

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

2.00pm 10 DECEMBER 2010

COMMITTEE ROOM 1, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Brown (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillor Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson- Labour) and Deane (Opposition Spokesperson- Green)

Other Members present: Councillor Kemble

PART ONE

37. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

37a Declarations of Interest

37.1 There were none.

37b Exclusion of Press and Public

37.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ('the Act'), the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press or public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100I(1) of the Act).

37.3 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 50- Children and Families Social Work Improvement Plan- Appendix 2 as this item was exempt under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

38.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 October 2010 be approved and signed as the correct record.

39. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 39.1 The Cabinet Member for Children & Young People welcomed Terry Parkin who had recently been appointed to the position of Strategic Director, People.

40. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- 40.1 **RESOLVED-** All items were reserved for discussion by the Cabinet Member.

41. PETITIONS

- 41.1 A petition on the future use of the Connaught Centre was considered by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People. The petition had received 1242 signatories.
- 41.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provided the following response to the petition:

“Adult Education stopped at the Connaught Centre prior to the Council engaging in negotiations with City College to acquire a leasehold interest in the site. City College decided that the building was not financially viable for them and declared it surplus to their requirements.

The classes that City College wish to carry on providing are now spread out among other venues in the city.

Once the Connaught building is refurbished and established as a primary education centre, proposals for adult education can then be put to the Head teacher and Governing Body for their consideration.

The Council has always endorsed the use of its school buildings for a range of extended school activities and adult education, and will support, where practical, any proposals from adult education providers which will enhance local community provision”

42. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

- 42.1 No public questions had been received.

43. DEPUTATIONS

- 43.1 No Deputations had been received.

44. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

44.1 No Letters from Councillors had been received.

45. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

45.1 No Written Questions from Councillors had been received.

46. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

46.1 No Notices of Motion had been received.

47. DECISION OF STATUTORY PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING OF THE AGE RANGE OF BENFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL

47.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considered a report of the Strategic Director, People. The report informed Members of the outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposed change in age range of Benfield Junior School to a two form entry all through Primary School. The report also sought to provide the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People with sufficient information to determine the proposal.

47.2 Councillor Hawkes praised the proposals and urged swift action in moving to the necessary next step of providing additional places in the Portslade area.

47.3 The Schools Futures Projects Director confirmed that discussions concerning additional places had begun with governors and teachers in Portslade. At this stage there were a number of options to take into account and a report would return to the Cabinet Member Meeting when a course of action was more definite. He hoped that this would be in the near future.

47.4 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People confirms the statutory notice and resolves to change the age range and expand the premises of Benfield Junior School from September 2011.

48. PROPOSED NEW SCHOOL FOR HOVE - THE CONNAUGHT CENTRE

48.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considered a report of the Strategic Director, People. The report concerned the detail regarding the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as the infant stage of the new Hove primary school.

48.2 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People conveyed her delight with the proposals and with the decision of West Hove Infant School to operate on a satellite basis for the new school.

48.3 The Head of Capital Strategy and Development Planning supplemented that there was potential for changes to the proposals during the planning application stage. Any

amendments would be detailed in future reports submitted to the Cabinet Member Meeting.

- 48.4 Councillor Hawkes requested officers be very clear to parents concerning the admissions process for the new school.
- 48.5 The report author clarified that measures were underway that would avoid any confusion surrounding admission applications. Amongst other initiatives, officers had been writing directly to applicants of West Hove Infant School and the new Hove school.
- 48.6 Councillor Deane enquired about the expected timescale of building work.
- 48.7 The Schools Futures Project Director answered that work on the design of the facility was underway. It was expected that the planning process would take thirteen weeks with a planning application submitted early in the New Year. Work would start in the beginning of May and be completed by 1st August 2011.
- 48.8 **RESOLVED-**
- (1) That the Cabinet Member notes the interim arrangements for the management and refurbishment of the Connaught Building as a temporary expansion of West Hove Infant School to open in September 2011.
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to formally establish the Connaught Building as the permanent infant stage of a new Hove Primary School, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.
 - (3) That the Cabinet Member notes that further work will be undertaken to create the permanent Junior Stage of the new Hove Primary School at another site, which will be reported to the Cabinet Member in due course.
 - (4) That the Cabinet Member endorses the proposed admission arrangements for the interim provision in the Connaught Building for the academic year 2011/12.

49. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 49.1 The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People considered a report of the Strategic Director, People. The report contained the Children and Families Social Work Improvement Plan and the Areas for Development Plan.
- 49.2 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member to note and agree the Areas for Development Plan.

50. CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SOCIAL WORK IMPROVEMENT PLAN- APPENDIX 2 (EXEMPT CATEGORY 1)

50.6 **RESOLVED-** That the Cabinet Member to note and agree the Areas for Development Plan.

51. PART TWO ITEMS

51.1 **RESOLVED-** That the above items remain exempt from disclosure from the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 3.10pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of