

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

4.00pm 4 MARCH 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Les Hamilton (Chair) , Dan Chapman (Deputy Chair), Kevin Allen, Vanessa Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Amanda Knight, Mo Marsh, Jackie O’Quinn, Nick Taylor and Andrew Wealls.

Also in attendance:

Bernadette O’Connor, Trevor Cristin, Robert Scoble, Amanda Mortensen and Karen James.

PART ONE

56 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

56.1 Councillor Tom Druitt substituting for Councillor Alex Phillips

(b) Declarations of Interest

56.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

56.3 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).

56.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public not be excluded.

57 MINUTES

57.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 14 January 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

58 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

58.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

“1st March National Offer Day for Secondary School Places: I’m pleased to announce that more than 95% of parents in Brighton & Hove who applied for a secondary school place for their child for September 2019 have been offered one of their preferred schools. In addition all parents who expressed a preference for one of their catchment area schools were offered one – unless they were offered a higher preference instead.

The total number of applications this year was 2,734 – up from 2,569 last year. The choice is an easier one for parents in Brighton & Hove compared to most other parts of the country as all of our secondary schools are currently rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted.

In cases where parents weren’t offered one of their preferences, this was either because they missed the applications deadline or didn’t put down their catchment area school or schools as preferences. In these instances they were offered places at the nearest school to their home address that had places available.”

“National Apprenticeship Week: Today is the first day of National Apprenticeship week. In Brighton & Hove the week started with our 136 Council apprentices being invited to join our Chief Executive, Geoff Raw for breakfast in the Council Chamber. There will be a series of different events over the course of the week culminating in a graduation ceremony at the end of the week at the Amex Stadium”.

“Webcasting: I’d like to inform those present that this meeting will be webcast live and will be capable of repeated viewing.”

59 CALL OVER

(a) Call over

59.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

62 - Young Carers Presentation

63 - Review of ‘Poverty Proofing the School Day’ Programme

64 - School Ofsted Presentation

65 - Standards Report 2017/18

66 - Educational Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme

2019/20

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

59.2 The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that Items 62, 63, 64, 65 and 66 had been reserved for discussion.

60 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

60.1 The Chair noted there were NO petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

60.2 The Chair noted that NO written questions had been submitted by members of the public.

(c) Deputations

60.3 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

61 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

61.1 The Chair noted there were NO petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

61.2 The Chair noted that no written questions had been submitted by Members.

(c) Deputations

61.3 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by Members.

(d) Notices of Motion: To consider any notices of motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee:

- (i) Mental Health in Schools.
Extract from the proceedings of the full council meeting held 31 January 2019 copy attached to agenda pages 17 – 20.

62 YOUNG CARERS PRESENTATION

62.1 Debbie Corbridge and Tom Lambert gave a presentation on supporting Young Carers who are attending school in the Brighton and Hove area.

62.2 The Committee were informed that a Young Carer is a young person under the age of 18 whose life is affected by the care needs of another person, who may have any disability or long-term illness including a learning disability, mental health problem or someone who misuses drugs or alcohol. Young Carers provide, or help to provide a level of care and support to that person and take on a level of responsibility usually associated with an adult. The person they care for is usually someone they live with and could be a parent, sibling, grandparent or other relative.

- 62.3 In Brighton & Hove the City Council works closely with The Carers Centre charity to deliver support to Young Carers under the partnership model Carers Hub.
- 62.4 Councillor Jackie O'Quinn noted the amount of help and enquired if those who caring for siblings encountered greater issues.
- 62.5 The Member was informed that young carers received support for disabled or for those with mental health issues and caring for siblings was quite usual. Making schools aware and ensuring parents are receiving support was important along with ensuring the carer has emotional resilience.
- 62.6 Amanda Mortenson enquired if support was consistent across schools, where there specific barriers to entering university and how were young carers identified.
- 62.7 Ms Mortenson was informed that a current photo exhibition at Brighton station was raising awareness of the issues around young carers; carers are offered a Young Carers Passport to ensure teaching staff understanding and support, Brighton schools receive information from the Hub and carers were supported with university applications via 'Young Carers Reaching Higher' fund.
- 62.8 Councillor Mo Marsh enquired if young carers were able to have 'fun-time' away from caring, what was the top age for receiving support and how hard-to-reach carers were supported.
- 62.9 The Member was informed that rest bite is available for young carers, including trips to events and theatre, crafting workshops etc., funding permitting. The top age for carers is 18 when carers move to adult social care. It was noted that carers can be as young as 6 years old and support can cease when the carer decides.
- 62.10 Councillor Andrew Wealls understood that funding was difficult and enquired if funding streams are consolidated.
- 62.11 The Member was informed that the Council funded Hub gives support and outside operations are working together to give support to the Hub.
- 62.12 Councillor Tom Druitt enquired what the strong difficulties that young carers faced were.
- 62.13 The Member was informed that some care for siblings and parents. In all circumstances the support was tailored to the carers needs, with a 1-2-1 support package, rest bite management and an all-round holistic support programme.

