

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 15 JANUARY 2018

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

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair)

Also in attendance: Councillor Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Hamilton, Horan, Phillips (Group Spokesperson), O'Quinn, Taylor, Wealls and Druitt

Other Members present: Councillors

PART ONE

42 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

42 (a) Declarations of substitutes

42.1 Councillor Druitt was present as a substitute for Councillor Knight

42 (b) Declarations of Interest

42.2 Councillor Taylor declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 48: School Ofsted Update, as he was a Governor at Balfour Primary School. Councillor Taylor said he had applied for dispensation to speak on the time which had been agreed.

Councillor Hamilton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 49: School Admission Arrangements 2019/20, as he was a Governor at Peter Gladwin Primary School. Councillor Hamilton said he would not speak or vote on Recommendation 2.4, which related to Benfield Primary School.

Ms A Mortensen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 49: School Admission Arrangements 2019/20, as she was Chair of Governors at Carden Primary School, and a Governor at Downs View School

42 (c) Exclusion of press and public

42.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act"), the Committee 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

business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and 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 100(I) of the Act).

42.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded

43 MINUTES

43.1 Mr B Glazebrook referred to paragraph 39.13 and requested that the following be included, 'Ms J Sumner suggested that when young people are asked for their opinion they may have unrealistic expectations, but that could be due to a lack of information or understanding about an issue, and therefore a conversation with them about the issues would allow them to have a more informed opinion'.

43.2 Councillor O'Quinn referred to 39.10 and suggested that 'depravation' should read 'deprivation'.

43.3 **RESOLVED:** That, further to the above amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record

44 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

44.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

I'd like to inform those present that this meeting will be webcast live and will be capable of repeated viewing.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dylan Davies and Katie Scott the Head Teachers of Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and Portslade Aldridge Community Academy for all their amazing work at their schools. As you may have heard Dylan and Katie will be moving on to new roles and I'd like to wish them all the best for the future, I think that their the good Ofsted judgement at both of their schools is a reflection of the work they have done. We look forward to continuing our close relationship with the Aldridge foundation.

At today's meeting we will be discussing school admission arrangements for 2019. Last year the council consulted on changes to the secondary school catchment areas and also on reducing the published admission numbers at 5 primary schools.

I'd firstly like to thank all those who attended the various meetings held across the city and fed in to the consultation. I'd like to thank, cross party colleagues, officers, teachers, and governors and of course parents for their input.

We will be discussing the report in more detail shortly, the recommendations put forward from the cross party working group came about after detailed discussions taking into consideration the feedback from the consultation as well as new available data.

With regards to the primary school Published Admission Number (PAN) changes, the recommendations being put forward are that the council does not continue with the proposals to reduce the PANs at Hertford Infant and Benfield Primary, but to continue with the reductions at Moulsecomb Primary, Coombe Road Primary and West Hove Infants. These recommendations were decided upon after listening closely to parents, governors and teachers. However, we must bear in mind that there is still an issue in the city with a continuing reduction in the number of primary aged pupils. The issue of primary school places will have to be revisited in the future.

The strong feeling around the proposed changes to the secondary school catchment areas was shown through several deputations and petitions put forward to this committee and full council. Before the consultation started in October, the city had an issue with secondary school catchment areas that had to be dealt with. The consultation put forward a solution to the issue that the city had, however, during the consultation circumstances changed. We received a new offer from some of the city's schools to expand their admission number, which they had previously been reluctant to do. We also received in November updated school census data which shows a reduction in the number of children in our primary schools, much higher than we would have thought. Before the consultation had started we could not have predicted either of these circumstances coming about and this combined with the responses to the consultation meant that the cross party group have put forward a recommendation to not make changes to the catchment areas.

The Council must ensure that there are sufficient places for all children living in the city who require one. This is a clear and direct responsibility that the Council continues to deliver year on year. How, where and who provides the places that the council has to offer is something that the Council must strategically manage whilst not being able to decide for itself.

Whilst this is not the system the administration would want, nor the most efficient method available, it is the system in operation.

