

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 7 MARCH 2016**

**FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, SHIP STREET, BRIGHTON**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Bewick (Chair)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Chapman (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Barradell, Daniel, Marsh, Taylor and Wealls

**Other Members present:** Councillors

**PART ONE**

**63 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**63 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

**63(a) Declarations of substitutes**

- 63.1 Ms B Connor declared that she was substituting for Ms M Ryan  
Ms G Wieck declared that she was substituting for Ms S Syuve

**63(b) Declarations of interest**

- 63.2 Councillor Bewick declared a declared a personal but non pecuniary interest in Item 76, City Employment & Skills Plan and Area Review Update as he was Managing Director of New Work Training Ltd and been granted dispensation to speak and vote on the matter.

Councillor Marsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 72, Education Capital Resources and Capital Investments Programme 2016/17, as she was a Governor at Bevendean Primary School and Coombe Road Primary School.

Councillor Barradell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 72, Education Capital Resources and Capital Investments Programme 2016/17, as she was a Governor at Varndean Secondary School.

Councillor Barradell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 73, Proposed Changes and Developments to the Council's Youth Work Service as she was a trustee at the Crew Club.

Councillor Wealls declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 72, Education Capital Resources and Capital Investments Programme 2016/17, as he was a Governor at St Andrew's C of E Primary School.

Councillor Daniel declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 72, Education Capital Resources and Capital Investments Programme 2016/17, as she worked at Hamilton Lodge Deaf School.

Ms A Mortensen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 72, Education Capital Resources and Capital Investments Programme 2016/17, as she was a Governor at Down View School.

Mr B Glazebrook declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 73, Proposed Changes to the Council's Youth Work Service and Development of a New Delivery Modal, as he worked for Impact Initiatives lead organisation for Brighton and Hove Youth Collective.

### **63(c) Exclusion of press and public**

63.3 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).

63.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded

### **64 MINUTES**

64.1 Mr Jones noted that at the meeting he had suggested that gaps between all pupils should be considered, not just the gaps between those with and without Pupil Premium.

64.2 **RESOLVED:** That subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Children Young People & Skills Committee meeting held on 11 January 2016 be agreed as a correct record.

### **65 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

65.1 The Chair stated that since the last meeting of the Committee the Secretary of State for Education had agreed a new Free School sponsored by the University of Brighton Academy Trust. The new school would open in 2018. The site of the new school would be announced in the near future.

### **66 CALL OVER**

66.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

Item 69	Ofsted Inspection
Item 70	Review of Learning Support Services: Report From the External Reviewer
Item 71	Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2018/19
Item 72	Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2016/17
Item 73	Proposed Changes and Developments to the Council's Youth Work Service
Item 76	City Employment & Skills Plan and Area Review Update

## 67 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

### 67(a) Petitions

67.1 There were none.

### 67(b) Written Questions

67.2 The Chair stated:

We have received a number of questions relating to the details of the sensory needs service going forward. This is the service that provides support to children with hearing and visual impairment and will form part of the new integrated Learning Support Service. I do not propose to answer these individually this evening. This is because they refer to very precise details of service structure and capacity. I will say however that we have stated a commitment to retain the frontline support children with sensory needs at current capacity. We are also committed to ensure there is adequate professional leadership for this specialist area. Beyond this, the precise details of how this support will be delivered and managed will be the responsibility of the leadership of the integrated service working in partnership with parents, schools and other partners. In addition I would draw attention to the fact I have commissioned an independent review of proposals to ensure and that report is here this evening alongside final proposals. I have asked officers to provide a written response to each of the questioners outside of this meeting.

67.3 A member of the public was concerned that the Chair was denying the public their right to ask a question. The solicitor for the Committee stated that the Chair had used his discretion to answer the questions in the way that he felt appropriate, and that a written response would be sent to all those who submitted a question and those responses would be included in the minutes.

#### (i) Learning Support Services – Ms A Jenkins

67.4 Ms Jenkins submitted the following question:

Given that there is a reduction of at least 0.3 FTE specialist management time in relation to deaf children, can the Council confirm what will be the skills, knowledge and experience required of the 2 FTE Senior Specialist Teaching posts and to what extent this will include specialist expertise in relation to the needs of deaf children and young people.

