





**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

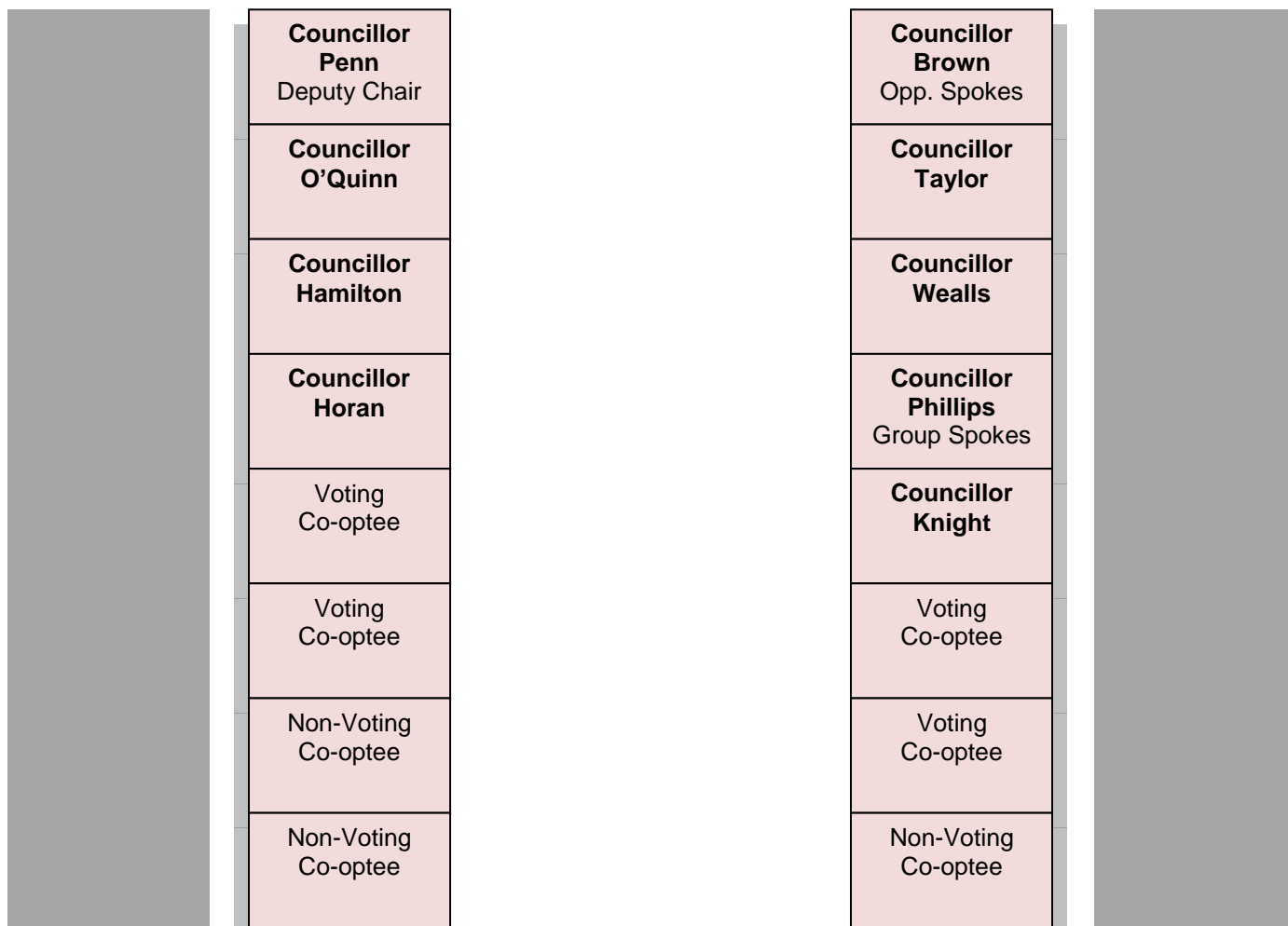
Children, Young People & Skills Committee

Title:	Children, Young People & Skills Committee
Date:	15 January 2018
Time:	4.00pm
Venue	Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 3BQ
Members:	Councillors: Chapman (Chair), Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Hamilton, Horan, Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Knight, O'Quinn, Taylor and Wealls
	Voting Co-opted Members: Ann Holt, Martin Jones, Amanda Mortensen and Marie Ryan
	Non-Voting Co-opted Members: Ben Glazebrook (Youth Works Representative)
Contact:	Lisa Johnson Senior Democratic Services Officer 01273 291228 lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk
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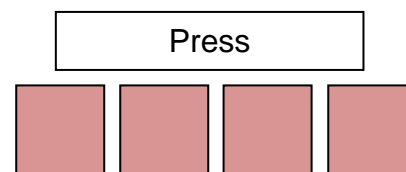
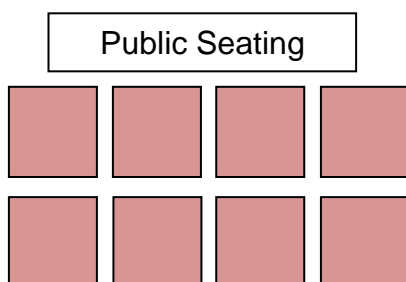
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

Democratic Services: Children, Young People & Skills Committee

AD of Children's Services	ED of Children's Services	Councillor Chapman Chair	Legal Officer	Democratic Services Officer
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Public Speaker/
Officer Speaking



AGENDA

42 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declaration of Substitutes: Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests;
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: *Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.*

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

43 MINUTES

1 - 12

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2017 (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Lisa Johnson

Tel: 01273 291228

Ward Affected: All Wards

44 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

45 CALL OVER

- (a) Items (49 – 52) will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.
- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

46 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

13 - 28

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented to the full council or at the meeting itself;
 - (i) West Hove Catchment Area Changes – Keep Our Community Together. Lead petitioner Mr. O'Sullivan.
 - (ii) Keep our Community Together. Lead petitioner Mr. Tait.
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 9th January 2018.
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 9th January 2018;
 - (i) Benfield Primary School. Spokesperson Mr. Theobold.

Contact Officer: Lisa Johnson

Tel: 01273 291228

Ward Affected: All Wards

47 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by Councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

48 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

49 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2019/20

To Follow

Report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning (copy to follow).

Contact Officer: Richard Barker

Tel: 01273 290732

Ward Affected: All Wards

50 STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) ANNUAL REPORT 29 - 34

Report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Hilary Ferries Tel: 01273 293738

Ward Affected: All Wards

51 FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND LEARNING FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19 35 - 44

Report of the Executive Director for Families, Children & Learning (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732

Ward Affected: All Wards

52 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL 45 - 72

Report of the Executive Director for Children, Families & Learning (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Richard Barker Tel: 01273 290732

Ward Affected: All Wards

53 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to the 1st February, 2018 Council meeting for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

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The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

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For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Lisa Johnson, (01273 291228, email lisa.johnson@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Date of Publication - Friday, 5 January 2018

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 13 NOVEMBER 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Chapman (Chair); Councillor Penn (Deputy Chair), Brown (Opposition Spokesperson), Hamilton, Phillips (Group Spokesperson), Knight, O'Quinn, Wealls, Horan and Janio.

Other Members present: Ms. B. Connor and Ms. J. Sumner.

PART ONE

31 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

31 (a) Declarations of substitutes

31.1 Councillor Horan was present as a substitute for Councillor Russell-Moyle
Councillor Janio was present as a substitute for Councillor Taylor
Ms B Connor was present as a substitute for Ms M Ryan
Ms J Sumner was present as a substitute for Mr B Glazebrook

31 (b) Declarations of Interest

31.2 There were none.

31 (c) Exclusion of press and public

31.3 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(I) of the Act).

31.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded

32 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

32.1 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.

Blatchington Mill

As this committee will be familiar, during both the Sussex Area Review and the Local Area Review, concerns were expressed about the viability of post 16 provision where numbers of students are below 200 students across the 6th form. In March 2016, guidance was issued by the Department of Education which states: "The Area Review encourages school sixth forms to collaborate to a greater extent to help drive efficiencies. Similar provision in sixth forms is often duplicated in relatively small geographical areas, when it could be delivered in a more joined up way. This may be particularly the case where sixth forms are very small, as some evidence raises concerns about costs, breadth of offer and outcomes for these providers."

The Governing Body of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form have carefully considered the position of the sixth form provision Blatch Six, and have concluded that its provision should be closed. I am confident that the governors of the school have considered the variety of options for the sixth form provision over a number of years and recognise much thought will have gone into reaching this conclusion.

Due to the timescales involved, the Executive Director for F, C & L used his delegated authority to make a decision to initiate a consultation, a position I support and therefore a consultation on a proposal to change the age range of the school from 11 to 18 as it is as present to 11 to 16 has started. The proposal has to be taken forward by the Local Authority in accordance with DfE statutory guidance Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools (April 2016).

The results of this consultation will be reported to the January meeting of the Children Young People and Skills Committee where a decision will be made as to whether to proceed to the next stage which would be the publication of a statutory notice and a further period of consultation.

Should the sixth form provision close the school will work more closely with Hove Park who will retain 6th form provision in the area.

Minutes

You will note that Item 33 has the minutes from the last CYPS meeting, together with an addendum to the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017. The minutes of the 19 June meeting have already been agreed, but Mr Jones has asked that comments he said he made at the meeting be added. I am aware that a number of emails have been circulated on this matter, and I would suggest that when we come to Item 33 that the wording be noted without further discussion and added as an addendum to the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017.

33 MINUTES**33.1 RESOLVED:**

(i) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2017 be approved and signed as the correct record.

(ii) That the addendum to the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2017 be noted.

34 CALL OVER

34.1 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

35 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

35 (a) Petitions

35.1 The Committee considered a petition signed by 1489 people (167 on a paper petition and 1322 on an e-petition) which called for Brighton & Hove City Council to abandon the proposal to halve the admission number for Benfield Primary School. The petition was submitted by Ms J Keilthy.

35.2 The Chair provided the following response:
Thank you for taking the time to put forward your petition to the meeting. I can assure you all that in this period of public consultation your views and the views of all respondents will be taken into consideration. This is the very purpose of a consultation. The Council has put forward proposals for the city wide solution to the specific issues of rising surplus places in primary schools, and an imbalance on pupil numbers in the catchment areas of our city's secondary schools. When public consultation closed we will take time to consider all the points raised and this will be discussed by the cross party group that looks at admission arrangements. It is the Council's aim to ensure that all schools remain open, to help serve communities and to future proof the city for when pupil numbers rise. We need to find a solution that works across the city. In the meantime I would encourage residents to respond to the consultation through the Have Your Say consultation portal on the Brighton & Hove City Council website. Thank you for taking the time to come along today.

35.3 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the petition be noted.

35.4 The Committee considered the petition referred from Full Council of 2 November 2017 which had 1570 signatures, and which called for the Council to abandon the proposal to halve the admission numbers for Hertford Infant School.

35.5 The Chair provided the following response:
At Full Council on 2 November 2017 action was required for the Committee to receive the petition regarding proposed changes to the Published Admission Number of Hertford Infant School. It was recommended that the petition be considered and the Committee request a report outlining the options for maintaining the current entry intake for Hertford Infants, including consideration of the outcomes and feasibility of adjusting the number of four-form schools, and that as part of this report an Equalities Impact Assessment be carried out. This Committee is already scheduled to receive a detailed report on the outcome of the consultation which will make recommendations to us for how admission arrangements for September 2019 should be organised. This report will include a full Equalities Impact Assessment. This will be how the Committee will be able to take

forward the recommendations from Full Council. Members of the Committee will know from the last Full Council, and from those who attended the consultation event at Herford Infant School, the strength of feeling around this proposal. I also met with the head teacher and governors of Hertford Infant School this morning, and with Councillor Penn and Councillor Hill to discuss this proposal. All of this will be taken into consideration along with the other consultation results when the cross party group next meet. I'd like to thank again the petitioners for bringing this petition to the Committee.

35.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee –

- (i) Note the Petition,
- (ii) Receive a report outlining the options for maintaining the current entry intake for Hertford Infant School, including consideration of the outcomes and feasibility of adjusting the numbers of other four-form schools,
- (iii) That as part of the above report, and Equalities Impact Assessment be carried out on the reduction of Hertford Infant School intake for consideration.

35 (b) **Written Questions**

35.7 There were none.

35 (c) **Deputations**

35.8 The Committee considered a deputation presented by Ms S Scerri regarding the proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number for Benfield Primary School.

35.9 The Chair provided the following response:
The proposals to reduce the Published Admission Number of five schools is not a reflection on the quality of provision delivered in those schools or a reflection of the impact the school has on its community. These proposals were put forward to help address the lower primary numbers in some areas of the city and the surplus places that will therefore be in our city's schools. This will be an additional problem for school leaders to manage and the Council does not want to see any school close. This deputation outlines views that are essential to inform the development of proposals after a period of consultation. No decisions have been made. When the public consultation closes we will take time to consider all the points raised and how best to respond. We will receive a report in January 2018 with a considered proposal for the city's admission arrangements for September 2019. Thank you for making your deputation.

35.10 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the deputation be noted.

35.11 The Committee considered a deputation presented by Mr D Boyle regarding the proposal to amend the secondary school catchment areas.