63 REVIEW OF 'POVERTY PROOFING THE SCHOOL DAY' PROGRAMME

- 63.1 Hilary Ferries, Nick Bramble and three Longhill High School students: Sophie, Spencer, Olivia; presented a review of the implementation of 'Poverty Proofing the School Day' programme across schools in the city.
- 63.2 The Committee were informed that 'Poverty Proofing the School Day' was developed to reduce stigma, remove barriers to learning and to assist school leaders to explore the most effective ways to spend pupil premium allocation. The report on the programme outlines good practice, raises areas to explore and suggests actions. The strength of the audit is looking at the schools through the lens of students and families who highlight any potential stigmatising policies or practices.
- 63.3 Karen James enquired how support could be given.
- 63.4 Ms James was informed that programme identified transport as the top issue. Access to school was important. After school activities were difficult if students had to rely on school buses that only ran after prime school times and not later.
- 63.5 Councillor Mo Marsh enquired if help was given with uniforms.
- 63.6 The Member was informed that students can receive a free blazer and some schools were working with local suppliers to provide support for students with identified needs. It was noted that items of clothing with logo's on were more costly than plain sweaters, t-shirts etc. The students felt that already used blazers, ties and other items should be given to the school to re-use.
- 63.7 Councillor Vanessa Brown enquired if all schools would receive the best practice advice resulting from the programme.
- 63.8 The Member was informed that 90% of schools took part and that all the schools in the city would be informed of the outcomes and best practice.
- 63.9 Councillor Tom Druitt enquired what time after schools clubs finished and where the students were if the Smarter Uniforms project.
- 63.10 The Member was informed that after school clubs lasted a variety of times and second pick-up by school bus would be difficult. It was noted that the students are aware of the Smarter Uniform project and its coverage across the city and the creative culture of recycling uniforms.
- 63.11 Councillor Kevin Allen enquired if music lessons were supported and if more affluent parents had skewed the figures in some areas of the city.
- 63.12 The Member was informed that some schools support funding for music lessons, but generally this was not the case, and funding for all extra activities was difficult. No trend had been identified regarding affluent parents. It was also noted that funding grants are available.
- 63.13 Councillor Nick Taylor enquired if any particular outcomes had been identified.

- 63.14 The Member was informed that attendance had increased in some cases where support had been given.
- 63.15 Councillor Mo Marsh reiterated to the Committee that grants are available and administered through cross-party groups. It was also felt that schools need to be reminded that there are educational trust funds.
- 63.15 Pinaki Ghoshal – Executive Director Families, Children & Learning, informed the Committee that information relating to grants can be provided to Councillors upon request.
- 63.16 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the work of schools in this area and the positive response from many school leaders to ‘Poverty Proofing the School Day’.

64 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 64.1 The Committee received an update on the Ofsted findings from Mark Storey - Head of the Virtual School.
- 64.2 It was noted that Hertford Junior School, West Blatchington Primary School and Kings School had received a ‘good’ rating. Others were currently being inspected.
- 64.3 Councillor Nick Taylor enquired if the disadvantage gap had increased.
- 64.4 The Member was informed that this was being monitored.
- 64.5 Councillor Dan Chapman enquired about ‘Brightstar’ and was there an update.
- 64.6 The Member was informed that staffing levels had fallen and an intense programme of support was underway to achieve improvements. The education authority - Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) are visiting the site weekly and Ofsted have set an action plan which is being complied with.

