

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

4.00pm, 8 SEPTEMBER 2008

BANQUETING SUITE, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mrs Brown (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson)

Other Members present: Councillors Bennett and Kemble

PART ONE

34. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

34a Declarations of Interest

34.1 There were none.

34b Exclusion of Press and Public

34.2 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 Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

34.3 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

35. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

35.1 RESOLVED –

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2008 be approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.
- (2) That the minutes of the Special meeting held on 31 July 2008 be approved and signed by the Cabinet Member as a correct record.

36. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

36.1 There were none.

37. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

37.1 **RESOLVED –** All the items were reserved for discussion by the Cabinet Member.

38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

38.1 There were none.

39. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

39.1 There were none.

40. PETITIONS

40.1 There were none.

41. DEPUTATIONS

41.1 There were none.

42. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

42. (i) Letter – Tackling Child Poverty – Invitation to submit expressions of interest in local authority led pilots.

42.1 A letter was received from Councillor Hawkes, regarding the submission of expressions of interest from local authorities in relation to the Government initiative aimed at reducing child poverty levels still further in the UK by 2020. Cllr Hawkes indicated that she believed that if Brighton & Hove submitted an expression of interest, it could be successful in running one or more of the pilot schemes suggested, because there were areas in the city which matched some of the assessment criteria supplied by the Government.

42.2 The Cabinet Member confirmed that Brighton & Hove had submitted an initial bid in early September and officers were waiting for the outcome. The Cabinet Member also

explained that if the initial bid was successful, a full bid would be submitted by November 2008.

42.3 **RESOLVED** – That the letter be noted and Cllr Hawkes be informed of any progress.

43. NOTICES OF MOTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

43.1 There were none.

44. MATTERS REFERRED FOR RECONSIDERATION

44.1 There were none.

45. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

45.1 There were none.

46. PRIMARY STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

46.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children's Services concerning the Primary Strategy for Change. The report informed Members of the preparation of such strategy, which would inform of the city's priorities for capital investment in primary schools for the next fourteen years (for copy see minute book).

46.2 Cllr Hawkes requested that the consultation was as comprehensive as possible and hoped it would address all the relevant issues. She stated that her political group wished to have a serious debate on the issue and they would be interested to be made aware of the outcome of this work.

46.3 **RESOLVED** – That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the Primary Strategy for Change be approved.

(2) That the responses to the consultation undertaken during June, July and September be noted.

47. EARLY YEARS CAPITAL GRANT

47.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children's Services concerning the Brighton & Hove strategy for allocating the Sure Start Early Years Capital Grant received from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (for copy see minute book).

47.2 The Head of Services, City Early Years and Childcare, presented the report and explained that the strategy was aimed at directing funds received from the DCSF. She explained that some of the funding would also be utilised to improve facilities in existing premises.

47.3 Cllr Hawkes welcomed the report and welcomed the focus on adaptations for children with disabilities. She indicated that she was pleased to see the money being focused properly and hoped this would continue.

47.4 **RESOLVED** – That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet Member accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That the following strategy for the funding be agreed:

- a. To improve outcomes for young children and to narrow the gap for the most disadvantaged children by targeting funding on those groups with the worst environments identified in a citywide audit of rented premises or where capital alterations are needed to include children with disabilities.
- b. To support the Council's childcare sufficiency duty by targeting funding on settings which offer affordable childcare, where childcare places are needed to meet local demand. This will include ensuring that sessional providers can offer the increased entitlement to 15 hours of flexible, free early years provision and could include expanding the number of places where there is clear evidence of unmet demand.
- c. To link with the Primary Capital Strategy by aiming to relocate groups in the poorest multi-purpose accommodation into purpose built premises on school sites where possible, taking into account the local demand for places and the quality of existing provision.

(2) That all landlords and providers allocated funding should agree to funding conditions including opening for a minimum of 15 hours a week, 38 weeks a year to fit with the extension of the free early years entitlement, to commit that the premises will be used for childcare for at least 5 years, and to not raise the rent above inflation as a consequence of the improvements.

(3) That the following initial funding priorities for the first year's funding of £1,062,000 (this can be carried into 2009/10) and that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People should agree individual grants to providers. The initial allocation be agreed as follows:

- a. £312,000 for grants of up to £50,000 for groups identified in the citywide audit as needing improvements to their internal and external areas which can be made with a small grant. The first priority will be for groups in multi-use premises and the second will be for voluntary groups in rented premises.
- b. £100,000 for adaptations to buildings and special equipment to include children with disabilities (eg. ramps and stair lifts). This would be open to all groups where the need is agreed by the Pre School SEN Service.
- c. £50,000 to pay for feasibility studies where there are serious defects in buildings which cannot be met with a small grant. The results of these studies will be used to inform funding decisions for subsequent years.

- d. £100,000 for grants of up to £3,000 a group for equipment for all groups in multi-use premises to help them manage clearing away at the end of each session and for all voluntary run groups.
- e. £500,000 to fund an extension at Peter Gladwin Primary School to house a local pre-school and to agree to ask both local pre-schools to express an interest in moving in to the new premises.

48. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS - OUTCOMES AND ISSUES 2008/09

- 48.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children's Services concerning the School Admissions Arrangements, which set out the outcomes of the school admission arrangements for those starting school in September 2008, and the operation of the key policies for those applying outside the main admission round (for copy see minute book).
- 48.2 The Head of School Admissions and Transport highlighted the significant reductions registered in terms of the directed allocations made for secondary school admissions 2008/09; he explained that after an initial figure of 83 applicants directed to a school they had not given as a preference, by September only 38 applicants had not been allocated a place at any of their preferred schools. This was in contrast to 150 applicants in the same situation in the 2007/08 admissions.
- 48.3 The Head of School Admissions and Transport also highlighted that, due to demand in central Hove, one additional class had been agreed at Davidgor Infant school and another at West Blatchington Infant School to accommodate local children. He also reported on the outcomes of the school admission appeals, where, in secondary schools, successful appeals were reduced to 38 for 2008/09 admissions round compared to 63 successful appeals last year.
- 48.4 Cllr Hawkes praised the work of the officers involved in this process. She hoped that next year it would be possible to even further the number of directions undertaken. She requested that officers continued to use what had proved to be successful strategies and monitored the projections of pupil numbers for the future, particularly where the Hove area was concerned.
- 48.5 The Director of Children's Services indicated that, through the use of GP registration data, officers were aware that the school age population was increasing in Hove. She explained that, in view of this, officers were looking at ways to enhance the provision for schools in this area, which could entail the creation of a new primary school or enlarging existing schools.
- 48.6 **RESOLVED** - That the outcomes of the school admission arrangements for 2008/9 be noted.

The meeting concluded at 4.25pm.

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of