

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 72

Subject: Maintaining Quality Education For All

Date of meeting: 30 January 2025

Proposer: Councillor Helliwell

Seconder: Councillor O'Quinn

Ward(s) affected: All

Notice of Motion

Labour Group Amendment

This council notes:

- 1) The rise in international league tables e.g. Pisa, of English education since the introduction of academies and free schools under previous Governments, with maths, for example, improving from 27th in 2009 to 11th in 2022.
- 2) **That since 2006 on measures relating to maths and science the UK is performing much lower than it was 2006- 2009, with reading alone remaining stable with the performance in 2006.**
- 2) 3) ~~The improvements in~~ Schools in Brighton & Hove which have become part of academy chains e.g. City Academy Whitehawk, Moulsecomb Primary and PACA **are welcome and valued alongside our local authority schools.**
- 3) 4) ~~The work that the Cabinet Member responsible for School Organisation has done to support schools to manage high levels of debt deficit the Local Authority has permitted some schools to have incurred endangering the council's ability~~ **enabling them to continue to provide quality education.**
- 4) 5) ~~The opportunity academy chains bring to Brighton & Hove not only in the quality of education they provide, the freedom of choice they give to parents, and the savings they would bring to this council struggling with its own finances.~~ **The welcome opportunity that the government pay awards and increased investment in SEND education provides our city's educators to improve our offer and performance.**

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) ~~Request that the Administration~~ **Prioritise children receiving the best education possible either within the Local Authority or as part of an academy chain or free school as it works to develop its "family of schools" and all other policies relating to education.**
- 2) ~~Request that the Administration~~ **Acknowledge the importance of the legal right of schools being able to enter into discussions with academy chains without undue influence from the council and urge that they do so with information that is fair**

and balanced on the benefits of the high quality offer that the local authority provides to help ensure our children do continue to receive quality education and parents do have choice.

~~3) Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education outlining the importance of maintaining the freedoms and quality of education delivered by academy chains and free schools.~~

Supporting Information:

[England among highest performing western countries in education - GOV.UK](#)
[City Academy Whitehawk - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

Recommendations to read if carried:

This council notes:

- 1) The rise in international league tables e.g. Pisa, of English education since the introduction of academies and free schools under previous Governments, with maths, for example, improving from 27th in 2009 to 11th in 2022.
- 2) That since 2006 on measures relating to maths and science the UK is performing much lower than it was 2006- 2009, with reading alone remaining stable with the performance in 2006.
- 3) Schools in Brighton & Hove which have become part of academy chains e.g. City Academy Whitehawk, Moulsecoomb Primary and PACA are welcome and valued alongside our local authority schools.
- 4) The work that the Cabinet Member responsible for School Organisation has done to support schools to manage high levels of deficit some schools to have incurred enabling them to continue to provide quality education.
- 5) The welcome opportunity that the government pay awards and increased investment in SEND education provides our city's educators to improve our offer and performance.

Therefore, resolves to:

- 1) Prioritise children receiving the best education possible either within the Local Authority or as part of an academy chain or free school as it works to develop its "family of schools" and all other policies relating to education.
- 2) Acknowledge the legal right of schools to enter into discussions with academy chains and urge that they do so with information that is fair and balanced on the benefits of the high quality offer that the local authority provides to help ensure our children do continue to receive quality education and parents do have choice.