

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

**4.00pm 2 MARCH 2020**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Allcock (Chair), Councillor Knight (Deputy Chair), Clare (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Hamilton, Hills, McNair, Nield, Simson and Wilkinson

**Co-optees:** Bernadette Connor (Catholic Diocese), Trevor Cristin (Diocesan Director of Education), Karen James (Parent Governor Representative)

**Non Voting Co-optees:** Adam Muirhead (Community Works Rep) and Rob Scoble (Council Youth Participation Team)

**PART ONE**

**58 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**(a) Declarations of Substitutes**

58.1 There were none.

**(b) Declarations of Interest**

58.2 There were none.

**(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public**

58.3 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).

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

**59 MINUTES**

59.1 **AGREED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020 was accurate.

## 60 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

### 60.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

“Covid – 19 – Coronavirus

I wanted to thank all of the schools, nurseries and other providers in the city and the local authority staff who have been managing the emerging situation with the Covid 19 (coronavirus) so well. All schools remained open as the city was placed at the forefront of the nation's response in the early days of the virus being identified in the country. This is an evolving and potentially fast-moving situation and it is important that we all keep a close oversight on advice shared with us. We will continue to ensure that advice and other communications are shared with partners as and when we receive it and offer support to those who need it.

Local Authority visits by Ofsted

We've had three visits from Ofsted ourselves at the local authority over the last few weeks, including a focussed visit on our arrangements for children in need of help and children in need of protection and our annual conversation with Ofsted. Both of these went well, and the department will be receiving summary letters from Ofsted about those in the next few weeks. The focussed visit letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

The Local Authority was also very recently inspected by Ofsted on the adult and community learning provision in the city and I am very pleased to confirm that we have retained our 'good' rating. The service provides training for residents and is delivered by four local partners, The Friends Centre, Tempus Training, Hangleton & Knoll Project and the Whitehawk Inn. The service has a particular focus on supporting people who are on low incomes, are unemployed or have mental health issues. The Ofsted inspectors praised its 'ambitious' curriculum and the 'highly inclusive' learning environment.

Promoting lifelong learning is a priority for us and I'm very proud of the work our adult and community learning service does overseeing invaluable training and support for hundreds of residents every year. Well done to all involved.

Looking at our SEND arrangements

We also recently hosted the annual visit from the DfE SEND advisor and a representative from NHS England who come to see the Local Authority and the CCG. We invited parents along to that meeting too to feedback on co-production in the city. The meeting was very positive, and they are looking forward to hear more about our developments and improvements for SEND in the city when they visit again next year.

Moulsecomb Primary School monitoring visit

We are currently waiting for the publication of the letter from the recent monitoring visit for Moulsecomb Primary School from Ofsted. I'm very proud of the work that leaders at the school, children, parents and the community along with the LA are doing to support

the school. We're looking forward to hearing soon in the letter about the positive work that has been happening there.

Secondary school offers

Today is national offer day for secondary school placements for September. Nearly 84% of parents have been offered their first preference school this year, compared to just over 79% last year.

All parents who expressed an on-time preference for their catchment area school or schools have been offered either a catchment area school or a higher preference. The total number of applications are down this year at 2,573 compared with 2,734 last year.

In instances where no preferred school was offered, this was either because parents didn't list their catchment area school / schools among their preferences or because they missed the applications deadline.

I'm really pleased we've been able to offer so many parents their preferred secondary school. But the best news of all for local parents is that all our secondary schools are now rated 'good' by Ofsted. So children are assured of a high quality education for their children whichever school they go to.

Former Portslade Sixth Form site, Mile Oak Road Portslade

Further to my Chair's communication at the January meeting of this committee I am now able to provide an update on the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to change the use of the former Portslade sixth form centre.

During the course of the consultation we held a public drop in session at Portslade Town Hall. Four people attended this session to look at the plans and discuss the proposal.

At the end of the consultation period we had received responses from 9 schools closest to the site. All of these schools confirmed that they had no desire to make use of the playing field areas available. This was either because they had sufficient playing fields on their own site or because of the logistical issue of accessing the areas from their schools.

