultants were the most effective way of carrying out a specific service, but in other instances they may be more costly than needed. This was under review along with other arrangements.

Councillor Barford said that the council needed to tap into skills in the city rather than hiring consultants. This was part of the work that the Neighbourhood Communities and Equalities Committee was investigating

144.6 In response to a question about the potential scale of job losses, Mr Hengeveld said that approximately 30% of council spend was on staffing costs so this would be reduced in line with budget pressures. Some staff may be redeployed, retire or find alternative employment, others may be TUPEd to an alternative service provider.

144.7 In response to a question about selling assets, Mr Hengeveld said that this was always under consideration. Kings House was going to be sold when staff could be moved to Hove Town Hall, Buckingham Road property had been sold However there was a trade off as commercial property brings in high rents so this would be lost if the property was sold on.

144.8 In response to a question about what central government wanted local government to look like by 2020, Mr Hengeveld said that his view was that the Government intended councils to be more self-reliant, generating their own resources and living within their means. There was any number of ways that this might be achieved, and very little is yet known.

144.9 An attendee commented that it felt that the direction of travel was for the council to commission services with very little care for the outcome. How could we maintain the quality of social care?

Councillor Karen Barford responded as the lead councillor for Adult Social Care. She said that she understood the concerns and that the intention would always be to support the residents in most need. The service delivery model may change but the intention would be the same.

Councillor Barford said that if the council kept Tower House services in house, the resources were not there to sustain it and it would close. If it is transferred to an alternative provider there is a chance that the service might be able to continue. The administration was trying to make decisions as transparently as possible so that it would not be a surprise to residents.

Members commented that the budget was under further pressure due to the expansion in the number of student houses; this reduced the Council Tax income that could have been raised if a non-student household had lived there.

144.10 Members commented that a tourist tax would help raise much needed funds.

144.11 Members commented that concentrating Adult social care resources on those in most need meant that there would be very little in the way of preventative services. This would mean that those people might well deteriorate until they needed the higher level services. This would incur higher costs for the system as a whole, particularly as people ended up in hospital.

The Chair thanked Mr Hengeveld for his presentation and his time.

145 OPC WORK PROGRAMME

145.1 The Chair introduced this item, commenting that the OPC needed to focus its resources on where they could make the most difference. The most pressing needs are to help inform the Fairness Commission work and also to focus on the impacts of the Adult Social Care direction of travel report.

145.2 Attendees were asked whether they had any views on what should be included in the work plan. Suggestions included:

- Looking at the Ethical Care charter for carers and patients
- Ways of working with young adults; there are many shared areas of interest but there is a divide between the two groups.
- Work with unions to assess the impact of changes to adult social care.

These were all noted.

145.3 The Treasurer commented that, as a new member of the OPC, she saw them as having a number of roles. This included:

- Contributing to large projects such as the Fairness Commission and adult social care; the OPC had committed to work on these.
- Representing their own ward and constituents, coordinating work between different support groups and being a conduit for feedback from the older people that they represent