35.12 The Chair provided the following response:
Thank you for coming today and taking the time to bring your deputation to the Committee. The views and comments that you have outlined today will be taken into consideration when the cross party group meet after the consultation has closed to discuss school admission arrangement for September 2019. I am aware of the strength of feeling on this issue as I have attended many of the consultation meetings that have

been held across the city, and indeed I was at the meeting on Thursday last week at Elm Grove Primary School. The feedback from these meetings, and all the consultation responses, will be taken into consideration. With regards to the new school, I do understand your concern but I do wish to reiterate that the expectation of all stakeholders is that the new Brighton & Hove Academy will open in September 2019, though this decision is taken by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and not the Council. The proposal put forward was to help form a city wide solution to the imbalance in numbers of secondary school pupils in the city, and the consultation period allows families and school communities to clearly outline their concerns about how they will be impacted by these proposals and I welcome the points made in this deputation. When the public consultation closes on 19 November 2017 we will take time to consider all the points raised and how best to respond. This Committee will receive a report in January 2018 with a considered proposal for the city's admission arrangement for September 2019. Thank you for taking the time to make this deputation.

35.13 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed that the deputation be noted.

36 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

36a Petitions

36.1 There were none.

36b Written Questions

36.2 There were none.

36c Letters

36.3 There were none.

36d Notices of Motion

36.4 There were none

37 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

37.1 The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements provided an update on schools which had recently been inspected by Ofsted.

37.2 The Head of Education, Standards and Achievements said that six schools had been inspected since the last meeting of the Committee, but only had two had so far been reported. He was pleased to advise that Elm Grove Primary had retained its 'Good' rating, and St Martin's CE Primary had moved from 'Requires Improvement' to 'Good'.

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

38 OFSTED - AN UPDATE ON THE 2015 CHILDREN'S SERVICES INSPECTION

- 38.1 Councillor Brown thanked officers for the update, and commended the department on their willingness to have outside verification for the changes happening in the service. There was the LGA safeguarding peer review in 2016, and the evaluation of the new relationship based model of practice for social workers earlier in the year. There had been a 10% decrease in both children with Child protection plans and those in care, and as the number had increased for other authorities there was concern that the Authority's threshold for services had been raised, but was assured that that wasn't the case and it was the new model of practice which had provided more early support and stability which was really good news. The recent audit for social work showed that the quality of supervision was good or better in 89% of cases which was a huge improvement and hope that next time the Authority is inspected we will receive a 'Good' rating.
- 38.2 Councillor Phillips asked for more information on the process for Child in Need assessments, asked what steps would be taken to increase the percentage from 70%. The Head of Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance said previously the Authority undertook an initial assessment which had to be completed within 10 working days, or a core assessment which was more comprehensive that needed to be completed within 45 working days, but that was changed two and half years ago and was replaced by a more proportionate assessment. So rather than being teid up with timescales it was looking at the presenting issues and what was the proportionate response. We should be seeing every child as part and that should be 100%. There is an issue with data not being recorded properly, and we need to ensure that that is being done correctly.
- 38.3 Councillor O'Quinn was pleased to note so many positive actions being put in place. With regard to fostering, there had been a big effort to get more foster carers but she was aware that it was difficult to get ones to care for children with complex needs and asked for more information. The Head of Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance said it was difficult and that the Authority were building in wrap around support for both the young person in placement and for the carers, and looking at things such as providing respite care for all parties, and looking carefully at the needs of the young people to ensure the right support is being provided. We also work closely with the child's school, and social workers as we want to provide a team around that child so the foster carers do not feel they are being left on their own.
- 38.4 Councillor Wealls was pleased to note that 96% of care leavers were deemed to be in suitable accommodation and asked why was that figure so high when there were known problems with housing in the city. The Head of Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance said that the authority were lucky to have good third sector providers such as the YMCA.
- 38.5 Councillor Wealls noted that 96% of assessments were completed within 45 working days, and asked if that was a national standard. The Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance said that 45 days was a national standard, but locally there was an expectation that the assessments would be completed within 30 working days. However, in more complex cases when it may take up to 45 days.
- 38.6 Mr Jones was concerned to note that a child would not be seen by a social worker until an assessment had been undertaken. The Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance

said that if a referral came in and it was a child protection matter, the child would be seen within twenty-four hours, and if it were a lower level child in need matter the child would be seen within three working day.

- 38.7 Councillor Penn said that it was brave of the Council to accept that things weren't working as well as it could, and to make changes. It was a credit to the social work team that the new model was working so well, and to have a ten percent decrease in children in care and on child protection plans was fantastic. Councillor Penn asked if the main differences between the models could be outlined. The Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance said that the new model focused on social workers spending time with children and families, and rather than referring children to external services the social worker would build a relationship with families to effect change. The new model ensured social workers had manageable caseloads and that the bureaucracy was kept to a minimum, and now rather than a family being moved to different people as their case progressed through the system, the same social worker would remain with a family throughout. Councillor Penn noted that the new model had also assisted with the retention of social workers. The Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance agreed and said that previously twenty percent of social workers were agency workers, but now there were no agency staff.
- 38.8 Councillor Janio was surprised to not that 669 children were seen over a three month period, and asked if that figure was correct. He was advised it was, but could include siblings so that wasn't individual families. The Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning reminded that Committee, that there were 51,000 children in the city.
- 38.9 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee:
- (i) Noted the progress made around the recommendations arising from the Ofsted inspection in 2015;
 - (ii) Agreed that future updates should focus on the new inspection framework referred to in the body of the report.

39 USE OF HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FUNDING IN YOUTH SERVICES

- 39.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning which provided members with an update on changes to the youth service including the use of the Housing Revenue Account's (HRA) annual £250,000 contribution to the budget. The report was introduced by the Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support with contributions from Kyra Kibble (Youth Council).
- 39.2 Kyra Kibble said that Youth Council representatives and others from different youth services, met over half term. It was agreed that they would meet every six weeks, at different venues, to discuss various issue such as mental health.
- 39.3 Councillor Brown asked if any further steps had been taken to revive the Ask, Report, Change (ARC) programme, and was advised that there hadn't but an update would be provided in due course.
- 39.4 Councillor Brown referred to the Participation Team which delivered the Youth Advocacy Project and asked if the right number of people were involved. The Head of Service -

Early Years & Family Support advised that an update would be provided at the Committee's meeting in January. Councillor Brown referred to paragraph 3.6 in the report, and asked what would happen when the funding ended in September 2018. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that more information about funding would be known in the spring next year, and decisions could be taken then.

- 39.5 Councillor Brown suggested that it would be useful to have a report in six months on the Youth Grant Programme, which was agreed by the Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support.
- 39.6 Councillor Brown referred to Appendix 4 to the report and noted that under 'Other Costs', there was a figure of £15k for 'Independent Visitors for children in care', but there was also a figure of £46k for 'Independent Visitors', and asked what that referred to. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support the £15k was a contribution from the youth budget, and the £46k was the budget they already had.
- 39.7 Councillor Phillips thanked officers for the report, but suggested it would have been helpful to have information about what had been provided before and what had been lost with regard to the £250k from the HRA budget. Councillor Phillips was concerned that whilst the Lone Voice project was great it did not adequately replace the one to one youth work. There seemed to be an emphasis on anti-social behaviour and employability, which was good but she did not think they were in the spirit of the amendments to the funding which was agreed at Budget Council earlier this year. Councillor Phillips suggested that it would be useful to have regular updates on the youth service provision, and asked how many council employees were involved in this area. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that the overall savings to the Council were £255k. There was no longer a detached youth work team within the Council, but the voluntary sector now provided that. The Chair said that the cross party group could review the youth service provision on a regular basis.
- 39.8 Councillor O'Quinn noted that one of the expected outcomes for the Youth Grant programme was a reduction in anti-social behaviour, and asked if the Council were liaising with the police. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that they did and the police had set up an early intervention team. The Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning said that children were now living more complicated lives and there were a range of services outside of the youth service. Around six months ago the Council reorganised the range of provision to make more integrated arrangements. There had been a reduction of the number of children involved in youth crime, which had allowed some funding to be used for preventative work.
- 39.9 Ms J Sumner thanked Councillors and Officers for the continued investment in this vital service and commended the fact that funding arrangements had been changed to a grant rather than a contract service. She asked that where possible, and where procurement allowed, officers sought to establish grant arrangements to ensure that as much resource went into communities as possible. Ms Sumner referred to the Council Youth Participation Team Budget, and asked what the £10,000 for small grants referred to. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that the aim is the voice forum and the cross party group would have a say in how that money was spent.

- 39.10 Councillor Penn asked that Moulsecoomb and Patcham were taken into account, as areas such as the Bates Estate had significant levels of depravation, and there was a lack of facilities or projects in those places. Councillor Penn said that it was important that the funding was spent wisely, and asked how the outcomes would be measured. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that regular meetings would be held with voluntary sector providers, and to measure outcomes they would use Aspire (Council run IT system) to monitor the number of young people they were in contact with, together with feedback from residents groups.
- 39.11 Councillor Wealls referred to the Youth Participation Team budget and felt that there was a lot of consultation and talking rather than actual provision. He noted that there was a lot of advocacy within the Council, and asked whether it would be more appropriate for a non-council entity to do a great deal of that work. The Head of Service - Early Years & Family Support said that the amount of funding being spent on the participation was not just looking at how the budget would be spent but was also looking at how the Council were working with young people. With regard to the advocacy the Youth Participation Team were involved to ensure some independence. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning said that participation also included young people having an input on recruitment of officers and social workers, so they would be involved in decisions the Council made. More information on that would be provided in an interim report. He added that advocacy was a statutory requirement for children in care. Mr J Cliff said that youth involvement was being addressed; young people usually didn't get much say and so it was good that they had the opportunity to have their voice heard.
- 39.12 Councillor Janio said that it was important to keep young people informed, and it was good to talk with them. He felt that sometimes the Council were clinging on to some of the internal services, which the community and voluntary sector within the city could provide.
- 39.13 Mr M Jones asked if the Committee could have a report from young people rather than from officers. The Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning referred to Appendix 1 to the report which was direct feedback from young people.
- 39.14 The Chair proposed the following amendment to Recommendation 2.2 '*That a progress report is considered by the Committee in June 2018*'. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Brown. The Committee agreed to the amendment.
- 39.15 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the Committee noted the report; and
 - (2) That a progress report be considered by the Committee in June 2018

40 BRIGHTON & HOVE CHILDREN IN CARE - INTERIM REPORT

- 40.1 The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning, which provided a summary of Brighton & Hove's Children in Care's educational progress and attainment at the end of Key Stage 2, 4 and 5 for the

academic year 2016/7. The report was introduced by the Head of Education Standards & Achievement.

- 40.2 Councillor O'Quinn referred to children who were fostered and said that it was preferable for them to have long term foster carers, rather than be moved a number of times to different carers as that could impact on their education. The Head of Education Standards & Achievement agreed and said that it was a known fact that when children were moved it did have a negative impact on their education. One of the purposes of a virtual school was to bring some stability. The Assistant Director Education & Skills said there was a Virtual School Steering Group, which was similar to a governing body of a school, and on that group were foster carers who worked closely with the Council.
- 40.3 Councillor Brown referred to the Maths tutor and asked how they would be utilised. The Head of Education Standards & Achievement said that it was primary school teacher who specialised in Maths, and they would be working with a few children. He added that the virtual school had a school improvement role to see what they could do to enhance the child's maths if they weren't achieving their potential. The Assistant Director Education & Skills said that maths was an issue all children not just those in care, and a range of work was being undertaken to support schools.
- 40.4 Councillor Wealls asked if there was an objective way to see whether the virtual school did a good job. The Assistant Director Education & Skills said that there were data comparisons, such as looking at neighbouring authorities but it was difficult as the number of children involved was small. Also when Ofsted inspected they looked at the work of the virtual school and its outcomes.
- 40.5 Mr M Jones understood that with the small number of children in care that it was difficult to make comparisons with previous years, but he asked whether there was a graph to show how we compared nationally with other authorities. The Head of Education Standards & Achievement said there wasn't as it was difficult to compare like for like, and comparing different years could be very misleading. Mr Jones said that exam grades had changed, and asked whether under the new system it was harder for a pupil to move from a grade 3 to a 4. The Head of Education Standards & Achievement said that under the new system there was an end of year exam rather than continual course work, and that could disadvantage some children. However, the data was not yet available to see whether there had been any impact.
- 40.6 Councillor Janio agreed that it was correct not to base data on small samples, but he felt that over a number of years it would be possible to see a trend.
- 40.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Committee noted the report.

41 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 41.1 Councillor Phillips requested that the petition submitted under item 35(a) be referred to the next meeting of Full Council. However the lawyer advised that it was not possible as a response to the petition, and all other issues raised during the consultation, would be responded to in a report which would come to the CYPS Committee in January 2018. The provision for the Committee to refer items to Full Council relates to substantive items, rather than issues raised under Public Involvement.

41.2 **RESOLVED:** That no items be referred to Full Council.

The meeting concluded at 6.15pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2018

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 15 January 2018
Report of: Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall **Tel:** 01273 291006
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive those petitions presented to the full Council and referred to the committee for consideration.
- 1.2 To receive any petitions to be presented or which have been submitted via the council's website or for which notice has been given directly to Democratic Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:
- taking the action requested in the petition
 - considering the petition at a council meeting
 - holding an inquiry into the matter
 - undertaking research into the matter
 - holding a public meeting
 - holding a consultation
 - holding a meeting with petitioners
 - calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

- 3.1 The following petitions have been referred to the committee from full Council:
- i) **West Hove Catchment Area Changes – Keep Our Community Together**
Petition from Mr. K. O'Sullivan referred from the Council meeting held on the 14th December, 2017 (1,436 signatures).

