

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

4.00pm 5 MARCH 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair), Councillor Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Hamilton, Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Knight, O'Quinn, Platts, Taylor and Wealls

Other Members present: Jo Robson (Varndean), James Kilmartin (Cardinal Newman Catholic School), Ruth King (Blatchington Mill), Michelle Prentis (Hove Park)

PART ONE

54 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

54(a) Declarations of substitutes

54.1 There were none.

54(b) Declarations of Interest

54.2 There were none.

54(c) Exclusion of press and public

54.3 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).

54.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

55 MINUTES

55.1 In regards to Item 49.4, Councillor Wealls stated that there was little discussion until the announcement by BHCC rather than actual communication directed to the university.

- 55.2 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 January 2018 be approved and signed as the correct record.

56 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 56.1 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 was very pleased to open the annual governors' conference on Saturday at the University of Sussex. Once again it was a very well attended event and the focus was on how schools can meet the needs of some of our more disadvantaged children. As ever I'm hugely impressed by the commitment that unpaid governors give to schools across the city and I would like to thank them for the time they give, the support they provide and at times the scrutiny they give to all of our schools – which contributes to the great results we have and the positive Ofsted inspections which we will hear more about in a moment.

Last week I also attended the cross party youth group meeting which I co-chaired with Josh one of our young people on this committee. Alex and Vanessa were also in attendance and we had a good meeting looking at priorities and potential areas of investment following the decisions at the recent budget council. Josh showed excellent chairing skills and could well one day be sitting in this seat – but not yet!

I'm pleased to announce that recently the music service, which is now part of the Festival and Dome was successful in bidding for a Youth Music grant from the DfE. It has been awarded a total of £640k over 4 years with 40% of this grant to be directly invested in work with young people in the city. The bid was in partnership with neighbouring music hubs.

Members will be pleased to hear that after the most recent recruitment process the three SEND hubs previously agreed by this committee have now all appointed their new Executive Head teachers who will be starting in the role from September. They are Rachel Bustow, Adrian Carver and Louise Cook.

On 25 January I presented an award at the Young Carers Award Ceremony for young carers and their families in Brighton Town Hall. The event was hosted by the Mayor and organised by the council, the Carers Centre, Young Carers Project and Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust to mark national Young Carers Day. It was an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges young carers and their families face in addition to celebrating their achievements. The event highlighted the importance of the support young carers and their families receive from work carried out by the Young Carers Project, council and health services.

Finally, I would like to welcome Nancy Platts to the committee; this is her first committee and will be learning the ropes today.

57 CALL OVER

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

58 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

58.1 There were none.

59 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

59.1 There were none.

60 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

60.1 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement provided an update on schools which had recently been inspected by Ofsted

60.2 The Head of Cardinal Newman Catholic School gave a brief overview of the results; he noted the significance of the score as being above national average both at primary and secondary.

60.3 Councillor Taylor noted the recurring theme of middle leaders. He enquired if particular work was taking place to make sure outstanding schools are not caught out.

60.4 The Head of Safer Communities stated that there is not an issue in regards to the leadership. She further confirmed that work is taking place to build up middle leaders.

60.5 The Head of Cardinal Newman Catholic School stated that Cardinal Newman has 2260 students and is constantly working to achieve consistency at the highest level. He noted that there are many middle leaders that provide good role models for pupils; he further confirmed that a large amount of development is supplied to middle leaders. He gave by way of example the effort of Cardinal Newman to send 25 middle and senior leaders on national college courses.

60.6 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement stated that there was only an issue regarding specific primary schools and that this was not taking place across the board.

