

**BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**  
**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**

**4.00pm 22 JANUARY 2024**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

**MINUTES**

Present: Councillor ; Councillors Helliwell (Joint Chair), Taylor (Joint Chair), Shanks (Opposition Spokesperson), Allen, Daniel, Goddard, Alexander, Simon, Goldsmith and Meadows

Co-opted Members: Robinson (PaCC), Hurst (Diocesan Director of Education), Muirhead (Community Works Rep) and Parr (Catholic Diocese)

**PART ONE**

**39** Procedural Business

**A) Declarations of Substitutes**

39.1 Councillor Meadows substituted for Councillor Hogan.

**B) Declarations of Interest**

39.2 There were no declarations of interest.

**C) Exclusion of Press and Public**

39.3 There were no Part Two items and so the press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

**40** Minutes

40.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

**41** Chairs Communications

41.1 The Chair delivered the following communications:

I want to start this meeting by thanking everyone who has been part of the consultation process on the proposals for schools.

Although parents have understandably been concerned about changes to their schools, their support for their schools has been crystal clear and shows us that the schools in this city do amazing work in increasingly difficult circumstances.

I would also like to thank the huge amount of work the officers have put in during this consultation process organising and attending many meetings especially Richard

Barker, Jo Lyons and Carolyn Bristow as well as others who have collated and organised the hundreds of comments that have been made.

As chairs, Councillor Taylor and I have said many times that decisions like the ones we will have to make today are very difficult and ones that would be easy to duck and move further down the line but this has already been done too many times.

I think I speak for most councillors here when I say that we were elected because we want to help our communities and our city to improve and to be a positive force for change. But unfortunately, this committee is going to have to make hard decisions, ones that nobody came into council to make.

Our city has such a severe problem with pupil numbers and school funding, that we have no choice but to take action that will help ensure schools are properly funded, and children get the education they deserve.

These proposals that are in front of us today will ultimately benefit the city and help the city school community by ensuring more pupils in each class. The government only fund schools by the actual numbers in the school, and while it is a fair assumption that small class sizes benefit children, unfortunately due to the way schools are funded, every empty classroom seat is increasing debt in school budgets. By having fuller classes, schools can fund the extra support staff needed to support students, which is what all children deserve.

I am very pleased to have the proposal to include free school meals in the admission criteria for secondary schools.

This will provide a greater choice of options for secondary education to Disadvantaged children and their families. It will also provide a greater social mix in all of our secondary schools, which has been shown to boost the performance of disadvantaged students without affecting overall performance.

These reforms are just one aspect of our administration's school's strategy. We are laser-focused on building a system that tackles disadvantage and provides support for those who need it from the very early years all the way up.

Finally, thanks also to the emergency services for their response to the fire at Blatchington Mill School on Wednesday, and I hope that the school can get the students back in quickly and so minimise any disruption to the students learning.

## **42** Call Over

42.1 All items were called.

## **43** Public Involvement

### **A) Petitions**

43.1 There were no petitions.

### **B) Written Questions**

43.2 Allison Hooper asked a question:

I'm sure committee Chairs will agree with me that parents, teachers and social workers place

the interests of a child as paramount. Recently there has been discussion in the media about the growing number of vulnerable children questioning their gender identity.

In this context, do you agree that no-one is better placed to decide the best interests of a child than his or her parents?

43.3 The Chair replied:

Within our Schools trans inclusion toolkit we clearly set out our key principle that education settings will want to work in close partnership with parents and carers. It describes how settings can work with parents and carers to ensure transparent and open equality practice. It recognises that most parents and carers of gender questioning children and young people will be involved in working in partnership to appropriately plan and deliver support. There will be very rare circumstances where involvement of parents or carers might constitute a risk of harm and in these cases, the needs of the child or young person are paramount and need to be prioritised.

We recognise that the DfE are currently consulting on national guidance for gender questioning children. We also recognise there is significant legal and professional concern around the content of this guidance and therefore continue to strongly recommend that our schools use the B&H toolkit that has been in place now for over a decade.