67.5 The following response was provided in writing to Ms Jenkins:

The council is committed to ensuring that the leadership and management of the learning and communication strand of the restructured service is of the highest quality. The arrangement for the appointment to the two Senior Specialist Teaching posts has yet to be finalised and communicated to the staff concerned. However, the council recognises the need to continue to ensure professional leadership for the SEN Specialist Teachers who are supporting either deaf or visually impaired children. If this professional leadership is not available from staff appointed to the role of Senior Specialist Teacher then the council will be seeking to provide an alternative arrangement.

67.6 Ms Jenkins had provided the following supplementary question:

Should a qualified ToD be appointed to one of the 2 FTE Senior Specialist Teaching posts, please can you confirm your commitment to retaining at least 3.6 specialist teaching posts for deaf children.

67.7 The following response was provided in writing to Ms Jenkins:

As previously stated, there is a commitment to maintain frontline support at its current level for children with sensory needs.

**(ii) Learning Support Services – Ms J Gonciarz**

67.8 Ms J Gonciarz submitted the following question:

We understand that the qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired will have their job title changed to advisory teachers, which implies that they would not undertake direct work with visually impaired children. Currently they do work directly with visually impaired children for example, through giving them essential one to one Braille training, which we understand is part of their job description. Could the Lead Councillor please verify that visually impaired children will still gain the essential direct work from qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired?

67.9 The following response was provided in writing to Ms Gonciarz:

There is no intention that the work of the qualified teachers of the visually impaired will change substantially and we will ensure that job titles reflect the expertise in this area. We have stated there is no intent to reduce frontline support for sensory impaired children in these proposals.

67.10 Ms Gonciarz had provided the following supplementary question:

Will children not learning braille still receive the same amount of support from Teachers of the Visually Impaired as they receive now?

67.11 The following response was provided in writing to Ms Gonciarz:

I would reiterate my comments to your main question and refer you again to the revised proposals which state “there is no reduction to frontline support for sensory impaired children in these proposals”.

**(iii) Learning Support Service – Ms L Thompson**

67.12 Ms Thompson submitted the following question:

We understand that there is no intention to reduce the hours of the Sensory Needs Service's mobility instructor for visually impaired children. However, given the high level of need that visually impaired children have for this service, which teaches them basic independence skills and navigation, we feel that more hours should be available for this service. Furthermore, there is only one mobility instructor, and there is no one else to cover this role, when on any kind of leave. Please would the Lead Councillor confirm if the council would consider increasing the hours and staffing for this role?

67.13 The following response was provided in writing to Ms Jenkins:

I am pleased that you have recognised that the Council has no intention to reduce the working hours of the Habilitation Officer attached to the Sensory Needs Service. Whilst I recognise that you consider that more hours should be available I would ask that you consider the widespread pressures on Children's Services at this time and appreciate that to increase provision in one area we would need to identify savings elsewhere. However we regularly review provision and where there is evidence of an unmet need in any area, we take action to redress that.

**67(c) Deputations**

67.14 There were none.

**68 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT****68a Petitions**

68.1 There were none.

**68b Written Questions**

68.2 There were none.

**68c Letters**

68.3 There were none.

**68d Notices of Motion**

68.4 There were none

**69 OFSTED INSPECTION**

- 69.1 The Head of Standards Achievements Education and Inclusion provided an update of schools that had undergone an Ofsted inspection since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 69.2 The Committee were advised that Cardinal Newman RC Secondary School had recently been inspected, with Ofsted rating the school as 'Requires Improvement'; the previous inspection had rated the school as 'Good'. Ofsted had made a number of recommendations including, that the school 'improve attendance and reduce truancy' and 'close quickly the gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers and other pupils nationally'. The school said they were disappointed with the rating, but would now create and implement a school improvement plan to ensure that all the areas of concern were addressed.
- 69.3 Councillor Barradell said the results of the inspection were disappointing, but it was good that steps were already in place to address the issues raised, and asked that the Committee monitor progress made.
- 69.4 Councillor Taylor agreed that the outcome wasn't good, but said that it was useful to know which areas needed to be improved and was pleased that the school were already engaged in dealing with issues raised.
- 69.5 Mr Jones noted that no secondary schools in the city were rated as 'Outstanding', and hoped that there would be a drive to get all schools to that level.
- 69.6 Ms Mortensen said that the GCSE results at the school were very good, but closing the gap between pupils was also important and was pleased that the school would now be addressing that.
- 69.10 The Assistant Director Education and Inclusion said the Ofsted report was disappointing but the Council would be working with the school on an improvement plan. Ofsted would come back to look at the improvement plans and a progress report would come to the Committee once that had been done.
- 69.11 The Chair said that in future he would like a representative from a school, who had undergone an Ofsted inspection, to be invited to attend the Committee meeting when the report was discussed.
- 69.12 **RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

## **70 REVIEW OF LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES: REPORT FROM THE EXTERNAL REVIEWER**

- 70.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services on the Restructure of Educational Psychology and Learning Support Services – Final Structure and Report from the External Assessor. The report was introduced by Ms M Daly, external assessor and the Assistant Director, Children and Adult Services.
- 70.2 The Chair confirmed that the external assessor had worked within the terms of reference as agreed by the cross party working group.

