

**DRAFT EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD
ON THE 14 JANUARY 2010**

CABINET

4.00PM 4 JANUARY 2010

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors Mears (Chairman), Brown, Caulfield, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, K Norman, Simson, Smith and Young

Also in attendance: Councillors Hawkes (Opposition Spokesperson, Labour Group), Randall (Convenor, Green Group) and Watkins (Opposition Spokesperson, Liberal Democrat Group)

Other Members present: Councillors Bennett, Davis, Older and Oxley

153 COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT 2009

- 153.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning the first year of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) judgements (for copy see minute book).
- 153.2 Councillor Randall commented that overall Members should be pleased with the work the Council was doing with its partners. He raised some concerns in relation to health inequalities and advised that the Council's partners needed to set clearer targets in some areas, which should be followed up and monitored. He commented that forthcoming decisions on how funds would be raised would impact on how issues in relation to the council's housing stock would be addressed. He also stated that more could be done to improve efficiency, enhance the environment and tackle carbon emissions.
- 153.3 Councillor Watkins also highlighted concerns in relation to health inequalities, in addition to problems of drug misuse and hospital admissions due to alcohol related problems. He added that overall the assessment was good, but that the Council must not become complacent.
- 153.4 Councillor Hawkes stated that the assessment showed that the Council had much to be proud of. She raised concerns over education in relation to recent reports in the media and asked for confirmation of a targeted action plan to tackle the problems. She also highlighted uncertainty over plans to improve the housing stock and concerns in relation to child poverty and mortality rates. She added that the Council must ensure that government funding was being properly targeted.
- 153.5 The Chairman shared the concerns about the housing stock, and added that the since they had come into power, the Administration had been working to achieve

the investment needed after many years of no investment.

- 153.6 Councillor Norman advised that the Council would not become complacent in relation to Adult Social Care services and was constantly working to ensure progress in all areas by working with partners to tackle problem areas. He stated that, contrary to reports in the media, Adult Social Care performance had improved every year under the current Administration.
- 153.7 Councillor Brown stated that the assessment reported many positive outcomes for Children's Services and that Ofsted had rated the Council as 'Performs Well'. She agreed that the GCSE results had been disappointing and assured Members that robust improvement plans had been put in place. Immediate action had been taken in two of the city's schools where surprisingly low results had been seen and both were receiving experienced help and support has been provided. Four of the city's secondary school schools were in receipt of funding from the National Challenge Programme and this had mainly been used for additional staffing support and includes a raising attainment plan. Councillor Brown added that the report from the annual review of services from National Strategies stated that the local authority supported schools through a wide range of targeted programmes.

Councillor Brown advised that in none of the city's secondary schools was behaviour rated as less than satisfactory. However, less than half were rated as good and a strategy was in place to achieve good behaviour in all schools. She added that general behaviour strategy had resulted in less exclusions and increased attendance.

In response to a query from Councillor Hawkes, Councillor Brown reported that the performance of the majority of ethnic minority children had been above the national average.

Councillor Brown advised that the assessment had shown positive outcomes for many areas of Children's Services, including children's homes, adoption services, childcare, primary school standards, involving young people in decision-making, anti-social behaviour and the proportions of young people staying in education and achieving full qualifications.

- 153.8 Councillor Caulfield explained that since becoming the Administration the percentage of council homes not meeting the Decent Homes standard had decreased from nearly 60% to 38.5%, which represented a dramatic improvement given that the impact of the Local Delivery Vehicle and maintenance contract had not yet been seen. Examples of improvements made without funding from the government included a programme of new front doors, removal of shared facilities and improved energy efficiency through insulation.
- 153.9 Councillor Fallon-Khan commented that Brighton & Hove's popularity as a tourist destination contributed to carbon emissions, but that improvements would be realised through work proposed to meet the 10:10 commitment.
- 153.10 Councillor Randall added that 44% of carbon emissions came from housing, making improvement to the Council's housing stock essential.

153.11 **RESOLVED** – That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

- (1) That the findings and judgements contained within the Comprehensive Area & Organisation Assessment reports be noted.
- (2) That officers be instructed to ensure that improvement recommendations from the CAA are reflected in departmental, business and improvement planning over the coming year.