The council must ensure there are sufficient places but we have a responsibility to ensure that there are not excessive school places at a time when school budgets are under significant pressure to deliver high quality and effective education. Demographic factors mean pupil numbers change. In this city we have witnessed an adjustment to our forecasts of pupil numbers within that longer cycle and there are fewer pupils needing secondary school places in the coming years. Whilst I have no doubt there will be more pupils in the city in future years we must maintain a sharp focus on what is happening now. The pressure on places in our school catchments has changed since we went to consultation. The number of places our city schools can provide in the next few years has changed. The schools adjudicator has determined extra places will be available at Blatchington Mill. The governors of Varndean and Dorothy Stringer schools can offer more, with additional investment from the council, and the governors of Patcham High School can take more pupils.

Fewer pupils are expected to need a place, more places can be made available in the city's schools and so the need for the Brighton and Hove Academy needed to be looked at again. Things have changed.

Whilst the UoBAT has put a lot effort into developing the solution that was considered necessary a few years ago, the administration had to re-assess the support previously given to the proposal. Whilst the opening of a new school is a responsibility of the DfE the administration concluded that it could no longer offer its support to its opening, which would provide the city with too many surplus places. Despite every effort being made, the permanent location of the school is not yet agreed and is not in the control of the council. Parents seeking school places for September 2019 need to make informed choices. We do not believe that the planned new free school is no longer in the best interests of the city as a whole.

I understand that parents who have made their choices for a secondary school place this coming September may be unclear what any of this means for them. Blatchington Mill School will provide an extra 30 places this year. No other school's PAN has changed as yet, but we are in discussion with Varndean whether this would be possible. The council is working through the likely allocation of places for National Offer Day 1 March 2018. School funding decisions from April 2018 are also still to be decided. Therefore, at this time, I cannot provide any further clarity about the location of the places available. When the council is able to do so I will ensure that this is communicated to parents across the city.

We will discuss this further later in the meeting and once again I would like to thank everyone for their involvement in the consultation last year.

In December 2017 the Department for Education published the first national data on the take up of 30 hours free childcare. From September 2017 working parents of 3 and 4 year olds were entitled to an additional 15 hours of free child care a week. In Brighton & Hove we have been working hard to ensure that eligible parents and children can take up the extra entitlement. The data shows that we have been very successful, and in November 2017 1206 3-4 year olds were taking up their entitlement, and out of local authorities we were ninth in the country and top in the south east.

When the meeting has finished, we will be showing two short films from Amaze as part of their 20th birthday celebrations, so I would suggest that all members remain to watch the films.

45 CALL OVER

45.1 **RESOLVED:** That all items be reserved for discussion.

46 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

46 (a) Petitions

46.1 Two petitions were referred from the Full Council meeting held 14 December 2017.

46.2 (i) West Hove Catchment Area Changes – Keep Our Community Together

The Committee considered a petition referred from the Full Council meeting held on 14 December 2017 and signed by 1436 regarding secondary school catchment areas.

46.3 The Chair provided the following response:

The petition relates to school admission arrangements, which is being considered in Item 49 on the agenda today. I would therefore recommend that the Committee note the petition.

46.4 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the petition be noted.

46.5 (ii) Keep Our Community Together

The Committee considered a petition referred from the Full Council meeting held on 14 December 2017 and signed by 1368 regarding secondary school catchment areas.

46.6 The Chair provided the following response:

The petition relates to school admission arrangements, which is being considered in Item 49 on the agenda today. I would therefore recommend that the Committee note the petition.

46.7 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the petition be noted.

46 (b) **Written Questions**

46.8 There were none

46 (c) **Deputations**

46.9 A deputation was referred from the Full Council meeting held 14 December 2017.

46.9 The Committee considered the deputation referred from the Full Council meeting held on 14 December 2017, regarding Benfield Primary School.

46.10 The Chair provided the following response:

The deputation relates to school admission arrangements, which is being considered in Item 49 on the agenda today. I would therefore recommend that the Committee note the deputation.

46.11 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the deputation be noted.

47 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

47a Petitions

47.1 There were none.

47b Written Questions

47.2 There were none.

47c Letters

47.3 There were none.

47d Notices of Motion

47.4 There were none

48 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

48.1 The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements provided an update on schools which had recently been inspected by Ofsted.