We had also received a further 26 responses from members of the public and other interested parties of which 14 supported the proposal, 10 did not support the proposal and 2 merely noted that the consultation was taking place. The main reason given for not supporting the proposal related to traffic and parking issues that respondents felt would occur as a result of an office for 150 staff being located on this site. These are matters that should properly be considered as part of the planning process and not as part of the application to the Secretary of State for Education

Having considered the responses to the consultation I am happy to proceed with the application to the Secretary of State for Education to change the use of the Portslade sixth form land and buildings. The necessary application forms will now be prepared and submitted accordingly.

Pinaki's departure

And finally, as you may have heard, Pinaki Ghoshal is leaving Brighton & Hove to take up a role of Director of Children's Services at Lewisham. He is not leaving until the end of May, so we'll have an opportunity to share our thanks and wish him farewell at our next committee meeting. However, I wanted to ensure that all committee members are aware of the news and to share our congratulations. He will be missed by us all. I am pleased to say that the interim arrangements already in place with Deb Austin as our Executive Director will continue after Pinaki's departure and then a recruitment process will be undertaken."

## **61 CALL OVER**

61.1 The following items were reserved for discussion:

- 65. Every Child a Reader (ECaR)
- 66. Mathematics in infant, junior and primary schools in Brighton & Hove
- 67. Annual Report on Education Standards 2018/19
- 68. Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2020/21

61.2 The following items were agreed without discussion as per the recommendations in the reports:

- 69. FCL Directorate Performance Management Framework
- 70. Mental Health Support Team update report: Schools Wellbeing Service.

## **62 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **(a) Petitions**

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

### **(b) Written Questions**

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

### **(c) Deputations**

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

## **63 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**

### **(A) WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

#### **(i) Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

63.1 Councillor Shanks put forward the following question:

“I am sure all Cllrs will agree that the Duke of Edinburgh’s award gives young people a great opportunity to get out into the countryside, learn a new skill and undertake community activities. It also is largely run by volunteers. So can you explain why the council has decided not to continue its license to run the Award?”

63.2 The Chair gave the following response:

“Historically the council held one Duke of Edinburgh licence which could be used by all schools and youth groups in the city, with the council youth service organising and supporting its delivery. At present all secondary schools, with the exception of Longhill, hold a Duke of Edinburgh licence and deliver the programme. As a result of this, the national Duke of Edinburgh team created a new South-East full-time post whose task it is to support and develop Duke of Edinburgh programmes exclusively within Brighton & Hove. Many of the tasks undertaken by this post holder replicated the work of the council’s part-time Duke of Edinburgh co-ordinator, therefore a decision was made in March 2019 that the Youth Participation Team would not renew their Duke of Edinburgh Operating licence when it expires in July 2020.”

63.3 Councillor Shanks provided the following supplementary question:

“How will you ensure young people who missed out on it at school, don’t want to do it with school, whose school doesn’t do it, especially those with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds, will be able to undertake the award. Will you be prepared to find the minimal costs of the license I understand only £1200 pa to allow some of these young people to achieve an award.”

## **(B) NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **(i) Sixth Form College Strikes**

63.4 Councillor Hannah Clare moved the following Green Group Notice of Motion:

“This committee notes:

1. The recent National Education Union strikes at sixth-form colleges - which took place nationwide on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February and a further date to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March;
2. the participation of two of the city’s Sixth Form colleges (Varndean and BHASVIC) in this strike action;

Further, that this committee resolves to request that the Chair of Children, Young People and Skills Committee writes a letter to :

3. Staff at Varndean and BHASVIC, expressing this committee’s support for recent strike action;
4. The Secretary of State *and* Shadow Secretary of State for Education: requesting information on how they plan to meet the demands of striking staff, including any plans to review the obligations for Sixth-Form Colleges to pay VAT”

63.5 Introducing the Notice of Motion, Councillor Clare stated that those striking had the full support of the Green Group.