43.4 Allison Hooper asked a supplementary question:

I speak as someone who worked at East Sussex County Council for many years, and during that time I specialised in autism, and alongside a range of other special needs. Placing the parents' knowledge of their child at the centre of a social work assessment is vital to understanding the specific and complex needs of vulnerable children. Can the Chair assure me that Brighton & Hove City Council social workers are not affirming the gender identity of vulnerable children without first consulting the parents and also checking if a qualified clinical diagnosis of gender dysphoria has taken place? If the council is not doing this, the future impacts on these children could be catastrophic.

43.5 The Chair replied:

Thank you. As I said earlier, most parents and carers will be closely involved in decisions with educational settings, but there are rare circumstances where involvement of parent and carers might constitute a risk of harm, but these are only very rare circumstances and in the vast majority of cases, it will be in full partnership.

43.6 Samantha Lyons asked a question:

The Public Sector Equality Duty (updated on December 18th 2023) requires public authorities to have due regard to certain equality considerations when exercising their functions, like making decisions. Can the Chair confirm when or if the council will revise its policies in line with the update and communicate this to schools?

43.7 The Chair replied:

Brighton and Hove Council is firm in its commitment to equality and works to reduce prejudice and increase understanding between different groups of people. We always ensure our policies are in line with equality law and statutory responsibilities. Whilst we are not planning to share the non-statutory guidance issued by the Equalities Office with our schools, this publication is available freely on the internet and has been promoted by the government. We will continue to work with all settings to ensure they understand their equalities responsibilities.

The Council routinely provides schools with updates on guidance and the council has a process to circulate information to schools on a weekly basis. This will be a way for the Council to communicate the guidance from December 2023.

43.8 Helen Banks asked a question:

Previously it has been said that all avenues were explored before choosing St Bartholomew's for closure. In the period between being elected in May and choosing St Bartholomew's for closure at the beginning of September, what avenues and alternative models of closure were explored?

43.9 The Chair replied:

The Labour Group are not new to this growing issue of surplus school places in the city. The city has been grappling with this issue for a number of years now and the Council's Cross Party School Organisation Working Group have explored options to address the issue over a number of years. The Labour Group have been involved in those discussions throughout. So, whilst the new administration came in in May and some new Councillors are on this committee, we have been informed by a wealth of knowledge and experience. As we have made reference before, Headteachers in the city wrote to us and sought decisive action and this has been a significant priority since day one, leading to a series of discussions with Council officers in the first couple of months of the administration. We could have proposed to close more schools. We could have chosen to allow parental preference to determine the size and viability of our schools, or we could have expected all schools to become academies. None of these were palatable to the administration. Many would have had serious impacts on the council's General Fund. Some are not in the control of the Council. The proposals put forward were the most appropriate set of proposals to take action on the issue.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda tonight. Do you have a supplementary question?

43.10 Helen Banks asked a supplementary question:

You mention that an options appraisal formed part of the decision-making process, the first we heard of such a document was in last week's report. We've asked if we can have a copy of this document, but so far it hasn't been forthcoming. Can we have a copy of this document, this options appraisal?

43.11 The Chair replied:

So we have looked at many different options, and we have spoken to the school about how we have put forward the proposal to that school, and we do not have any single document that is an options appraisal document, so there is nothing to forward to you, sorry.

43.12 Emily Brewer asked a question:

How can you "increase preschool provision" and take the only affordable preschool away in the area that's seen a 70% increase in demand in just over a year?

43.13 The Chair replied:

The Council is responsible for ensuring sufficient nursery places are available to meet the needs of the community. It is not required to maintain the identical offer of provision should an early years provision be required to close. In proposing the closure of St Peter's Community Primary and Nursery School the offer provided by the nursery class will not be maintained and of the current nursery there are a small number of families with children who started in the nursery in January 2024 and therefore not expected to start school in

September 2024, and those who had planned to send their children to the setting beyond that date will be inconvenienced and will need to find suitable early provision that best meets their needs in other settings. The Council's 2023 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment did not find a shortage of early years provision across the city as a whole. Between December 2019 and August 2023 the number of early years places on the Ofsted register in Brighton and Hove increased by 4% compared with a 1.5% increase in England as a whole. Where nurseries in the city have closed, they are sometimes replaced by a new provider on the same site; nurseries have also opened on new sites. The council will be actively exploring options for alternative nursery provision in the area and will work with individual families impacted if the closure goes ahead.

