

Brighton & Hove City Council

For general release

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee

Date: 18th July 2005

Report of: The Director, Strategy and Governance

Subject: Update on Current Scrutiny Reviews, Development of Scrutiny, and Education and Health Scrutiny

Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To report the progress made on current scrutiny reviews, and update Members on developments in the scrutiny function including the Education and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report be noted
- 2.2 That contributing to the development of scrutiny at Section 5, Members submit topics for discussion with the Chairs of Committees on September 14th and for Member development at a date to be agreed in October.

3. Scrutiny Reviews currently in Progress

eb4U Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 The 5 Members of the eb4U scrutiny panel chaired by Councillor Jan Young are continuing to receive information and will be visiting a range of eb4U projects.
- 3.2 Further meetings are to be held to hear from Council Members, former chief executives, senior council officers and other witnesses; 10am on Monday 18th July (Hove Town Hall), Friday 22nd July (Brighton Town Hall) and Friday 16th September.

Comart and Schools pfi

- 3.3 The Comart pfi scrutiny panel chaired by Councillor Georgia Wrighton reported its findings and recommendations to a special meeting of the Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 25th May for endorsement.

- 3.4 The Children Families and Schools Committee on 6th June welcomed the report of the review; the scrutiny report and CFS response will be considered by Full Council on July 21st.

4. Requests for Scrutiny and Call-in

Removal of housing stock options item from council agenda, 20th January

- 4.1 A scrutiny review of the housing stock options council item was agreed by OSOC on 11th April.
- 4.2 Final nominations to the 5-Member Panel are currently awaited; meanwhile it has not been possible to find a convenient date in July for a first meeting.

5. Development of Scrutiny

OSOC Meeting with Chairs of Committees

- 5.1 In line with 'Moving Scrutiny Forward' agreed at the April 11th OSOC a meeting between all OSOC Members and Chairs of Executive Committees is to be held on Wednesday 14th September at 12.30 in Kings House. This is intended as an annual event "to discuss the operation of the Scrutiny function and any issues of common interest with a view to facilitating the discharge of each others' functions."
- 5.2 OSOC Members are asked to identify matters for inclusion on the agenda.
- 5.3 Possible items to include:
- 1) Shared objectives and practical ways of joint working between scrutiny committees and decision-making committees
[eg - Referring matters for scrutiny, input into scrutiny work programme, following up scrutiny recommendations]
 - 2) Will CPA introduce assessment of effectiveness of scrutiny?
*[eg: - does scrutiny provide an effective challenge to the Executive and work effectively with senior management?
- how does scrutiny challenge the council's corporate strategy and budget?
- how does scrutiny have an impact on service delivery?
- how are external partners, the public, involved in scrutiny?
- how well managed is information required by scrutiny?]*
 - 3) 'Overview'/Monitoring performance and improvement
*[eg- - Effectiveness/suitability of existing 'rolling programme' of overview of service areas
- Regular monitoring information for scrutiny committees eg; BVPIs, complaints, Forward Plan, DDPs, Others?]*
 - 4) Finance information for scrutiny
[eg What kind/How often]

5) Policy Development and Review

[eg Potential for consultation/community input via scrutiny process eg on implementing new legislation, 'pre-decision' scrutiny]

7) Future OSOC/Chairs meetings

[Annual meetings?]

Scrutiny Link Officers

- 5.4 The proposed role of scrutiny link officers appears elsewhere in this agenda. Scrutiny link officers will discuss their role with the officer Scrutiny Group and progress will be reported verbally to 19th September OSOC.

Member Development

- 5.5 A half-day development session on scrutiny techniques for Members of OSOC, EOSP and HOSP, with an external specialist is being planned for October.

- 5.6 A preferred date would be a Friday morning in October.

- 5.7 Topics to be covered include questioning and analysis skills, chairing scrutiny panels and planning for successful scrutiny meetings.

- 5.8 Members are asked to suggest any other scrutiny training requirements.

6. Education Overview and Scrutiny Panel (EOSP)

- 6.1 Draft minutes of special EOSP 25th May and EOSP 21st June are attached at Appendix 1.

7. Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel (HOSP)

- 7.1 Draft minutes of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 28th June will be forwarded to OSOC Members when available.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

**SPECIAL MEETING OF EDUCATION OVERVIEW &
SCRUTINY PANEL**

5.30PM – 25 MAY 2005

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillor Meegan (Chair); Councillors Hamilton, Morgan, Mr Norman, Smith, Willows, Wrighton and Young.

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs A Antonio – National Union of Teachers; Reverend S Terry – Brighton and Hove Governors Network; Ms S Messenger – NASUWT.

PART ONE

ACTION

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A. Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Ken Norman substituted for Councillor Ann Norman.
Councillor Young substituted for Councillor Simson.

