

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER SPECIAL MEETING

Agenda Item 33
Brighton & Hove City Council

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| Subject: | Protocol for the Creation of All Through Primary Schools | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 30 July 2008 | | |
| REPORT OF: | Director of Children's Services | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Gil Sweetenham | Tel: 29-3433 |
| | E-mail: | Gil.sweetenham@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | Forward Plan No. CYP2162 | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Brighton and Hove City Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000. Protocols were established following the Scrutiny Panel and report recommendations following the merger of three primary schools in 1999. This protocol has been revised in the light of the Primary Strategy for Change and the creation of the CYPT.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the revised Protocol for the Creation of All Through Primary Schools for implementation from September 2008 be agreed.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 The present protocol was revised in 2004 prior to the creation of the CYPT and the DCSF requirement for a Primary Strategy for Change. The Council produced a Primary Strategy for Change for the DCSF in June 2008. This document included the consideration of creating all through primary schools from separate infant and junior schools.

3.2 Attached to the protocol is an appendix detailing the staffing protocol. This was revised in January 2008.

3.3 This protocol would affect a limited number of schools in Brighton & Hove. The main changes in the revised document are as follows:

- The document now lists the potential advantages of the creation of all through primary schools.

- The document removes the suggestion that merged schools of over 600 students are unlikely to go ahead.

The document includes the option of extending the age range of one school and closing the other to create a new all through primary school.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 All headteachers have been provided with copies of the draft protocol and it has been discussed with a group of headteachers who have either been through a merger/amalgamation, or know that their school could be part of a future proposal to create an all through primary school. The protocol has also been discussed with the School Workforce Unions. The protocol will be used for the development of any future all through primary school.
- 4.2 Responses to the consultation will be reported to the meeting on 21st July

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications

- 5.1 Any revenue costs for the creation of an all through primary school from separate infant and Junior schools would have to be met from the existing Individual School Budget (ISB) for the financial year in which a merger took place, as there are no additional resources available to fund any associated costs that may arise. Any Capital costs of a merger would have to be met from the Primary Capital Programme budget; however these may fall before or after the financial year in which the merger takes place."

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore, Schools Principal Accountant 13th June 2008

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Consideration of any proposals to amalgamate infant and junior schools under the revised protocol will need to take into account the Council's general statutory duties under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to both ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, and to promote diversity in school provision that responds to parental choice.

Legal Officer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Lawyer 24 June 2008

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as all schools promote the creation of a fairer society where everyone can participate and has the opportunity to fulfil their potential and address unfair discrimination based on a membership of a particular group. Schools recognise and value difference in its broadest sense and create a culture and practices that staff recognise, respect, value and harness difference for the benefit of pupils, and

staff.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Schools promote the four priorities of the council's commitment to address sustainability:

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Climate Change and Energy

Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

Sustainable Communities

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Schools are key contributors to preventing crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Any change to school organisation will be of concern to schools and workforce unions. The purpose of the consultation process is to explore fully any concerns raised by these groups prior to introducing new policy.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The Council has had a policy of supporting the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where appropriate since 2000.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The existing protocol is now out of date and needs to be replaced

- 6.2 Not addressing the potential advantages brought by all through primary schools could leave the council open to criticism regarding efficient use of resources.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To have a protocol in place that supports the councils wish to consider the creation of all through primary schools when appropriate.

- 7.2 To ensure that processes are in place to support the aspirations of our Primary Strategy for Change.

- 7.3 To place in the public domain the council's identification of the potential advantages of all through primary schools

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Protocol for the Creation of All Through Primary Schools
2. Template Staffing Protocol

Background Documents

1. Consultation responses
2. Primary Strategy for Change