

## **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

### **OLDER PEOPLE'S COUNCIL**

**10.15am 13 DECEMBER 2016**

#### **MINUTES**

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

**Co-opted Members:** John Cook and Jack Hazelgrove.

**Others Present:** Roisin Murphy (Age UK), Jo Eve (Volunteering Matters), Stephen Adams, R Scott, John Moore, David Monkhouse and another person signed the attendance sheet.

#### **PART ONE**

##### **261 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

261.1 Nick Goslett sent his apologies for the meeting.

##### **262 MINUTES**

262.1 The minutes of the November meeting were agreed as a true record.

##### **263 BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL - DRAFT BUDGET 2017/18**

263.1 James Hengeveld, Head of Finance (BHCC) began by explaining how timely this meeting was, as on Thursday central government would be announcing councils' finance settlements for the next 1-3 years. The continuing reduction in funding was part of the last seven years of deficit reduction. Of the £760.1m in 2016/17 the biggest areas of spending had been schools (£183m), Housing Benefit (£154m) and Adult Social Care (ASC at £112m). A big share of spend on children was for 'looked after children'. Housing spend is made up of ring-fenced spend (known as the Housing Revenue Account – HRA) and spend on temporary accommodation.

263.2 His slide on the cost of Brighton & Hove Services explained that where the income came from, with only 15% of revenue being generated by council tax. Most local authorities are in a similar situation and the pressures such as wage rises (including the impact of the Living Wage) and increased demands for services. So councils are lobbying government about the rising costs especially for ASC. It costs £2.1m every day to provide BHCC services. The key challenge is to save £51m over the next three years. The cost of ASC is expected to rise by £8m in 2017/18. The Improved Better Care Funding was created by removing the New Homes Bonus. Health Services are also under similar financial pressure. The BHCC budget has to be set by 9<sup>th</sup> March, but may

not hear from government about certain issues until the end of January, leaving little time to consult and finalise.

James Hengeveld's responses to questions.

- 263.3 A limited level of Downlands sales, a few farm cottages and plots, had taken place to match fund the Heritage Lottery Funding for the Stanmer Park project. The income raised had to be considered against the lost rent. BHCC owns around 11,000 acres and the desire to contain the management of this land prompted the establishment of the South Downs National Park.
- 263.4 The council has an asset management plan and there is constant assessment of assets, examples including investing in Hove Town Hall and selling Kings House. If assets are sold, examples include part of Western Road, this can only be used to pay off debt or invest in other assets. The assets could not be used to secure debt. He was not able to confirm if this could be done in the new joint venture with Hyde Housing. A large % of council reserves are held for specific purposes such as insurance liabilities. The biggest single reserve is the working balance of £9m held for absolute emergencies (representing four days expenditure). There had been reserves of £80-90m in the past but this has reduced to around £45m and these are reviewed to see what could be released. Around 300 posts could be lost due to the budget, but a large proportion is expected from restricting recruitment and holding posts vacant rather than redundancy.
- 263.5 He confirmed that the cost of concessionary bus passes represented around 33% of the income raised by parking, with the remainder going to transport spend and collection costs.*[this statement was subsequently corrected in an email to Penny Morley. I was including income from the council owned car parks which does not relate to on street parking income and before allowing for any direct costs. On page 44 of the annual parking report for 2015/16 there is a table showing the income by source (for on Street) and the associated costs. This income less costs is far closer to the cost of concessionary fares.]*
- 263.6 A 1% increase in the Council Tax would raise £1.2m. While he did not believe that government would give local authorities complete control over raising Council Tax, there could be greater relaxations to enable them to raise more money this way. Wokingham was an example of an area with a high tax base but a lower demand for ASC services, so this was not the fairest way to increase resources.
- 263.7 He offered to raise the issue of quality checks on bus services with his transport colleagues, and John Eyles to raise at Environment, Sustainability & Transport Committee.
- 263.8 He was asked to provide a breakdown of the council's statutory and discretionary spend. This could take significant resources and so will provide information which is possible.
- 263.9 He confirmed that the cash collection company had been put in administration the council was unlikely to recover a significant part of the lost funds. This had been reported to the Audit & Standards Committee. Subsequently, with the wider

introduction of Pay by Phone a significant amount of the parking collection to cashless payment.

