

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 14 JANUARY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair) , Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Allen, Hamilton, Knight, O'Quinn, Taylor, Wealls and Marsh.

Also in attendance: Bernadette O'Connor, Trevor Cristin, Adam Muirhead, Robert Scoble, Josh Cliff, Amanda Mortensen and Karen James.

PART ONE

44 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

44.1 There were none.

(b) Declarations of Interest

44.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

44.3 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(l) of the Act).

44.4 **RESOLVED** – That the press and public be not excluded.

45 MINUTES

45.1 The minutes of the last meeting held on the 12th November, 2018 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

46 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

46.1 The Chair gave the following communication:

“Webcasting

I'd like to inform those present that this meeting will be webcast live and will be capable of repeated viewing.

Youth Organisation representative

I'm sorry to say that Ben Glazebrook from the Young People's Centre, who has been a Youth organisation representative on this committee for a number of years has moved to a new role. I would like to thank him for his contribution to the committee over the years. For the meeting today Adam Muirhead will be representing the sector.

Former Portslade Sixth Form site

Work commenced on the construction of new buildings for Kings School and West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School a year ago in January 2018. Work has progressed well and there have been no unexpected delays. Work remains on target to be completed as planned. This means that West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School will move into their new building at the end of the school Easter holiday 2019. At that time the contractor will take possession of the existing school buildings, remove any asbestos prior to demolishing them and finishing the external works for the schools.

As the Kings School building is much bigger the school will have taken longer to complete. The Kings School therefore will be moving into their buildings for the start of the 2019/2020 school year in September.

Consideration is now being given to the future use of the Kings Schools current temporary site in Portslade. The first action will be for the Department for Education to remove the temporary classrooms from the site.

We will need to secure the consent of the Secretary of State for Education to change the use of the site once it is vacated. To achieve this we will undertake consultation with stakeholders to see if there is any further education need for the site. The information collected during this consultation will form part of our submission to the Secretary of State.

Retirement of Head Teacher of Dorothy Stringer Secondary School

Finally I would like to publicly thank Richard Bradford for the contribution he has made to supporting children and young people across the city. Apart from a short period in Hong Kong, Richard has worked in schools across the city since 1990, most recently as Head Teacher of Dorothy Stringer. In addition to his time at Dorothy Stringer School, Richard also stepped in to lead Longhill Secondary School when it was without a Head Teacher and has also been Chair of the Secondary School Partnership.”

47 CALL OVER

(a) Call over

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

- Item 51 - Able & Willing Future delivery Model
- Item 52 - Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- Item 53 - Families, Children and Learning Fees and Charges

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

47.2 The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that Items 51, 52, and 53 had been reserved for discussion.

47.3 The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that the following report on the agenda with the recommendations therein had been approved and adopted:

- Item 54 - School Admissions Arrangements 2020/21

48 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

48.1 The Chair noted there were no petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

48.2 The Chair noted that no written questions had been submitted by members of the public.

(c) Deputations

48.3 The Chair noted that no deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

49 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

49.1 The Chair noted there were no petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

49.2 The Chair noted that no written questions had been submitted by Members.

(c) Deputations

49.3 The Chair noted that no deputations had been submitted by Members.

(d) Notices of Motion

49.4 The Chair noted that no notices of motion had been submitted for consideration.

50 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

50.1 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement and the Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support provided an update on schools which had recently been inspected by Ofsted. It was stated despite the downgrade of Bright Start Nursery, there was little change from the previous meeting in terms of results. It was clarified that national information was published twice a year.

50.2 Councillor Brown expressed concern with Bright Start's downgrade to inadequate and enquired if Brighton Hove City Council (BHCC) were aware of the issues that lead to this and further requested an update on how nurseries were doing now and clarification of what was done by way of training.

50.3 The Head of Early Years Youth & Family Support gave a brief overview of issues leading to Bright-Start's negative and noted that among the main problems was the ongoing issue of recruitment and retention. It was stated that a comprehensive action plan had been in effect since Christmas focusing on areas identified.

50.4 Councillor Phillips noted the positivity of this not being a result of negative safeguarding. An overview of the management and leadership at Bright-Start Nursery, she furthered enquired if there were any systems in place for staff to visit and spend time to focus on procedural and managements styles at a successful nursery. Clarification was sought in regards to how many parent had left since the Ofsted inspection.

50.5 The Head of Early Years Youth & Family Support stated that in terms of management and leadership Bright-Start Nursery had a new manager with good work experience with other nurseries. It was noted that at the time of the inspection, Bright-Start Nursery were waiting for staff to begin. It was further noted that efforts to explore alternative methods of conducting this were being conducted and that of the 76 children attending Bright-Start 2 children had left due to the results of the inspection and 2 had moved to different areas.

50.6 Councillor Taylor enquired if last minute updates to Ofsted inspection reports could be sent via email in future. It was stated that middle street pupil premium funding was not properly displayed.

50.7 The Assistant Director Education & Skills stated that disadvantaged pupils were a city wide concern.

50.8 **RESOLVED:** That the update be noted.

51 ABLE & WILLING FUTURE DELIVERY MODEL

51.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning which provided information to inform the decision on the future of Able & Willing. The report was introduced by the Head of Skills and Programme Manager.

