

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 34(b)</b>
20 October 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP**

#### **SCHOOL PLACES**

“This council recognises the concern shared by parents and school staff in West Hove and Portslade over the provision of future Primary School places.

It notes the significant rise in the numbers of children needing Primary School places and that in the next academic year, the city will not have enough Reception Year places for the numbers of children requiring them and the provision of adequate numbers of Junior stage places for children in Portslade is not yet resolved.

The council also notes that the planned expansion of four Primary Schools and the continued use of the Connaught Centre to provide some Infant class-rooms will still not provide the future numbers of places needed.

It recognises that following a policy of continual expansion of existing Primary Schools is not sustainable, does not provide the best learning environment for young children and over-large schools are not popular with parents.

It understands the pressing need for a new Primary School in Hove within three years as part of a well thought through strategy for the future of school places in the city.

The council regrets that under the Coalition Government’s policy the only options available for the creation of a new Primary School in Hove are as an Academy or a Free School and shares the Administration's concerns with this national policy.

However the council places a greater priority on ensuring that the city’s young children are able to learn in the best quality, modern settings that can be provided for them with governance arrangements that place the running of the school firmly with parents and the local community, working in partnership with staff and the LEA.

The council notes the positive, ethical values of Co-operative Trust Schools and the model's growing success with Co-operative Trust Academy Schools in Manchester, Stockport and Nottingham, being run in partnership with their Local Education Authorities and universities and believes that this ethical and co-operative model of education would prove beneficial and popular with parents, children, teachers and communities in Brighton & Hove while retaining strong links with the LEA and other schools.

Therefore resolves to request the Cabinet:

- a) To immediately pursue a well-thought through strategy to meet the increasing demand for school places;

- b) To meet this increased demand for school places by pragmatically working within the limits imposed by central Government; and
- c) To specifically consider the creation of a Co-operative Academy Trust model for a new primary school in Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr Anne Pissaridou

Seconded by: Cllr Alan Robins

Supported by: Cllrs Gill Mitchell, Warren Morgan, Les Hamilton, Bob Carden, Brian Fitch, Jeane Lepper, Craig Turton, Mo Marsh, Leigh Farrow, Penny Gilbey