- 263.10 He confirmed that BHCC receive back 100% of housing benefit expenditure, using regular reconciliations. Reports to Housing Committee show how the HRA is balanced.
- 263.11 David Sargeant introduced himself as the Interim Head for Adult Social Care (ASC) and had been the Director of ASC in Surrey. There would be a new permanent head of service from the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017. The ASC and Public Health services were the only to see growth in BHCC budget, due to the growing level of need. This is unlikely to be generated by additional budgets so would need to come from increased savings and efficiencies. He had been very disappointed ASC had not been mentioned in the recent Autumn Statement, as had been hoping that council's would be able to raise an extra 2% in precept and Better Care Fund was brought forward by a year. The situation would still be very difficult even if BHCC were allowed to raise an extra 4% from a precept, but at least it would be present in future budgets. Surrey had raised an extra 2% last year but needed 12% to break even.
- 263.12 He had been asked by the Chief Executive to assess the budget proposals and found the issues and solutions of BHCC to be similar to all other local authorities. They were protecting front line services and staff, improving efficiency while reducing costs, which was 'just very painful'. He was impressed by the positive relationship BHCC had with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It was a risk as the CCG had historically funded a relatively high % of ASC in the city, so the CCG would need to find increasing efficiency savings too. This 'tough year for ASC' meant that fundamental changes were needed to how ASC and services for older people were funded. The changes from the Care Act had been largely abandoned until 2020. Local dialogue was needed to understand the scale of problems and determine solutions.

David Sargeant's answers to questions

- 263.13 Concern was expressed at the meeting about proposed cuts to Youth Services and Ireland Lodge and Wayfield Lodge, the last 2 care homes who are the direct responsibility of the council and provided excellent services, such as for people with dementia. Could this have an impact on delayed discharges and respite care and what was being done by BHCC and the NHS to ease these issues?
- 263.14 David Sargeant explained that there was a joint review of services being undertaken by BHCC and the CCG. As needs are becoming increasingly complex, one needed to check if these services were fit for purpose and could enable quicker discharge from hospitals. A review of six homes in Surrey had resulted in the closure of four, often because the fabric of the home was no longer suitable. Brighton & Hove needed to assess what it had, whether it was fit and how to share the costs. He had met with John Child of the CCG this am and felt that more work was needed on delayed discharges. It was key to look at prevention and stop people needing to go to hospital in the first place. A pilot scheme, Discharge to Assess, recognised that hospital was the worst place to assess people and it was better to assess them at home and offer them the proper support without creating dependency. This was now being rolled out to other wards. However Christmas and winter would also offer significant challenges. He also acknowledged the issues raised by the hospital being placed in special measures.

He explained that there would need to be a referendum in the city if the precept was not to rise by more than 2%. In Surrey, this was not considered politically to have a chance of being accepted, and it is felt that most communities would not vote to increase taxation to get more income for ASC, James Hengeveld confirmed that this administration was also not considering a referendum. Liverpool was suggesting a 10% tax raise to fund ASC, which was considered to be useful for lobbying purposes. There could be a 5% precept set next year without a referendum, and there could only be marginal gains if voted for a higher increase. A lost referendum could mean that there would be a three to four month wait which could incur even more savings needing to be made.

263.15 The OPC emphasised that reviewing services could have a significant impact on its users. It was unfortunate that savings sought for Community Transport did not recognise the importance of supporting people to do activities such as shopping trips, and its ability to reduce social isolation. David Sargeant emphasised the importance of preventing people from becoming socially isolated, and the need to work with communities to help with this. The city needed to mobilise greater support from volunteers and the third sector. Other locations have taken on apprentices to take isolated people out. Useful volunteers could include dog walkers which would enable to people to have pets. There were many demands on community transport which was a very demanding service. Long term care packages were being reviewed as had tended to be run in a uniform manner. A greater flexibility of care was needed to offer support when most needed and then a lighter touch e.g. if in residential care. There had to be needs based assessments, which prevent issues such as people amassing a surplus of services which they then bank. One needed to ensure that money was targeted at those in the greatest need, who could be getting out of hospital or were deteriorating.

263.16 He acknowledged that financial pressures could mean that less money was spent on preventative services, even though the Care Act had meant to increase resources for preventative care at a time of greater life expectancy but more people with health conditions. We needed to be brave and work with the CCG to protect preventative budgets. The Better Care Fund contained a lot of preventative care work streams and these needed to be retained, especially as it took 2-3 years to feel their effects. He appreciated that the OPC recognising the support he had offered to them and felt it was beneficial to also have people working in local government with a medical background.

