

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS SUB-COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 15 MARCH 2004

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Hawkes (Chair); Councillors McCaffery (Deputy Chair), Mrs Brown (OS), Burgess, Edmond-Smith, Giebeler, Hyde, John, Williams and Young.

PART ONE

ACTION

72. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

72A. Declarations of Substitutes

72.1	<u>Substitute Councillor</u> Simon Williams	<u>For Councillor</u> Richard Mallender
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72B. Declarations of Interest

72.2 There were none.

72C. Exclusion of Press and Public

72.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

72.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 89.

73. MINUTES

73.1 **RESOLVED** - That Part One of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2004 be approved and signed by the Chair.

74. CALLOVER

74.1 **RESOLVED** - That, with the exception of the items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate, excepting Notices of Motion and Petitions.

75. PETITION: SECONDARY SCHOOL AVAILABILITY IN BRIGHTON

75.1 The Sub-Committee received the following petition, signed by 160 people, presented at Council on 22 January 2004 by Councillor Randall:

"We, the undersigned are writing to express our concern about the lack of secondary school preferences for children in the Hartington Road, Elm Grove, Hanover and Queen's Park areas of Brighton. The boundary of Dorothy Stringer School, which has traditionally served the children from our community, has been moving westwards leaving our area outside of the catchment area for any school except COMART with its uncertain future and Falmer which is recently out of special measures. Both of these schools are some way from our community and we do not consider them to be suitable alternatives. If this area of Brighton is to remain a vibrant community with families with children of all ages we need to know that our children will have access to a decent secondary school. We are requesting that the Council maintains access to the secondary schools of current first preference for this area."

75.2 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

76. PETITION: CLOSURE OF ST GABRIEL'S

76.1 The Sub-Committee received the following petition, signed by 541 people, presented at Council on 22 January 2004 by Councillor Edmond-Smith:

"We the undersigned, are shocked and concerned about the proposed closure of St Gabriel's, the lack of consultation and the impact of the sudden loss of services. We ask The Children's Society and Brighton & Hove Council to explore all possibilities for the continuation of the full range of St Gabriel's services, in an open and accountable manner. We call for more time to be allowed beyond March 2004, when the project is due to close."

76.2 **RESOLVED** – That the petition be noted.

***77. SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – RESPONSE TO PETITION TO**

THE CITY COUNCIL

77.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools in response to a petition presented to the City Council meeting on 22 January 2004 expressing concern about the availability of secondary school places in part of the city (see minute book).

77.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted

***78. PETITION – CLOSURE OF ST GABRIEL'S**

78.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools concerning the context of the Petition that was presented to the Council on 22 January 2004 and the process that had led to the closure of some of the services provided by the St Gabriel's Family Centre (see minute book).

78.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the action taken by the Department in ensuring the continuation of appropriate services be endorsed.

(3) That it be noted that the continuation of services will be subject to the available financial resources and that this means that services will be reconfigured and reprioritised.

***79. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – SCHOOLS CONSULTATION FOR 2005/6**

79.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools concerning the outcome of the consultation with schools in Brighton & Hove on the proposed revisions to admission priorities for community schools (see minute book).

79.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the second admission priority, the sibling link, should in the case of infant, junior and primary schools be limited in its effect to a distance of two miles by safe walking route from the school to the child's home.

(2) That in place of the existing admission priority 3 for over subscribed schools (an annually drawn priority area), the distance from home to school by a safe walking route should become the deciding geographical factor with effect from the admission year 2005/6. A safe walking route will be defined as a route which is paved and lit.

(3) That the recommendations set out above should be reviewed after the first year of operation.

(4) That the adoption of co-ordinated schemes of admission for

2005/6 be confirmed, and to note the improved consultation response from voluntary aided schools with regard to admission arrangements.

(5) That the published admission number for Dorothy Stringer school for 2005/6 should be set at 330, but subject to review with a view to reduction in 2006/7.

(6) That the other published admission numbers and arrangements should be confirmed as set out in the consultation document proposals.

***80. SCHOOL TRAVEL STRATEGY**

80.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment presenting Brighton & Hove City Council's first 'School Travel Strategy'. The development of this strategy had provided a framework to organise the development and proposed implementation of initiatives/measures relating to school travel (see minute book).