48.2 The Committee were advised that nine schools had been inspected since the last meeting of the Committee. Of those schools seven had retained their 'Good' rating, and two had moved to 'Requires Improvement'. The schools rated as 'Good' were: St Pauls' CE Primary School, St Joseph's RC Primary, Cottesmore St Mary's RC Primary, Coldean Primary, Brighton & Hove Pupil Referral Unit, Westdene Primary and Patcham High School. The schools rated as 'Requires Improvement' were Balfour Primary School and Homewood College. Balfour Primary's outcome had been a surprise, but had been expected for Homewood College. Both of those schools had a clear post-Ofsted plan, and steps were already in place to address the issues raised in the inspection.

48.3 Councillor Wealls referred to Balfour Primary and noted that often inspections were data led, and asked if the data had flagged up any issues prior to the inspection which had been discussed with Council. The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements said that there would always be conversations with schools, but the inspection would not have been solely on any data. The Assistant Director, Education & Skills added that as well as looking at data, Ofsted would also speak with the Head Teacher, staff, pupils etc during the inspection.

48.4 Councillor Phillips noted that Balfour Primary had an overall rating of 'Requires Improvement', and asked if there were any areas within the inspection where the school received a higher rating. The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements said that there were four key areas in an inspection and three of those were rated as 'Good', with only Outcomes being assessed as 'Requires Improvement'.

48.5 Councillor Taylor said that he was a governor at Balfour Primary, and it had hugely disappointing to have been downgraded. However, the leadership team were reviewing the report and addressing the issues raised. Councillor Taylor suggested that it would be useful to have sight of the reports prior to the Committee meeting. The Chair agreed that that could be done.

48.6 Councillor Penn noted the Ofsted were focusing on all pupils at a school, and so it was important that the Authority were ambitious for all children in the city.

48.7 Councillor Druitt noted that the outcome of the Ofsted inspection was unforeseen, and asked if there was a way of anticipating results for other schools. The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements said that the Council were usually good at predicting outcomes, and although the decision of Balfour Primary was a surprise there had been some close judgements made by Ofsted.

48.8 **RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

49 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

49.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning, which outlined the responses to the published consultation undertaken between the 2 October 2017 and 19 November 2017, and made recommendations on the proposals to take forward. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation.

49.2 Councillor Brown thanked officers for the report and said she was in agreement with the recommendations. Both Hertford Infant and Benfield Primary Schools had put forward compelling reasons for maintaining their Published Admission Number (PAN), and the majority of parents would be delighted with the proposal to retain the current catchment areas. However, Councillor Brown was concerned that even with Dorothy Stringer and Varndean taking additional pupils they still wouldn't be able to 'catch' all the children within that area. With regard to the decision to withdraw the support for the new secondary school, Councillor Brown said that it was a decision of the administration and neither the Conservative nor the Green Group had been involved. The Chair said that the decision had been taken in light of the offer from other secondary schools to take additional pupils, together with the drop in the number of pupils living in the city. Councillor Brown asked if there had been any feedback from the University of Brighton Academies Trust or the NHS. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning said the Authority had been in contact with both parties, and whilst the University were disappointed they understood that the number of children requiring a secondary school place had changed. With regard to the hospital, the school would have only used part of the site, and the Authority's decision would not impact on their other plans. Councillor Brown noted that previously the three party leaders had signed a letter in support of the new school, and suggested it should have been a joint decision not to continue. The legal adviser to the Committee reminded members that making a decision on a new school was not within a gift of the Council, but was a matter for the Department for Education.

49.3 Councillor Phillips said that she was pleased that families would now have some certainty on school places for the next two years, and whilst it was good that some of the secondary schools had offered to take additional pupils, she was concerned on the impact on those schools, particularly for communal areas, and asked why the schools had made the offers so late in the day. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning said that there had been dialogue with secondary schools for some time, and one could only speculate on their decision, but prior to the consultation their views on taking additional pupils had been different. Councillor Phillips was disappointed that the other political parties had not been contacted prior to the announcement that the Authority would no longer be supporting the new secondary school.