- 63.6 Councillor Hills formally seconded the Notice of Motion. Councillor Hills noted that it was important to support teachers and students in getting the funding required to provide the best learning environment.
- 63.7 Councillor Knight moved the following amendment which called for committee to amend the Green Group Notice of Motion as shown below in ***bold italics***:

That committee notes:

:

- ***The £700 million shortfall in funding for post 16 education, and the additional funding pressures including academisation and the formation of new college groupings, and the impact this has had on national contracts, bargaining and pay;***
- ***The overwhelming 84% in favour of strike, ballot result of NEU members;***
- The recent National Education Union strikes at sixth-form colleges - which took place nationwide on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February and a further date to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March;
- The participation of two of the city's Sixth Form colleges (Varndean and BHASVIC) in this strike action;
- ***The 'Raise the Rate' campaign that has joint-union support, and seeks increased funding for sixth form education;***

Further, that this committee resolves to request that the Chair of Children, Young People and Skills Committee writes a letter to:

- Staff at Varndean and BHASVIC, expressing this committee's support for recent strike action;
- The Secretary of State *and* Shadow Secretary of State for Education: requesting information on how they plan to meet the demands of striking staff, including any plans to review the obligations for Sixth-Form Colleges to pay VAT, ***and calling upon the government to pay the Teachers' Pay Grant to all sixth form colleges and to provide a sustainable funding environment to improve the pay, working conditions and security of employment of teaching staff in the long-term.***

- 63.8 Introducing the Notice of Motion, Councillor Knight stated that it was incumbent on Central Government to raise funding for sixth form schools. It was further stated that Central Government had to provide a firm commitment and long-term plan for schools funding. It was noted that the Labour Party supported the Raise the Rate campaign.
- 63.9 Councillor Wilkinson formally seconded the amendment and noted the pressing need for more funding to schools and sixth forms across the Country. Support was expressed for the Raise the Rate Campaign and that the teaching sector was under threat.
- 63.10 Councillor Brown stated that the Conservative Party could not condone strike action. It was noted that by striking, young people's exam results were put at risk by not receiving lessons.
- 63.11 Councillor McNair stated that it was difficult to support strike action while parents could be earning much less, may have received lower pay increases and did not have the

ability to go on strikes as well. It was noted that strike action would compound the problem rather than resolve this and that teachers worked hard as did others and that strike action sought to only highlight the plight of one section of a much larger workforce.

63.12 The Youth Council Member stated that, from the perspective of a student in Sixth Form, there were nearly 5 days of lessons had been lost to strikes and that members should consider the various wider aspects to this issue and put aside the overtly political rhetoric.

62.13 The amendment was put to a vote and was carried.

62.14 **RESOLVED** - That the Committee agree the Notice of Motion as follows:

This committee notes:

- (1) The £700 million shortfall in funding for post 16 education, and the additional funding pressures including academisation and the formation of new college groupings, and the impact this has had on national contracts, bargaining and pay;
- (2) The overwhelming 84% in favour of strike, ballot result of NEU members;
- (3) The recent National Education Union strikes at sixth-form colleges - which took place nationwide on 17<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February and a further date to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March;
- (4) The participation of two of the city's Sixth Form colleges (Varndean and BHASVIC) in this strike action;
- (5) The 'Raise the Rate' campaign that has joint-union support, and seeks increased funding for sixth form education;  
Further, that this committee resolves to request that the Chair of Children, Young People and Skills Committee writes a letter to:
- (6) Staff at Varndean and BHASVIC, expressing this committee's support for recent strike action;
- (7) The Secretary of State and Shadow Secretary of State for Education: requesting information on how they plan to meet the demands of striking staff, including any plans to review the obligations for Sixth-Form Colleges to pay VAT, and calling upon the government to pay the Teachers' Pay Grant to all sixth form colleges and to provide a sustainable funding environment to improve the pay, working conditions and security of employment of teaching staff in the long-term.