60.7 **RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

61 ANNUAL STANDARDS REPORT

61.1 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement gave a brief overview of the Annual Standards Report, he noted there was consistent improvement and that attainment in the city in regards to Key Stage 2 was high. He noted that reading was very high even in regards to disadvantaged pupils, that there was room for improvement specifically at Key Stage 4. He gave a list of various efforts being implemented to address concerns, these included:

- There were 12 premium reviews in progress in regards to Key Stage 2
- Individual schools were being challenged and supported to receive the correct resources needed
- Maths in primary was a program being implemented across Brighton and Hove

- There was ongoing work with head teachers in regards to the peer challenge model
 - A second strategic school has been funded
 - Training and conferences have been taking place across the City.
- 61.2 The Head of Cardinal Newman School stated that he was delighted with the Ofsted report and praised the strong sense of partnership across the City. He stated that the move away from attainment was good and that there was a high level of trust between teachers and institutions. He emphasised avoidance of the concept of group think in regards to disadvantaged pupils and that efforts were being made to promote their individuality. He noted that adult assistant help identify students that are under achieving. He further noted that the success has been down to the quality of teaching and learning.
- 61.3 Councillor Brown stated that the greatest priority was for disadvantaged children. She enquired where Brighton and Hove lies in the national status, what support there was for ethnic minority groups and learning.
- 61.4 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement stated that disadvantaged pupils are broadly below national average and that equalities remained high on the agenda.
- 61.5 The Head of Cardinal Newman School stated it was interesting to see how pupils are being represented. He noted that Cardinal Newman have been working with a group of students to deliver self-esteem and that these particular groups were being elevated.
- 61.6 Adam Muirhead enquired if Gypsy Roman Travellers were counted amongst the disadvantaged by ethnicity.
- 61.7 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement confirmed that there is some data on this; he noted that sometimes Gypsy Roman Travellers were counted as disadvantaged by ethnicity.
- 61.8 The Chair requested that the data on Gypsy Roman Travellers be circulated.
- 61.9 The Head of Safer Communities stated that she could provide this data however it should be noted that numbers will be poor. She further noted that BHCC have case studies and details regarding any interventions that can be provided.
- 61.10 Councillor Wealls state that Progress 8 data supports disadvantaged groups and that Cardinal Newman scored well in this aspect. He expressed his concern regarding schools that scored low in regards to their performance in regards to disadvantaged groups and noted that Brighton Academy had a better score than Blatchington Mill, Dorothy Stringer, Varndean, Hove Park and Longhill.
- 61.11 The Head of Safer Communities stated that this was the biggest priority for BHCC and that different schools have improved in different ways. She noted that this did not indicate complacency.
- 61.12 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement stated that schools are being scrutinised and that this was an ongoing process.

- 61.13 Councillor Penn noted that white working class boys were being left behind and that this must be addressed. She noted that in a city of high levels of poverty, mental health issues and substance abuse issues it was notable that disadvantaged's needs were not being met. She enquired, in regards to the Foundation Stage Profile, if BHCC area considerably worse at many levels including at the national level and if so how this was possible.
- 61.14 The Head of Education Standards and Achievement stated that this data is just the tip of the iceberg and that there were also some positive and negative trends across schools.
- 61.15 The Head of Safer Communities stated that the disadvantaged group was large and that on closer inspection the meta data revealed that there was progress within these groups.
- 61.16 The Head of Cardinal Newman School stated that in regards to the data, 4 students were out of disadvantaged groups which had depressed progress data for the rest of the result.
- 61.17 Councillor Taylor stated that one of the strategic objectives was to eliminate the gap on the disadvantaged; he enquired why scrutiny was not available on this.
- 61.18 The Chair stated that the reports were good when ready so that they could be discussed. He noted that things can change and that he was just trying to make sure all reports were brought in as soon as possible.
- 61.19 Martin Jones noted the disparity between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged; he noted that the situation could be getting worse. He further noted that the national average was not very good either and that aspirations should be higher. He stated that this information should be public and not private.
- 61.20 The Executive Director of Families Children and Learning stated that the way data is changing meant that you could not make clear distinctions. He noted the improvement on Children at Key Stage 2 in terms of attainment. He further noted the progress that has occurred since the beginning and further stated that most of the information referred to by Mr Johnson was in the public domain and not hidden. He confirmed that he was happy to make a report over 2 to 300 pages in length however for reasons of brevity, consolidation of information must be kept short.
- 61.21 Martin Johnson stated that the report at Committee was too short.
- 61.22 Councillor Phillips requested the appendices of information by provided at the pre-meet as this would be useful as reference for people.
- 61.23 The Executive Director of Families Children and Learning Ghoshal agreed to provide additional tables.
- 61.24 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agreed –
1. To note the report and support the focus across the City on improving outcomes for all children and young people, particularly those from the disadvantaged backgrounds.

