

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

4.00pm 17 JUNE 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Childs (Chair), Councillor Knight (Deputy Chair), Hills (Opposition Spokesperson), Brown (Group Spokesperson), Clare, Hamilton, McNair, Nield, Wilkinson and Wares

Co-optees: Karen James, Amanda Mortensen, Bernadette Connor, Adam Muirhead

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Lee Wares substituting for Councillor Dee Simson.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were none.

(c) Exclusion of the Press and Public

1.3 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).

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

2 MINUTES

2.1 **AGREED** – that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chair gave the following communications:

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

Today we have an urgent notice of motion regarding the potential Academisation of Moulsecomb Primary which can be seen in addendum 1. This item will be considered under item 6.

4 CALL OVER

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

7. Constitutional Matters – Children, Young People & Skills Committee
8. Youth Service Update and Use of Housing Revenue Account Funding
9. School OFSTED Presentation
10. Families, Children & Learning Annual Report

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

5.1 The Chair noted there were NO petitions to be submitted.

(b) Written Questions

5.2 The Chair noted that NO written questions had been submitted by members of the public.

(c) Deputations

5.3 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by members of the public.

6 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

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

(b) Written Questions

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

(c) Deputations

6.3 The Chair noted that NO deputations had been submitted by Members.

(d) Notices of Motion: To consider any notices of motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee:

- (i) Academisation of Moulsecoomb Primary.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the notice of motion as amended be noted.

7 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS - CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & SKILLS COMMITTEE

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report of the Monitoring Officer that provided information on the committee's terms of reference and related matters including the appointment of its urgency sub-committee.
- 7.2 Councillor Brown noted an error regarding the age of which the Committee served children. It was requested that the age be recognised as 25 not 19.
- 7.3 Karen James noted a discrepancy regarding the lack of representation of the co-optee's role at sub-committee.
- 7.4 The Managing Principle referred Ms James to the legal implications that clarified the role of voting co-optees. It was stated that voting co-optees were limited to voting on educational matters only and that ratifying their inclusion to sub-committees at a constitutional level could be an issue since, on balance, it was unlikely that an urgent matter restricted solely to education would be called and that the ensuing vote by external figures could be problematic.

7.5 RESOLVED:

- 1) That the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A be noted;
- 2) That an Urgency Sub-Committee consisting of the Chair of the Committee and two other Members (nominated in accordance with the scheme for the allocation of seats for committees) be established and to exercise its powers in relation to matters of urgency, on which it is necessary to make a decision before the next ordinary meeting of the Committee be approved.

8 YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE AND USE OF HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FUNDING

- 8.1 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support, gave a brief overview of the report. Young People were introduced to provide a perspective from the participants of various groups and events that had been funded and developed by young people. The young people representatives noted the many positive outcomes as a result of the events such as a boost to confidence, rigorous preparation for independence, practice of diplomacy and having learned a framework for providing constructive criticism. It was further noted that in many cases anxiety levels had been reduced as a result of engaging in a familiar community.

- 8.2 Councillor Hills requested a commitment be made to fund HRA in the event that it did not retain funding.
- 8.3 The Executive Director – Families, Children & Learning, clarified that the Policy, Resources and Growth Committee was responsible for any changes regarding the financing of the HRA and not the Housing Committee. It was further clarified that no further finance could be secured in the event that the HRA was defunded.
- 8.4 Councillor Sarah Nield enquired as to the duration of 6 months recommissioning period referred to on item 2.2.
- 8.5 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support, stated that this was the necessary time to provide consultation with young people, housing tenants and other relevant parties.
- 8.6 Councillor Brown noted that there were many areas still in need of help and enquired if some thought could be given to people in other areas. Councillor Brown enquired of the reason for the high drop out rate.
- 8.7 The Integrated Team for Families Manager, stated that retention of independent visitors was positive. It was noted that many had stayed for up to 2 years and over.
- 8.8 The Head of Services – Early Years Youth & Family Support noted the open access opportunities in the City, it was further noted that part of the role of the providers had been to scope the need across the city.
- 8.9 Councillor Wares referred to services spread across the City and noted that Hollingbury had high deprivation, high anti-social behaviour and a reasonably high number of council tenants and enquired as to the reason for a lack of services in this ward.
- 8.10 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support stated that the spread of services provided across the city were implemented as a result of work that was undertaken at the beginning of the process, it was noted that at the time of assessment it was found that Moulsecocomb was the primary focus however Hollingbury would be considered in the near future.
- 8.11 The Youth Works Representative, enquired if there were plans in place for voluntary sector organisations amidst growing need.
- 8.12 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Services stated that the youth grants programme was one of sustaining this support. It was stated there was funding from organisations from other areas of BHCC such as St. Giles.
- 8.13 **RESOLVED:**
- 1) That the Report be noted;
 - 2) That an extension for the Youth Contracts for six months to the end of September 2020 to allow more time for re-commissioning be agreed;

3) That a progress report by the Committee in June 2020 be considered.

