

Geoff Raw – Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council

29th October 2019

Dear Geoff

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – EXTERNAL REVIEW

When the catastrophic issues of the new home to school transport scheme came to light, council officers were quick to advise that everything had been done after consultation with lead members of the Labour Administration and the Parent and Carer’s Council. Those discussions clearly happening out of sight from everybody else.

Wind forward several months, and we have council officers with lead members of the Labour Administration and the Parent and Carer’s Council, albeit this time with the help of the Green Party, again working in secret to decide who will investigate them, how any report will be presented and what the terms of reference will be. They will all also sit on the review panel to oversee the investigators!

This is being presented as an independent review conducted by outsiders. So that the rest of world beyond those being investigated can understand what the so called independent reviewers are being allowed to do and investigate, please would the council release full details of which organisations have been approached, how and why certain organisations have apparently been chosen, how the report(s) will be presented and to whom, what are the terms of reference and release the relevant documents, correspondence, meeting notes etc between all parties involved relating to this matter and including the transport governance meetings.

In addition, please would you advise the relationship between the council and the Parent and Carer’s Council, how they are funded (including expenses), providing details for the last two years and how it is envisaged that they are able to function in a critical capacity within the restriction of co-production and when they rely heavily on the very same council that they, in part, have been established to hold to account.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares and Mary Mears