80.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the objectives of the School Travel Strategy stated in section 2 of the strategy be agreed.

(2) That the performance indicators stated in section 6 and the accompanying targets stated in section 7 of the strategy be agreed.

(3) That the £26,000 per annum to be received from the Department for Transport and the Department for Education and Skills, for the financial years 2004/5 and 2005/6, be used to fund a new post 'Assistant School Travel Officer', to work with the School Travel Officer to encourage more schools to develop school travel plans, collect annual school travel data, promote and set up new Walking Buses and to promote the services of Road Safety Education.

(4) That the requirement for the Council to submit an annual review to indicate how we have progressed in increasing the number of school travel plans that are in place and if the proportion of children travelling to school by car has been reduced be noted.

(5) That the School Travel Strategy be endorsed, in order for the Environment and Children, Families and Schools Departments to have joint ownership of the Strategy.

***81. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2004/05**

81.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools concerning the allocation of funding available in the Capital programme, under the Structural Maintenance and New Deal for Schools Modernisation cost centres, for 2004/05 (see minute book).

81.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the allocation of funding on the basis recommended in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.8 of the report be approved

(2) Recommend to Policy and Resources Committee the allocation of funding on the basis shown in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.8 of the report.

***82. OFSTED INSPECTIONS/SSI**

82.1 The Director, Children, Families and Schools reported on the recent SSI/OFSTED Inspection. Full details of the results of the inspection will be provided at a meeting of the Sub-Committee to be held on 26 April 2004.

82.2 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

83. QUARTER 3 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2003/04

83.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools presenting the 2003/04 quarterly performance indicator (PI) results for all indicators for which the Children, Families and Schools Sub-Committee is the Service Committee. These indicators are taken from the statutory Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) suite (see minute book).

83.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Performance Indicator results achieved during the third quarter 2003/04 as detailed in the abridged Q2 Best Value Performance Report 2003/04 be noted.

(2) That the 2002/03 year end results which have been audited be noted.

(3) That the 2002/03 quartile comparison data be noted.

84. THE RENEWAL OF THE PALMEIRA SERVICE CONTRACT

84.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools advising that the existing contract for the Palmeira service between the City Council and NCH is being renegotiated. The current contract is to be extended for an additional four months until July 2004 at which point it is expected

that a new contract will be signed for an additional period of three years (see minute book).

84.2 **RESOLVED** – To note the contents of this report and agree the extension of the existing contract until July 2004 to allow sufficient time for the City Council and NCH to agree a new contract for the Palmeira service.

***85. SURE START: EARLY YEARS DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDCARE**

85.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools requesting:

- approval of the Sure Start Early Years Development and Childcare Plan for 2004-6;
- that the progress on developing Neighbourhood Nurseries be noted;
- consideration of whether to take forward plans for more childcare places in Children's Centres when revenue funding is not yet known and demand uncertain;
- a review of nursery education funding in the maintained sector in the light of the Sure Start emphasis on integrating services for young children (see minute book).

85.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the EYDCP Plan be approved.

(2) That the progress on Neighbourhood Nurseries be noted.

(3) That the forward plans for Children's Centres, in line with the recommendations in paragraph 6.7 of the report, be agreed.

(4) That it be agreed to draw up terms of reference, for consideration by this Sub-Committee, for a review of nursery education funding.

***86. EXTENDED SCHOOLS**

86.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools seeking approval of Falmer High School as the Brighton & Hove nomination to be the full service extended school from April 2004 onwards. The report indicated how the aspirations of the other seven contending schools could be taken forward as part of the wider development of integrated, area based working and also highlighted the key findings of the evaluation of the extended school pathfinder that took place between January 2003 and September 2004 (see minute book).

86.2 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the recommendation as to the nomination of Brighton & Hove's full service extended school be

agreed.

(2) That the findings of the evaluation of the extended school pathfinder and the recommendations contained in the evaluation be noted.

87. SCHOOL TERM DATES 2005 TO 2007

87.1 The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools setting out proposed term dates for 2005/6 and 2006/7 (see minute book).

87.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the principles agreed with neighbouring authorities be the basis for determining term dates.

(2) To agree the proposed term dates for 2005/6 and 2006/7

***88. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

88.1 **RESOLVED** – That the report from the Director of Environment on the School Travel Strategy go forward to Council

The meeting concluded at 6.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2004