"We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to abandon proposals to change existing catchment areas until the Education & Skills Funding

Agency confirms the site and the opening date for the proposed Brighton & Hove Academy.”

ii) **Keep Our Community Together**

Petition from Mr. O. Tait referred from the Council meeting held on the 14th December, 2017 (1,368 signatures).

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to abandon proposals to change existing catchment areas until the Education & Skills Funding Agency confirms the site and the opening date for the proposed Brighton & Hove Academy.”

Additional Information

1. The proposed changes will have a serious and detrimental impact on the wider community. The proposal to move residents living between Boundary Road (Hove) and Coleman Avenue into the Portslade Aldridge Community Academy (PACA) catchment area will forcibly split friendship groups established at Hove Junior school. Approximately 30% of Hove Junior students will no longer have the same options as their class friends. This will not only create unnecessary stress and anxiety for the children directly affected, but also change the fabric of a close-knit, established and family friendly community.
2. We believe that every child in Brighton & Hove should have access to quality local education and not be bussed across the city. Under these changes, the children affected would be unable to walk to school and would be faced with up to 5-mile return trip to school at peak hours in our already congested city. With only a small number of children affected, their safety, their ability to participate in activities out of school hours, and their ability to engage with the local community around the school will be compromised by this extensive commute.
3. We acknowledge that there is a need to relieve pressure on numbers on current schools but the proposed changes set a precedent that could have a negative impact for all parents across Brighton and Hove. The two principles that received the greatest support in the Council’s 2016 consultation on catchment areas were minimising pupil’s journeys to school and allowing children to move to secondary school with their friends. Both principles are abandoned in this proposal. With further population bulges predicted in the next few years, we believe this seemingly arbitrary setting of catchment areas sets a precedent that could open the way to even more dramatic changes. Parents will no longer be able to argue on grounds of distance to school if the council decrees that their child should be sent to a school out of the city.
4. We request that catchment areas remain unchanged until a site and opening date for the proposed Brighton & Hove Academy is confirmed. We believe the proposed changes fail to take into account the possibility that the proposed Academy may open later than 2019, may not be located at the current preferred site or may fail to open at all. We argue that children in the area must remain in the current catchments until the

situation of the new school is confirmed. If not, families with children coming up to secondary after this two-year period risk having their children schooled in different schools.

5. We believe the Council's so-called "light touch, temporary" proposals create significant disparity in choice and outcome for children in Brighton & Hove, which is at best unfair, and at worst discriminatory. We contend that the proposals are not in the best interests of the children who live in the areas designated to move catchment.

Note: A minute extract of the council meeting's proceedings and recommendations therein are attached at Appendix 1 overleaf.

Subject:	West Hove Catchment Area Changes – Keep Our Community Together and Keep Our Community Together – Petitions: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 14 December 2017		
Date of Meeting:	15 January 2018		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE***Action Required of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee***

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations: That the petitions be noted and considered by the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 14 DECEMBER 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Marsh (Chair), Simson (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Robins, Russell-Moyle, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls, West and Yates.

PART ONE

50 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

(i) WEST HOVE CATCHMENT AREA CHANGES – KEEP OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

(ii) KEEP OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

50.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of two such petitions which related to the same issue and would therefore take each in turn, and noted that details of the second petition had been included in the addendum papers. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation relating to the second petition from the Green Group.

50.2 The Mayor then invited Mr. Kevin O'Sullivan as the lead petitioner to present the first petition calling on the Council to abandon the proposals to change existing catchment areas until the Education & Skills Funding Agency had confirmed the site and the opening date for the proposed Brighton & Hove Academy.

50.3 Mr. O'Sullivan thanked that Mayor and confirmed that the petition had 1,456 signatures in the West Hove area who objected to the proposed changes to catchment areas. He noted that Varndean, Dorothy Stringer and Blatchington Mill schools had offered to accommodate more pupils during the next two years and therefore questioned the need to review the catchment areas. Should the proposed changes be taken forward, it was

felt that they would have a detrimental affect by removing choice of schools, affect friendship groups, and result in extended travelling for a number of pupils and increased costs for parents. He noted that the council was obliged to follow the school admission code which stated that actions had to be fair, clear and objective. He believed that the current proposals were some way from being fair, clear and objective. It was hoped that the council would reconsider the matter and noted that parents were considering the option of funding a judicial review to ensure the best outcome for their children.

- 50.4 The Mayor then invited Mr. Ollie Tait as the lead petitioner to present the second petition which also called on the Council to abandon the proposals to change existing catchment areas until the Education & Skills Funding Agency had confirmed the site and the opening date for the proposed Brighton & Hove Academy.
- 50.5 Mr. Tait thanked the Mayor and confirmed that the petition had 1,368 signatures from the Elm Grove area, who believed that the proposed changes were counter to the council's aims for pupils transferring to secondary school and should not be implemented until a decision had been made on the new Academy. The outcome of the proposed change would see pupils having to travel over 6 miles and a travel time over seventy-five minutes which would impact of studies and friendship groups. There was also the potential impact to the nature of the area with an increase in the number of HMOs given the neighbouring universities and families being put off from moving into the area, thereby affecting the pupil numbers at the local primary schools. Whilst the secondary schools have offered to increase their intake, the cross-party Working Group has questioned the numbers but he would suggest that the Working Group's own figures could also be questioned. It was recognised that previous decisions had not helped and consequences were being faced, however it was felt that until the proposed new school opened, maintaining the existing arrangements was the least worst option. He noted that parents were preparing for the matter to be taken to judicial review and that they has already been advised that the proposals did not meet the school admissions code and it was hoped that the council would reconsider the matter and listen to the views of those affected.
- 50.6 The Mayor thanked Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Tait for attending the meeting and presenting their petitions and called on Councillor Chapman to respond to the petitions.
- 50.7 Councillor Chapman thanked the petitioners for their presentations and stated that both petitions and the points raised, as well as the strength of feeling in relation to the issue would be taken into consideration by the Children, Young People & Skills Committee. He noted that there had been similar concerns raised by members of the public at previous meetings of the committee and that the cross-party Working Group had been looking at the in-balance of secondary school places across the city. He expected the cross-party Working Group to report to the next meeting of the CYP&S Committee in January and that a decision would then be reached.

- 50.8 Councillor Phillips moved the amendment to the covering report's recommendation in relation to the second petition, 'Keep Our Community Together' on behalf of the Green Group. She stated that there was a need for more action to be taken to address the difficulties encountered by parents in securing a preferred school place for their children and for a full report to come to the committee in January. The amendment sought to ensure that necessary information on options for secondary places, population assessments and equalities impact assessments was provided so that an informed decision could be taken and parents given clarity and certainty over their children's futures.
- 50.9 Councillor Gibson formally seconded the amendment and reserved his right to speak later in the debate.
- 50.10 Councillor Peltzer-Dunn welcomed the two petitions and presentations made by the petitioners and noted that the Chair of the Committee had given his undertaking to take all the information that comes forward into consideration when the matter came to committee.
- 50.11 Councillor Daniel stated that she fully supported the parents and noted that the Working Group had a difficult job in trying to enable greater certainty about school places and this had been added to with the recent offer from certain schools to expand their numbers. She felt that all councillors needed to know what the implications and impact of any expansions would mean e.g. regarding sibling links and financially for individual schools etc. She asked that the Working Group would continue to engage with Ward councillors on the issue.
- 50.12 Councillor Nemeth stated that he believed the proposed changes to catchment areas were ill-conceived and noted that parents had expressed an intention to seek a judicial review of the process. He stated that as things stood there was a likelihood of children having to pass empty school buildings at their local school having been directed to an alternative school. He acknowledged that the schools offering to take more pupils could have made their position known earlier but now that there was capacity it should be taken up and any court action avoided.
- 50.13 Councillor Gibson stated that there was a need to support the parents of all those affected and to resolve the matter favourably. It was important to engage with the schools at an early stage as this may then have prevented pupils from being directed to other schools when spaces were clearly available and would have not led to the upset and distress that has been caused for parents as clearly shown by the strength of response to the proposals to date.
- 50.14 Councillor Brown stated that as a member of the Working Group she wanted to thank the parents for putting forward their concerns which were being taken into consideration by the Working Group. It was a very difficult situation for everyone concerned and there was no easy solution to the matter. With more information coming forward there was a need to give further consideration to the potential solution and to make recommendations to the Committee and full Council in January.

50.15 Councillor Page stated that parental choice was an important factor and that needed to be accounted for in any proposals that were made; as well as the need to prevent detachment from peers and to maintain communities which were important to their local schools. He noted that previously a number of parents had not been given any of their 3 preferred choices of schools and this needed to be avoided in the future. An offer had been made by some schools and this should be taken up to ensure that pupils could attend schools of their choice.

50.16 Councillor Chapman thanked everyone for their contributions and stated that he wished to reassure councillors and parents that all the views and information provided would be taken into consideration for the report to the Committee in January. He also stated that he did not feel that the Green Group's amendment added anything to the process as the actions would be part of the overall formulation of the report and therefore could not accept it.

50.17 The Mayor noted it was recommended to refer the first petition to the next meeting of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee and therefore put the recommendation to the vote which was carried unanimously.

50.18 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 15th January 2018.

50.19 The Mayor then noted that an amendment to the recommendation referring the second petition to the next meeting of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee had been moved. She also noted that a request for a recorded vote had been made and was supported by a sufficient number of councillors and therefore put it to the vote as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen		x		Marsh		x	
2	Atkinson		x		Meadows		x	
3	Barfod		x		Mears		x	
4	Barnett	✓			Miller		x	
5	Bell		x		Mitchell		x	
6	Bennett		x		Moonan		x	
7	Bewick		x		Morgan		x	
8	Brown		x		Morris		x	
9	Cattell		x		Nemeth	✓		
10	Chapman		x		Norman A		x	
11	Cobb		x		Norman K		x	
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn		x	
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		

14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn	✓		
15	Gibson	✓			Penn	Not present		
16	Gilbey		x		Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins		x	
18	Hamilton		x		Russell-Moyle		x	
19	Hill		x		Simson		x	
20	Horan		x		Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde		x		Taylor		x	
22	Inkpin-Leissner		x		Theobald C		x	
23	Janio	✓			Theobald G		x	
24	Knight	✓			Wares		x	
25	Lewry	✓			Wealls		x	
26	Littman	✓			West	✓		
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates		x	
					Total	17	36	0

50.20 The Mayor confirmed that the amendment had been lost by 17 votes to 36 and therefore put the recommendation as listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.

50.21 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 15th January 2018.

Subject: Deputations
Date of Meeting: 15 January 2018
Report of: Executive Lead for Strategy Governance & Law
Contact Officer: Name: Mark Wall **Tel:** 01273 291006
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Committee for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Note: Those deputations referred from full Council will be considered without the need for them to be re-presented; subject to the Chair's discretion.

Deputations received:

- (i) **Benfield Primary School:** Referred from the full Council meeting held on the 14th December, 2017; together with an extract from the proceedings of the Council meeting held on the 14th December, 2017 (copies attached).

Spokesperson Mr. S. Theobold
Supported by:
Sam Scerri
Jess Keilthy
Sylvia New
Clive Bolton
Sarah Brooking
Deborah Goghill

Subject: Benfield Primary School Deputation.
Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting
held on the 14th December 2017

Date of Meeting: 15 January 2018

Report of: Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: **Mark Wall** Tel: **01273 291006**
E-mail: mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: Hangleton & Knoll

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations: That the deputation be noted and considered by the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 14 DECEMBER 2017

COUNCIL CHAMBER - HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Marsh (Chair), Simson (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkpin-Leissner, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Robins, Russell-Moyle, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls, West and Yates.

PART ONE

49 DEPUTATIONS

(ii) Benfield Primary School

49.5 The Mayor then invited Mr. Theobald as the spokesperson for the second deputation to come forward and address the council.

49.6 Mr. Theobald thanked the Mayor and stated, "I'm here to make a case for not reducing the PAN for Benfield Primary School to a single form entry. A lack of strategic planning with recent primaries in West Hove being expanded; one of which resisted being made bigger, as well as the opening of the Connaught who are welcoming their proposed reduction, has led to a surplus of primary school places in this area which has led to this proposal to reduce Benfield. It is not enough to say in hindsight we now have a surplus of primary places. This was known at the time as a governing body of Benfield School and as lead of the Portslade cluster across primary schools we were aware of the wider impact expanding schools in Hove and West Hove would have and these concerns have now been realised. The justification for the expansion of primary schools by council officers is wishing to give parents their first preference. Ironically the proposed reduction of Benfield Primary is at a time when as the first preference for parents it is exceeding a single form entry size and continuing to grow. This proposal will take away first choice preference for parents and this is important in the wider context of Portslade where we already have three single form entry primary schools. By making Benfield a single form entry the area will be served by four single form entry primaries with the only larger option being a church school able to set its own admission criteria when oversubscribed and not a choice for all families. Benfield School has progress data for all its pupils among the strongest in the city and in the top

25% nationally. This decision would not only take away Benfield as a first choice for many parents it takes away the choice of a larger school option too.

So is this about finances; Benfield School has worked incredibly hard and diligently on its financial planning in these challenging times both in terms of funding and fluctuating numbers. Our balanced budget year on year do not come easy they come through an exemplary leadership team making strategic decisions, effective management and prudent planning at a time when the Council is supporting schools in financial difficulty it is wrong to contemplate reducing one that is demonstrating financial excellence.