1B. Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

1C. Exclusion of Press and Public

1.2 The Panel 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.

1.3 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item on the agenda.

**2. TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL ON
COMART'S INCLUSION IN THE PFI**

2.1 The Panel considered the report of the Scrutiny Panel on COMART's inclusion in the PFI (for copy, see minute book).

2.2 The Chair of the COMART Panel introduced the report and gave some context to its findings. She also thanked everyone involved, including the officers, teachers and the Panel itself for the hard work put in to create the report. The Scrutiny Support Officer gave details of the goals and objectives of the COMART Scrutiny Panel.

2.3 The Panel then discussed the findings and recommendations in detail. It was noted in connection with recommendation 6, that the structures which had been set up for more recent projects, such as the Library PFI and Black Rock, included advisory forums, which appeared to have worked well. With Central Government proposing further PFI initiatives, it was hoped that this report along with the examples of those other projects' structures would be referenced and used as learning tools for future projects.

2.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report of the COMART PFI Scrutiny Panel be agreed for submission to the Children, Families and Schools Committee and subsequently to full Council.

3. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

3.1 **RESOLVED** – The COMART PFI Scrutiny Report.

PARTTWO

4. ITEMS TO REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

4.1 **RESOLVED** – That the above item does not remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6:20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

EDUCATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

5.00PM – 21 JUNE 2005

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillor Meegan (Chair); Councillors Norman (Deputy Chair), Morgan, Simson, Smith, Willows and Paskins.

Statutory Co-optees with Voting Rights:

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs S Llewellyn-Powell – Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Reverend S Terry – Brighton and Hove Governors Network; Ms S Messenger – NASUWT.

Also present: Gillian Cunliffe – Acting Assistant Director for Communities, Children, Families and Schools; David Hawker – Director, Children, Families and Schools; John Heys – Principal Solicitor; Gillian Jordan – Project Manager, Children, Families and Schools; Julia Riches – Scrutiny Support Officer.

Apologies were received from: Councillors Bennett, Edmond-Smith, Hamilton; Mr J Taylor – Diocese of Chichester; Mr F Myers – Diocese of Arundel and Brighton; Mrs A Antonio – National Union of Teachers.

PART ONE

1. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

1A. Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor
Paskins Wrighton

1B. Declarations of Interest

1.2 Councillor Simson declared a personal interest in item 8 as a member of Woodingdean Youth Centre. Councillor Morgan declared a personal interest as his wife is a teacher. Reverend Terry declared a personal interest in item 5 as a School Governor.

1C. Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 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.

1.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during

the consideration of item 14.

2. MINUTES

2.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

3.1 There were no public questions.

Monitoring of Service Performance

4. SUMMARY OF OFSTED REPORTS

4.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the outcome of the school Ofsted inspections which took place at the end of the Autumn Term 2004 and Spring Term 2005 (for copy see Minute Book).

4.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools apologised as two schools that were included in the report had already been received by the Panel at their December meeting. He noted that the other two schools had received good reports and it was particularly pleasing to note that Davigdor Infant School was now moving in the right direction after underachieving in the past. The Panel asked questions about rates of attendance, standards of attainment, and children being taken out of school. The Director replied that rates of attendance had been a concern and schools with particular problems had been targeted with extra support. The standards of attainment data may be difficult to validate, and it was unlikely to be a problem across the city. He explained that following recent legislation, a system of penalties for parents who take children out of school without consent was due to be introduced in September 2005.

RESOLVED – To note the content of the Ofsted summary report.

5. SERVICE AUDIT REPORTS

5.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools that listed the service audits carried out in the period 1 February 2005 to 31 May 2005, together with the key areas covered by the recommendations, and the proposed audits to be undertaken within the Children, Families and Schools directorate during 2005 - 2006 (for copy see Minute Book).

5.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools gave apologies on behalf of Internal Audit. The appendix detailing the proposed audits within the Children, Families and Schools directorate had been omitted from the agenda and was circulated. The Director explained that the audit programme was risk-led.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

Monitoring of Service Performance

6. ANNUAL EVALUATION OF THE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 6.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools informing of the evaluation of the Education Development Plan (EDP) 2004-05 and presenting the Action Plan for 2005-06 (for copy see Minute Book).
- 6.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools noted that the EDP had started three years ago and had been rated as Grade 1 by Ofsted in 2002. It had stood the test of time and proved very useful. In response to questions, the Director replied that the Panel would receive updates on the report every six months.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

7. PROGRESS ON SCHOOL WORKFORCE REMODELLING

- 7.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the current position regarding progress towards the School Workforce Reform statutory requirements and the wider school remodelling agenda (for copy see Minute Book).
- 7.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools reported on the new School Improvement Partners (SIPs). This is a development of the current advisory service that will be introduced into secondary schools in September 2006 and primary schools in 2007. SIPs will be employed by local authorities to visit schools and have a 'single conversation' and to advise schools on various issues.