146 SECRETARY'S UPDATE

- **Condolences** -The OPC are sad to report the death of a past member Ruth Larkin (2003-2007) and would like to record our condolences.
- **Health & Well Being Board(HWBB)**- OPC officers attended the meeting on 20th October and raised two questions concerning "Direction of Travel" paper & situation with GPs across the City. This was followed by a meeting with Councillor Yates, Chair of HWBB on 12th November. We challenged the cuts to the Adult Social Care budget and raised concerns about a number of matters including Assessment, Personalisation & Scrutiny & support for action on Falls paper recommendations.
- **Shaping the research agenda for older people as self funders** - joint event University of Brighton & Age UK. A number of OPC members attended and contributed to Knowledge Exchange network on 28th October. Report to be circulated at later date.
- **Age Friendly City Steering Group** - action plan on falls due end of November. Older Peoples Health profiles for Brighton & Hove by area circulated. Next meeting on 3rd December to discuss communications & engagement. Views of OPC members welcome.
- **Age Friendly City Forum** - next meeting on November 30th need to discuss future as Age UK support changing. Police & crime commissioner representative re work on older people speaking.
- **Fairness Commission** - Public meeting on 26th November. Links to questions on OPC website and questions & posters circulated. Older people are a theme that will be on 16th March 2016.
- **Hedgecock Fund** - OPC had applied for funds to support communication work but conditions are not acceptable at present & further clarification needed.
- **Senior Housing Action Group Meeting** - held on 11th November. Chair attended and can update
- **OPC Officers Meeting** - held on 10th November to discuss ASC,Hedgecock Fund, Fairness Commission & OPC objectives.
- **Brighton National Pensioners Convention**- Contacted OPC for support to campaign against ASC cuts. - Views of OPC needed. Attended House of Commons NPC lobby on 4th November on care cuts. BNPC next meeting on Monday 23rd November at 2.00.
- **Economic & Development & Culture** - attended meeting on 12th November 12th which agreed to a consultation process & timetable for proposed changes to Library service - this will impact on Hove,Hollingbury & Westdene Libraries with a final decision in March 2016.
- **City Wide Connect** - details of further meetings of Hubs will be circulated – can be contacted on 01273-208934
- **Sussex Elders Commission** - contacted OPC after Chairs interview on radio. Follow up at AFC forum.
- **Action on Elder Abuse** - contacted OPC re campaign. Francis Tonks will liaise with them.

- **Age UK Campaign** - Will you help tackle loneliness - Petition circulated by Chair for members to sign. Over 1 million people have not spoken to a friend, neighbour or family member for over a month.
- **Christmas Lunch** - booked at Le Nantais for 15th December after OPC meeting.
- **Care Quality Commission** - Seeking views on future of quality regulation - discussion paper with new strategy for consultation. Also Invisible Conditions campaign - inviting comments more info www.cqc.org.uk
- **DWP** - contacted re Disability Living Allowance being replaced by Personal Independent Payment (PIP) if under 65 years. Over 65's may be eligible for Attendance Allowance . Survey circulated and completed.

Invitations

- **Having a Blast in Brighton** - on 12th November at Theatre Royal
- **Portslade LAT** - Meeting 16th November with info re scams
- **CCG Weight Management Event** - 17th November at Sussex County Cricket Ground discussions re design of service.
- **Celebrating Faith in Our Community** - 18th November 2 to 7 at The Brighton Centre
- **Carers Summit** - Friday 20th November at Metropole Hotel 10.15 –contact Carers Centre 01273-746222 for those wishing to attend.
- **Mayor's Charity Banquet at Royal Pavilion** on 20th November - costs £90
- **Connecting our City - Know your Neighbour Campaign** - Drop in 1st December 4-6 One Church, Gloucester Place Brighton - Xmas cards for neighbours
- **Active for Life Event** - Brighton & Hove Boccia League on the 8th December 11.00 to 1.00 at King Alfred Leisure Centre

Newsletters/Information

- **Age Action Alliance** -information re care,housing,pension credit, dementia, Warm Home Discount Scheme etc.
- **Healthwatch** - Press release re inadequate services CQC report re A&E at Royal Sussex County Hospital.
- **Better Care Bulletin** - homeless needs,GP practice clusters, identifying people at risk
- **Care in the City** - Budget planning, digital inclusion, safeguarding.
- **Brighton & Hove Speakers Corner** - not able to continue
- **Community Works Newsletter** - details of organisations & events in Vol Sector
- **Queenspark Books** - Daring Hearts - Lesbian & Gay Lives in 1950s &60s Brighton - ebook launch.

147 MEMBERS' UPDATE

147.1 Members updated each other on their actions this month:

- Mike – has been to the Health and Wellbeing Board and met with Councillor Yates regarding Adult Social Care
He met the Senior Housing Action Group re concerns about laundry charges, investigated issues related to digital inclusion.
The OPC has received a grant to help with communication materials
- Francis- has been to the Age Friendly City focus group, Pensioners Action and to a self funding carers meeting

- Colin – has been to the Health and Wellbeing Board and meeting; he's also been to the Falls Prevention workshop
- Lynne- has been to the Age Friendly City meeting and had also met with a range of community organisations working with older people
- Nick - has been to various Hangelton and Knoll meetings

148 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

148.1 There was no other business.

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of