2. To note that there have been changes in the curriculum, assessment and benchmark measures for Key Stages 2 and 4 and for determining the performance of disadvantaged groups. This means that there is difficulty in establishing trends when not comparing like with like.

62 COMPUTING IN SCHOOLS: UPDATE

- 62.1 The ICT and Computing Consultant gave a brief presentation on the main changes to the curriculum by way of a video presentation.
- 62.2 The panel were advised of programmes such as computational thinking and its successful progress in implementation. The time of discussion with children had been increased to 4 hours. The panel were introduced to various practical methods that children were engaging with such as a circuit board called a crumble various works of which were displayed that demonstrated the synthesis of build and programming. An item called a Makey Makey was presented as a programming tool kit able to turn fruit in to a keyboard; this was to demonstrate an example of encoding and programming the children were involved with. Further examples of children's coding and Basic Visuals alongside algorithm work was presented.
- 62.3 Jo Robson, Varndean School, clarified that the skill set today is much greater at secondary school such that what is taught at Key Stage 2 was until recently found in Key Stage 3. She confirmed that students are involved in coding as part of an updated curriculum designed to promote being a creator and not a tech user. She expanded on various efforts made such as providing lunch time clubs in order to promote interest in coding through gaming, 3d printing and robotics. She confirmed that majority of students volunteering for the aforementioned interests were male however after efforts were being made to promote this to female pupils. She noted that the Amex sponsored a female only coding project designed to inspire more girls to technology.
- 62.4 The Deputy Head of Hove Park emphasised the differences between lessons carried out in the 90's and today and focused on the increase in complexity of today's lessons. The panel were informed of various methods employed to reduce the amount of male involvement and to promote female engagement. It was stated that SEN learners club for coding was introduced to encourage social interaction and resilience. It was confirmed that there was a push to have more females at Key Stage 4.
- 62.3 Martin Jones enquired what experience the schools had regarding ICT instead of computer science.
- 62.4 Jo Robson stated that at Varndean, ICT had been discontinued and that this was its final year at GCSE level. She noted that an alternative will be offered soon and emphasised that it is useful for all students to learn how to manage spreadsheets and websites.
- 62.5 Councillor Phillips enquired how children are selected to take part in the Albion Code Project

- 62.6 Jo Robson confirmed that children the Albion Code Project operated on a first come first serve basis
- 62.7 Councillor Phillips enquired if there are any schools at risk of not being able to deliver on the growing standard of computer science
- 62.8 The ICT and Computing Consultant stated that coding elements of education can be intimidating however the launch of the hub should help allay concerns
- 62.9 Councillor Penn enquired how others could get involved with coding clubs
- 62.10 Michelle Prentis gave an example of the digital day event provided to Hove Park School that was matched up by an agency
- 62.11 Jo Robson stated that the Department of Education has released circa £200000 funding for training
- 62.12 Councillor Brown enquired of any possible partnership with the RSA
- 62.13 The Senior Advisor- Educational Partnerships stated that she would look in to this
- 62.14 Lesley Hurst stated that there are many STEM ambassadors who area DBS checked that can be contacted. She further noted that there are programs available for women in Key Stage 3 and 4, she emphasised that these are provided in a language that is more in aligned with the female psyche than the male.
- 62.15 Amanda Mortensen enquired why there was no mention of special schools
- 62.16 Michelle Prentis stated that digital leaders will visit primary special schools
- 62.17 Councillor Platts stated that the primary hub is open to everyone
- 62.18 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agree
1. That the Committee supports and promotes the work that is being done in schools in the area of computing.
 2. That the Committee promotes coding clubs to schools that do not have this provision.
 3. That Committee members, through their different roles, promote computing to girls.
- 63 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL TO REMOVE SIXTH FORM PROVISION FINAL DECISION**
- 63.1 The Head of School Organsiation gave a brief overview of the Blatchington Mill Sixth Form change to age range and Sixth Form removal. He stated the events leading to the closure of the Sixth Form in 2019; he further stated that students have access to other schools in the area. It was confirmed that the age range will be set by 2019 and that questions were raised regarding the opportunities for teachers to teach sixth form students and surrounding concerns on staff retention.