The leadership doesn't stop at financial planning. The school has been on a journey from special measures and a change in leadership and governance five years ago to pushing for outstanding now. That journey wasn't just inward it has looked outward and this is important because Benfield uses its experience, its rapid change and improvement and has reached out shared, collaborated and educated other schools across the city. The culmination of this approach was the prestigious awarding of Benfield Primary School as a teaching school this year. If any of you wonder the real relevance of this already in what seems a relatively short period of time the teaching School Alliance with Benfield leading as a two form entry Primary has eighteen schools across the city involved. Benfield is now leading in the development of our future teachers, our future education leaders and has its foundation as a successful two form primary school. This really isn't as simple as just losing a class, it changes everything for the school; it will change their structure, reduce their effectiveness in leading the Teaching School Alliance, reduce choice available to parents, all while operating on a balanced budget.

The evidence for this is available in the data, in the budgets, from feedback from other schools across the city, from parents preparing a huge petition of over 1,400 signatures to national leaders of governance telling you this is wrong. Your constituents do not want this, teaching staff and leaders do not want this, the Governors do not want this, the community do not want this. We ask that you leave the school as it is; managing its financial finances, providing excellence in education and now leading in the development of our future teachers across the city.”

- 49.7 Councillor Chapman replied, “I can assure you that, now the public consultation has concluded, your views and the views of all respondents are being taken into consideration. The Council had put forward proposals for a city-wide solution to a specific issue of surplus places in primary schools. The cross-party Working Group is currently looking at all the points raised and this will be reported back to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee in early January. It is the Council's aim to ensure that all schools remain open to serve their communities and to future proof the city for pupil rises. We need to find a solution that works across the city.”
- 49.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Theobald for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. She explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration. The persons forming the deputation would be

invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

49.9 The Mayor noted that this concluded the item.

Deputation: Reducing Benfield Primary School to a 1 form entry school (PAN of 30) from a current 2 form entry status.

Summary

Benfield Primary School governors, parents, teachers, and the community the school serves strenuously object to the reduction of the school to single form entry. The arguments for this will be given to full council and will include:

1. Benfield is a 'Good' school with areas of Outstanding, with progress in the top 25% of schools nationally.
2. Benfield has been awarded 'Teaching School' status forming an alliance with other schools, achieving this on the excellence of its leadership and teaching standards. This has been awarded on the basis of the school as a 2 form entry.
3. The school has a balanced budget, a rigorous approach to financial management and planning, and has been able to accommodate varying school numbers year on year. Unlike other schools, it is not in a budget deficit and does not require additional financial support.
4. The local community the school serves already has a choice of single form entry schools. Removing Benfield as a 2 form entry reduces choice of parents going to a larger school as the only remaining larger option would be St Nicholas, a religious school able to set its own admission criteria if over-subscribed.
5. The council know single form entry schools are not financially efficient and not an ideal model for Primary Schools. The creation of a 4th single form Primary School in the local area not only reduces choice, but also sets up a poor financial model.
6. The council expanded West Hove and St Andrews schools against the schools wishes, with those schools feeling they were large enough already, and opening the Connaught School, without strategic foresight as to the PAN across the city. This poor planning has led to the schools on the boundaries that do not want to be reduced.
7. The argument for expanding certain schools has been 'to give parents there first preference', however this is contradicted by the secondary school boundary changes that take away choice from the same parents that they expanded Primary schools for, so they don't have that same choice for secondary.
8. Benfield Primary School is a school that has been showing year on year consistent improvement, development, and progress across all areas of the school. The council should not be pulling the rug from under a school that is demonstrating remarkable results from a diverse cohort which it welcomes, accommodates, makes safe, and ultimately makes learning enjoyable.
9. A reduction in PAN is not what the school wants, it isn't what the community wants, and ultimately will not save any money given the financial prudence of the school.

Petition: Presented to CYP&S Committee 13.11.17 Signatures objecting to the reduction of the PAN at Benfield Primary School: Online 1322, Paper 167, Total = 1489 signatures

Subject:	Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Annual Report		
Date of Meeting:	15 January 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director Families, Children & Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Hilary Ferries	Tel: 01273 293738
	Email:	<u>Hilary.ferries@brighton-hove.gov.uk</u>	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 Since 1988 local authorities (LA) have had a duty to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).
- 1.2 The SACRE advises the LA on matters relating to spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development, collective worship in community schools and on religious education given in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. The locally agreed syllabus has to be reviewed every five years. The last Brighton & Hove syllabus was written in 2011, reviewed in 2013 and has been re-developed for launch in 2018. Religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum for all pupils, but it is not a National Curriculum subject.
- 1.3 The Education Act 1996, Section 391 (6) and (7) requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) from each Local Authority will 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'.
- 1.4 This report outlines the work of SACRE during the academic year 2016-2017.
- 1.5 SACRE also deal with complaints about RE. No formal complaints have been received this year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the SACRE report;
- 2.2 That the Committee considers how it can offer support in raising the profile of the teaching of RE in Brighton & Hove schools.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 SACRE believes that all children and young people need to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and

world views which not only shape our shared history and culture but which guide their development. The modern world needs young people who are confident in their own beliefs and values so that they can respect the religious and cultural differences of others. The effective teaching of a quality programme of RE is a good way of achieving these outcomes and schools require support with this.

- 3.2 SACRE has continued to support development opportunities for staff and promote good practice.
- 3.3 Secondary school RE subject leaders share and develop good practice through their termly subject network meetings, with the majority of RE teachers attending training on Joint Practice Development Day in January 2017.
- 3.4 15 primary school teachers attended an RE network meeting in Autumn Term 2016 delivered by consultant Lilian Weatherley. This network was positively evaluated by those who attended and launched some assessment materials for primary schools. Following this network meeting primary RE Co-ordinators were offered further networks.
- 3.5 Following the DfE guidance '*Promoting fundamental British Values as part of SMSC in schools*' November 2014 and the national and local focus in this area, the RE consultant and School Partnership Adviser led staff training for senior leaders in all schools to raise awareness of the importance of this subject.
- 3.6 The *Faith and Belief in Educational Settings Guidance* along with the *Advice for schools and colleges on supporting pupils and students during Ramadan* has continued to be promoted to schools over the last academic year. We are aware that at least three schools marked Eid. For example, Carden Primary School held an Eid picnic where food was shared and year 6 pupils displayed their work following visits to a Church, a Mosque and a Synagogue.

SACRE

- 3.7 SACRE has in place a clear constitution which sets out a programme of meetings and the membership.
- 3.8 The 2016-2017 focus for Brighton & Hove's Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) has been on increasing active membership and ensuring the members have a good understanding of their role. This has been successful. The first meeting of the year provided training on the role of SACRE, using the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) materials, and set priorities for the year.
- 3.9 SACRE consists of members from different faith groups. The range of faith groups represented at meetings in the last year include:

Church of England, Buddhist, Religious Society of Friends, Methodist Church, Salvation Army, Catholic Church, Sikh, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Meetings are held in different faith centres and these have included a Methodist Church, the Buddhist Centre and a Mosque
- 3.10 Councillors from Conservative, Green and Labour Parties have attended meetings over the last year.

- 3.11 Teacher representation on SACRE has improved, but it remains difficult to recruit via the teaching unions as described in the constitution.
- 3.12 Over the last academic year SACRE has led the review of the RE Agreed Syllabus.
- 3.13 SACRE has a budget of £1500. This funds time from a member of staff who clerks SACRE, some limited time from an RE consultant, meetings and supply cover to support RE teachers to attend SACRE and contribute to the review of the Agreed Syllabus.

Future Plans

- 3.14 In 2017-2018 SACRE plans to:
- Review and update the SACRE constitution to enable a 'rolling chair'.
 - Launch the reviewed Agreed Syllabus for RE in accordance with its legal requirements and use this as an opportunity to raise the profile of teaching and learning in the RE in Brighton & Hove.
 - Develop an area on BEEM where RE teachers can share planning and resources in order to support the delivery of the Agreed Syllabus.
 - Continue to support schools with their development of spiritual, moral, spiritual and cultural development and the values framework.
 - Liaise with the Brighton & Hove Teaching Schools to see if they can support delivery of training opportunities for those teaching RE.
 - Continue to promote to schools national developments in the teaching of RE using an enquiry based approach, for example 'Understanding Christianity'.

4 ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 SACRE is a statutory function.

5 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 SACRE has members from different faith groups in Brighton & Hove. SACRE members and teachers from a range of schools have been involved in the development of the Agreed Syllabus.

- 5.2 SACRE Membership 2016 – 2017

Chair of SACRE Rev Derek Bastide (Church of England) – stood down from post in June 2017 after many years of service and SACRE have recorded their thanks to him for his leadership.

Committees

Representatives of other faiths and Christian denominations other than the Church of England

Michael Hickman- Methodist Church
Dr Winston Pickett - Jewish Community

Sarah Feist (replaced Peter Ward during the academic year) –Catholic
Michael Bray – Baptist Union
Rachel Shepherd - Salvation Army
Carolyn Drake – Buddhist Community
Lisa Compton (replaced Harvey Gillman during the academic year) – Society of Friends
Fariba Taheri-Westwood – Baha’l Faith
Surinder Singh-Parmar – Sikh faith
Muslim Faith - Imam Uthman

Vacancies: representatives from: Jain, Russian Orthodox, Hindu faith and United Reform Church

Church of England

Reverend Derek Bastide (resigned June 2017)
Linda Dupret
Iain Parks
Mandy Watson (replaced Ruth Cumming during the academic year)

Councillors

Leslie Hamilton
Amanda Knight
Nick Taylor
Michael Inkpin- Leissner

Teaching Unions

Hannah Kitchin-Frost (replaced Laura Wells during academic year) – NUT
Alison Haining - NASUWT

Co-opted Members

LA Officer – Sam Beal
University Representative – Tom Newlands (University of Brighton)
Special School Representative – (vacancy from December 2016)

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 RE is important to the education of young people in schools and across the city to improve community cohesion and respect, identity and to raise awareness and understanding of similarities and difference. ‘Studying religion and belief has a claim to be an indispensable part of a complete education because of the influence of religions and beliefs on individuals, culture, behaviour and national life. Most religions and beliefs offer answers to life’s deepest questions. And most young people are seeking answers to those questions, as they grow into independence and work out how to live a good life’. (Teach RE)
- 6.2 SACRE requests that Committee notes the report considers what support they can give to the effective support of RE in Brighton & Hove.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations of this report.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 27/11/17

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 As stated in the report sub-sections 391(6) and (7) of the Education Act 1996 requires that each year the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) of each Local Authority shall 'publish a report as to the exercise of its functions and any action taken by the representative groups on the Council during the last preceding year'.

Lawyer consulted: Serena Kynaston

Date: 27/11/2017

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 SACRE seeks to ensure quality RE teaching to encourage knowledge of and respect for all religions

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications

Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 There are no other significant implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 1.1 Community cohesion, respect and tolerance contribute to community.

Public Health Implications:

- 1.2 SMSC can contribute to pupil's wellbeing.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 1.3 A successful RE curriculum will contribute to raising standards and pupils' achievement. SMSC and community cohesion support the respect of diversity and understanding of all thus contributing to the priority of 'a good life' and community wellbeing.

Subject:	Families, Children and Learning Fees and Charges 2018/19		
Date of Meeting:	15 January 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director Families, Children and Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Louise Hoten / Caroline Parker	Tel: 29-3440 / 3587
	Email:	louise.hoten@brighton-hove.gov.uk caroline.parker@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to review the Families, Children and Learning Services fees and charges in accordance with the corporate policy.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the position on fees charged for nurseries as detailed in section 3.3 be agreed.
- 2.2 That the position on fees and charges for Childcare Workforce Development as detailed in section 3.4 be agreed.
- 2.3 That the position on the charges for school meals as detailed in section 3.5 be noted.

Note: If the above recommendations are not agreed, or if the committee wishes to amend the recommendations, then the item will need to be referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee meeting on 8 February 2018 to be considered as part of the overall budget. This is because the budget is being developed on the assumption that the fees and charges are agreed as recommended and any failure to agree, or a proposal to agree different fees and charges, will have an impact on the overall budget, which means it needs to be dealt with by the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee as per the requirements of the constitution. This will not stop the committee from making recommendations to Policy, Resources & Growth Committee.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- 3.1 As part of the budget setting process Heads of Service are required to agree any changes to fees and charges through relevant Committee Meetings. The management of fees and charges is fundamental both to the financial performance of the City Council and also the achievement of the Council's

corporate priorities, in particular making better use of public money. The recommendations agreed by this Committee will be subject to whatever is agreed regarding fees and charges in the budget report presented to Policy Resources & Growth Committee on 8 February 2018 and then by Budget Council on 22 February 2018.

3.2 The recommendations above reflect the areas that need approval and those that are for noting. The Council's Corporate Fees & Charges Policy requires that all fees and charges are reviewed at least annually and should normally be benchmarked and increased by either: the standard rate of inflation (2%), statutory increases, or actual increases in the costs of providing the service as applicable.