**64 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION**

- 64.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement gave a brief overview of the current situation regarding Ofsted findings, it was noted that the inspection at Holmewood college concluded that it continued to required improvement and that results of inspections at Moulsecoomb, Hove and Balfour and Downes had yet to be released.
- 64.2 Councillor Knight requested an update be brought to Committee in 6 months with regard to challenges that Holmewood College had faced in that time and how they addressed them. It was also requested that the Chair write a letter of an expression of faith in the college on behalf of the Committee.
- 64.3 Councillor McNair noted that a number of schools with an 'outstanding' inspection rating was less than the national average. It was noted that Ofsted was at the beginning of the new regime. Councillor McNair enquired if there was any mechanism used to see how the average was met.
- 64.4 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that under the new framework a school could take up to 6 years to achieve an 'outstanding' inspection.
- 64.5 The Community Works Representative enquired if there was an update on potential central hub plans.
- 64.6 The Assistant - Education & Skills stated that there was a lot of work being undertaken in the city including the development of the hub which were bringing together aspects of social and mental health. It was further stated that an update paper was due to be brought in June. It was noted that preparing schools for learning and meeting the new Ofsted regime was very difficult.
- 64.7 The Chair enquired if committee would agree on Councillor Knight's suggestion that the Chair write to Holmewood school on behalf of Committee and also if the Head of Education Standard & Achievement could bring an Ofsted update on the school's progress in future.
- 64.8 **AGREED:**
1. That the Committee note the update.
  2. That the Chair write to Homewood school on behalf of the Committee.
  3. That an Ofsted update on Holmewood school's progress be brought to future Committee.

**65 EVERY CHILD A READER (ECAR)**

- 65.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director Families, Children and Learning. The report was introduced by a consultant and the Head Teacher of Middle Street School.
- 65.2 The Committee were provided with a brief overview of the report which sought to provide information on the interventions that are now provided with the provision to improve schools' outcomes in reading. It further sought to outline how additional

funding was allocated to support schools' outcomes in reading. It was noted that all 10 schools that had adopted ECaR had committed to further provision and that an open universal offer was made to all primary and secondary schools.

- 65.3 The Head Teacher of Middle Street School stated that their ECaR teacher had been in operation for the last 10 years and noted that the programme comprised of more than just one to one intervention between teacher and child. It was stated that the programme had reignited a passion for reading especially among young boys who tended to put books aside after reaching 6 years old. It was further noted that this programme had impacted on children's writing and enabled creativity.
- 65.4 Councillor Clare referred to Appendix 1 and enquired as to the reasons why more boys than girls were taking part in the programme.
- 65.5 The Head Teacher of Middle Street School stated that this was what the assessment concluded and that it was important that males were supported in their love for literacy.
- 65.6 Councillor Hills enquired which schools did not take part in the programme.
- 65.7 The Consultant stated that all schools had been offered the universal offer.
- 65.8 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that there were other ways to promote good reading and writing as well as the implementation of the ECaR programme that were being pursued by other schools.
- 65.9 Councillor Nield enquired if there was a possibility of schools losing teaching assistants as a result of budget cuts and if this could lead to the inability to adopt ECaR.
- 65.10 The Consultant stated that schools had been provided with a bespoke offer which included training for staff that fell under the ECaR umbrella.
- 65.11 The Assistant Director -Education & Skills stated that BHCC would be checking schools to see how well it was going and would then consider how to go forward.
- 65.12 The Youth Council Member agreed with the findings and stated that from personal experience this was the case and enquired what provision was in place for students going in to secondary school.
- 65.13 The Consultant stated that the offer was open to all schools and that 4 or 5 secondary schools were currently engaged in the process.
- 65.14 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that his could be looked at in future.
- 65.15 A Parent Governor Representative enquired if schools listed under Appendix 4 were able to take advantage of all workstreams available.
- 65.16 The Consultant confirmed that they had been approached and that a menu of offers had been provided. It was stated that headteachers had agreed to allow their Reading Recovery Teachers to provide training to other school's teachers.