- 70.3 Councillor Daniel noted that parents stated that they would welcome the possibility of having a single case holder, and asked what the current practice was. Ms Daly said that she didn't have details on the current structure, but a single case holder would be possible under the new restructure.
- 70.4 Councillor Brown was pleased that the consultation period had been extended and the concerns raised had led to a number of amendments to the proposals.
- 70.5 Councillor Wealls thanked officers and Ms Daly for the report, and said that it was important to monitor the changes and asked that a further report be provided in the due course.
- 70.6 Mr Jones thanked officers for the report and said that a restructured service with a 'one stop' service was what services users wanted. He asked if Ms Daly had spoken to schools. She said she hadn't but in her report she had referred to the duties of school and what they could do and how they could identify and meet the needs of children.
- 70.7 Councillor Phillips said she was pleased with the amendments and said that the petition opposing the original proposed changes and signed by more than 10,000 people had spurred the Council to review its original proposals. The Chair said that the petition was a good example of democracy in action.
- 70.8 The Chair asked Ms Daly if she believed that the reforms would deliver a service which better met the needs of the children than the current service arrangements. Ms Daly said that having a unified Educational Psychology and Learning Support Service could only deliver a better outcome.
- 70.9 Councillor Marsh thanked officers for the report and agreed that the restructured service would provide a more effective service. Councillor Marsh agreed with Councillor Wealls that it would be useful to have a follow up report in due course to monitor the proposed changes.
- 70.10 Ms Mortensen asked how the new service would be communicated to parents. Ms Daly said the processes were already there but agreed that the new service should be advertised.
- 70.11 Mr Jones noted that it seemed that the city seemed to be less inclusive than others and suggested that we ask what 'inclusive' actually means and that targets be set to be reviewed in the coming years. The Chair agreed and said it was important to be clear about outcomes. The Executive Director Children's Services confirmed that the annual report would show the outcomes.
- 70.12 Councillor Daniel suggested that the recommendation be amended to say that the Committee 'agreed' rather than 'noted' the revised proposals. Councillor Brown seconded the amendment. The Committee agreed the amendment.
- 70.13 Councillor Brown suggested that an additional recommendation be added to request a further report be brought back to the committee in twelve months, and suggested the following wording 'That a report on this service area be brought back to this committee

within twelve months of it being set up'. Councillor Daniel seconded the proposal. The Committee agreed the additional recommendation.

#### **70.14 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That members note the contents of the review by the external assessor and agree the revised proposals.
- (2) That a report on this service area be brought back to this committee within twelve months of it being set up

#### **71 SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2018/19**

- 71.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services, Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2018/19. The report outlined the intention to undertake an engagement exercise with interested parties to elicit views on some of the proposals for change. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation.
- 71.2 Councillor Chapman, who chaired the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group (CPSOWG), thanked everyone involved to date and said that the CPSOWG had looked at a number of different options. The matter was now at the engagement stage and over the next 6 weeks there would be the opportunity to have a full discussion with everyone on the proposals.
- 71.3 Councillor Brown, who was a member of the CPSOWG, said that changes had to be made and accepted that any adjustments would generate strong feelings and opinions, and said that it was important that all interested parties engage in the consultation process.
- 71.4 Councillor Phillips, who was a member of the CPSOWG, thanked officers for the report, but wanted it noted that she had not been able to attend the final meeting of the Working Group and was disappointed with the three options suggested, and said that she would only have agreed to one of the options put forward.
- 71.5 Councillor Marsh said that she supported the recommendation for public engagement and formal consultation.
- 71.6 Councillor Taylor said that he had received many enquiries from parents asking about the engagement process and asked for assurance that any public meetings held would be widely advertised. The Head of School Organisation said that it was important the Working Group receive responses from all interested parties, and would speak to residents and ensure that public meetings were advertised.
- 71.7 Councillor Daniel said that her constituents welcomed the two stage process. With regard to the options, she said she would support a change to the admission criteria to prioritise those entitled to Free School Meals, but had concerns over Option 3 as she felt that it could increase travel time for some pupils.