## **264 OPC WORK PROGRAMME**

264.1 The OPC agreed to discuss this item at the January meeting when there was more time available.

## **265 SECRETARY'S UPDATE**

### **265.1 SECRETARIAL REPORT - DECEMBER 2016**

- **CCG** - Held "Caring Together Engagement about integrated care". Consultation events organised in November and OPC members attended and contributed to

discussions. Future events need sharper focus on critical issues and less broad brush information.

- **Sussex University students** - A number of students (4) observed the November OPC meeting and sent a range of follow up questions to the Secretary that were responded to re OPC role & activities.

- **Getting Ready for Winter** - information circulated from Sussex Resilience Forum. Range of information & advice for older people includes- Warmth & Wellbeing - a free local service by CAB on 08009887037 or warmth@brightonhovcab.org.uk. Also Energy Advice Desks on 08009996671. OPC members participated in briefings & some are community resilience contacts.

- **Health & Well Being Board** - met on the 22nd November and Secretary attended. There was a verbal update on the Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP). Governance of Sussex County now under West Sussex Hospital Trust. Acknowledgement of lack of local engagement re STP but local plan now published. Finances still a huge issue. Useful paper on Fuel Poverty discussed & strategy for 2016-2020 agreed.

- **OPC leaflet** - now produced. Many thanks to Mike for drafting & lay out work and to John for assisting re: printing.

- **Fairness Commission** - Subsequent to our joint meeting, Possibility People have written to Councillor Daniel supporting OPC priorities with particular emphasis on Access. Propose OPC request that the BHCC officer dealing with street clutter (Mark Prior) be invited to a meeting during 2017. **Discuss**

- **OPC web-site domain** - annual payment for renewal required. **Follow up**

- **Age Friendly City** - Forum to meet on the 12th December and discuss how to go forward next year and what issues need prioritising. The AFC Steering group to meet on the 14th December. Information from Falls action group circulated where Lynne represents OPC. Action Plan outlines subjects and actions taken over last three years circulated and will be discussed. Discussion on Healthy Ageing & Food & Nutrition to take place.

- **BHCC Budget** - Speaker on this subject at OPC public meeting. The P&R met on the 8th December. Prior to the meeting OPC sent a letter to all Councillors on the Committee raising concerns re the cuts to the Adult Social Care budget & impact on older people. Also raised the impacts on young people and local communities of the proposal to cut youth services across the City. We will also be seeking a meeting with the Leader of the Council and lobbying during the budget consultation period.

#### **Invitations**

- **Mind Out** - LBGTQ mental health service. Annual celebration on the 16th November at Dorset Gardens Methodist Church.

- **Local Action Teams (LATs)** - these are across the City. Portslade details circulated with meeting on 21st November and information about neighbourhood alert on [www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk).

- **Know My Neighbour** - celebration event on the 5th December at 6.00 at One Church, Gloucester Place.

- **Strike a Light** - Range of arts events in the City. Also running a Dancing with Dementia at Hyman Fine House, Burlington St, Kemp Town in January 2017.
  - **Brighton National Pensioners Convention** - Meeting on the 6th December on Benefits at Brighthelm at 2.00. Attendance Allowance speaker from Age UK explained that people should claim with support for form filling and they will provide assistance. Also speaker about Benefits re PIP from Brighton Council Welfare with Fact Sheets on <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/council-tax-and-benefits/housing-benefit-council-tax-reduction-anddiscretionary-help-2>
  - **Healthwatch** - Stakeholder survey circulated and responses required by 15th December.
  - **Dementia Cafe in Patcham** - Xmas event on 21st December at 2.00 at Maycroft Manor Patcham.
  - **Xmas Events** - event on 3rd December with One Family & Age UK. Also Christmas Day lunch/event at Sussex Cricket Foundation from 12.30 to 4.00. Transport can be provided contact Becky on 07966763767.
  - **Safe in the City** - Campaign for the Elimination of Violence Against Women - 25th Nov to 10th December. See [www.safeinthecity.info/16-days-of-action](http://www.safeinthecity.info/16-days-of-action)
  - **Brook Mead Extra Care Housing** - suitable for those with dementia. This project is due to open next summer & the Council are looking to identify potential service users. To register interest contact [claire.rowland@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:claire.rowland@brighton-hove.gov.uk)
  - **Talk about Detox** - Nutritional health talk at Cornerstone Centre on the 7th December at 7pm.
  - **Pathways** - Fundraiser for low cost acupuncture. See [www.pathwaystohealth.org.uk](http://www.pathwaystohealth.org.uk) or phone 01273-234766 for services provided.
- Newsletters and Information**
- **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** - Publication of a survey of community health care. Identified substantial concerns about quality of care for some people using mental health services & those detained under mental health act. Also urgent & emergency care pilot reports re quality of care.
  - **Age Action Alliance** - range of issues including employment for older people & NEA Safe & Warm Homes Campaign.
  - **Community Works** - Newsletters with range of information about Brighton & Hove voluntary sector information and support. Also Sector Star Awards for this year.
  - **Sussex University** - postgraduate student re nine intergenerational communities in the South East. See [www.goodhealthprojects.co.uk](http://www.goodhealthprojects.co.uk)