- 65.17 Councillor McNair noted that there was a culture whereby schools had to buy in expertise and enquired why schools needed to employ specialist teachers. It was further enquired that if this was at significant cost, did schools need companies effectively selling accreditation to schools.
- 65.18 The Assistant Director - Children & Learning stated that this training was used to make the teachers the best. It was noted that there were areas where extra help was needed and that embarking on evidence based interventions was useful and helpful. It was noted that ECaR was one of the initiatives worth investing in and that there was evidence that this had positive outcomes.
- 65.19 The Head Teacher of Middle Street School stated some children came to school already able to read however as class sizes were getting larger and that there were children who could not pick this up for all sorts of reasons.
- 65.20 The Consultant stated that in order to stay accredited, schools needed to keep on with the training.
- 65.21 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that this was intensive for teachers as the aim was to affect sustainable training across more schools, it was further stated that a better reading programme needed a specialist teacher. ECaR was an umbrella term for a multi-layered approach.
- 65.22 Councillor Hamilton stated that 3 years ago 18 were operating the program and that now there were only 10. it was enquired that, of the 10 using this, were these the 10 schools that needed it the most or were these the 10 schools that could afford it.
- 65.23 The Consultant stated that this was 10 schools that saw the benefit of having ECaR and so had produced a budget so that they could afford this.
- 65.24 The Head of Education Standard & Achievement stated that the budget remained the same.
- 65.25 The Head Teacher of Middle Street School stated that they had fundraised to keep ECaR.
- 65.26 Councillor Brown noted that it was sad that the National Lottery trust published that children today read less than that of any other generation.
- 65.27 Councillor Knight noted the concern of schools that couldn't afford toolkits and further expressed concern where schools could be further excluded as they were unable to pay for training.
- 65.28 The Community Works Representative noted a recent report that stated that investment in teachers was a cost effective way to improve outcomes for people rather than a large structural overall.
- 65.29 **RESOLVED –**

1. That the information in the report be noted by committee.

## **66 MATHEMATICS IN INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE**

- 66.1 The Committee considered a report of the Acting Director Families, Children & Learning which sought to outline a range of different approaches that BHCC had introduced, following Government policy and research evidence to support teaching and learning in Mathematics and the ways that schools in the city had engaged with these. The report was provided by the Head of Education Standard & Achievement, Deputy Head of Mille Oak Primary School and the Head of Sussex Coast Teaching School Alliance.
- 66.2 The Head of Education Standard stated that as a Local Authority, BHCC had a big school improvement underway and that maths was a great example where Local Authorities had led and co-ordinated this in partnership.
- 66.3 The Deputy Head of Mile Oak Primary School stated that she worked on pedagogy and gave an outline of her role. It was stated that the mantra was about work group and not training packages.
- 66.4 Councillor Brown noted that there were many interventions over the years and enquired why participation had fallen and if anything had been done to reverse the trend.
- 66.5 The Deputy Head of Mile Oak Primary School stated that this was not the case in regard to the latest trend and that efforts to make sure support was provided to schools who didn't have a budget for intervention were being made.
- 66.6 Councillor Brown enquired if the latest intervention had showed any results yet.
- 66.7 The Deputy Head of Mile Oak Primary School stated that there was no data yet and that this was not really an intervention, rather it was a project.
- 66.8 The Assistant Director - Children & Learning stated that all data was looked at each year alongside all partners to ascertain which schools had improved and which were in need of help.
- 66.9 Councillor Nield enquired if it was significant in any way that there were still more schools that - See vid for clarification
- 66.10 The Deputy Head of Mile Oak Primary School stated that their project focused on Teaching Assistants and that this was supplied to all support staff.
- 66.11 Councillor Wilkinson noted the reduction from 18 - 4 and stated that research showed that progress made was exciting and enquired if there were any other plans.
- 66.12 The Head of Sussex Coast Teaching School Alliance stated that they were commissioned to focus on just this however further works would be up to BHCC.
- 66.13 The Assistant Director - Children & Learning stated the BHCC would be reviewing programmes currently in place and were looking to learn and continue from this.