- 49.4 Councillor Wealls asked whether the Brighton and Hove University Academy Trust had been advised that the Council were withdrawing their support for the new school before the decision was made public. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning said that they were aware that the Authority was considering it as an option.
- 49.5 Councillor Horan said that the consultation had been very useful, and had allowed dialogue with interested parties and for the Committee to make an informed decision.
- 49.6 Councillor Penn agreed that the consultation had been useful, and showed residents that the Authority did listen to their views. In view of that changing number of children in the city, and increased capacity of some secondary schools the Council could not defend the cost of a new school when there would be surplus places available.
- 49.7 Ms A Mortensen said that the consultation process had been stressful for parents, and noted that whilst Dorothy Stringer and Varndean had agreed to take additional children they still would not be able to 'catch' all the children living within their catchment area. The Chair accepted the consultation may have been stressful, but felt that it had been necessary.
- 49.8 Mr M Jones referred to the Admission Criteria and was surprised that those with an EHCP did not fall within Priority 2 'Exceptional Circumstance'. The Head of School Organisation said that those with an EHCP would have a named school and so would be allocated a place there; the Priority 2 was for other students who could show a compelling reason to go to a particular school.
- 49.9 Councillor Hamilton said that the consultation had been very useful, and when it had started the Authority were not aware of the additional places been offered at some of the secondary schools.
- 49.10 Councillor Druitt asked if the secondary schools had previously been requested to consider taking additional pupils. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning confirmed that they had.
- 49.11 Councillor Druitt noted that the Authority seemed surprised in the reduction of number of children in the city, and asked if data on the number of pre-school children was not obtained by the Council. The Head of School Organisation said that the Authority used both GP registration figures and school census data. Both sets of figures were taken in October each year and the Council received the data in November. This year the number of children in the city had fallen significantly.
- 49.12 Councillor Taylor supported the consultation but suggested that only parents from certain areas in the city had been listened to. He asked if the additional pupils Dorothy Stringer and Varndean would take was sustainable, and was advised it was.
- 49.13 **RESOLVED: That the Committee agreed –**
1. To reduce the Published Admission Number at Moulsecomb Primary School by 30 pupils in September 2019

2. To reduce the Published Admission Number at Coombe Road Primary School by 30 pupils in September 2019
3. To reduce the Published Admission Number at West Hove Infant School (Connaught Road site) by 30 pupils in September 2019
4. To make no change to the Published Admission Number at Benfield Primary School in September 2019
5. To make no change to the Published Admission Number at Hertford Infant School in September 2019
6. To note the permanent increase to the Published Admission Number of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form from 300 pupils to 330 pupils with effect from September 2018
7. To the permanent increase to the Published Admission Number of Patcham High School from 215 pupils to 225 pupils in September 2019
8. To an additional temporary class of 30 pupils at Dorothy Stringer High School for admission in September 2019 and again in September 2020
9. To an additional temporary class of 30 pupils at Varndean School for admission in September 2019 and again in September 2020
10. To note the request to permanently increase the Published Admission Number of Varndean School which will be subject to further discussions between the governing body and the Council
11. To make no change to secondary school catchment areas
12. That the proposed school Published Admission Numbers set out in Appendix 6 of the report be adopted for the admissions year 2019-20
13. That the admission priorities for community schools set out in Appendix 7 of the report be adopted for the relevant age groups
14. The co-ordinated schemes of admission for the admission year 2019-20

50 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT

- 50.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning, which outlined the work of SACRE during the academic year 2016-17. The report was introduced by Ms S Beal (Consultant, Behaviour & Attendance, BHCC) and Ms H Kitchin-Frost (RE Lead Teacher at Patcham High School).
- 50.2 Councillor Druitt thanked officers for the report, and commended the creative ways suggested for teaching RE.