- 63.2 Ruth King, Deputy Head of Blatchington Mill School, stated that much time had been spent debating this at the school. She gave a brief overview of events that have taken place leading to the proposal being put forward. She noted there were 4 members of staff who were entirely sixth form teachers, and were consulted individually to discuss the prospect of teaching at Hove Park school. She further noted that they wouldn't need retraining. The panel heard that there were 74 applicants for a new assistant head position.
- 63.4 Councillor Wealls enquired if the number of A-Levels would be the same or if they would diminish. He noted that a school with a broad curriculum could be good.
- 63.5 Ruth King, Deputy Head of Blatchington Mill School, stated that it was hard to specify on the numbers of A-Levels following this proposal however reduction would be minimal. She noted that more vocal students who were not academically abled had stayed with Blatchington Mill. She further noted that the joint Sixth Form Head of Blatchington Mill and Hove Park was at Blatchington Mill 2 days a week to help any transition over.
- 63.6 Josh Cliff, Youth Council, enquired of any notable changes to the Key Stages between upper and lower school
- 63.7 The Head of School Organsiation stated that discussions regarding this are currently ongoing and that a range of options are being considered as nothing has been agreed.
- 63.8 Martin Jones enquired if there will be extra structures in place to help with any transitions for vulnerable students and if any considerations had been made in regards to flexible working environments for teachers such as part time work
- 63.9 Ruth King, Deputy Head of Blatchington Mill School, stated that SEND students moving to Vardean and other locations will have extra help; she stated that an effort to look for transitions for over 16s was being undertaken. She noted that for the first time this academic year, everybody will have some form of help. In regards to staffing, there have been part time staffers working at 2 different schools, also there work share with Hove Park was employed which included swapping some students.
- 63.10 Councillor Hamilton stated the he hoped an increase of viability for more groups with certain disciplines would be made available, he further noted that if Blatchington Mill and Dorothy Stringer took another 30 students this might play a part in stopping redirections of students.
- 63.11 **RESOLVED:** That the committee agree
1. That the Children Young People and Skills Committee confirm the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16.

64 ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE TERM DATE PILOT INITIATIVE

- 63.1 The Head of School Organsiation gave a brief overview of the Impact on the term date pilot initiative. He stated that it was agreed that a review would be taken and a public survey would be conducted. 4490 response were received, of this 20% became more in

favour of this since the original response however more respondents did not want to proceed with this pilot. It was emphasised that the lower class did not want to continue this as much as the upper class. A one week term date in October was recommended.

- 63.2 Councillor Philips stated she was pleased that the pilot was attempted and was impressed with the number of responses. She confirmed her understanding that families did not want to proceed with this.
- 63.3 Martin Jones stated that this was not a good idea in regards to education and emphasised that this was bad for parents who could not afford it.
- 63.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agree
1. To note that the decision as to the pattern of school holidays is delegated to the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning.
 2. To recommend that the Executive Director Families, Children and Learning notes the responses received to the survey monitoring the impact of the pilot initiative and sets term dates for community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nurseries in Brighton and Hove for the academic year 2019/20 which include only one week as a half term break in October.