3.3 Nurseries

3.3.1 Part of the council's early years strategy is to provide high quality childcare in the most disadvantaged areas to ensure that local children can access provision. Council-run full day care nurseries are:

- Acorn Nursery – North Portslade Children's Centre (Ofsted good)
- Bright Start Nursery – Old Slipper Baths (North Laines) (Ofsted good)
- Cherry Tree Nursery – Hollingdean Children's Centre (Ofsted outstanding)
- Jump Start – Moulsecoomb Children's Centre (Ofsted outstanding)
- Roundabout Nursery - (Roundabout Children's Centre, Whitehawk) (Ofsted outstanding)

There are also two sessional nurseries:

- Pavilion Pre-school – North Portslade (Ofsted outstanding)
- Sun Valley Nursery – Valley Social Centre, (Whitehawk) (Ofsted good)

The Council also subsidises Tarnerland Nursery School to provide full day care in addition to free early education places (Ofsted outstanding).

3.3.2 The nurseries provide free part time early education places for low income two year olds and 3 and 4 year olds and childcare that parents pay for. All of the nurseries are based in buildings owned by the Council except for Sun Valley which is leased from the Valley Social Centre in Whitehawk.

3.3.3 The Council subsidy for the nurseries is £300,000 and a funding gap has been identified for 2017/18. Some funding pressures are due to one off factors following the nursery restructure in 2016. However the low level of Government funding for the early years free entitlement and the increase to 30 hours for 3 and 4 year olds will increase the pressure on the budget next year.

The total projected income for the all the nurseries in 2017/18 is:

- 42% fees from parents
- 40% Dedicated Schools Grant (early years block) for the entitlement for 2, 3 and 4 year olds (this will increase next year – 30 hours for 3 terms)
- 18% council subsidy (based on the latest TBM figures).

3.3.4 The highest subsidies are in the nurseries in Whitehawk and Moulsecoomb where most children just take up their free childcare places and there are the highest number of funded two year olds. There are also more children with child

protection plans and special educational needs and disabilities who need higher staff ratios.

Nursery Restructure

- 3.3.5 The Council nurseries were restructured in 2016/17 to introduce a consistent staffing structure and reduce costs. This included recruiting more apprentices. The restructure led to increased costs in the short term. Staff vacancies had been held in the run up to the restructure and it took longer to recruit new staff than anticipated. Most of the existing bank staff moved into permanent posts. Together with staff sickness, maternity leave and cover for apprentices this led to more use of agency staff. The use of agency staff has reduced significantly over the last 6 months and the number of council bank staff is starting to increase.
- 3.3.6 There are now 11 apprentices working in the nurseries. However any apprentices who started from May have to have 20% of their time out of ratio for study. This means that extra staff cover is needed. The Council pays a high rate for apprentices compared to private and voluntary providers.

Funding for free childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds

- 3.3.7 One of the reasons for the over spend is that funding the Government provides for free places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds is not sufficient to cover the costs of providing childcare in Council nurseries. The level of funding is an issue for all childcare providers in the city. Council nurseries have higher staff costs than some providers because staff are employed on council terms and conditions.
- 3.3.8 Disadvantaged two year olds are entitled to 570 hours a year of free childcare from the term after their second birthday and a key priority is to ensure that there are sufficient high quality places for these children. Brighton and Hove is funded at an hourly rate of £5.20 an hour. This is the lowest rate in the south east. The highest is £5.88 and the average is £5.56.
- 3.3.8 All three and four year olds are entitled to 570 hours (15 hours a week, term time only) of free childcare. Funding is allocated by Government on a national formula. The rate for Brighton and Hove is £4.45 per hour which is significantly below the published national average amount of £4.88. The lowest rate in the South East is £4.30, the average is £4.80 and the highest is £5.79. These figures refer to the total rate paid to the local authority and include inclusion funding and central costs. The council is passing on 95 per cent of its funding allocation to childcare providers, with an average hourly rate of £4.26. This is less than the average fee that parents pay for childcare.

The funding pressures are likely to increase for 2018/19.

- 3.3.9 The Government has published the national early years funding rates for 2018/19 and these are **not** increasing by inflation. This will lead to an additional budget pressure of over £21,000 based on the existing level of DSG income. It will be more for 2018/19 because the proportion of income from the DSG is increasing.
- 3.3.10 The amount of fee income is decreasing from September 2017 because of the extension of free childcare for 3 and 4 year olds with working parents from 15 to

30 hours term time (22.3 hours for 51 weeks a year). The increase to 30 hours means that the nurseries will receive funding at the DSG rate of £4.26 an hour for 570 hours rather than the fee rate of £4.92 or £5.20. Across the nurseries it is estimated that the reduction in fee income is likely to be £56,000. This may be off-set in part by increased occupancy.

Nursery Fees

3.3.11 The existing fee policy for the nurseries is:

- A daily rate of £4.92 an hour for children aged 3 and 4, which includes breakfast and snacks (very few parents pay this rate as many take some free hours in the day)
- A daily rate of £5.15 an hour for children aged two and under.
- A rate of £5.20 an hour for sessions of half a day (5 hours) or less.
- An additional charge of £2.08 per meal for lunch or tea

3.3.12 The rate for Pavilion Pre School is lower at £4.80 for 3 and 4 year olds and £5.00 for 2 year olds as the pre-school is based in a sports pavilion and shares space with a football team. Typically sessional providers in shared buildings charge a lower rate.

3.3.13 The proposal is to increase fees to take account of the increased pressures on the nursery budget caused by the low hourly rate for free places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. There is a range of help from Government for parents with childcare costs which will help pay for these increases. Parents on Universal Credit can claim up to 85% of childcare costs and parents on higher incomes can apply for Tax Free Childcare which will pay 20% of their childcare costs (see paragraph 5.3.1). It is estimated that the increases proposed below will generate additional income of £33,000.

The proposals are to:

- No longer offer a reduced daily rate of £4.92 an hour for children aged 3 and 4.
- Charge a standard hourly rate of £5.35 for all ages of children (£5.20 for children attending Pavilion). This is a 9% increase for the full day rate for 3 and 4 year olds, a 4% increase for the full day rate for children aged two and under and a 3% increase for the part day rate.
- Increase the cost of meals by 10p to £2.18 per meal for lunch or tea where this is supplied by the nursery – an increase of 5%.

Nursery Benchmarking - average cost per hour for a 10 hour day

	PVI (November 2017) Average full day rate	Council nurseries from April 2017
Full day care		
0-23 months	5.43	5.35
2	5.22	5.35
3 and 4	5.14	5.35
Any age	5.24	5.35

The data is based on 67 full day care settings and the price for a full day's childcare. Many settings charge more for shorter sessions, particularly for a morning. Some settings limit the number of free hours that children can take each day and charge a much higher rate for hours which are bought by parents in addition to the free hours, for example between £6 and £10 an hour depending on the number of extra hours paid for.

3.4 Childcare Workforce Development

3.4.1 Charges for early years and childcare providers to access the childcare training programme in 2017/18 are:

- £120 for paediatric first aid training
- £60 for full day training (£100 for outside of B&H)
- £40 for half day training (£70 for outside of B&H)
- £70 for job vacancy advert (£120 outside of B &H)

3.4.2 The proposed fees for 2018/19 are:

- To increase the training rates by 3.5% to £62 (whole day) and £42 (half day).
- To charge a reduced rate for safeguarding courses (£20) which are free now.
- To keep the paediatric first aid and job vacancy rates at the same level.

Applications for our courses are slightly down this year so a price rise could have a negative impact on income generation.

3.4.3 Benchmarking Information 2017/18 shows that we charge slightly more than other LAs for half day training and are mid-range for full day costs. Some other LAs do not charge for their job vacancy services.

Local Authority	Half day	Full day	Job Vacancy Service
Surrey	£25	£50	£50
East Sussex	£50	£90	No charge
Southampton	£45	£80	No charge
Bedford	£35	£55	No charge
Oxford	£30	£50	No charge

West Sussex has a subscription scheme so do not have like for like pricing.

The income helps to sustain a programme that offers training opportunities for the sector not readily accessible elsewhere locally.

3.5 School Meals

3.5.1 There is no intention to increase the current price of school meals, however, this will be subject to the outcome of the current tendering process for the school meals contract. The cost of school meals to the local authority (schools) is inflated annually in accordance with the price review mechanism detailed in the school meals contract as detailed below. The current contract started on 1 August 2011 for a period of 4 years with an opportunity to extend up to 24 months. A delay in the procurement process means this has been extended for a

further 12 months to 31/07/2018. The contract is now in the additional 12 month extension period. As a fully delegated service, schools may choose to buy into the contract or make their own school meals arrangements. All secondary schools and secondary academies within the city and the Bilingual Primary School provide meals, including free meals to entitled pupils, through their own individually negotiated contracts.

- 3.5.2 The current charge for school meals in primary schools is now £2.20 (this has increased to enable the Living Wage Foundation Living Wage (outer London rate) to be paid from April 2018. Previously the price had remained at £2.10 since 2010) for children and £2.50 or £2.08 excluding VAT for adults.

The School Food Plan highlights the importance of encouraging adults to eat with children. In line with the contractual arrangements the price was increased from 1 August 2017. Based on the April 2017 indices, there was a requirement to change the price, the price was further increased to cover the increased wage cost to move from the Governments Living Wage to the higher rate. Staff received an increase in wage rates from October 2017 and will receive a further increase from April 2018. Tenders for the new contract should be returned by early March 2018 for evaluation and this will give an indication of the selling price from September 2018.

The Meal price was varied in line with the following two indices:

(a) Food element

Annual movement in the Retail Price Index (all items) as set out in the Consumer Price Indices published by the Office for National Statistics (Ref Table 40 Food CHBA)

(b) Labour element

The Management fee price will vary in line with the annual movement in the Retail Price Index (all items) as set in the Consumer Price Indices published by the Office for National Statistics (Ref Table 40 All Items RPI CHAW).

As this is built into the contract terms and conditions, approval by the Children Young People & Skills Committee would only be sought if an increase exceeding inflation was being proposed. We are currently working on a new specification for a contract to be provided from 1 August 2018 and intend to retain a price review mechanism with the wage rate (labour cost), as set by the Living Wage Foundation.

- 3.5.3 Under the current contractual arrangement there is a low fixed cost in the form of a management fee and a higher variable cost for each meal served, whereas the previous contract had a very high fixed cost and a low variable cost per meal. Under the previous contract the Council retained a much greater amount of the risk. The current arrangement transfers more risk to the contractor and means that the contractor is more inclined to increase sales as we have seen with this contract.

This budget area is now operated in a way that the need to fulfil a shortfall would be most unlikely and this is being demonstrated through the current contract performance and growth in take up of school meals and the introduction of

central government grant funded Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). There are strong incentives for the contractor to grow the service and these are supported by successful partnership working with the City Council, which was previously recognised at a national award. The increased cost of free school meals has not been passed onto schools for the financial year 2017/2018, this will be bourn through cash and “sales” of UIFSM which are grant funded.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Budget holders with responsibility for specific fees and charges were consulted in the preparation of this report.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The total Families, Children and Learning fees and charges budget for 2017/18 is approximately £3.3m excluding schools.
- 5.2 As a start point for the budget process, income budgets are increased by inflation, currently 2.0%, to produce a target income budget. Budget holders then review their fees and charges with a view to ensuring that the target budget is achieved and where possible exceeded.

Finance Officer Consulted: Louise Hoten

Date: 09/11/2017

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 Families, Children and Learning Services are entitled to review fees and charges as set out in the report, at the time fees and charges are set they must be demonstrably fair and reasonable in all the circumstances. The report indicates the analysis against which the recommendations have been made and the obligations of the council in relation to the funding of free nursery places.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 11.12.17

Equalities Implications:

- 5.4 Equal access to childcare is encouraged by ensuring that the nurseries all offer the universal free early years entitlement of 15 hours a week for all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible two year olds. The entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds will increase to 30 hours from September 2017 for working parents.
- 5.5 Two year olds from low income working families are eligible for free childcare in addition to two year olds from families on out of work benefits. Parents with low incomes can claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit which pays for childcare costs of up to a maximum of 70% of £175 a week for one child or £300 for two or more. Parents claiming Universal Credit are entitled to claim 85% of childcare costs. Alternatively parents on higher incomes can apply for Tax Free Childcare. For every £8 a parent pays into their childcare account, the government will pay in an extra £2 up to a maximum of £2000. Parents can then use this money to pay their childcare provider.

- 5.6 Equal access to school meals is provided by all primary and special schools through participating in a citywide contract that is the same meal at the same price available to all pupils. The contract specifies that provision should be made for modified meals required on the grounds of cultural, religious or medical requirements.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.7 There are no direct sustainability issues arising from this report.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.8 There are no direct crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.9 The services included in this report rely on being able to achieve their income targets in order to maintain the level of service provided.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.10 The opportunity to receive a free school meal or meal for no charge (UIFSM) is extremely important to a substantial number of children from low income families, for whom a school lunch may be the only balanced meal they will eat in a day. Research shows that when children eat better, they do better. Whether families are paying for school meals or are entitled to them for free, children are more likely to concentrate in the classroom in the afternoon after eating healthy school lunches in a pleasant environment. This also improves their health and their learning about making better food choices. Research also shows that children eligible for free school meals are less likely to: do well at school, continue into further education, or secure higher paid jobs. Therefore, ensuring that these children eat and gain the benefits of the free school meals they are entitled to, really will make a difference to their ability to learn and succeed.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 Alternative options considered for the nursery fee increases included limiting the number of free hours that children can use each day and further increasing the hourly charge for the hours that parents pay for in addition to the free hours.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To agree and/or note the Families, Children and Learning Services Fees and Charges for 2018/19.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

1. Fees and Charges Analysis – 2017/18

Subject:	Proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School to remove sixth form provision		
Date of Meeting:	15 January 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Families, Children and Learning		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Richard barker	Tel: 01273 290732
	Email:	Richard.barker@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 It is proposed to change the age Range of Blatchington Mill Secondary school from 11 to 18 as it is at present to 11 to 16 from September 2019.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to report on the outcome of consultation on this proposal and to seek approval to proceed to the next stage of the statutory process, which is the publication of Statutory Notices.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To note the responses to the consultation undertaken regarding the proposal in 1.1 above.
- 2.2 To agree to the publication of the required Statutory Notices to progress this proposal.
- 2.3 That following the statutory notice period the matter is referred back to the meeting of the Children and Young People and Skills Committee on 6 March 2018 for a final decision.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 There has been a focus in recent years on the state of financial resourcing for post-16 provision where funding has declined. Within Brighton and Hove the average size of the sixth form colleges is around 2500 students, while the average size of school sixth forms is approximately 200. The benchmark figures given for a financially viable Post-16 provision differ, but are generally considered to be in the range of 200-250 students as a minimum.
- 3.2 The Department for Education recognises that sixth forms with less than 250 students are at risk of not being financially viable. Blatch six has always had the capacity to take 250 students but only twice in the past decade have numbers been any higher than 180, with recent figures being much lower than this.