43.14 Emily Brewer asked a supplementary question:

The two family hubs are two miles away, one is stretch funding and will be an increase of £500 per month, and the other one doesn't accommodate working parent hours, it's 9 until three, so if you work 08:30 until 6, we've got a bit of a problem.

43.15 The Chair replied:

I understand, Emily, your concern about this and it did come out very clearly in the consultation process, and that will be part of the discussion that we have when we come to the St Peters' item, definitely.

43.16 David Maples asked a question:

The papers for the committee meeting on 6 November 2023 did not include an assessment of vacant school places in West Sussex schools which could potentially offer an opportunity for St Peter's pupils.

Has Brighton & Hove Council now obtained this information?

43.17 The Chair replied:

Regular contact is made with the West Sussex school admissions service on what vacant places West Sussex schools have at any given moment. This data can change regularly; however, we have provided a snapshot of some West Sussex school vacancies as of the 8th January in the report being heard at the committee today.

43.18 David Maples asked a supplementary question:

These figures confirm the absence of suitable vacancies at Eastbrook, so how's the Council model keeping St Peters' and St Bartholomews' open and reducing reception class sizes to 25 from September 2025 across all cities schools while maintaining school funding?

43.19 The Chair replied:

The Government say that class sizes are 30, and therefore we cannot model 25. Thank you.

43.20 Ed Armston-Sheret asked a question:

When were plans to move Bright Start Nursery to the Tarner Centre first developed?

43.21 The Chair replied:

The options regarding Bright Start nursery were presented to committee on 6th November. Officers considered the options presented over the preceding months in preparation for committee including moving to Tarner Family Hub.

43.22 Ed Armston-Sheret asked a supplementary question:

Is the fact this proposal has been developed in months the reason the financial calculations look like they have been calculated on the back of an envelope?

43.23 The Chair replied:

No, it's all been calculated quite carefully by officers and examined by members of the committee.

### **C) Deputations**

43.24 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Chloe Taylor that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.25 The Chair replied:

Thank you, Emma, for your deputation and thank you to your colleagues for their support. Thank you for setting out your range of concerns about the proposals to reduce the PAN at St Lukes. Your concerns mirror those raised during the consultation process. I feel assured that the consultation was conducted in an appropriate manner and that due process has been followed, with a significant number of responses received. All the consultation responses have been made available to the members of the Committee to take into account in our deliberations later today.

We've heard much about the unique offer and experience at St Luke's and we understand that the economy of scale that the school can use to generate a high level of support to a wide range of pupils at the school. But we also know that St Lukes will remain committed to meeting the needs of all its pupils irrespective of the PAN, and other schools will suffer if we do not take some action.

Unfortunately, across the city we have a significant problem we need to tackle collectively. We must not lose sight of the proposals coming to this committee to close 2 schools, 2 communities whose circumstances mean that they could risk losing their local school, schools that you will have read are as well regarded by the families who have children attending there as those at St Luuke's and for whom staff have gone the extra mile to support their needs without call on statutory services. The Council is having to make significant and far reaching decisions about who will benefit from a truly local school and who will not. As mentioned earlier, the Council has had to take action on an issue where it is not possible to achieve the satisfaction of all stakeholders across the city. We are limited by government policies and funding decisions but as an administration we are committed to tackle the issues we face.

You have raised concerns about the availability of St Lukes under the proposals. Based upon the 2023 allocations I understand pupils living in the roads surrounding Pankhurst Avenue would still have been offered a place at St Lukes if the PAN was 60.

Demographic projections suggest that the number of pupils in this area of the city is set to fall further in 2025 and 2026. In the City East planning area there are 450 places currently available.

In 2025 we are expecting 395 pupils and in 2026 we are expecting 365 pupils

We will make decisions in full knowledge of the role and consideration of the Schools Adjudicator. If schools choose to object to the council's plans, and it is a choice, then the effort to seek to ensure we have a wide range of schools supporting communities across the city may be undermined. I would ask that all schools and all governors where schools are affected by these proposals take time to consider their approach and the impact of the decisions they take.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda tonight. Thank you for your deputation today which I am happy to note – does the Committee agree?

