

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

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

SCHOOL PLACES

Delete the wording in paragraphs 3, 6, 7 and 9(c) as struck through and replace with the wording as shown in bold italics and insert additional wording in paragraph 4 as shown in bold italics.

“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 **welcomes measures taken by the previous Administration to address the issue, such as** ~~also notes that the planned~~ **permanent** expansion of ~~four~~ **eight** Primary Schools and the ~~continued~~ **new** use of the Connaught Centre to provide some Infant class-rooms **but accepts that this** 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 **in the long term**, 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 **notes** ~~regrets~~ that under the Coalition Government’s ~~policy~~ **plans laid out in the Education Bill currently going through Parliament**, 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.~~ **or management by an existing school.**

~~However the council places a greater priority on~~ **is committed to** 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 **positively and** pragmatically working within the limits imposed by central Government; and
- c) To ~~specifically~~ **urgently** consider the ~~creation~~ of a Co-operative Academy Trust model, **alongside the wide range of other education providers** for a new primary school in Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr Andrew Wealls

Seconded by: Cllr Vanessa Brown

Supported by: Cllrs Tony Janio, Garry Peltzer Dunn, Denise Cobb, Ann Norman, Ken Norman, Carol Theobald, Geoffrey Theobald, Lynda Hyde, Brian Pidgeon, Dee Simson, Jayne Bennett, Geoff Wells, Mary Mears, David Smith, Brian Oxley and Dawn Barnett