**66.14 RESOLVED –**

1. That the range of approaches that schools use to improve outcomes for mathematics in the city be noted by committee.

**67 ANNUAL REPORT ON EDUCATION STANDARDS 2018/19**

- 67.1 The Committee considered a report of the Acting Executive for Families, Children & Learning which sought to provide an analysis of the End of Key Stage results for children and young people for the 2018-2019 academic year and explain some of the interventions implemented and planned in future to address areas of under-achievement. The report was provided by the Head of Education Standards & Achievement, Head of Early Years Strategic Lead for Whole Family Working and the Head of Patcham School.
- 67.2 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement stated that the report showed how well BHCC were performing and that some good impact was being seen. It was noted that there were improvements across education in a broader sense.
- 67.3 The Head of Early Years and Strategic Lead for Whole Family Working stated that in regard to early years work had been taking place for a while on disadvantaged. It was stated that rather than just looking at data, efforts were being made to use lead inspectors who were able to deep dive in to schools to look at how the curriculum was working.
- 67.4 The Head of Patcham School stated that this took place on fortnightly basis and that efforts were being made to look at a changing culture in regard to what a disadvantaged child was and how this was being addressed.
- 67.5 Councillor Knight referred to paragraph 2.1 and stated that his was missing an equalities impact assessment and if there was a date set for wider working together.
- 67.6 The Assistant Director - Children & Learning stated that there was a debate on how schools were being pushed forward on how to work together to focus more on early years and wider working.
- 67.7 The Head of Early Years and Strategic Lead for Whole Family Working stated that particular focus on housing was being focused on with the local troubled families program/
- 67.8 Councillor Nield stated that it appeared that a thread running throughout this was improving the disadvantaged gap and enquired how much officers were hampered by a lack of funds.
- 67.9 The Head of Patcham School stated that funding was not specifically the reason that they were unable to close the disadvantaged gap and that indicators for this were road. It was noted that funding elsewhere other than just to the school would be needed.
- 67.10 The Chair noted the emphasis on cross departmental working.

67.11 Councillor Knight moved a motion to amend the recommendations as below in bold italics:

1. That the report be noted and that focus across the City on improving outcome for all children and young people, ***especially those from*** disadvantaged background be supported by committee.

67.12 Councillor Clare formally seconded the amendment.

67.13 **RESOLVED –**

1. That the report be noted and that focus across the City on improving outcome for all children and young people, especially those from disadvantaged background be supported by committee.
2. That changes in the curriculum, assessment and benchmark measures for Key Stages 2 and 4 which meant that there could be some difficulty in establishing trends when not comparing like for like, be noted by committee.

## **68 EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/21**

68.1 The Committee considered a report of the Interim Executive Director Families, Children & Learning regarding the Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2020/21. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation and the Head of Capital Strategy & DP.

68.2 The committee were provided with a brief overview of the report which sought to inform the Committee of the level of available capital resources allocated to this service and to recommend a Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21. Committee members were further informed of the Capital Programme under Pupil Places and Condition investment for 2020/21 along with the level of available resources from Section 106 contributions and expenditure for the 2019/20 year. It was noted that assumptions would have to be made of the capital levels received from Central Government as allocations had not yet been set. It was stated that there were three different formats of funding to capital maintenance which were:

- The allocation to Councils
- A buy back service that schools could contribute to
- An allocation from Central Government to schools directly.

It was noted that and that the estimated amount that could be spent was 5.4 million pounds. It was noted that to complete all outstanding works it would cost 29.5 million pounds. It was established that an exercise was being undertaken to survey all schools' perimeter fencing to identify whether to bring forward proposals to spend capital funds on this.

68.3 Councillor McNair referred to 3.25 and enquired of the number of more schools that would require boundary surveys, when this would be finished and what action could be

undertaken by the Local Authority. Further clarity was sought in regard to using section 106 money for fencing, specifically Carden Primary as fences were a safeguarding measure.

- 68.4 The Head of School Organisation stated that fencing was not necessarily a key issue that was covered by section 106 money however BHCC would consider working as creatively as possible with regard to the use of the funding for maximum impact for schools in the City. It was stated work being carried out by BHCC this financial year and would necessitate on the access and availability of being able to liaise with school staff and school leaders. It was confirmed that governors and school leaders would have input in prioritising works at schools such as Carden Primary.
- 68.5 Councillor McNair sought confirmation on fencing provision for schools.
- 68.6 The Head of School Organisation noted BHCC's responsibility for perimeter fences and stated that they were clear in terms of demarcation of funding and responsibilities that ultimately, fencing was a matter for a school to be able to maintain. It was further noted that BHCC would continue to engage and discuss with schools and that BHCC has supported and invested in schools where there had previously been no fence. It was noted that efforts to service everyone as best as possible would be paramount.
- 68.7 Councillor Nield sought clarification as to whether Central government had, in previous years, failed to announce maintenance funding allocations or devolved formula capital allocations.
- 68.8 The Head of Strategy Capital & DP stated that while unusual however this had occurred before. It was confirmed that the reason given by Central Government was that a very high-level nationwide condition survey across all schools in the UK had been undertaken that was in addition to the detailed condition surveys that BHCC held. It was further clarified that a new algorithm for devolving funding based partly on pupil numbers and significantly on need was being authored and that this had not yet been completed.
- 68.9 Councillor Hills referred to D1 and D2s and enquired of the process by which funding was allocated and how repairs were being carried out and if they were being undertaken by local contractors paying minimum wage. Confirmation was sought as to whether sustainable methods and materials for repairs were being utilised.
- 68.10 The Head of School Organisation stated that in regard to D1 and D2s there was a rolling program of review of all schools carried out every 5 years which identified all the issues that needed addressing and priorities within those.
- 68.11 The Head of Strategy Capital & DP stated that where possible, local Small / Medium Enterprises were utilised and that up to and including this year, BHCC were using Construction Line as the system for determining contractors however BHCC were in the process of procuring a range of frameworks that would be used in future to procure building works. It was stated that BHCC were currently going through a large tender exercise with the intention to be up and running by September 2020. It was noted that the tendering process included consideration of small, medium sized enterprises, locality among others. It was clarified that where re-roofing was necessary, above