- 71.8 Ms Mortensen said that she would also support the proposal to prioritise those entitled to Free School Meals, and that those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) but without an EHCP should also be given priority.
- 71.9 Mr Jones suggested that children who were Carers should also be given priority.
- 71.10 The Executive Director Children's Services thanked all those on the CPSOWG for their work, and also thanked Mr Michael Nix, who had recently left the Council, for his work on this matter. The Director added that the three options being taken forward for the engagement stage were only proposals, and the option which would go to formal consultation may differ from those being considered in the engagement stage.

**71.11 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the committee notes the progress made by the Cross Party School Organisation Working Group (CPSOWG) and its commissioned task and finish group looking at secondary school catchment areas.
- (2) That the committee note the proposals being put forward to a public engagement exercise.
- (3) That the committee agree to the engagement exercise starting in March 2016 and running for 6 weeks ending on 22 April 2016.
- (4) That the committee agrees that following this public engagement exercise the CPSOWG should develop a final proposal which will be brought back to CYP&S committee with a recommendation that it should go out to formal consultation in the autumn 2016. The results of this formal consultation will be brought back to this committee for consideration before being referred to Full Council for final decision in January 2017.

**72 EDUCATION CAPITAL RESOURCES AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

- 72.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services, on Education Capital Resources and Capital Investment Programme 2016/17. The report informed the Committee of the level of available capital resources allocated to this service for 2016/17 and to recommend a Capital Investment Programme for 2016/17. The report was introduced by the Head of School Organisation and Head of Education Capital.
- 72.2 Councillor Marsh referred to Appendix 1 and asked how much would be spent at each school. The Head of Education Capital said that the appendix set out work due to be undertaken in the next financial year and, if the committee agreed, the matter would then go to tender and a price agreed.
- 72.3 Councillor Wealls noted the figure of £20m for 'Additional secondary provision', and asked if that was for a Free School and if it was why it was being funded by the Local Authority. The Executive Director Children's Services said the money was from the Department for Education. A case had been made for additional secondary school

provision, and the money was to purchase and refurbish a site and the Council was acting as banker for the money. Councillor Wealls asked if the money was only allocated for a specific project, and was advised that it was provided for the provision of places, not for a specific project. Councillor Wealls said that if that was the case, why only one provider was considered for the new school as his party had wanted to open discussions with others but had been told it was not feasible given the funding issues. The Chair said that there had been cross party agreement to support the University Trust's application, and it was important that there was united support for a university backed free school.

#### **72.4 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the level of available capital resources totalling £30.778 million for investment relating to education buildings financed from capital grant and revenue contributions be noted.
- (2) That Committee agree the allocation of funding as shown in Appendices 1 and 2 and recommend this to Policy & Resources Committee on 17 March 2016 for inclusion within the council's Capital Investment Programme 2015/16.
- (3) That Committee agree to recommend to Policy & Resources Committee that they 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.

#### **73 PROPOSED CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S YOUTH WORK SERVICE**

- 73.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services on proposed changes to the Council's Youth Work Service and the development of a new delivery model. The report was introduced by the Assistant Director Stronger Families Youth and Communities.
- 73.2 Councillor Philips felt that the Equalities Impact Assessment was not detailed enough, and said she would not be able to support the recommendations.
- 73.3 Councillor Daniel noted that that the report says that young people were consulted but not what decision was reached following that consultation. She referred to the transition arrangements and said that it would have been useful for the report to have set out why some interventions were good.
- 73.4 Mr Darvas said that if the cuts were implanted it would be additional pressure on the youth service workers and said he hoped that other bodies would be able to pick up the work which could no longer be undertaken. He referred to paragraph 3.25 of the report and suggested that it would be useful to have a young person on any Shadow Board.
- 73.5 The Chair reminded the Committee that Central Government had made cuts to funding and Budget Council had agreed to reduce the service funding by £400k, and therefore

cuts had to be made. He said that the Council would be working with the community and voluntary sector to see what they could provide.

