

Subject:	Don't Cut the Youth Services Funding Petition: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 26 January 2017		
Date of Meeting:	9 February 2017		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the petition be considered by the Committee; and
- (2) That the Committee give consideration to a report produced by officers detailing:
 - (a) service descriptions and client reach which could be provided at a range of funding levels
 - (b) descriptions and impact assessments of expenditure reductions which were considered as an alternative to the proposed cut
 - (c) an impact assessment of the funding reduction on the services themselves, and their clients and the increased pressures on other budgets and services should the proposed cut be implemented.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****5.30pm 26 JANUARY 2017****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors West (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkipin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Russell-Moyle, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

66 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**(a) DON'T CUT THE YOUTH SERVICES FUNDING**

- 66.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. He had been made aware of two such petitions and would therefore take each in turn. In addition there were two amendments to the recommendation contained in the covering report to the first petition.
- 66.2 The Mayor then invited Kate Barker and Raven as the lead petitioners to present the petition calling on the Council not to cut the youth services budgets.
- 66.3 Raven thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had reached 2,042 signatures which demonstrated the strength of support for youth services in the city.
- 66.4 The Mayor thanked Raven and called on Councillor Chapman to respond to the petition.
- 66.5 Councillor Chapman thanked the petitioners and stated that the Council was facing significant cuts to budgets and that meant very difficult decisions had to be considered and taken. He noted that councils across the country had reduced their youth services and were planning further cuts to those services, in order to maintain other services. He stated that it was intended to continue to provide support services to young people and noted that a consultation process was currently underway which would inform the re-design of the service provision. The results of the consultation would be reported to all councillors prior to the Budget Council meeting in February, so that decisions could be made in regard to the provision of youth services and the transition to other providers. He also noted that a delegation of young people were due to attend No. 10 Downing Street and offered his support to the delegation.

- 66.6 Councillor Knight moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, calling for the petition to be referred to a Special meeting of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee, along with an update from officers on the consultation which could be considered and any recommendations then made to the Budget Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting on the 9th February.
- 66.7 Councillor Phillips formally seconded the amendment.
- 66.8 Councillor Wealls moved an amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group, calling for an urgent report to be brought to the Budget Policy Resources & Growth Committee meeting on the 9th February. He noted that the proposal to cut youth services budgets had been late in the day and that a number of young people had asked questions on this subject at the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting on the 19th January. He believed that further information was required in order for the committee to determine whether the level of proposed savings could be made, hence the request for an urgent report to the committee meeting. He acknowledged that difficult decision had to be made, but felt that there appropriate level of information should be available to inform those decisions.
- 66.9 Councillor Brown formally seconded the amendment and stated that there was a risk of creating more costs in the long-term as there would be a need for greater intervention. She hoped that a further report would address the points highlighted in the amendment.
- 66.10 Councillor Phillips stated that it was unacceptable to treat young people in this manner and the council should be listening to them and supporting them. The consultation was very poor and was due to end after the Budget Policy, Resources & Growth Committee, which left little time for consideration and gave the Children, Young People & Skills Committee no input into the process.
- 66.11 Councillor Bewick noted that there was a need to make savings and that this was down to the level of cuts being made by central government to local government funding. There was a need for the council to balance all priorities across its services and the Children's Service faced a total of £5.6m savings to be achieved. He welcomed the attendance of the young people at today's meeting and their efforts to highlight the difficulties that they had to face and hoped that a way forward could be found.
- 66.12 Councillor Mac Cafferty stated that he believed the proposed cuts were short-sighted and harmful and would leave young people in a vulnerable position as they could not necessarily ask for help from their teachers, parents or carers. There was a need to support them and enable them to reach their potential.
- 66.13 In response to the debate Councillor Chapman stated that he was happy for an urgent report to be brought to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee but could not support the Green amendment. He also wished to assure Members that any decision would not be taken lightly and that full consideration would be given to the proposed savings.
- 66.14 The Mayor noted that the Green amendment to the petition report's recommendation was not supported and therefore put the amended recommendations to the vote which were lost by 11 votes to 41, with 1 abstention as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen		X		Marsh		X	
2	Atkinson		X		Meadows		X	
3	Barford		X		Mears		X	
4	Barnett		X		Miller		X	
5	Bell	Not Present			Mitchell		X	
6	Bennett		X		Moonan		X	
7	Bewick		X		Morgan		X	
8	Brown		X		Morris		X	
9	Cattell		X		Nemeth		X	
10	Chapman		X		Norman A		X	
11	Cobb		X		Norman K		X	
12	Daniel		X		O'Quinn		X	
13	Deane	✓			Page		✓	
14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn		X	
15	Gibson	✓			Penn		X	
16	Gilbey		X		Phillips		✓	
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins		X	
18	Hamilton		X		Russell-Moyle			Ab
19	Hill		X		Simson		X	
20	Horan		X		Sykes		✓	
21	Hyde		X		Taylor		X	
22	Inkpin-Leissner		X		Theobald C		X	
23	Janio		X		Theobald G		X	
24	Knight	✓			Wares		X	
25	Lewry		X		Wealls		X	
26	Littman	✓			West		✓	
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates		X	
					Total	11	42	1

66.15 The Mayor noted that the Conservative amendment to the report's recommendation had been accepted and therefore put the recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried unanimously as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears	✓		
4	Barnett	✓			Miller	✓		
5	Bell	Not Present			Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett	✓			Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	✓			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown	✓			Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth	✓		
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A	✓		
11	Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		
14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn	✓		
15	Gibson	✓			Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson	✓		
20	Horan	✓			Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C	✓		
23	Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
24	Knight	✓			Wares	✓		
25	Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
26	Littman	✓			West	✓		

27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates	✓		
					Total	53	0	0

66.16 The motion was **carried**.

66.17 **RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 That the petition be noted and referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 9th February 2017; and
- 1.2 That a report be produced by officers and brought back to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee detailing –
 - (a) service descriptions and client reach which could be provided at a range of funding levels;
 - (b) descriptions and impact assessments of expenditure reductions which were considered as an alternative to the proposed cut; and
 - (c) an impact assessment of the funding reduction on the services themselves, and their clients and the increased pressures on other budgets and services should the proposed cut be implemented.