requirement levels of insulation would be included to improve thermal efficiency and that where maintenance on school buildings, the most efficient plants and materials would be utilised.

- 68.12 Councillor Hills sought clarification as to whether gas boilers were still being used to replace those in building undergoing works.
- 68.13 The Head of Strategy Capital & DP noted that BHCC would always look at what other options there were available but technical difficulties that could arise when considering efficient heating sources for large buildings.
- 68.14 Councillor Clare enquired how schools raised issues they deemed important.
- 68.15 The Head of Strategy Capital & DP clarified that in addition to the 5-year condition surveys carried out, BHCC visited every school every year in the Autumn Term along with building surveyors to talk about any building issues that may have arisen since the previous Autumn. It was further noted that there were ongoing daily discussions regarding issues and that BHCC retained records of all conversations for good practice.
- 68.16 Councillor Knight referred to the large backlog and sought clarification as to why this was and if time was a factor for this. Further reference was made to the 83 individual ongoing projects and requested the number of completed projects. Clarification was sought as to whether there was any Section 106 money from before 2019 that was unspent.
- 68.17 The Head of Strategy Capital & DP confirmed that the backlog maintenance was large and that it was mostly due to underfunding from Central Government however this had changed and BHCC were now in receipt of a generous settlement of 5 million pounds a year. It was stated that the number of D2s that were being undertaken was above the number of D1s which was a positive sign. It was noted that there was no issue of contractors doing works they were not supposed to and that there were around 4 further ongoing projects. Clarification in regard to Section 106 money, further information would be shared with Councillor Knight.
- 68.18 Councillor Simson referred to the cost of allowance for additional after school care provision and enquired if BHCC were satisfied that there were providers in the City that could make use of these facilities or if BHCC were expecting schools to provide these facilities in house. Clarification was sought regarding maintenance of other buildings that came within the education portfolio.
- 68.19 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that there was a range of after school provision in the city some of which was provided by companies outside of the city and that some schools provided their own after school provision.
- 68.20 Councillor Simson noted the difficulty in providing after school care.
- 68.21 The Head of School Organisation noted that non-school buildings which came under the umbrella of education buildings were covered by the Capital Funding however there were no projects in this year's works.

**68.22 RESOLVED –**

1. That the level of available capital resources totalling £8.187 million for investment relating to education building financed from capital grant be noted.
2. That the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 3 and 4 and that a recommendation to Policy & Resources Committee on 19 March 2020 for inclusion within the Council's Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 be agreed by committee.
3. That a recommendation to Policy & Resources Committee to 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 be agreed by committee.

**69 FCL DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK****69.1 RESOLVED –**

1. That the current performance against KPI's and the Performance and Quality Assurance Framework be noted by committee.

**70 MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM UPDATE REPORT: SCHOOLS WELLBEING SERVICE****70.1 RESOLVED –**

1. That the progress with the implementation of the Mental Health Support Team in primary schools in Brighton and Hove be noted by committee.

**71 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

- 71.1 No Items were referred to the next Full Council meeting.

The meeting concluded at 18:10pm.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of