## 266 MEMBERS' UPDATE

266.1 Francis Tonks attended:

- Research group – self paying care
- One Church – Meet My Neighbour
- Party – raised £450 for conservation

- Patient Participation Group – healthy eating event planned for Spring 2017

**266.2 Report from Lynne Shields:**

**November 15th**

**Adults Without Children**

New group forming. UK wide with Lottery funding. Strong group in Bristol and York. Looking for a team to establish a group in Brighton. The Mayor had been invited. Not sure why as it was such an embryonic group - but he was very supportive and threw himself into the workshop with enthusiasm!

**November 16th**

**Joint event CCG and B and H Council**

**Caring Together- Integrated Care.**

Poorly thought out presentation of American short films advocating the benefits of integrated care. Almost laughable (well actually there were chortles from many attending) as the care recommended would be wonderful - but all present were aware of the difficulties of delivering such a service.

The presentation by John Childs was one we had all seen before. The message was integrated care is good. How that fits in with funding issues was not discussed. Much was made of [www.mylifebh.org.uk](http://www.mylifebh.org.uk) as a one stop shop for assistance. Our page on that site is not accurate.

**November 22nd**

**CCG Meeting - Governing Body Meeting**

There is a new Acting Chair Lay Member of Governance - Dr George Mack

There is a new Accountable Officer - Adam Doyle - only been in the post for 4 weeks.

The first part of his presentation was a run down of his initial meetings with a loose plan for establishing current situation.

Jane Lodge presented the Patient and Public Participation Annual Report. Emphasis was placed on individual participation and “self care” was regarded as being very important. Roughly translated as “Don’t get sick”. Voluntary sector, especially Community Works, was mentioned as being an important partner (they hosted the GP Custers Meeting last month and work a lot with PPGs)

Again [www.mylifebh.org.uk](http://www.mylifebh.org.uk) was lauded. Of course no questions are allowed during the meeting but when Adam Doyle came and introduced himself to me (feeling accountable maybe?) I reminded him about the dangers of only digital conduits for passing on information.

The Resilience Team presented a report (and were castigated for using too many acronyms). I found this amusing as, upon receiving the agenda for the last Resilience Group meeting I had brought this to the attention of Keith Claxton - the Resilience Manager for BHCC (oh no! An acronym!)

There was a presentation about the Corporate Risk Register and Adam Doyle expressed a hope that in the future this would be more “forward looking” (essential I think for a Risk Assessment?!). By the time we got to Finance I had lost the will to live and left.

**November 24th****Falls Prevention Steering Group**

A lot of work has been done by various organisations to spread the word about Falls Prevention. Another win was The fact that The Resilience Team have included a Falls Prevention item in their community training programme on street ice and leaves management which potentially leads to Falls. Penny has forwarded the latest report on the work being done by the Falls Prevention Steering Group.

**November 25th****Interview with Age UK**

This is research being undertaken by Age UK to establish if the general public are aware of ways in which they can make complaints about any poor service they may have received from the NHS. The leaflet was very useful - and I asked how the leaflet was going to be distributed. Again I suggested one in every Council Tax bill. Most contact suggested was of course digital.

**November 28th****The Neighbourhoods, Communities and Equalities Meeting**

The Fairness Commission Report made 117 recommendations. In light of funding limitations the Council has agreed to prioritise 15 of the recommendations in "the first tranche". 3 recommendations have significant potential budget implications.