- 3.3 During both the Sussex Area Review and the Local Area Review, concerns were expressed about the viability of post 16 provision where numbers of students are below 200 students across the 6th form.
- 3.4 In March 2016, guidance was issued by the Department of Education which states: “The Area Review encourages school sixth forms to collaborate to a greater extent to help drive efficiencies. Similar provision in sixth forms is often duplicated in relatively small geographical areas, when it could be delivered in a more joined up way. This may be particularly the case where sixth forms are very small, as some evidence raises concerns about costs, breadth of offer and outcomes for these providers”.
- 3.5 Blatch six provision, with numbers as they currently stand, is not considered to be sustainable financially. The school needs to consider the consequences on the whole institution as well as on sixth form students when group sizes are not at the optimum for learning.
- 3.6 Changing the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11 to 16, will allow resources to be focused on improving further the outcomes and opportunities for Years 7 to 11

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The alternative option would be for the school to continue as an 11 to 18 school with a sixth form. This is not considered to be financially sustainable and will not provide the best outcomes for students.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 A consultation document was prepared (attached at Appendix 1) and distributed to all pupils, staff and parents / guardians at the school on 6 November 2017.
- 5.2 The consultation document was also hosted on the councils consultation portal for a period of 6 weeks from 6 November 2017.
- 5.3 As part of the public consultation process a public meeting was held at Blatchington Mill School on Monday 13 November 2017. This meeting was noted and a copy of the notes is included at Appendix 2.
- 5.4 This initial stage of the consultation ended on 18 December 2017. The responses to this consultation exercise have been collated and analysed and are shown at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 5.5 In summary 30 responses were received to this consultation of which 16 were in favour, 13 were against the proposal and one respondent was unsure.
- 5.6 Those in support of the proposal said they understood the rationale for the efficient use of resources and the size of the school sixth form has meant that it cannot deliver the vibrant atmosphere required for a successful sixth form.

- 5.7 Those who did not support the proposal raised concerns about the impact on those young people in need of support at points of transition, continuity for young people who wish to feel secure when studying and the impact on teachers who specialise in sixth form teaching.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The senior leadership team and governors of the school proposed the change and therefore believe that changing the age range to remove the sixth form is in the best interest of the school and its students.
- 6.2 Public consultation on the proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School has shown that of those who responded to the consultation there is marginally more support for the change than to remain with the current position.
- 6.3 It is therefore recommended to move to the next stage of the consultation process and publish the statutory notice.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The school has a current licensed deficit agreement for 2017/18 for three years and to balance its budget in 2019/20. The closure of the sixth form will result in a reduction in funding for the school of approximately £500,000 in a full financial year; however this should be offset by a reduction in costs in staffing. Given the pupil numbers in the sixth form have been reducing in recent years, the costs of the sixth form have been supported by the main school budget. The closure of the sixth form should leave the school in a better financial position in the longer term.

Finance Officer Consulted: Andy Moore

Date: 07/12/17

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 If it is agreed to proceed with the proposed change in age range it will be necessary for the Council to publish statutory notices in accordance with section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations. Following publication there will then follow a period of 4 weeks during which any person can comment or object to the proposal.
- 7.3 A final decision on the proposed change in age range will need to be taken within 2 months of the end of the representation period.

Lawyer Consulted: Serena Kynaston Date: 11/12/2017

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 There are no equalities implications arising from this proposal.

Sustainability Implications:

7.5 There are no sustainability implications arising from this proposal

Any Other Significant Implications:

7.6 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Consultation document
2. Notes from public meeting held on 13 November 2017
3. Analysis of responses to the consultation
4. Draft Statutory Notice
5. Full proposal information

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. All responses to the consultation

Background Documents

None



Brighton & Hove

CONSULTATION PAPER

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE FROM 11 TO 18 TO 11 TO 16 THUS REMOVING THE SIXTH FORM

- Inviting you to have your say -

Why are we consulting you?

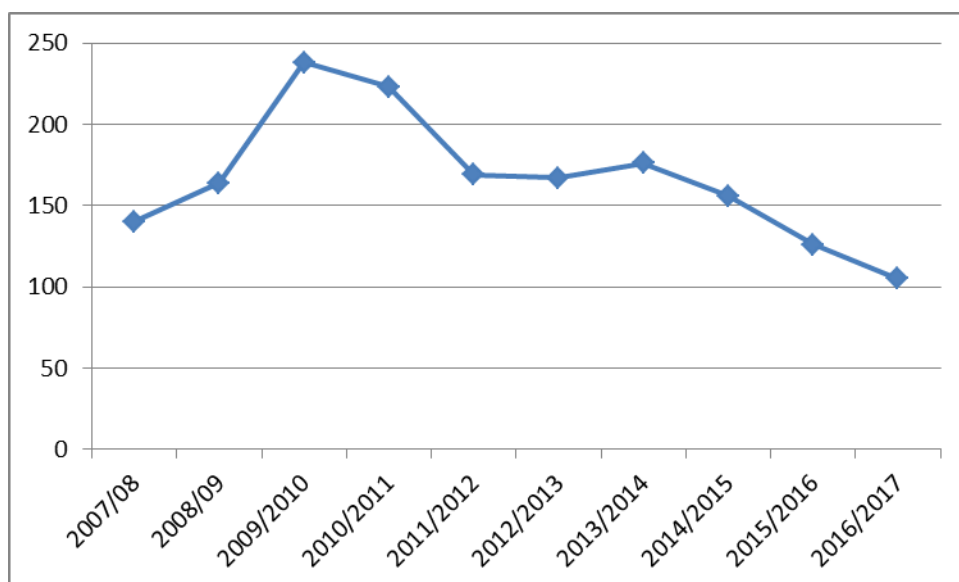
The council wishes to consult on a proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College from 11 to 18 as it is at present to 11 to 16 thus removing the sixth form. The proposal, if implemented will be effective from August 2019 but there will be no admissions to Year 12 in September 2018. This consultation paper is published by Brighton & Hove City Council and explains the reasons for this proposal and the arrangements for consultation. At the end you will find a reply slip for you to let us know what you think. There is also some information about what happens after the consultation. The paper is being distributed to the schools' staff, pupils, governors and parents and other groups who may be interested in the proposal. It is also available on the Council' s website under the consultation portal.

This consultation is being conducted in accordance with the school organisation guidance which can be found by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools> published by the Department for Education in April 2016.

Some background facts

Education finances have been highlighted in the media over recent months. There has been a focus in recent years on the state of financial resourcing for post-16 where funding has declined. Within Brighton and Hove Local Authority the average size of the sixth form colleges is around 2500 students, while the average size of school sixth forms is approximately 200. The benchmark figures given for a financially viable Post-16 provision differ, but are generally considered to be in the range of 200-250 students as a minimum.

As a result economies of scale apply which means it is more expensive per student for schools to provide sixth form provision. The Department for Education recognises that sixth forms with less than 250 students are at risk of not being financially viable. Blatch six has always had the capacity to take 250 students but only twice in the past decade have numbers been any higher than 180, the intake of students is shown in the table below and details the gradual decline in numbers.



During both the Sussex Area Review and the Local Area Review, concerns were expressed about the viability of post 16 provision where numbers of students are below 200 students across the 6th form.

In March 2016, guidance was issued by the Department of Education which states: “ The Area Review encourages school sixth forms to collaborate to a greater extent to help drive efficiencies. Similar provision in sixth forms is often duplicated in relatively small geographical areas, when it could be delivered in a more joined up way. This may be particularly the case where sixth forms are very small, as some evidence raises concerns about costs, breadth of offer and outcomes for these providers.”

Over the past 20 years Blatchington Mill School has questioned students in the sixth form and Year 11 as to their choices. Studies have been completed using external companies as well as internal staff and the reality of the sixth form, as shown by the surveys is that;

- Students want to study courses that Blatch six is not able to offer
- Students like the social aspect and change of Post-16 environment of local colleges such as BHASVIC, Varndean, MET and other colleges further afield

Blatch six provision, with numbers as they currently stand, is not considered to be sustainable financially. The school needs to consider the consequences on the whole institution as well as on sixth form students when group sizes are not at the optimum for learning.

Changing the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11 to 16, will allow resources to be focused on improving further the outcomes and opportunities for Years 7 to 11, especially as there is currently a “ bulge” in secondary school numbers across the city. This bulge grows ever more in September 2018 through to 2022.

Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that the sixth form at Blatchington Mill will close when the current 2017/18 Year 12 students complete their studies in August 2019 and that there will be no further admissions to Year 12 from September 2018.

The proposal

Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College currently offers education to students aged 11-18. The popularity of the main school, for 11-16 year olds, and the outcomes achieved by these students are both very successful. The sixth form phase, Blatch six, of Blatchington Mill School however, struggles to recruit enough students to maintain a suitable course offer, and outcomes in academic subjects are not as good as those in vocational subjects

This consultation is with regard to the proposal to not recruit new sixth form students from September 2018 at Blatch six so that 16-18 education is no longer part of the Blatchington Mill School offer.

This will mean that the sixth form, Blatch six, would close in August 2019; when the current (2017/18) Year 12 students complete their studies. No students will be removed from courses as a result of this closure. All current courses running will be honoured until their end point. The end point is defined as when a student has completed the normal duration of study and been entered for any relevant examinations once. No course currently studied by 2017/18 Year 12 students is due to take any longer than 2 academic years to complete.

Alternative Local Provision

Hove students will still have access to a school sixth form at Hove Park 6 and also in the offer at Newman College and PACA College. Equally across Brighton and Hove the offer from BHASVIC, Varndean College and MET (Brighton) is also popular.

What will be the impact of these changes?

No current student will be affected by the proposed changes. All current courses at Blatch six will be taught until their completion; whether this is in July 2018 or July 2019.

What does this mean if a student is already in Blatch six?

Students currently in Blatch six will be able to continue their courses. In the event that this proposal is accepted, in September 2018 there will be a Year 13 cohort at Blatch six, but no Year 12. There will not be the option for any student who studied 1 year courses in Year 12 to begin 2 year courses at Blatch six in September 2018. However these kinds of courses will be available at Hove Park 6 and so study could commence at Hove Park 6.

Can I still apply for a place in Blatch six?

It is proposed that no applications will be taken for new (to sixth form) students starting in Blatch six from September 2018.

What alternatives has the school considered?

The school has considered many alternatives over the decades. In the past joint offers have been explored with 3 other providers. This was not deemed viable, or popular – with geographical distance a prohibitive issue for shared provision outside Hove.

The school has on regular occasions combined Year 12 and Year 13 classes in an attempt to make numbers financially viable. The school has also taught two subjects together previously with a core of common lessons and then further “ break out” lessons on individual subjects. This is not considered to be sustainable, nor does it offer best quality teaching. The option for students to attend Hove Park 6 means that a school sixth form is still available locally for students studying post-16.

What will be the impact on staff?

Staff members have been consulted and will be able to continue to teach/work within the 11-16 school at Blatchington Mill.

The Legal process

The legal process for removing the sixth form from Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College is to change the age range of the school from 11 to 18 as it is at present to 11 to 16.

As with any process of change, the interests of staff must also be considered carefully, and all staff and their unions will be consulted as part of this consultation.

Consultation arrangements

We have arranged a public meeting to give parents, carers and other local people the opportunity to hear more about the proposal and to ask questions. This meeting will be held at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College (Nevill Avenue, Hove, BN3 7BW) on Monday 13 November 2017 at 6pm. Anyone with an interest in the proposal is welcome to attend this meeting. The meeting will be attended by council officers and members of the schools' senior leadership teams and governing body.

At this stage, this is a proposal for consultation and no decision has been made. Your views are important. If, having read this document, you would like to comment on the proposal, there are several ways you may do so:

- You can complete and return the reply slip included in this document (either to Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College or to the Local Authority at Hove Town Hall)
- You can send a letter to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Families, Children and Learning (Education and Skills), Brighton & Hove City Council, 1st Floor, Hove Town Hall Norton Road, Hove BN3 4AH
- You can complete a form online on the consultation portal of the Council's website at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/blatchington-mill
- You can email your response: please address your email to educationandinclusion@brighton-hove.gov.uk.

Replies must be received by 18th December 2017

In the interests of economy, letters and emails will not be acknowledged or responded to.