43.26 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the deputation.

43.27 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Katie Blood that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.28 The Chair replied:

Thank you, Katie, for your deputation today and to those who are supporting you on this.

I recognise this is a difficult day for you and your school community.

I am aware that there have been correspondences between yourself and the Local Authority on the status of the Equalities Impact Assessment produced for the consultation period.

I believe the following has already been shared with you.

The EIA is a tool to be used to assist public authorities in fulfilling their duties under the equality Act 2010, but it is not, the definitive or sole means by which that duty is fulfilled. The government has very recently updated guidance for public authorities about their public sector equality duty in which it describes as a myth that EIAs are required to be published.

The important thing is that the Committee receive an accurate summary of the equality information, impacts and potential mitigations and that these are taken into account when decisions are made.

I am satisfied that this is happening, and I want to thank you, your colleagues, and groups such as the Parent and Carer Council and A Seat at the Table for ensuring a wide range of views, concerns and personal experiences have been shared. It is my sense that we have heard a broad spectrum of comments from stakeholders. You'll note in the latest report there is a more detailed EIA form with a further round of reflections.

Assessing the impact of equalities issues in decisions such as this is of utmost importance and our debate over the paperwork we have used doesn't detract either party from that I know.

I am sure this matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda today and officers can answer any further questions the Committee has about the impact of the proposals. Thank you for your deputation today which I am happy to note – does the Committee agree?

43.29 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the deputation.

43.30 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Emily Brewer that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.31 The Chair replied:

Thank you Emily for your deputation and to those who have supported you in bringing it here. The Council has had to take action on an issue where it is not possible to achieve the satisfaction of all stakeholders across the city. We must recognise the limitations placed on us by government policies and funding decisions and seek to mitigate the impact of any

change on those it affects. As an administration we are committed to tackle the issues we are faced with and are committed to make sure any negative impacts are mitigated and that is what we will do.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda tonight. I am happy to note your deputation – does the Committee agree?

43.32 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the deputation.

43.33 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Kirsty Moore that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.34 The Chair replied:

Thank you Kirsty for your deputation today.

I am sorry that you question the validity of the consultation process and I want to state that you should not doubt the reality of the consultation. I know that the school worked hard to enable families to have their voices heard through that process. However, I do recognise the potential frustration within the Community about the recommendation to go ahead with the proposal at this stage.

The points you raise about the nursery provision, the disruption to children and the concern about available alternative places in the area are all ones we've heard frequently from the school community and ones that we are considering very carefully before making our decisions today.

We have heard much about the special way St Peter's staff have been supporting children with additional needs and should the closure go ahead we are committed to supporting receiving schools in continuing to provide the necessary support.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on the agenda. Thank you for your deputation today which I am happy to note – does the Committee agree?

43.35 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the deputation.

43.36 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Jeffrey Zroback that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.37 The Chair replied:

Thank you, Jeffrey, for presenting this deputation today and to your governor colleagues who have supported you in bringing it.

I'd also like to thank Collette and Scott from the school who have worked on providing the Council with potential alternative models to the closure of St Peter's Community Primary and Nursery School.

I recognise what a difficult day this is for you all today.

I am sorry that you feel that the alternative models have inadequately or misleadingly been presented in the report being heard today. I want to assure you that they were fully considered but unfortunately are felt not to be self-sustaining in the longer term without the Council's support and whilst I appreciate there will need to be a stepping stone position for the school from its current position, the Council continues to consider this to be a level of risk and uncertainty it cannot manage, when its own situation is taken into consideration. Nonetheless your deputation is before the Committee and can be taken into account by Councillors when they make the decision later on in the meeting.

I recognise that part of your proposed alternative model for a school included a reduction in PAN to help support the wider approach we are taking elsewhere, and I thank you for that.

I am assured that the consultation process was conducted adequately but I am sorry that you feel that is not the case. Members of this committee have been given confidential access to all responses to the consultation. The report published in advance of the committee is necessarily a summary of the process. The consultation period lasted for over 6 weeks and all throughout that time representations were being made either by the school, the governing board or the community. Therefore, it was not only the period of time between the end of the consultation and the publication of the papers where considerations were being made.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda tonight. Thank you for your deputation today which I am happy to note – does the Committee agree?