The main thrust of the prioritisation -

- Collaboration with Communities and Citywide Partners
- Community development to respond to the idea of self sufficiency.(DIY)
- Volunteering encouraged via Community / Volunteer Groups. (DIY)
- Small grants to support local groups.(Friends of Parks etc) (DIY)
- Lots of action on Housing
- Lots of action on Children Poverty Proofing the School Day
- Age Friendly City Steering Group to implement the revised WHO plan by April 2017 (Penny and I mentioned as members of this group)
- Recommendation to follow The Crawley Town Access Group to improve access for all
- "Use our loo" - relaunch recommended. Council to make their loos more easily accessible.

**December 8th****Policy and Resources Meeting**

Meeting to further plans on the proposed budget. I think Penny will have report on this so I won't go into details.

**December 12th****Age Friendly City Forum Meeting at Age UK**

Purpose of the meeting to get an update on the progress of the Age Friendly City. The summary prepared for The Fairness Commission was distributed. This document outlines the actions taken by The AFC Steering Group since it's inception in 2013.

There was an update from Matthew Moor about the work of the Dementia Action Group. LS and PM summarised the work undertaken by the OPC pertaining to AFC issues since the last meeting. Time To Talk Befriending have allowed us to display the award they justly earned for the work they have been undertaking to combat isolation and loneliness.



266.3 John Eyles update:

**From: Environment, Sustainability and Transport committee:-**

- \* Open green spaces and Parks - active discussion and following public consultation a strategy is in progress.
- \* Petition presented by Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation requesting a review of the proposed new rental charges which could dissuade lower income groups from applying.
- \* Hangleton link road crossing, a request for bin(s) as litter tends to be dropped, review crossing timing.
- \* Community bins review appearance and locations for heritage squares (Brunswick, Adelaid, Sussex, Westbourne and Lewes) regarding parking spaces, dumping, smell and noise. Many comments on first consultation further consultation recommended.
- \* Food safety revisit charge to be raised to £145.
- \* Valley Gardens scheme (Old steine area) proposals/revisions to scheme in process and consideration of the location/operation of the Mazda fountain.
- \* Parking annual report 2016 shows surplus (excluding permits) of £12.7 million, costs down by £800k (2011-2012) an average of 5% due to collection changes (new coinage may affect this)
- \* Concessionary fares up from £10.452M to £10.752M (no action ... yet!)
- \* Award for chasing 'Blue Badge' mis-use.
- \* BHCC to join sub-national Transport body as shadow group for TFSE (Transport for the South East).
- \* Whitehawk/Kemptown safer routes to school scheme (also Queens Park area) on council webcast.

**General:-**

- \* HAMS (Highway Assist and Management policy and Strategy) considering city systems.
- \* Eastern Road/Arundal Road junction under consideration.
- \* Hove Station Neighbourhood Forum. no major plan submission yet.  
Development advancing at Newtown Road/Goldstone Lane
- \* Decision waiting on development of the Coal Yard (north of the railway) Matsim and Mountpark Dev
- \* Active discussion(s) on why developers are now saying that they can not make profit from affordable housing (Crest Nicholson, Hyde and others).

**267 LICENSING OF VEHICLES - ACCESS FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE**

267.1 Cllr O'Quinn introduced herself as the Chair of Licensing Committee and that taxis were a key focus of work, dealing with issues such as the arrival of Uber in the city. She felt that Senior Citizens concessionary bus passes were vital to give older people, especially women, to give them access to the city and their friends. The Equality Act 2010 had meant a greater focus on access for disabled people, including those who use wheelchairs, but covered a wide range of issues such as people with cancer or suffering from dementia.