The next stage

All the views put forward during the consultation stage will be reported to the Children Young People and Skills Committee at a meeting on 15 January 2018. The views of the governing body will also be made clear in the report. The Committee will decide whether to progress to the next stage in the process.

If it is decided to move to the next stage the council publishes a Statutory Notice which describes the proposal. The notice remains open for a period of four weeks during which time objections to and comments on the proposal may be made by any person or group. Details of how to make an objection or comment are explained in the Statutory Notice.

The council has the authority to make the decision on whether to implement the proposal contained in the Statutory Notice but in doing so has to take account of guidance issued by the Department for Education. Any comments or objections have to be considered as part of the decision making process. The final decision regarding this proposed change will be made by the Children, Young People and Skills Committee at its meeting on 5 March 2018, taking into account the responses to the Statutory Notice and the views expressed by the governors of the school.

The proposals set out in this document are put forward as a basis for consultation only. It is stressed that *no decisions have yet been made* and that none will be made until consultations have been completed and all views carefully considered by Brighton & Hove City Council and the governors of the school. The consultation is however not a referendum and in reaching a decision at each stage of the process the Children & Young People and Skills Committee will need to take all factors into account, including the responses to consultation.

The table below sets out the timetable for this process.

Date	Action
By 3 November 2017	Decision of Executive Director, Families, Children & Learning following consultation with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee to proceed with consultation
6 November 2017	Commence Consultation
13 November 2017	Public meeting at Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College 6pm to 7pm
6 November to 18 December 2017	Consultation period
19 December to 6 January 2018	Analysis of responses received during the consultation
15 January 2018	CYPS to consider outcome of consultation and decide on whether to proceed to the publication of statutory notices.
19 January 2018	If agreed by CYPS, publication of statutory notices in Brighton & Hove Independent
19 January 2018 to 16 February 2018	Four week representation period following publication of statutory notices
5 March 2018	Decision on whether to proceed with closure at Children, Young People and Skills Committee

The Children Young People and Skills Committee' s major objective is to ensure the outcome of this consultation has local support and is in the best interests of children in Brighton and Hove.

The School has a catchment area which spans Hangleton and Knoll, Wish, Westbourne, Central Hove, Brunswick and Adelaide, Regency, Goldsmid, Hove Park and St Peter' s and North Laine wards. The councillors for these wards are:

Hangleton and Knoll	Cllrs Dawn Barnett, Tony Janio and Nick Lewry
Wish	Cllrs Robert Nemeth and Gary Peltzer Dunn
Westbourne	Cllrs Tom Bewick and Denise Cobb
Central Hove	Cllrs Claire Moonan and Andrew Wealls
Brunswick and Adelaide	Cllrs Phelim MacCafferty and Ollie Sykes
Regency	Cllrs Tom Druitt and Alex Phillips
Goldsmid	Cllrs Saoirse Horan, Amanda Knight and Jackie O' Quinn
Hove Park	Cllrs Jayne Bennett and Vanessa Brown
St Peters and North Laine	Cllrs Lizzie Deane, Louise Greenbaum and Pete West

RESPONSE FORM

*Please return no later than
18 December 2017*

To: Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation
Families, Children and Learning (Education and Skills)
Brighton & Hove City Council
1st Floor, Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove
BN3 4AH

**Proposed Change of age range of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form
College from 11-18 to 11-16 years of age, thus removing the sixth form**

Name and Address	
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I support the proposal

I do not support the proposal

Please add any comments here and on the reverse of this slip if needed:

Signature and date:

Are you a: parent or carer / member of staff / governor / pupil / other?
(Please indicate)

Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form Public Meeting Notes

Meeting date 13 November 2017

Attendees Richard Barker, Gillian Churchill and Rachel Carter from the LA
Ashley Harrold Head teacher, Ruth King Deputy head teacher and
Peter Sowrey Chair of Governors of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth
Form
No members of the public
8 members of school staff and 1 union representative

RB introduced the LA staff and outlined the process and why the LA was making this proposal. He also stated that this is a genuine consultation, no decision has yet been made and that the final decision will be made by elected members not by officers. All responses to the consultation will be seen by members before the decision is made. The decision is made on balance bearing in mind the responses to the consultation and the impact on the school and pupils of low numbers in the school sixth form.

The floor was opened to questions.

The timing of the proposal seems a little strange given that the decision not to admit pupils to the sixth form in 2018 has already been made.

AH said that the school had to make the decision about whether to admit students into the sixth form in advance of the proposal being decided. The leadership team felt that it would be better to announce that they would not to take students into the sixth form in September 2018 rather than having to tell those students that chose this option at a later date that there would be no provision for them. In the event that the decision is not to close the sixth form students will be able to apply in future in the usual way.

If, at the end of the consultation period it is decided that the proposal will not proceed there will be no year 12 students in the school.

AH responded to this by saying that the reality was that there are actually very few Blatchington Mill pupils in the sixth form, just 80 across both years. This means that there has had to be a reduction in the number of courses offered which in turns makes the offer to students even less attractive.

There are some students in Hove Park Sixth form who take all three courses at Blatchington Mill School. This falsely skews the apparent numbers of Blatchington Mill pupils looking for a school sixth form.

AH said that he was unaware of this and will take this matter up with the head teacher at Hove Park School. PS added that the governors had been looking at the viability of the school sixth form, in terms of financial sustainability and outcomes for students, for a number of years and that even if there are some students incorrectly registered it is unlikely that this would be sufficient to change the view of the governing body.

The consultation document suggests that the sixth from provision will be called Hove Park six, is this correct?

Ah said that the naming of the sixth form of Hove Park School would be a matter for them and their governors. His responsibility and that of the governors of Blatchington Mill School was to make the correct decision for the future of this school. Obviously there would be every effort made to reach a consensus decision with Hove Park School whereby it could be seen that the sixth form offer at Hove Park Schools was for the wider Hove area.

What recommendations were made as a result of the Sussex Area Review?

RC said that the review prompted discussions about the viability of school sixth form size in the city as did the Local Area Review. Both reviews identified that a sixth form needed at least 200 students to be viable. The review went on to recommend that sixth forms collaborate to ensure that there is no duplication in a locality. The proximity of the two schools would suggest that this model should work well for Hove students.

It seems a shame that there is a proposal to close the sixth form at Blatchington Mill School.

AH explained that it is intended that the sixth form at Hove Park School would be a shared provision. Unfortunately the only legal mechanism available is to change the age range of the school which means that the school will be unable to offer sixth form courses in the future. The school will work closely with Hove Park School and hope to influence the direction of their provision. However it has to be recognised that the final decisions will rest with the leadership and governing body of Hove Park School.

What consideration has been given to the staff who predominantly teach sixth form students and wish to remain as sixth form teachers?

AH confirmed that it is anticipated that there will be no need for redundancies as a result of this proposal. He could not guarantee however that staff would be able continue only teaching their specialist subjects although it was hoped that this might be the case. RB confirmed that the LA would not be able to insist that other schools offered sixth form jobs to teachers at Blatchington Mill School who wished only to teach sixth form students.

It must be made clear that if there are any changes to the terms and conditions for teachers as a result of this proposal further consultation with staff would be necessary.

AH said that he understood this.

What is the timetable for implementing this proposal?

If the proposal is successful the intention is that it will be implemented in September 2019. This will mean that all pupils currently in the sixth form will be able to complete their courses at the school.

When are Hove Park School intending to make their decision regarding their sixth form provision?

Hove Park Governors have a meeting this evening and it is anticipated that they will make their decision at that meeting.

Blatchington Mills School has benefitted from considerable accessibility works. Has any consideration been given to sixth form students with Special Educational Needs and Disability?

The LA has a responsibility to make reasonable adjustments to school buildings to ensure that the right provision is available to meet the needs of vulnerable pupils / students.

Are there any examples of 11 to 16 schools working collaboratively with 11 to 18 schools?

It was agreed that the school would look to see if there are examples of this type of collaborative working. RK said that even if none could be found it should be remembered that Blatchington Mill may become an 11 to 16 school but it will still have 11 to 18 experience for years to come.

It is likely that one of the main causes for concerns as a result of this proposal is likely to be the impact on staff. It might be a good idea to put the implications down on paper and confirm the schools belief that there will be no redundancies as a result of this proposal as this may provide some reassurance to staff who feel they may be affected.

Respondents

How are you responding				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Brighton & Hove resident	7	30.4	30.4
	Parent of a pupil at another Brighton & Hove school	2	8.7	8.7
	Teacher at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College	10	43.5	43.5
	Support staff at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College	1	4.3	4.3
	Other	3	13.0	13.0
	Total	23	100.0	100.0

In what other way are you responding

Ex Pupil of Blatch 6

Parent of a pupil in Year 10 at Blatchington Mill Secondary School

Parent of pupil at Blatchington Mill

Do you agree or disagree in principle to the closure of Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College?					
	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree
All Respondents (n=23)	7	6	1	2	7
	30%	26%	4%	9%	30%
Brighton & Hove resident (n=7)	3	1	0	1	2
	43%	14%	0%	14%	29%
Parent of a pupil at another Brighton & Hove school who's child was planning on going to Blatchington 6 form (n=2)	0	1	0	0	1
	0%	50%	0%	0%	50%
Teacher at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College (n=10)	4	3	1	1	1
	40%	30%	10%	10%	10%
Support staff at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College (n=1)	0	0	0	0	1
	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Other (n=3)	0	1	0	0	2
	0%	33%	0%	0%	67%

Q2. - Do you agree or disagree in principle to the closure of Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College?	Q3. - If there is anything you want to tell us about the reason for your answer, you can write this below
Strongly agree	I believe that the partnership between Hove Park School and Blatch has been an excellent example of two schools working closely together. It makes sense that there is a Hove provision and that that provision is at Hove Park School
Strongly agree	Strong rationale for efficient use of resources.
Strongly agree	The school cannot sustain the poor results or financial insecurity of the current sixth form. It is unfair on the 11-16 year old students.
Strongly agree	This will provide more places for 11-16 year olds which are needed in the city
Tend to agree	sad, but fully understand. My eldest daughter took A-levels at Blatch 6, my younger daughter was expecting to do the same. She will miss the extra-curricular opportunities that Blatch offers all its pupils.
Tend to agree	Sixth forms need to be viable in terms of numbers and offer a vibrant atmosphere; Blatch 6 has struggled to meet either need.
Tend to agree	Whilst the economic argument for closing Blatch 6th form is sound, there is still a need for small colleges that support children in post-16 education who cannot cope with large college organisations. This will be lost when Blatch closes and there's no other provision in Brighton and Hove
Tend to disagree	Although I understand the reasons for closure as provided by the school and Local Authority I do not think the needs of young people with challenging early life experiences is adequately addressed within the proposal. Transitions are hard for young people who have had early life challenges and the teenage years are known to be particularly challenging. The structure of Brighton and Hove's post 16 provision can be seen as more challenging and less inclusive to this group of young people. Having to change education environment and make key decisions at 15-16 adds extra layers of stress to young people and their families/carers. Additionally, the post 16 colleges are huge, provide very limited structure (3 hrs timetable lessons per subject) and appear to be lacking in some of the key features which we know support young people (being 'known' by staff, Key Adults, Team around the Young person etc.). For this reason I think it is very important to provide smaller post 16 opportunities across Brighton and Hove where young people can be supported through a challenging stage. It is unfortunate that the remaining sixth forms are in a similar geographical area. If Blatchington Mill Sixth form is to close (leaving Hove Park and Cardinal Newman as sixth form opportunities in the West of the City) has any consideration been given to matching provision in the East of the city to benefit some of our most vulnerable young people i.e. seamless transition into sixth form at either Dorothy Stringer or Varndean? Thanks
Tend to disagree	I have really enjoyed teaching 6th form students. It has been very hard to recruit students but many of the ones that I have taught have hugely benefitted from being in a small 6th form and taught in small classes. I think some of these students will get lost in the larger colleges. Some students just don't have the confidence to manage and will fail. Other students have really benefited from the range of specialist subjects that have been offered particularly in performing arts & creative subjects and gone on to Uni and in to excellent professional jobs. Many of them still keep in touch because we offer a more personalised programme. I am also concerned about the impact on staff. Mr Harold says that teachers jobs are secure but the change in status could potentially lead to redundancies for staff as several small subject specialisms will disappear or teaching time at Ks3&4 will not be a full time job. It will lead to staff having to teach outside their specialism and possibly pushed into subjects that they don't feel they can deliver. The pace of change in education at the moment with new gcse's and revised KS3 is difficult to manage in our own specialisms but it would be very tricky if asked to teach something new. Limited finances would mean that it would be difficult to be properly trained to do this.
Strongly disagree	Continuity, children who wish to feel secure studying A levels in the school they know well. Children who work well with teachers at Blatch.
Strongly disagree	Many staff feel like this will have a negative impact on the school and the local area. We feel that not enough effort has been made to increase 6th form numbers and that in fact decisions have been made that have had an adverse effect on students attending Blatch 6. For example open evenings have been scheduled after students have already had to make choices about other colleges, brochures have not been completed in time, successful courses have been closed and not enough options have been given to students. Blatch 6 provides a specific post 16 education to students who would struggle in larger 6th forms and who have specific needs that teachers know and care about. We would be doing a disservice to those students. On the consultation form it says there will be no negative effect on staff which is simply not true. Staff will be forced to work in subjects they are not trained in which impacts the progress of students. Others will be offered admin jobs below their capabilities and skill set. We will lose good members of staff because they want to work in post 16 and it hinders chances of promotion or progression to other schools with post 16. many teachers love that part of the job the most. I am certainly not alone in thinking these things and we feel there is an agenda here to get rid of the 6th form because it is the thing the school finds most difficult to improve. rather than working harder to improve it, they get rid of it.
Strongly disagree	There is no reason to close the 6th form college for economies of scale, as small colleges will benefit from more personalised teaching and smaller classes. Also, the pupils will have to travel further to other colleges, probably Varndean, which is already a large site and will have to expand to the detriment of its pupils.