43.38 RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the deputation.

43.39 The Committee considered a deputation delivered by Rebecca Devereux that can be seen in addendum 1 of the agenda.

43.40 The Chair replied:

Thank you Rebecca / Laura for your deputation today and to those who have supported you in this.

I have noted your detailed points raised about the proposed PAN reduction at Patcham Infant School. Many of the points raised are those we heard from during the consultation period and are detailed in the committee report being heard at committee today.

I am convinced that the rationale for the proposal was set out clearly and that the consultation was conducted appropriately. However, there is always opportunity to learn from these exercises and I am asking officers to take your comments on board for any further rounds of consultation.

I was sorry to hear throughout this consultation process that communities felt that they were being pitted against each other. We know that this issue cannot be resolved to everyone's satisfaction and the Council is therefore having to put forward proposals that will challenge partnerships, friendships, and established ways of working. It has been important to be transparent and to illicit a full range of responses from all stakeholders and I hope that for the sake of the city's children a collegiate approach from Headteachers, Governors, the council and others will survive through this process.

This matter will be debated further when the report is heard on this agenda tonight. Thank you for your deputation today which I am happy to note – does the Committee agree?

43.41 RESOLVED: The Committee noted the deputation.

#### **44** Items referred from Council

44.1 Deputation concerning Bright Start Nursery

44.2 Deputation concerning proposed closure of St Peter's Primary and Nursery School

44.3 Deputation concerning proposed closure of St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School.

44.4 RESOLVED: The Committee noted items referred from Full Council on 14 December 2023.

## 45 Member Involvement

### A) Petitions

45.1 There were no petitions.

### B) Written Questions

45.2 Councillor Shanks asked a question:

Many councils are struggling to find foster placements especially for adolescents. I would like to know the number of children we are currently placing in privately run children's homes, the cost of these and how many are outside Brighton and Hove, and the furthest away.

45.3 The Chair replied:

There are currently 28 children placed in privately run children's homes. This excludes children placed by our specialist community disability services who have complex SEND and/or other medical needs.

The projected cost of the 28 residential placements is £8.1m – an average cost of £5,500 per week per child.

4 placements are within the city and 24 are outside of Brighton & Hove – this in itself isn't unusual given the small geographical size of the city. 8 of the placements are within East and West Sussex.

The furthest placement is 223 miles away and is specialist placement in line with the young person's complex needs.

45.4 Councillor Shanks asked a supplementary question:

Thank you. I was interested to see in your manifesto about a potential cooperative run provision in the city. I think it was one of your manifesto proposals from the Labour Group which is something we could probably support, and I just wondered if there had been any advance on that idea, in terms of having cooperative not-for-profit organizations running these and or the option of developing it in house option.

45.5 The Chair replied:

We are making further efforts to find different ways that we can bring these children back into the city, but none of those are ready to come to committee as of yet.

45.6 Councillor Goldsmith asked a question:

Bright Start Nursery and St Bartholomew's Primary School both have above-average numbers of pupils from racially minoritised backgrounds. Has the administration considered the cumulative impact of the closure of both Bright Start and St Bartholomew's on racially minoritised groups?

45.7 The Chair replied:

Bright Start nursery is not proposed for closure but moving to Turner Family Hub. All current children can be accommodated in the new model and as per the options

report presented to committee on 6th November children from Black and Racially Minoritised groups will continue to be a focus for Bright Start nursery.

Both the proposed change, not closure, of BrightStart nursery and the proposed closure of St Bartholomew's included equality impact assessments that have and will be taken in to regard in the Council's decision making. This committee has had both proposals put in front of them and whilst we appreciate the concern about identifying the cumulative effect, I can assure you that we remain mindful of the impact of both decisions that have and will be taken.

We recognise that both Bright Start Nursery and St Bartholomew's Primary School have a higher-than-average percentage of pupils from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.

The schools in proximity to St Bartholomew's have all engaged with the Council's Anti-Racist Education Strategy and have attended a variety of staff training and accessed a variety of support for their anti-racist work.