- 73.6 Councillor Brown said that no one wanted to cut the service, but accepted that it had to be done.
- 73.7 Councillor Wealls said that he felt that there was insufficient financial information in the report and he agreed with Councillor Phillips that the Equality Impact Assessment was not detailed enough and he would abstain from voting.
- 73.8 Mr Jones said that the Equalities Impact needed to be monitored. He said that young people had been involved in the consultation but not in the actual decisions.
- 73.9 Councillor Phillips was concerned that if the Equalities Impact Assessment did not have sufficient information that the Council could be open to a Judicial Review. The solicitor referred the Committee to the Legal Implications section in the report, and reminded members that they needed to be sure that they felt that they had sufficient information to make a decision. The Chair asked if a decision had to be made today, and the Executive Director Children's Services said it should as Budget Council had already agreed to the cut in funding and so a decision should be made. Councillor Daniel said that if the youth services had not collected the data it could not be included in the Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA). Mr Jones said that if Budget Council had agreed to the cuts the EIA must have been considered. The solicitor said that the Committee needed to be satisfied that the Council were meeting its statutory duty.
- 73.10 Councillor Brown proposed that Recommendation 2 be amended to say '*The Committee noted the changes in the council's Youth Work Service as set out in this report, given the decision of Budget Council to agree to a £400,000 saving in the budget*'. Councillor Wealls seconded the amendment. The Committee voted and agreed the amendment.
- 73.11 The solicitor suggested that if the Committee were concerned about any potential legal challenge it would be useful to add a resolution that the Committee noted the proposal to continue to commission open access youth work from the Youth Collective. Councillor Barradell therefore proposed that a third recommendation be added to read '*The Committee notes the proposal to continue to commission open access youth work from the Youth Collective as described in paragraph 3.15 of the report*'. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Daniel. The Committee voted and agreed the proposal.

### **73.12 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Committee note the response to consultation on proposed changes to the service and notes the full Equalities Impact Assessment of those changes.
- (2) That the Committee notes the changes in the council's Youth Work Service as set out in this report, given the decision of Budget Council to agree to a £400,000 saving in the budget.
- (3) That the Committee notes the proposal to continue to commission open access youth work from the Youth Collective as described in paragraph 3.15 of the report.

**74 EXTERNAL SCRUTINY OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

- 74.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services. The report provided an overview of key elements of external scrutiny that the Children's Service directorate is subjected to, covering inspection frameworks, sector led improvement approaches and key national data returns required to be made to central government.
- 74.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

**75 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT**

- 75.1 The committee considered the report of the Executive Director Children's Services on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report. The report outlined the work of SACRE during the academic year 2014-2015.
- 75.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report and recorded its support for the work of SACRE.

**76 CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN AND AREA REVIEW UPDATE**

- 76.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Executive Director Environment Development & Housing, and the Executive Director Children's Services. The report updated the Committee on progress on the development of the new City Employment & Skills Plan (2016-2020) and informed the Committee of the outcomes from the consultations, the emerging priorities and recommendations for action. The report also provided an update on the Sussex Area Review of post 16 provision and aligned the local review. The report was presented the Acting Executive Director Environment Development & Housing, the Economic Development Programme Manager and Ms C Muson-Dire (Rocket Science).
- 76.2 Councillor Wealls welcomed the report but was concerned that some of the data was not clear.
- 76.3 Ms K Kybble (Youth Council) asked if children would be consulted and was advised they would be.
- 76.4 Councillor Phillips referred to the Employer Skills Task Force (ESTF) and suggested that young people rather than employers should be central to its development. The Chair disagreed and said that apprenticeships could not be created without employers. Employers wanted to engage but weren't sure how to and that was how the ESTF could help.
- 76.5 Councillor Daniel was pleased that so many different groups were engaged in the process and hoped that there would be continued engagement with Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups, those in NEET and disabled groups. The Economic Development Programme Manager confirmed they would. Councillor Daniel said that many parents did not understand the value of apprenticeships, or were unaware of the variety of options available, and asked that more information be available to them.

76.6 Mr K Darvas (Youth Council) suggested that it would be useful if employers visited schools to explain more about apprenticeships, what would be involved and what employers would expect from young people. The Chair agreed and thought that would be very useful.

76.7 Councillor Wealls noted that the consultants were would be working with minority groups including those with disabilities, and suggested that the city's Autism Champion be consulted.

**76.8 RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Committee notes the emerging priorities and recommendations for action to be taken forward for the new City Employment & Skills Plan (2016-2020).
- (2) That this City Employment and Skills Plan is also being presented to the Economic Development and Culture Committee on 10 March 2016.
- (3) That the final City Employment & Skills Plan and a full report of the Sussex Area Review and local review will be presented to this committee on 6 June 2016.
- (4) That the Committee notes the developments contained in the Committee paper "Proposed changes and developments in the council's Youthwork Service."

**77 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL**

77.1 No items were referred to Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