- 51.2 Councillor Phillips moved a joint amendment and proposed that the vote be taken in parts.
- 51.3 Councillor Brown seconded the amendment and noted that it was not appropriate to carry on under the same name as the project had been considerably altered over time.
- 51.4 The Chair did not support the amendment and stated that the name should be subject to decision by those who had employed people through Able & Willing.
- 51.5 Councillor Hamilton noted that specific reference was made in the report to any name changes and that this decision lay with current stakeholders.
- 51.6 The Chair suggested that the amendment should be withdrawn.
- 51.7 Councillors Phillips and Brown agreed to the withdrawal of the amendment.
- 51.8 The Chair then moved to remove recommendation 2.2.
- 51.9 Committee Members agreed to the withdrawal of recommendation 2.2.
- 51.10 The Chair then put the remaining recommendation to the vote.
- 51.11 **RESOLVED:** That the future delivery model of Able & Willing changing to a rolling work placement programme matching suitable placements within council services for candidates be agreed.

52 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

- 52.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning which provided members with an update regarding childcare sufficiency in Brighton & Hove, parent's views of childcare in the city and the national and local policy context. The report was introduced by the Childcare Strategy Manager – Free Entitlement.
- 52.2 Councillor Phillips noted the difficulties in provision of ad hoc childcare due to the high cost. Emphasis on the positivity of the recommendations was conveyed and noted that it was indicative of the impact of repeated cuts in both PAC and Maze.
- 52.3 The Childcare Strategy Manager – Free Entitlement stated that BHCC were involved with the development of extended day provision around new hubs in Brighton & Hove in regards to SEN. It was further stated that there was extra provision for older SEN children however it was noted that flexibility was costly.
- 52.4 Adam Muirhead stated that PAC concerns with lay largely with the extended day and noted that children could end up using the hub as an after school club. It was further enquired if officers from BHCC and PAC would work together to make sure parent carers were included in consultations.

- 52.5 The Childcare Strategy Manager – Free Entitlement stated that PAC had been consulted on the issue of funding. It was noted that many issues expressed were largely linked to budgets. It was clarified that BHCC did not directly provide out of school care provision however did offer sustainability and inclusion funding.
- 52.6 Councillor Marsh sought clarification of support through universal credit increases and further enquired how many people in care actually received the necessary help in regards to East Sussex.
- 52.7 The Childcare Strategy Manager – Free Entitlement stated that funding was for free entitlement of free sessions for 2-4 year olds. There had been adjustments to area cost adjustments to East Sussex. It was noted that in regards to distribution a certain amount of money was provided for children in the most deprived areas of the City. It was emphasised that the implementation of Universal Credit was still in its primary stage.
- 52.8 The Chair noted that letters had been written regarding the proper area cost adjustment to MPs and necessary parties.
- 52.9 Councillor O’Quinn referred to agenda item 5.7 and noted that the completion of the survey by 450 people appeared to signify that a lot of people may not have engaged with this due to a general approval. It was further noted that this was still a significant drop.
- 52.10 The Chair noted the comments and put the recommendations to the vote.

52.11 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) (Appendix 1) to the report be noted;
- (2) That the CSA be published to parents and childcare providers and that childcare providers be supported to offer tax free childcare; and
- (3) That additional support and inclusion funding for children with SEND for 2019/20 onwards be reviewed as well as information for parents with a specific focus on SEND and children in more disadvantaged families.

53 FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND LEARNING FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20

- 53.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Families, Children & Learning which provided an update on the review of the Families, Children & Learning Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy. It was noted that there would be no increase in charge for training courses. The report was introduced by the Head of Service Early Years Youth & Family Support.
- 53.2 Councillor Phillips noted the increase in nursery fees by 12 and stated that there had been no consultation with parents on the matter and requested clarification.
- 53.3 The Head of Service Early Years Youth & Family Support noted the lack of consultation with parents.

53.4 Councillor Marsh referred to page 101 and enquired who was in receipt of the contract and what the price of the meal charge would be.

53.5 The Assistant Director Education & Skills stated to primary schools bought in to the contract and had various different arrangements at different costs. It was noted that there was no increase in cost at this point in time.

53.6 Councillor Hamilton enquired if BHCC were receiving the East and West Sussex rate when taking pupils from external councils.

53.7 The Assistant Director Education & Skills stated that any Brighton and Hove Nursery was funded at the Brighton & Hove rate.

53.8 The Chair then put the recommendations to the vote.

53.9 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) The position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 of the report be agreed;
- (2) That the position on fees and charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.4 of the report be agreed; and
- (3) That the position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.5 of the report be noted.

54 **SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21**

54.1 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the admission priorities for Community Schools as set out in the consultation documents (appended to the report) be adopted for all age groups so as to include children who have been in state care outside of England and have ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted within the definition of children in care and previous children in care;
- (2) That the proposed school admission numbers set out in the consultation documents for the admissions year 2020/21 including the reduction in the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Westdene Primary School from 90 pupils to 60 pupil be adopted;
- (3) That the co-ordinated schemes of admission be approved; and
- (4) That the city boundary for the relevant area for consultation for school admissions be retained.

55 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

55.1 The Chair noted that no items had been referred to the full Council meeting for information.

The meeting concluded at 5.40pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2019