

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
EDUCATION OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

5.00PM – 28 FEBRUARY 2006

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Meegan (Chair); Councillors Mrs Norman (Deputy Chair), Edmond-Smith, Hamilton, Morgan, Simson, Smith, Willows and Wrighton.

Statutory Co-optees with Voting Rights: Clare Jackson – Parent Governor Representative; Sophie Ricca-McCarthy – Parent Governor Representative.

Non-Voting Non-Statutory Co-optees: Mrs A Antonio – National Union of Teachers; Mrs S Llewellyn-Powell – Association of Teachers and Lecturers; Ms R Mattacks – Brighton and Hove Governors Network; Ms S Messenger – NASUWT.

Also Present: David Hawker – Director, Children, Families and Schools; John Heys – Principal Solicitor; Mandy Miller – Senior Schools Advisor; Chris Ouellette – Scrutiny Officer.

Apologies: Councillor Bennett, Mr F Myers and Mrs E Yates.

PART ONE

46. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

46A. Declarations of Substitutes

46.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor

None

46B. Declarations of Interest

46.2 Councillor Morgan informed the Panel that his partner is a teacher in the authority. Ms Ricca-McCarthy advised the Panel that she is a Parent Governor for Queen's Park Primary School.

46C. Exclusion of Press and Public

46.3 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.

46.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

47. MINUTES

47.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meetings held on 6 December 2005 and 7 February 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair.

48. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

48.1 There were no public questions.

49. SUMMARY OF OFSTED REPORTS

49.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools concerning the outcome of the school Ofsted inspections which took place in the second half of the Autumn Term 2005 (see minute book).

49.2 The Senior Schools Advisor introduced the report by noting that all the inspections were positive. It was again reiterated that a 'satisfactory' grade means that the school is performing at a satisfactory level, not inadequately. It was also noted that in the case of Portslade Community College and Sixth Form, a strong management team was in place, standards were rising and an even better rating was expected in the next OfSTED inspection.

49.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

50. QUARTER 2 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2005/06

50.1 The Panel considered an extract from the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 7 December 2005 concerning the second quarter, July to September 2005, performance indicator results from the statutory Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) suite (see minute book).

50.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools gave a foreword on the report by explaining that he expects a new, more comprehensive basket of indicators for the following year. He then fielded Panel questions, which included informing the Panel that the Directorate had in some months achieved the target of 100% in issuing and processing statements of special educational needs.

50.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

51. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

51.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and

Schools giving an update on the work undertaken by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) in 2004/05 together with the Annual Report (see minute book).

51.2 This item was introduced by Councillor Hamilton in his role as a member of SACRE, in the absence of the Reverend Derek Bastide, Chair of SACRE. He concluded by mentioning that if one of the SACRE Groups was not represented at a SACRE meeting, the meeting became inquorate. He pointed out that only two of the six Councillor Group positions on SACRE were filled, which meant that the risk of the Group not being represented was higher than it should be. The Panel decided that members would go back to their groups and solicit memberships. The Labour Group agreed to offer one of their seats to the Green Group. The Conservative Group agreed to offer one of their seats to the Liberal Democrat Group.

51.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

52. ADULT LEARNING INSPECTION

52.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools concerning the inspection of services in October 2005 by the Adult Learning Inspectorate and detailing the results and recommendations for service improvement made as a result of that inspection (see minute book).

52.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools introduced the report by stating that at the time of the inspection, it had been the best inspection done to date. The Panel welcomed the report and asked if further information could be brought to the Panel concerning education of prison inmates.

52.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

53. CFS 2006/07-2007/08 BUDGET

53.1 The Panel considered a report of the Head of Financial Services, Children, Families and Schools, giving an update on the budget position for 2006/07 and 2007/08 (see minute book).

53.2 This report was presented by the Director of Children, Families and Schools. The Panel welcomed the news that the CFS budget was balanced for the next two years and barring any large unforeseen expenditure, should remain so. As the Panel noted there was more money for children's services, it asked if the same was true for the Youth Service. The Director responded, that yes, there had been more money invested in the Youth Service through the Bridge to Employment programme.

53.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

54. UPDATE ON 21 FEBRUARY 2006 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

54.1 The Panel were given a verbal update on the 21 February 2006 extraordinary meeting by the Director of Children, Families and Schools (see minute book).

54.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools gave an update of the outcome of the 21 February CFS Committee meeting by explaining that the Committee had decided to move forward with their original plan. The Panel discussed at length the outcome and agreed that there were lessons to be learnt, and that these lessons should be communicated to the working group and members of the community in general.

54.3 **RESOLVED** – That the verbal update be noted.

55. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

55.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools giving an update on the Children & Young People's Plan (see minute book).

55.2 The report was introduced by the Director of Children, Families and Schools, who highlighted the report's main thrust, which was a new common vision for children and young people in the city. The Director noted that the consultation documents had been produced for children and young people as well as to solicit their input and that the Panel would be sent the consultation documents.

55.3 **RESOLVED** -

56. CHILDREN'S TRUST SERVICE INTEGRATION PLANS

56.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools concerning the progress made towards setting up an integrated service through the merger of the BHCC Children, Families and Schools Directorate and the South Downs Health NHS Trust Children and Families Division (see minute book).

56.2 The report was presented by the Director of Children, Families and Schools. He described in detail the depth of the re-organisation that was underway within the Local Authority, the Primary Care Trust and South Downs Trust vis-à-vis children's services. The Panel raised concerns over the size of the re-organisation and whether affected staff were being kept informed and had an understanding of the implications.

56.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

57. FUTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

57.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Strategy and Governance concerning the upcoming changes likely to be proposed to the

overview and scrutiny arrangements for children's services (see minute book).

57.2 The Principal Solicitor presented this report, starting out by explaining that the change in structure of children and young peoples' services would result in a changes to the monitoring structures as well. The Panel discussed at length the implications the new scrutiny arrangements would have and felt that they would need induction training when the new Panel is created to equip them with the skills to fulfil their new mandate.

57.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted and be approved in principle.

58. REPORT ON THE SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER: HIGHER STANDARDS, BETTER SCHOOLS FOR ALL

58.1 The Panel considered a report of the Director of Children, Families and Schools detailing the content of the recent Schools White Paper and highlighting some of its implications for Brighton and Hove (see minute book).

58.2 The Director of Children, Families and Schools introduced this report by bringing to the attention of the Panel that the new Schools' Bill released earlier that day would supersede many of the items in the White Paper. The Panel asked numerous questions about the implications of the new Schools' Bill, specifically relating to admissions policies and trust schools.

58.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

59. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

59.1 **RESOLVED** – None.

PART TWO

60. ITEMS TO REMAIN EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

60.1 **RESOLVED** – That no items remain exempt from disclosure to the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 6:45pm

Signed

Chair