As set out in the Committee report it is planned that Council officers will be working with the headteachers of schools receiving children to support their transition, and careful thought and planning is being put in to how to enable this process to happen smoothly, putting each child's needs at the center of all decision making.

Resources will be prioritised to support this transition, and this will include further anti-racist support from the Council team as appropriate to each setting.

45.8 Councillor Goldsmith asked a question:

The government has launched a consultation on new draft guidance for trans children in schools, which has been criticised by many – including the government's own lawyers – for encouraging schools to possibly illegally discriminate against trans pupils. Using its learning from Brighton & Hove's Trans Inclusion Toolkit – which has been thoroughly checked to be on the right side of the law and used by our schools for over a decade – will the council consider submitting and publishing a response to this consultation?

45.9 The Chair replied:

Yes, is the short answer to that. Yes, we will be responding to the consultation and publishing our response including where we think the draft guidance does not appear to meet all the relevant legal obligations.

45.10 Councillor Goldsmith asked a supplementary question:

That's fantastic to hear, thank you Chair. I know you acknowledge that you continue recommending the trans toolkits, I know about the issues with the DfE guidance. I have spoken to local a LGBT youth group about this who are concerned that some schools and teachers have taken this draft guidance as fact already and worry that it's being used in schools and I was just wondering what the Council is doing to proactively make sure that schools aren't following this potentially legal guidance and discriminating against trans children.

45.11 The Chair replied:

The Council is still recommending schools that it uses our Brighton & Hove trans toolkit when dealing with children that are questioning gender.

**C) Letters**

45.12 No letters were received.

**D) Notices of Motion**

45.13 A Notice of Motion was received from the Green Group that can be seen on page 19 of Addendum 1 of the agenda.

**46 Proposed Closure of St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School**

46.1 The Head of School Organisation introduced the report for this item.

46.2 Councillor Goldsmith presented the Green Group Notice of Motion that can be seen on page 19 of addendum 1 of the agenda.

46.3 Councillor Shanks seconded the Notice of Motion.

46.4 The Chair and Councillor Taylor contributed to the debate of the Notice of Motion.

46.5 Councillor Goldsmith responded to the debate.

46.6 The Chair moved a vote on the Notice of Motion.

46.7 The Green Group Notice of Motion was not carried.

46.8 Councillors Shanks, Meadows, Taylor, Allen, Daniel, Simon, Goddard, Goldsmith, and Shanks, as well as Becky Robinson, Adam Muirhead and Youth Representatives asked questions and contributed to the debate of the report.

46.9 The Chair moved a vote on the recommendations listed in the report.

46.10 There were 8 votes in favour of the recommendations listed in the report, 3 votes against and 1 abstention.

**46.11 RESOLVED:**

1) That Committee agreed to the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposed closure of St Bartholomew's CE Primary School with effect from 31 August 2024. The committee noted that publication of the statutory notice will trigger a four-week representation period which will run from 23 January 2024 to 20 February 2024 during which interested parties can comment on the proposal.

2) That Committee noted that following the representation period a further report will come back to a special meeting of Children, Families & Schools Committee on 29 February 2024. In the event that closure is recommended a final decision will be made by Full Council on 4 March 2024.

#### **47 Proposed Closure of St Peter's Community Primary and Nursery School**

47.1 The Head of School Organisation introduced the report for this item.

47.2 Councillors Taylor, Allen, Shanks, Daniel, Meadows, and Goddard, as well as Becky Robinson asked questions and contributed to the debate of the report.

47.3 The Chair moved a vote on the recommendations listed in the report.

47.4 There were 8 votes in favour of the recommendations, 3 votes against the report and 1 abstention.

#### **47.5 RESOLVED:**

1) That Committee agreed to the publication of a statutory notice in respect of the proposed closure of St Peter's Community Primary and Nursery School on 31 August 2024. The committee noted that publication of the statutory notice will trigger a four-week representation period which will run from 23 January 2024 to 20 February 2024 during which period interested parties can comment on the proposal.

2) That Committee noted that following the representation period a further report will come back to a meeting of the Children, Families & Schools (CFS) Committee on 29 February 2024. In the event that closure is recommended, a final decision will be made by Full Council on 4 March 2024.