65 STANDARDS REPORT 2017/18

- 65.1 The Committee considered the Standards Report – 2017/18 presented by Mark Storey, John McKey (Head of Patcham High School and Chair of Brighton and Hove Secondary School Partnership) and Mary Ellenger (Royal Pharmaceutical).
- 65.2 The report contained analysis of the End of Key Stage results for children and young people for the 2017 – 2018 academic year and explained the interventions implemented and planned in the future to address areas of under achievement.

- 65.3 Councillor Tom Druitt enquired if other subjects were focused on besides reading, writing and maths.
- 65.4 The Member was informed that these were performances indicators only and other subjects were considered just as important.
- 65.5 Councillor Vanessa Brown enquired if pupil premium funding was still in place for disadvantaged students.
- 65.6 The Member was informed that the scheme was still in place and that more work needed to be done to support these students. It was noted that early intervention was good and could result in improved attendance, which a major issue. Low level language skills have also been identified.
- 65.7 Amanda Mortenson enquired if reduced funding had an impact on schools.
- 65.8 Ms Mortenson was informed that reduced funding was a major issue for all schools. Restructuring to reduce costs but maintain education for all students was difficult with the wellbeing of the students a top priority.
- 65.9 The Committee were informed by Jo Lyons – Assistant Director: Education & Skills, that data on individual schools could be provided upon request.
- 65.10 Councillor Andrew Wealls enquired what emphasis was given to languages.
- 65.11 The Member was informed that the Department for Education targets are being met with French, German, Spanish and Latin being taught. John McKey commented that he had over 40 students with language/communication issues and this appeared to be on the rise. Mark Storey stated that this was an issue for all schools in the city. Stats did also show that this fluctuated.
- 65.12 Councillor Nick Taylor enquired on the progress of English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- 65.13 The Member was informed that under some curriculums there were issues and the Ofsted framework was being challenged. Pinaki Ghoshal stated that the broad curriculum across the city helped with Ofsted. John McKey felt an emphasis on maths was needed along with more 6th form opportunities across the city.
- 65.14 Councillor Tom Druitt felt that the 3'R's were important and the other subjects, such as music, feed the main three subjects. A holistic view was best.
- 65.15 **RESOLVED:** That the committee noted:
1. the report and support the focus across the City on improving outcomes for all children and young people, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
 2. 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 can be some difficulty in establishing trends when not comparing like with like.

66 EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES & CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2019/20

- 66.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services presented by Richard Barker.
- 66.2 The report was to inform the Committee of the level of available capital resource allocated to this service for 2019/20 and to recommend a Capital Investment Programme for 2019/20.
- 66.3 The Chair wanted to clarify what the Committee were being asked to approve.
- 66.4 Pinaki Ghoshal – Executive Director Families, Children & Learning, informed the Committee that Policy, Resources & Growth Committee make the decisions and the Children, Young People & Skills Committee are being asked to note the report.
- 66.5 Councillor Andrew Wealls stated that he would not be voting in favour or against the noting of the report as he did not feel he had enough understanding of the situation.
- 66.6 Pinaki Ghoshal informed the Councillors that resource allocation was ongoing.
- 66.7 Councillor Vanessa Brown stated that Downsview School were undergoing building works and support was needed at this time.
- 66.8 Councillor Jackie O'Quinn also stated that the site visit to Downsview School was very informative.
- 66.9 Councillor Amanda Knight enquired what are D2 works.
- 66.10 The Member was informed that the D2 works are essential works not urgent works. The essential works are not all undertaken and a 'rolling pot' of finance is used to cover the work which will align with an agreed timetable.
- 66.11 Councillor Tom Druitt enquired how figures were calculated and did this cover the efficiency of schools with regard to heating, ventilation etc.
- 66.12 The Member was informed that looks at efficiency including ventilation etc. with fire risk assessments constantly being reviewed.
- 66.13 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote.
- 66.14 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the level of available capital resources totalling £6.671 million for investment relating to education buildings financed from grant be noted;
- (2) That Committee agree the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 and recommend this to Policy Resources & Growth Committee on 21 March 2019 for inclusion within the Council's Capital Investment Programme 2019/20; and
- (3) That the Committee agree to recommend to Policy Resources & 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.

67 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 67.1 The Chair noted that no items had been referred to the full Council meeting for information.

The meeting concluded at 6.42pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2019