RESOLVED – To note the progress.

8. OFSTED INSPECTION OF THE YOUTH SERVICE

- 8.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools that presented the Ofsted Inspection report on Brighton & Hove City Council's Youth Service carried out in January 2005 (for copy see Minute Book).
- 8.2 Gillian Cunliffe, Acting Assistant Director of Communities, Children, Families and Schools, and Nigel Jenner, Head of Youth Support Service introduced the report. Ofsted had highlighted that the funding base in Brighton and Hove was one of the lowest in the country. A paper was being forwarded to Policy and Resources Committee to alert them to the funding problems. There was a discussion about funding and the potential use of Section 106 Agreements.

RESOLVED – (1) To welcome the Ofsted inspection report on Brighton & Hove City Council's Youth Service.

(2) To note the arrangements being made to strengthen the Youth Support Service senior management team, in line with the Ofsted recommendations, and of action planning to take account of the Ofsted recommendations.

(3) To note arrangements to take forward a Strategic Review of the Youth Service, in line with the Children's Trust service redesign process, and in parallel with a review of Connexions in Brighton & Hove.

(4) To alert Policy & Resources Committee to the Ofsted recommendation to review the budget for the Youth Support Service.

(5) That the Chair write to the Chair of the Planning Committee to raise the issue of using Section 106 Agreements in new developments to support youth services, and to further indicate that the proposed redevelopment of the Ocean Hotel at Saltdean might provide an immediate opportunity.

9. REVIEW OF 2002 SCRUTINY ON SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

9.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the review of 2002 Scrutiny on School Admissions (for copy see Minute Book).

9.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools introduced the report and explained that a review of secondary schools admissions had just been established. Just under 90% of parents were currently achieving their first preferences – a good figure nationally – but in two areas of the city in particular, parents were not getting their first preferences. The Panel discussed the review and the current situation. The Director noted that all nine secondary schools offer a good quality education but they must do all they can to make all secondary schools equally popular. In response to a question, the Director agreed that the 'no priority model' would be included in the review.

RESOLVED – To note the progress.

Policy Advice and Information

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2005/06

10.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools on the allocation of available funding in the Capital Programme under New Deal for Schools Modernisation, Structural Maintenance, New Pupil Places and Schools Access Initiative cost centres for 2005/06 (for copy see Minute Book).

10.2 Gillian Jordan, Project Manager, Children, Families and Schools introduced the report which outlined the work going ahead in 2005/06. The question was asked as to what modifications might be necessary to some schools as a result of the closure of COMART: the Project Manager replied that money has been allocated as a contingency. In response to a question on disability access, the Project Manager replied that following DDA audits undertaken eighteen months

ago, by April 2006 two secondary and six primary schools would be accessible.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

11. EXTENDED AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS

11.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools that updated Members on the developments in the Extended & Healthy School Strategy (for copy see Minute Book).

11.2 Gillian Cunliffe, Acting Assistant Director of Communities, Children, Families and Schools introduced the report. The strategy brings together the Healthy Schools scheme and the Extended Schools scheme. A Joint Partnership Board has been proposed, to be Chaired by the Director of Children, Families and Schools. A bid has been submitted for Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) funding. The draft membership of the Board will be discussed at the first meeting.

RESOLVED – (1) That the principles and priorities for the evolving Extended & Healthy School Programme be agreed.

(2) That the plans to co-ordinate and steer developments through a Joint Partnership Board be approved. The Panel will provide strategic direction and co-ordination and will be accountable to the Children's Trust Board. It will monitor progress on the different aspects of both programmes.

12. CFS RESPONSE TO COMART PFI SCRUTINY REPORT

12.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools that drew Members' attention to the EOSP report and sought agreement to a proposed CFS Committee response (for copy see Minute Book).

12.2 The Director of Children, Families, and Schools noted that the Children, Families and Schools Committee had agreed a response to the Scrutiny Report on 6th June 2005. In response to questions on following-up scrutiny recommendations, John Heys, Principal Solicitor, explained that a report had gone to OSOC on this issue and an increased level of monitoring was intended.

RESOLVED – To note the contents of the report.

13. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

13.1 **RESOLVED** – That there were no items to go to Council.

PART TWO

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2005 – EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 11

14.1 **RESOLVED** – The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2005 were approved.

15. TO CONSIDER WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THE ABOVE ITEMS SHOULD REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE

15.1 That the above item remains exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005