#### **48 School Admission Arrangements 2025-26**

48.1 The Head of School Organisation introduced the report for this item.

48.2 Councillors Taylor, Meadows, Goddard, Shanks, and Allen, as well as Adam Muirhead and Becky Robinson asked questions and contributed to the debate of the report.

48.3 The Chair moved that voting on the recommendations regarding Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) and Free School Meals would be taken separately.

48.4 There were 10 votes in favour of changing PAN's, 1 vote against and 1 abstention.

48.5 There were 11 votes in favour of changing admissions priorities to include a new priority for pupils eligible for Free School Meals, 0 against and 1 abstention.

**48.6 RESOLVED:**

- 1) That Committee agreed to make no changes to the Council's school admission arrangements or secondary school catchment areas, except for the changes listed in sub- paragraphs 2.2- 2.8 below.
- 2) That Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Brunswick Primary School from 120 to 90.
- 3) That the Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Goldstone Primary School from 90 to 60.
- 4) That the Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Patcham Infant School from 90 to 60.
- 5) That the Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Saltdean Primary School from 90 to 60.
- 6) That the Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Stanford Infant School from 90 to 60.
- 7) That the Committee agreed to change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of St Luke's Primary School from 90 to 60.
- 8) That the Committee agreed to change the admission priorities for Brighton & Hove community secondary schools to include a new priority for pupils eligible for Free School Meals (up to the city average percentage). The details of the change can be found in Paragraph 3.71.
- 9) That the Committee agreed to make no change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Queen's Park Primary School.
- 10) That the Committee agreed to make no change to the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Rudyard Kipling Primary School.
- 11) That the Committee agreed to make no change the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Woodingdean Primary School.

12) That the Committee agreed to make no change to the “relevant area”.

#### 49 Families, Children and Learning Fees and Charges 2024/25

49.1 The Head of School Organisation and the Head of Family Hubs introduced the report for this item.

49.2 Councillor Taylor moved an amendment from the floor that read:

*That the committee agreed to adjust the fees and charges for the post-16 parental contribution for the previously indicated citysaver of £547 student amount to the city saver young person amount of £410.*

49.3 Councillor Allen seconded Councillor Taylor’s amendment.

49.4 The Chair moved a vote on the Notice of Motion.

49.5 The Motion was carried.

49.6 The Chair moved a vote on the recommendations listed in the report as amended.

49.7 There were 7 votes in favour of the recommendations of the report as amended, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

#### 49.8 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the implementation of new fees & charges rates is as soon as practicably possible.
- 2) That the position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 was agreed.
- 3) That the position on fees and charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.4 was agreed.
- 4) That the position on fees and charges for the Early Years Quality Improvement Programme as detailed in section 3.4.6 was agreed.

- 5) That the position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.5 was noted.
- 6) That the position on fees and charges for Adult Education Courses as detailed in section 3.6 was agreed.
- 7) That the position on fees and charges for Home to School Transport as detailed in 3.7 was agreed.
- 8) That the committee agreed to adjust the fees and charges for the post-16 parental contribution for the previously indicated citysaver of £547 student amount to the city saver young person amount of £410.

## 50 Residential Child Care Placements

- 50.1 The Childrens Services Commissioner introduced the report for this item.
- 50.2 Councillors Shanks, Meadows and Taylor asked questions and contributed to the debate of the report.
- 50.3 The Chair moved a vote on the recommendations listed in the report.
- 50.4 There were 9 votes in favour of the recommendations listed in the report, 0 against and 1 abstention.

### 50.5 **RESOLVED:**

That Committee delegated authority to the Executive Director of Families, Children & Learning to:

- 1) Take all necessary steps to procure and award a framework agreement or DPS, including subsequent extensions, with Southampton City Council (SCC) and consortium partners, for the provision of residential child care placements in the independent sector commencing on or after 1 October 2024, and
- 2) Procure and award call off contracts and individual placement agreements from the framework agreement or DPS outlined at 2.1(i) above.

## 51 Items referred for Full Council

- 51.1 There were no items referred for Full Council.

The meeting concluded at 21:00

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

