

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Committee: Children, Families & Schools Sub-Committee

Date : Monday 9 June 2003

Report of: Director for Children, Families & Schools

Subject: School organisation plan

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To seek approval of a draft of the School organisation plan.

2. Recommendation

2.1 To ask members to approve the attached draft of the plan as the basis for consultation with schools, other interested parties and the public at large.

3. Information

3.1 The Department for Education & Skills are about to issue new guidance & regulations regarding arrangements for the publication of school organisation plans by local education authorities & the approval of those plans by school organisation committees.

3.2 In the past, LEAs have been required to undertake a review of the plan on an annual basis. Commencing in 2003, LEAs will be required to publish a revised plan every three years; but, as in the past, each revision must look forward over a period of 5 academic years. So, this year's revision of the plan covers the period 2003/4 to 2007/8.

3.3 As in previous years, the plan must provide :

- details of the number of school places which are available in the area for which the LEA is responsible, of the pattern of school provision in the area and of current & expected numbers of children on roll;
- a general statement of the LEA's policies in relation to the provision of sufficient & suitable places and to securing a good & improving standard of education;
- an indication of any proposals which are likely to be brought forward by the LEA – during the life of the plan – in relation to the addition of extra places, the removal of surplus places and any changes to the pattern of provision.

3.4 In addition, the DFES are now seeking the inclusion in the plan of details of the steps which the LEA is taking towards achieving key Government priorities and, in particular, towards achieving diversity of provision and encouraging collaboration between schools – in order to raise standards and promote community cohesion.

3.5 The attached draft of the plan has been prepared with these requirements in mind, but, at present, it does not include full details of the number of places which are currently available at each school or of current & expected numbers of children on roll. At the moment, the plan includes simple graphs, showing the position at 4+ and 5-11 years, at 11+ and 11-16 years and – in relation to numbers going forward to post-16 education – the position at 15+ years. Full data will be included before the plan is published.

3.5 The draft plan must be published by no later than 1st August, 2003. Following publication, there will be a period of 11 weeks during which comments on or objections to the plan may be submitted to the Director for Children, Families & Schools. There will then be a further period of a month during which the LEA may consider & formulate a response to any comments/objections which have been received – before submitting the plan for approval by the School organisation committee.



COMMITTEE REPORT APPENDIX

Meeting/Date	Children, Families & Schools – Monday 9 June, 2003
Report of	Director, Children, Families & Schools
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<p>Financial implications</p> <p>The issue of surplus capacity in primary & secondary schools which is raised in the plan has significant financial implications for the Council and significant implications for the financial viability of the schools concerned.</p>
<p>Legal implications</p> <p>None – at this stage.</p>

<p>Corporate/Citywide implications</p> <p>The proposals in the draft plan will have significant implications for school provision within the City.</p>	<p>Risk assessment</p> <p>Any risks will be assessed in the course of working up specific proposals for the addition/removal of places or for</p>
<p>Sustainability in</p> <p>Any such implic in the course of proposals.</p>	<p>on.</p> <p>special dealt with in</p>
<p>Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder</p> <p>Any such implications will be addressed in the course of working up specific proposals.</p>	

<p>Background papers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Documents received from DFES on 5th February and 2nd May, 2003. No other unpublished papers have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report

Contact Officers

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