Do you agree or disagree in principle to the closure of Blatchington		
	Support the proposal	Do not support the proposal
All Respondents (n=7)	3	4
	43%	57%
Brighton & Hove resident (n=0)	0	0
Parent of a pupil at Blatchington Mill School (n=6)	3	3
	43%	43%
Parent of a pupil at another Brighton & Hove school who's child was planning on	0	0
Teacher at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College (n=1)	0	1
		14%
Support staff at Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College (n=0)	0	0
Other (n=3)	0	0

Do you support or not support the proposal to close Blatchington Mill Sixth Form College?	Comments included on paper forms
Not support	It seems to be being rushed through with decisions already made which can pre-determine the outcome. I understand the concept of financial viability but would also like some consideration given to continuity of care and the benefits a smaller college can bring to more vulnerable students.
Not support	It takes away choice. Some children prefer to stay at the school where they feel safe, have the same teachers in a small and familiar environment. My son has been left with Varndean or BHASVIC, he will not consider Hove Park. He walks to and from school, now it will be a bus journey and he will not be able to come home for free periods. Bad move for a popular school.
Not support	With the current rise in primary school places comprising of bulge years and the opening of Hove Juniors in Holland Road I believe we should be increasing provision for High School KS3 places and Post 16 KS4 places for our children. We should invest money into KS4 education and stop cutting money which will reduce the chances for our children.

Proposal to change the age range of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16 thus removing the sixth form

Notice is given in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended, (the Act) that Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH intend to make prescribed alterations to Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form, Nevill Avenue, Hove BN3 7BW.

Change of Age Range from 11 to 18 to 11 to 16

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Brighton & Hove City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form, Nevill Avenue, Hove BN3 7BW from 1st September 2019 by changing the age range of the school from 11 to 18 as it is at present to 11 to 16 thus removing the sixth form.

It is proposed that Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form should become an 11 to 16 school from September 2019. It is proposed to close the sixth form to new entrants from September 2018. Any student already undertaking a two year course in September 2018 will be able to complete this course at the school. The school will therefore close its sixth form at the end of the 2018 / 2019 academic year.

This Notice is an extract from the full proposal. Copies of the full proposal can be obtained from: Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH or by contacting Gillian Churchill on 01273 293515 or via email at gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk. The full proposal is also on the council's website and can be found at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal (i.e. by 16 February 2018), any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH Contracts,

Signed: Pinaki Ghoshal

Publication Date: 19 January 2018



**FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION TO CHANGE THE AGE RANGE OF
BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL FROM 11 TO 18 TO 11 TO 16 THUS
REMOVING THE SIXTH FORM**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY MAKING THE PROPOSAL

Brighton & Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road Hove
BN3 4AH

NAME, ADDRESS AND CATEGORY OF THE SCHOOL

Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, Nevil Road, Hove BN3 7BW is a mainstream community secondary school serving pupils from 11 to 18 years of age. It does not have a religious character.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended, (the Act) it is proposed that Brighton and Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Hove, BN3 4AH make prescribed alterations to Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College, Hove BN3 7BW.

The proposal, being made by the Local Authority, Brighton & Hove City Council, is that the age range of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College is changed from an 11-18 school with sixth form, which it is at present, to an 11-16 school from September 2019. The school currently offers sixth form provision at Blatch Six for students aged 16-18. This proposal would close Blatch Six and the school would continue to provide an education for 11-16 year olds only.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROPOSAL

During both the Sussex Area Review and the Local Area Review, concerns were expressed about the viability of post 16 provision where numbers of students are below 200 students across the 6th form. Although the focus of The Sussex Area Review was not schools, it drew attention to the application threshold of 200 for new school 6th forms.

In March 2016, guidance was issued by the Department of Education which states: "The Area Review encourages school sixth forms to collaborate to a greater extent to help drive efficiencies. Similar provision in sixth forms is often duplicated in relatively small geographical areas, when it could be delivered in a more joined up way. This may be particularly the case where sixth forms are very small, as some evidence raises concerns about costs, breadth of offer and outcomes for these providers."

The Local Area Review, which was undertaken by the Local Authority, culminated in a report that was presented to the Children Young People and Skills Committee in October 2016, and included the following recommendations-

“That governing bodies of schools and academies consider the future financial viability of their sixth form provision.

Where the long term financial circumstances of a sixth form is likely to be challenging, then each school or academy should have a plan to address these challenges. Strategies might include realistic plans for securing greater numbers via collaboration with aspects of provision with other institutions, or possible merger with another provider to achieve scale of provision.

Governing bodies and schools review their specialisms to meet needs of their learners, especially more vulnerable young people.

Schools and academies continue to build stronger relationships with local employers to ensure students have the skills needed for future employment.”

The LA recognises the benefits of having school based provision and would wish to see this continue but within a context of sustainability and viability which could be a joint or sole provision in the Hove area. It is also essential that there is sufficient provision to meet the city's needs and this applies specifically to more vulnerable learners.

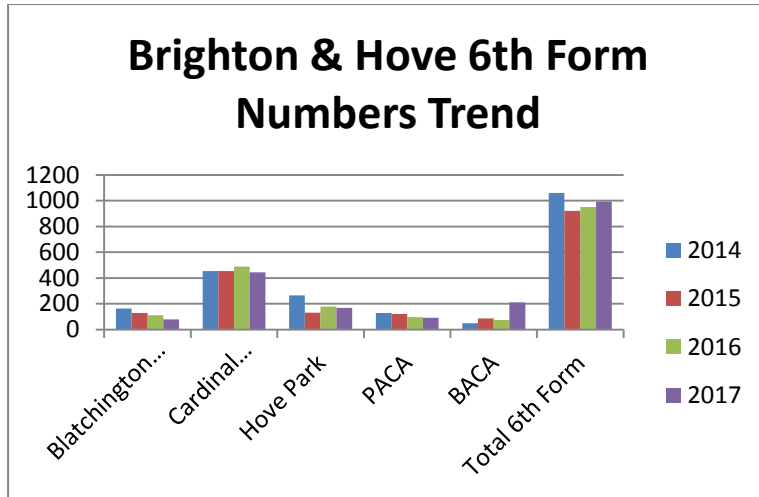
The Blatchington Mill Head teachers post 16 report of July 2017 makes it clear that the numbers of students on roll, and the level of success achieved on academic courses are insufficient to argue for provision at the school to continue as it has been in the past.

Partnership with Hove Park School has brought renewed energy to the provision, and a strong and clear focus on Blatch six provision from the leadership team in 2016-17 has meant that standards have risen. There are a number of students for whom a school sixth form is of huge value – and the local authority supports this view. However, it is likely that this is only sustainable with at least 250 students. There is no indication that the sixth form will attract these numbers in the future.

This proposal will in effect mean that the sixth form at Hove Park School will become the school sixth form provision for the Hove area of the city. In making this proposal it is anticipated that the sixth form provision at Hove Park School will recruit sufficient numbers to make one sustainable viable successful school sixth form.

NEED AND DEMAND FOR PLACES & CAPACITY OF POST-16 PROVISION WITHIN THE LA CURRENTLY

Overall school sixth form numbers in the city remain fairly constant at around 980 students per year. The most recent census data shows, sixth form numbers at Blatchington Mill School have declined to 78 in October 2017 whilst Hove Park School's sixth form are more than double this at 168 students.



6th Form Numbers	2014	2015	2016	2017
Blatchington Mill	163	129	111	78
Cardinal Newman	453	454	490	445
Hove Park	266	131	178	168
PACA	129	121	97	92
BACA	50	87	75	210
Total 6th Form	1061	922	951	993

Within the city, there is significant demand by students and their parents/carers for school based sixth forms. The smaller environment and levels of pastoral support offer an individualised and more supported experience which is highly valued. This complements the provision provided by the two sixth form colleges in the city. The proposed larger sixth form at Hove Park School will also enable the development of a more sustainable and wider curriculum offer for students, with the potential to increase the vocational curriculum offer both at level 2, or at a mixed level 2 and level 3.

PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION DATE

It is intended to implement the proposal on 1st September 2019. However the school will not be taking pupils into the sixth form in September 2018. Any pupils currently on roll at the sixth form who are undertaking a two year course will be able to complete their course at the school by July 2019 hence the proposed implementation date of September 2019.

WHERE AND WHEN THE STATUTORY NOTICE AND FULL PROPOSAL INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE

Brighton & Hove City Council will publish the statutory notice for this proposal on Friday 19 January 2018. The notice will remain in force for a period of 4 weeks i.e. until Friday 16 February 2018. Copies of the notice will be placed at all entrances to the school and in other places in the community; it will also be published in the Brighton & Hove Independent newspaper on 19 January 2018. A copy of the

statutory notice is attached as **Appendix 1** to this document. Attached as **Appendix 2** is a list of the locations where the notice is posted.

On 19 January 2018 the full proposal information (this document plus appendices) will be sent to the following recipients

The Governing Body of the School
The Diocese of Chichester
The Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
East Sussex County Council
Members of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee
Ward Members
Hangleton and Knoll Cllrs Dawn Barnett, Tony Janio and Nick Lewry
Wish Cllrs Robert Nemeth and Gary Peltzer Dunn
Westbourne Cllrs Tom Bewick and Denise Cobb
Central Hove Cllrs Claire Moonan and Andrew Wealls
Brunswick and Adelaide Cllrs Phelim MacCafferty and Ollie Sykes
Regency Cllrs Tom Druitt and Alex Phillips
Goldsmid Cllrs Saoirse Horan, Amanda Knight and Jackie O'Quinn
Hove Park Cllrs Jayne Bennett and Vanessa Brown
St Peters and North Laine Cllrs Lizzie Deane, Louise Greenbaum and Pete West
Members of Parliament for Brighton & Hove

It will also be published on the council's website at the following address
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/children-and-education/schools/school-statutory-notice>.

Any person may request a copy of the full proposal information either by writing to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH or by contacting Gillian Churchill on 01273 293515 or via email at gillian.churchill@brighton-hove.gov.uk. The full proposal is also on the council's website and can be found at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/>

HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS OR COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL

Any person may object or make a representation or comment on the proposal. This can be done by sending them to Richard Barker, Head of School Organisation, Brighton & Hove City Council, Hove Town Hall, Norton Road Hove BN3 4AH.

Following the closing date for representations, comments and objections a report will be prepared for the Children and Young People Committee to decide the proposal within 2 months i.e. no later than 16 April 2018. At the present time it is anticipated that the report will be considered at their meeting scheduled for 6 March 2018.

CAPACITY OF THE SCHOOL IF THE PROPOSAL PROCEEDS TO IMPLEMENTATION

If this proposal were to proceed the capacity of the school would not be changed. The school currently has accommodation for sixth form teaching and social space, in the event that this proposal proceeds to implementation this space will be used to support the 11 to 16 pupils in the school.

OWNERSHIP OF THE SITE

The freehold of the site is owned by Brighton & Hove City Council.

CONSULTATION

All applicable consultation was carried out prior to publishing this full proposal.

Initially the school and its governors approached the Local Authority (LA) to say that they wished to consult on a proposal to change the age range. As this is a proposal that can only be made by the LA it was agreed that we would take this proposal forward. This included undertaking a consultation with parents / guardians, pupils and staff at the school as well as the wider community to gauge their feelings on the proposal.

A consultation document was prepared and issued on 6 November 2016. It was published online on the council's website and was circulated to the parents / guardians, pupils, staff and governors of Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College. In addition a copy of the consultation document was sent to the members of the Children, Young People and Skills Committee and all ward councillors whose wards fall into the catchment area for the school. A copy of the consultation document is attached as **Appendix 3** to this document.

The document contained details of how comments on the proposal could be made and the closing date of the consultation.

During this consultation stage a public meeting was held at the school. A copy of the notes taken at this meeting are attached as **Appendix 4** to this document.

The results of this consultation were reported to the Children and Young People and Skills Committee on 15 January 2018. At that meeting the decision was to proceed to the publication of the statutory notice and full proposal. A copy of the Committee report and Appendices are attached as **Appendix 5** to this document.

IMPACT ON OTHER SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES

It is not believed that the removal of Blatch Six will have a negative impact on other schools or sixth form providers in the city. The two further local schools with sixth forms (Hove Park and PACA) may observe a slight increase in their intakes. But as Blatch Six has become so small, the potential surplus of students will be minimal.

Any changes will be of benefit to other sixth form providers through increased numbers.

The consultation referred to above included the sixth form providers local to Blatch Six. The consultation was brought to the attention of all schools in the city by using the Schools Bulletin. There have been no representations received from other schools to this proposal.

PROJECT COSTS

There are no anticipated capital costs as a result of this proposal.

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY

Blatch Six is a mainstream school sixth form. It does not have any specific provision or unit at present and it is not intended that it will have one as a result of this proposal. In line with all colleges in the city Blatch Six does have a number of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities. It is not intended as part of this proposal to alter this now or in the future. The same facilities will be extended to any future pupil at the 11-16 school as at present.