65 EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2018/2019

- 65.1 The Head of School Organisation presented the Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2018/19. He corrected two errors in the report.
- 65.2 Councillor Brown stated she was pleased that all D1 issues were addressed along with many of the D2 issues, she emphasised the need for the refurbishment of school toilets. She enquired what plans had been made to spend the unspent Section 106 monies, what was the reason for the expected drop of money for the Service Schools Buy Back option which had previously generated £600000. She further enquired what the specific uses for the £500000 from the Department of Education would be. Clarification on school accommodation problems was requested, specifically if classrooms from Brunswick and West Blatchington would be moved to Varndean.
- 65.3 The Head of School Organisation stated that in regards to the Buy Back arrangements, the modelling for next year takes in to account the increasing pressures on schools. He further clarified that extra funding could be used to address more D2 issues, he further stated that consultation with various groups such as the Parent and Carers Council, was paramount to clarify how SEND funding by the Department of Education will be spent. It was clarified that Varndean was able to accommodate additional children without additional accommodation required.
- 65.4 Councillor Brown further enquired as to the possibility of further refurbishing school toilets in relation to the Section 106 money.

- 65.5 The Head of School Organisation confirmed that Section 106 money would continue to be spent over the next 5 years, he further noted that addressing D2 issues early on was integral to managing the BHCC estate effectively.
- 65.6 Councillor Wealls requested clarification on the status of funding of SEN Capital funding for the last 2 financial years.
- 65.7 The Head of School Organisation confirmed that there was no change in terms of resources; he further noted that this was a re-profiling of the money that had been identified over the last two financial years.
- 65.8 Adam Muirhead enquired if there was a contingency for Section 106 underspend.
- 65.9 The Head of School Organisation stated that the Section 106 money had a specific remit for educational provision.
- 65.10 Martin Jones referred to the possible sale of buildings and enquired if the money identified had to be used for the building works or if it could be used for SEN.
- 65.11 The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning stated that this wasn't just relevant to education buildings, he further clarified that there was a specific process in place that involved other committees in regards to ring-fenced funding.
- 65.12 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee agree:
1. That the level of available capital resources totalling £6.487 million for investment relating to education buildings financed from capital grant be noted.
 2. That the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 and recommend this to Policy Resources and Growth Committee on 29 March 2018 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2018/19.
 3. That the Committee agree to recommend to Policy & Resources and Growth Committee that they grant delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Property & Design to procure the capital maintenance and basic need works and enter into contracts within these budgets, as required, in accordance with Contract Standing Orders in respect of the entire Education Capital Programme.

66 SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS

- 66.1 The Head of Service, Care Contact gave a brief overview of the report pertaining to support for care leaver. She referred to the notice of motion and stated the intention to withdraw items 2.4 and 2.5.
- 66.2 The Committee agreed to have this removed.
- 66.3 The Head of Service, Care Contact stated that support advice for care leavers would be provided alongside a range of other support including access to independent skills; council tax exemption while living in the City, mentoring support and a staying put arrangement. She noted that local authorities will have a duty of consideration on advice

to care leaver up to the age of 25. She noted that local authorities must provide a local offer. She further noted that there is no help or statutory duty to provide help to over 25's.

- 66.4 Councillor Brown stated that care leavers between the age of 25-30 might need help if possible to get a trust up and running.
- 66.5 Amanda Mortensen stated she had received positive feedback from people
- 66.6 The Head of Service, Care Contact stated that people on a waiting list go to a supported accommodation panel, if there is a need, alternatives will be sorted.
- 66.7 Councillor Wealls stated that in regard to the Chair's charities, it was inappropriate for the committee to make recommendations and that this should be considered in future.
- 66.8 Councillor Penn referred to care leavers up to the age of 25 with mental health issues and enquired if they receive priority referrals and treatment
- 66.9 The Head of Service, Care Contact stated that there is an outreach team for care leavers between the ages of 14 to 25 and if the leaver was from Brighton and Hove they would be highly prioritised.
- 66.10 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –
1. Notes the support offer available to care leavers living within Brighton & Hove.
 2. Notes the development of a Local Offer for Care Leavers up to age 25 which will build on the existing supports in place.
 3. Notes that there is no current provision in the city for care leavers age 25 and over and no statutory duty to provide this.

67 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 67.1 No items were referred to Full Council for information.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