9 SCHOOL OFSTED PRESENTATION

- 9.1 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support; and Mark Storey, Head of Education Standards & Achievement gave a brief overview of the School Ofsted findings.
- 9.2 Councillor Clare referred to Little Ducklings and enquired if there was provision would be provided in case of closure due to finance issues.
- 9.3 The Head of Service – Early Years Youth & Family Support confirmed that a new provider was to open up on site.
- 9.4 The Managing Principle, provided comments regarding the legal implications the 1st school due for academisation.
- 9.5 Amanda Mortensen, Parent Governor Representative, enquired of the dialogue with the local authority regarding the summary of key findings of the leaders and governors evaluation of the school.
- 9.6 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills, stated that governors had concerns regarding the process and their ability to have dialogue with inspectors. It was stated that the evaluation was not inadequate and there was better practice at key stage 1, for those on child protection register and SEND.
- 9.7 Councillor Hills requested the data referred to in 4.3.
- 9.9 The Assistant Director – Education & Skills stated that the data was currently being submitted as a draft action plan to Ofsted and that this would be circulated with all Councillors once returned and following any further changes.
- 9.10 Councillor Brown enquired of any further precautions that might be taken in regards other schools in a similar predicament such as St Mark's.
- 9.11 The Head of Education Standards & Achievement clarified that in the case of St Mark's, the negative judgement was expected and that a provision of aid had been pre-empted.
- 9.12 The chair gave a brief overview of the notice of motion regarding the Academisation of Moulsecoomb Primary and taken alongside the School Ofsted Report findings presentation.
- 9.13 Councillor Brown stated that the Conservative party agreed with the notice of motion in regards to consulting and supporting parent's views.
- 9.14 Councillor Wares stated that the Conservative Party would support the parents. An amendment to the notice of motion was proposed to read as:

“This Committee notes that an order for academisation of Moulsecoomb Primary School was imposed by the Regional School's Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary of

State. On the conversion date Brighton & Hove City Council shall cease to maintain the school and will be forced to transfer land and buildings occupied by the school to an academy trust chosen by the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) on behalf of the Department of Education.

This Committee notes the extensive support being provided to the School by the Council and does not believe that an Academy sponsor is necessary to improve the standards of the school.

This committee opposes the privatisation of schools, and the imposition of academy orders against the will of the local community.

The Committee instructs the officers to conduct a ballot of parents and carers of children on roll at Moulsecoomb Primary School on the question of whether they are in favour of or oppose the forced conversion of the School to an academy trust selected by the Regional Schools Commissioner. The result of the ballot should be shared with the Regional Schools Commissioner and will be published on the council website and communicated to parents.

The Committee invites the RSC to consider inviting Ofsted to reinspect the school with a view to considering improved standards.

The Committee notes the efforts being made to improve the standards of the school and calls upon the Regional Schools Commissioner to consider improved standards as grounds for revoking the order.”

9.15 Councillor Brown seconded the amendment.

9.16 A vote for the amendment was agreed.

9.17 The Committee voted on the notice of motion, as amended, and was agreed.

9.18 **RESOLVED:**

1) That the Moulsecoomb Primary School Ofsted 2019 report taken alongside the School Ofsted Presentation be noted.

10 FAMILIES, CHILDREN & LEARNING ANNUAL REPORT

10.1 The Service Manager Directorate Policy & Business Support stated gave a brief overview of the Families, Children & Learning Annual Report. It was stated that this year's concept was to have a collage feel and that feedback had been received and considered. It was confirmed that a narrated version was in design.

10.2 The Executive Director – Families, Children & Learning noted that this was a summary of the plan for the future. It was clarified that this was more about managing the budget appropriately.

10.3 **RESOLVED:**

1) That the report be noted.

11 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

11.1 No items were referred to Full Council for information.

The meeting concluded at Time Not Specified

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of