

# **CHILDREN, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 2**

**4.00PM, THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL, NORTON ROAD,  
HOVE, BN3 3BQ**

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# ADDENDUM

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# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Families & Schools Committee

## Agenda Item 56(a)

**Subject:** Public Involvement - Petitions

**Date of meeting:** 29 February 2024

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **1. Purpose of the report and policy context**

- 1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the committee responds to the petition either by noting it or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter.

### **3. Context and background information**

- 3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 296 people at the time of publication:

#### **(1) Andy Richbell - Our City Our World**

#### **Statement:**

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to maintain the present levels of funding for the school environmental education budget for 2024-25.

#### **Justification:**

Brighton & Hove City Council declared a climate emergency and has pledged to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.

Large scale surveys in the city show that 90% of young people, 97% of parent/carers and 98% of teachers in Brighton & Hove think it's very important or vitally important to learn about climate change in school. The majority of young people are worried or very worried about climate change and less than half of young people are excited by the future.

Our City Our World (managed through the council's environmental education provision) addresses the above by working to ensure that climate change and sustainability is integrated into all curriculum areas, all children have regular access to nature, all schools takes action to lower their emissions and empower young people to be changemakers and have hope for the future.

As we are experiencing more severe weather events each year, have a significant mental health crisis in schools and a national shortage of green skills, we need to be strengthening our sustainability approach in schools, not removing it.



# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Families & Schools Committee

## Agenda Item 56(b)

**Subject: Public Involvement – Written Questions**

**Date of meeting: 29 February 2024**

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public:

#### **1. Question from Kirsty Moore**

What steps are currently being undertaken by West Sussex county council to ensure that the rights, wellbeing and duty of care for St Peter's pupils are being met and supported during this transition. Especially those children who have additional needs, and will struggle to find an alternative SUITABLE provision due to lack of school places in selected years in West Sussex?

#### **2. Question from Samantha Lyons**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (updated on December 18th 2023) requires public authorities to have due regard to certain equality considerations when exercising their functions, like making decisions. Can the Chair confirm when or if the council will revise its policies in line with the update and communicate this to schools?





# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Families & Schools Committee

## Agenda Item 56(c)

**Subject: Public Involvement – Deputations**

**Date of meeting: 29 February 2024**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public.

The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

### **1. Deputation concerning the poorly planned and poor facilitation of the proposal to close St Bartholomew's CE Primary School.**

#### **Supported by:**

Katie Blood  
Helen Banks  
Leanne Wulitich  
Emily Thomas  
Tessa Pacey  
Rachel Christie-Davies

The process that has been inflicted on the community of St Bartholomew's has felt unforgivably unkind and appeared to lack compassion for any of our community.

We have said many times that the time scale of the closure will have a detrimental effect on our children and there seems to be no clear argument to close the school in such an abrupt manner.

This proposal has no clear financial calculations to show how much it will cost and indeed, save, the council both immediately and over the next few years. There is no financial gain to the council in closing this school – there is only a cost, both human and financial.

There are no plans in place around supporting children to stay in friendship groups or to ensure siblings are placed together. No consideration has been made about how to support already financially challenged families with the additional cost of transport to school and new uniforms.

This closure is based on short term information around birth rates - only considering children who have already been born. This appears very short sighted of the council as the UK birth rate is predicted to increase within the next 10 years.

The Equalities Impact Assessment actions were not completed for the consultation and worryingly, this was considered acceptable by the CFS committee.

The consultation was a very difficult time for many members of our community and over 85% of respondents disagreed with the decision to close the school and expressed a number of concerns about this - it appears that is has been ignored.

The school has transition concerns for pupils - these are children who are already vulnerable in some way which is about 85% of St Bartholomew's pupils.

Launching a staff consultation about redundancy before a decision has been made is incredibly disrespectful and disheartening for staff. There is no option for staff to be redeployed into schools which was not made clear at the beginning.

There is little confidence that this school closure is being done with kindness and compassion towards our community and it is clear that the mental health and well-being of the community has not been considered.

# Brighton & Hove City Council

## Children, Families & Schools Committee

## Agenda Item 58(d)

**Subject:** Long-Term Sustainability of Youth-Led Grants

**Date of meeting:** 29 February 2024

**Report of:** Executive Director Families, Children and Learning

**Proposer:** Councillor Helliwell

**Seconder:** Councillor Alexander

### Proposed amendment

#### This committee notes:

- 1) The value and importance of the Youth Led Grants Programme, which has provided vital support to projects which benefit young people aged 11 to 19 (or up to 25 if they have special educational needs) since 2018;
- 2) ~~Proposals in budget papers from the meeting of the Strategy, Finance, and City Regeneration Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, to remove the full £80,000 previously allocated to the Youth Led Grants Programme, though later partially addressed by halving this cut;~~ ***Welcomes the partial reinstatement of the Youth Led Grants Programme in the recently passed budget for 2024/25***
- 3) ~~The negative impact the £40k loss of funding will have on the projects which have previously benefitted from these grants and the young people they support, especially on young people who are not eligible for free school meals and so will therefore not be able to access HAF funding;~~ ***That it is regrettable that central government underfunding of local government has meant that the Programme could not be continued at £80,000, and that this will be disappointing to many groups that previously bid for it;***
- 4) ***That the reinstated Youth Led Grants programme should have a particular focus on Disadvantaged communities;***
- 5) Uncertainty around future budgets and central government funding that make grant programmes such as this possible.

### Recommendations

#### This committee therefore:

- 1) Requests that a report be brought to a future Children, Families, and Schools Committee later this year, exploring additional/alternative revenue streams for the Youth Led Grants programme, to ensure its long-term sustainability, including possible contributions from local businesses who may wish to support such a programme.

