

# **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

## **EDUCATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL**

**5.00PM – 8 MARCH 2005**

### **BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

#### **MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Hamilton (Chair); Councillors Norman (Deputy Chair), Lepper, Meegan, Simson, Smith, Willows and Wrighton.

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs S Llewellyn-Powell – Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Reverend S Terry – Brighton and Hove Governors Network; Ms S Messenger - NASUWT.

Also present: Janette Karklins – Assistant Director of Children, Families and Schools; Mandy Miller – Senior Primary Advisor; Linda Ellis – Schools' Advisor; Mark Romain – Audit Manager; Penny Jennings – Scrutiny Support Officer (arrived at item 51); Julia Riches – Scrutiny Support Officer; Chris Ouellette – Scrutiny Support Officer.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Battle & Bennett, Mr Taylor, Mr Myers, Mrs Antonio.

#### **PART ONE**

##### **45. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **45A. Declarations of Substitutes**

45.1 There were none.

##### **45B. Declarations of Interest**

45.2 There were none.

##### **45C. Exclusion of Press and Public**

45.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

45.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of item 53.

#### **46. MINUTES**

46.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **Policy Advice and Information**

#### **47. PRIMARY MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (MFL) STRATEGY**

47.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools detailing the progress made with the Primary Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Strategy and the work of the MFL Pathfinder project (for copy see minute book).

47.2 The Senior Primary Advisor highlighted key areas of the report and explained that in order for primary schools to enable pupils to reach Level 4 by 2010 the primary long-term focus for MFL would be on staffing and training. Panel Members warmly welcomed the initiative. The Senior Primary Advisor answered various Panel Members' questions and explained that the MFL strategy: uses trained MFL secondary school teachers in primary schools; uses other people in the community that know MFL in primary schools; and aims to ensure adequate training for primary teachers in MFL. It was noted that to achieve Level 4 competency in MFL, funding may be an issue as a structured curriculum would have to be developed with the appropriate teaching resources. Another potential problem area may be that primary schools are currently allowed to decide on what MFL they would like to teach, which may or may not be supported by the school's feeder secondary school.

47.3 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

#### **48. PROPOSALS FOR A CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN**

48.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools concerning the proposals for a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) (for copy see minute book).

48.2 The Assistant Director of Children, Families and Schools began by explaining how CYPP would be subsuming numerous other existing plans. The new CYPP would be a three-year plan with annual reviews but that there would be wider consultation. Panel Members noted potential financial constraints and how this would fit into other initiatives. The Assistant Director responded that largely they would be aiming to pay for CYPP out of existing financial resources but that there would potentially be additional costs associated with the increased amount of consultation necessary. To that effect, she emphasised that current consultation through the Children's Trust complements the CYPP requirements and includes consultation with young

people.

48.3 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

#### **49. CONSTRUCTION: LOCAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

49.1 The Panel considered a briefing note from the Director of Cultural Services regarding the growing concern about a severe shortage of skilled workers to meet the needs of the large number of developments planned in Brighton & Hove and the sub-region over the next ten years. Figures produced by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) reveal a national requirement of at least 78,000 new construction workers per year needed nationally for the next ten years (for copy see minute book).

49.2 The Chair highlighted that this report was produced for the Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee meeting on 21 February 2005 and that he thought it would be useful information for this panel to receive and note. He also noted that since the author, Andrew Garrett, was not present, if the Panel had any questions or comments, they should contact the author via telephone or email.

49.3 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

#### **50. LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND 14-19 ACTION PLAN**

50.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools detailing the progress made with the Learning Partnership and the 14-19 Action Plan (for copy see minute book).

50.2 The Schools' Advisor introduced the report as an update to the 14-19 Action Plan that the Panel had previously approved. She noted that: spending for the Learning Partnership had been approved and a manager appointed; they had made great strides in developing capacity; that the strategic area reviews were behind schedule but planned for late May; and that developing the ICT system to track students was facing some obstacles. The Panel was particularly pleased to hear that a broader range of courses were/will be offered to students to attend at other schools. The Panel asked questions about the types of courses and apprenticeships being offered and if Equalities were being monitored. The Schools' Advisor responded that parents were provided with a school's prospectus prior to their child entering a school at age 11, and that updates were provided throughout; Equalities were monitored and where imbalances were found, they were followed up to ensure it was due to choice and not discrimination. The Assistant Director of Children, Families and Schools described the kinds of apprenticeships available to students within the Council.

50.3 **RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be received and noted.

#### **Scrutiny Reviews**

**51. COMART PFI SCRUTINY PANEL**

51.1 The Scrutiny Support Officer gave an oral progress report on the COMART PFI Scrutiny Panel.

51.2 The Scrutiny Support Officer responsible for the COMART PFI Scrutiny informed the Panel that: all evidence had been submitted; that the Panel was now in the process of organising visits to the schools as a backdrop to the evidence; and that the report would then be produced. At request of a COMART PFI Scrutiny Panel Member, the Chair suggested that it may be possible to arrange a special meeting of the EOSP Panel to attempt to present the report at the 14 July 2005 Council Meeting.

51.3 **RESOLVED** – That the update be heard and noted.

**52. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

52.1 **RESOLVED** – That there were no items to go to Council.

**SUMMARY OF PART TWO ITEMS**

**53. SERVICE AUDITS COMPLETED 1 NOVEMBER 2004 – 31 JANUARY 2005  
EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 11**

53.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director, Children, Families and Schools and appendices attached thereto which detailed financial and contractual information relating to audits carried out during the period covered by the report. This information was noted.

The meeting concluded at 6:10pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005