- 50.3 Councillor Taylor said that he was a member of SACRE and Vice-Chair of the Councillors Group, and was disappointed that only himself and Councillor Hamilton regularly attended the meetings of SACRE, and so he encouraged the other appointed members to attend on a regular basis. Councillor Hamilton said that his two fellow Labour Councillors had not received any papers for the meetings, and so were unaware when they were being held.
- 50.4 Ms A Holt supported the work being undertaken with RE teaching, and agreed that religion was important globally and so it was important that young people were religiously literate. Ms Holt supported the cross curricular project 'What If Learning', which enabled people to look at religion from other curricular subjects. However, whilst she commended the creative way of teaching, she cautioned that it was no substitute for religious education and to be aware of reducing religion to ethics as it was much more than that. Ms H Kitchin-Frost agreed that religion should not be reduced to ethics, and that pupils should receive a well-rounded religious education but it was a challenge when the time available to teach was being reduced. The RE Commission was looking at teaching of religion, and were lobbying government to get proper curricular space. Ms Holt asked if anyone from this local authority responded to the RE Commission's consultation. The Senior Adviser, Education Partnerships confirmed that SACRE had been asked to respond, and Ms H Kitchin-Frost confirmed that she had. The Committee were advised that the Diocese promoted schools to follow the agreed syllabus, and had produced material for all schools help support RE teaching.
- 50.5 Mr J Cliff said that he was studying A level History, and religion was discussed a lot. He said that he enjoyed RE lessons at primary school, but at secondary school it became more note taking and less fun, and suggested that a better transition from KS3-KS4 would help. Ms H Kitchin-Frost said that she had spoken with primary schools as she wanted the transition to be smooth, but said that KS4 had to be more essay based.

50.6 **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Committee noted the report.
2. That the Committee considered how it could offer support in raising the profile of the teaching of RE in Brighton and Hove Schools.

51 FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND LEARNING FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19

- 51.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning, which reviewed the Families, Children and Learning Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy. The report was introduced by Head of Service-Early Years Youth & Family Support.
- 51.2 Councillor Druitt advised the Committee that the Green Party Councillors would abstain from voting on the recommendations, as they would on any recommendation relating to fees and charges at all committees.
- 51.3 Councillor O'Quinn said that funding from central government would not cover the cost of providing the services referred to in the report, and so she would have to agree the recommendations.

51.4 Councillor Penn was concerned that one of the most expensive cities in the country had received one of the lowest funding formulas, and whilst the government's policy was good they had not provided the money to deliver it. Councillor Penn said that the administration had contacted the city's MPs to register the Authority's concern. Councillor Wealls asked if the response from the MPs could be shared with the Committee, which the Chair agreed to do.

51.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed –

1. That the position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 of the report be agreed
2. That the position on fees and charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.4 of the report be agreed
3. That the position on the changes for school meals as detailed in section 3.5 of the report be noted

52 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL

52.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning, regarding the proposed change to the age range of Blatchington Mill School from 11 -18 to 11 -16 from September 2019. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation and the Head of Education Capital Strategy.

52.2 Councillor Brown said that Blatchington Mill was within her ward, and as she had not had any complaints from parents/carers regarding the changes she would be supporting the recommendations.

52.3 Councillor Wealls questioned whether not having the opportunity to teach sixth form pupils would impact on staff retention and/or new staff, and suggested it could be useful to invite a teacher to speak about the impact the changes may have on staff. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning said that there would be a further report following the consultation, and an invitation could be extended at that time.

52.4 Councillor Hamilton suggested that if staff particularly wanted to teach sixth form students, it could be possible for them to work at both Blatchington Mill and Hove Park Sixth Form. Ms A Holt agreed and said that if appropriate the Authority should facilitate teachers to work at a number of institutions.

52.5 Councillor Phillips asked if there would be any staff loses if the proposals went ahead, and was advised there would not be.

52.6 Mr C Cliff said that he was currently studying for A Levels at BHASVIC rather than his secondary school, as the subjects he wanted to study were not available there. He therefore felt it was important for schools to be able to offer a full range of subjects.

52.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

1. Noted the responses to the consultation undertaken regarding the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill Secondary School from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16 from September 2019
2. Agreed to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal
3. That following the statutory notice period the matter is referred back to the meeting of the Children Young People and Skills Committee on 6 March 2018 for a final decision

53 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 53.1 **RESOLVED:** That no items be referred to the Council meeting being held on 1 February 2018.

The meeting concluded at 6.20pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of