- 267.2 John Cooke explained that he was the dementia lead for the Patcham Community Action Team and he believed that there should be free taxis to the Dementia Café in Patcham and would like this to be supported by the council.
- 267.3 Cllr O'Quinn provided members of the OPC with a copy of the training material for taxi drivers developed by Brighton & Hove Streamline, and approved by BHCC, on Disability Handling and Awareness. She confirmed that the needs of people with dementia were recognised in the training. Streamline taxis waive the fee if wheelchair accessible taxis have to come from further away and in general all taxis were not supposed to start their meter until they had begun the journey, e.g. when loading up the wheelchair. She agreed to raise the issue of the dementia once she had heard from John Cooke.
- 267.4 She emphasised the high standards of taxis in Brighton & Hove. The key duty for the council is to ensure the safety of passengers, which was partly achieved through the knowledge test taxis needed to take and the driver training on safeguarding, which had been prompted by the Victoria Climbié case and the Rotherham child trafficking. Because taxis have been used by people to transport vulnerable children round the country, drivers needed to be aware of potential vulnerabilities e.g. those raised in the night time economy in locations such as West Street and the seafront, with Operation Marble and safe spaces being offered.
- 267.5 Brighton taxis now had CCTV fitted and although drivers were initially against this, now thought it was a positive measure. Drivers also had to have enhanced DBS checks to see if they have a criminal record and their license would be removed if there are issues. A lot of enforcement action takes place. It was clear at a Local Government Association conference that Brighton & Hove was one of the top places for taxi licensing, with measures such as the Blue Handbook. The council organises safeguarding training and the knowledge test, using accredited people and Streamline run the accessibility course.
- 267.6 The Enforcement Officer, Martin Seymour, receives the complaints about the taxi services, for example a driver could lose their licence if are involved in an accident which ends up in court. 99% of users are very happy with the taxi services and complaints involve a tiny % of journeys.
- 267.7 An example of changes is the priority which is now given to women alone late at night and drivers checking that a vulnerable person has got to their destination. As a result of their training, drivers might offer physical help to people who are not steady on their feet or are partially sighted. Brighton & Hove has a relatively high number of older people, who are increasingly likely to have a disability once they are over 75 years old. Those suffering from conditions such as Parkinson's or dementia can be upset by drivers who could refuse to take them if they are concerned by the symptoms, with cases of drivers thinking a passenger might be drunk. Cllr O'Quinn confirmed that they are working on training call handlers to recognise if callers have a disability.
- 267.8 The taxi drivers would welcome a card that can be produced to show if a customer has a disability or health issue. At taxi ranks the majority of taxis are saloon cars, although across the city 40% of the taxis are wheelchair accessible. Each year 5 new licenses are granted and they are all given to wheelchair accessible vehicles, but it was

recognised that they may be reaching a sufficient amount of wheelchair accessible taxis. Drivers were also expected to have annual health checks.

267.9 Cllr O'Quinn explained that the company, Uber, had been given a licence for just a year following a whole day hearing in 2015. Uber only began its operation here a week before the licence was due to be renewed, so it was not possible to assess how it had worked. A cross party meeting had agreed to give Uber a licence for a further year until November 2017, rather than the usual 5 years after a year in operation. They would be assessed by the council all the time. Uber had not followed their undertaking that they would only use Brighton and Hove licensed taxi drivers, and were using many Transport for London (TfL) drivers. Such drivers are not required to take the knowledge, undergo an enhanced DBS check, limited safeguarding training and no CCTV cameras. There have been highly publicised cases of drivers either refusing to let a guide dog in the car (this was in Leicester and was not an Uber driver) or insisting they are put in the boot. It was the view of the council, that people are safer in Brighton & Hove taxis than in TfL cars. Uber have now signed up 6 or 7 B&H drivers but they need far more than this to operate successfully in the city. The council's concerns are not helped by present legislation and the council will be assisting the LGA in calling for improved legislation. Uber presently have 150 court cases being heard around the world so this gives some idea of the problems that are encountered when they start to operate in an area. The council's enforcement officers cannot check TfL drivers, but are seeking the power to do this and in January are meeting up with other authorities, via the LGA, who have obtained this right. We would also be seeking costs from TfL for this enforcement work.

267.10 Cllr O'Quinn knew that Brighton & Hove drivers wanted a 'level playing field', rather than what they saw as being unfair competition. Uber were able to levy a surcharge in periods of high demand, so they would suggest that people who were older or with a disability use Brighton & Hove drivers to avoid this. Private hire tariffs were not regulated in the same way as publically licensed taxis, although it had been the convention in the city to operate on the same lines. The council had some powers in relation to private hire taxis at ranks and use this to put pressure on private hire companies. Illegal immigration was a concern in the taxi trade so the government has brought in measures for local authorities to check for possible immigration fraud by taxi drivers. TfL has brought in an English test for their drivers which is being contested by Uber.

**268 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

268.1 Karen Amsden to circulate to OPC members the most up to date contacts list.

268.2 1,000 OPC leaflets have been printed and copies to be taken to Hove and Brighton Town Halls, Patcham Library and explore with Brighton Bus Company if they will put notices on buses.

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of