

## **EDUCATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 6 November 2012

### **Present:**

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)  
Councillor Lydia Buttinger (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Nicky Dykes, Judi Ellis, Brian Humphrys,  
David McBride, Alexa Michael and Neil Reddin FCCA

Father Owen Higgs, Darren Jenkins, Janet Latinwo, Joan  
McConnell, Alison Regester and Andrew Spears

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Stephen Wells, Portfolio Holder for Education  
Councillor Pauline Tunnicliffe, Executive Support Assistant to the  
Portfolio Holder for Education  
Councillors Robert Evans, Portfolio Holder for Care Services

#### **42 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kathy Bance and Mr Hilary Richardson.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Brian Humphrys and Father Owen Higgs.

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Mr Terry Parkin, the new Executive Director of Education and Care Services to the meeting.

#### **43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Declarations of Interest made at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012 were taken as read.

The Portfolio Holder for Education declared he was a Ward Councillor for Copers Cope Ward in relation to Item 6c: Review of Primary School Development Plan: Outcomes.

#### **44 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11TH SEPTEMBER 2012**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be agreed.

**45 QUESTIONS TO THE PDS CHAIRMAN FROM MEMBERS OF  
THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received.

**46 QUESTIONS TO THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FROM MEMBERS  
OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ATTENDING THE  
MEETING**

No questions had been received.

**47 PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROPOSED DECISIONS**

The Portfolio Holder for Education gave an update to Members on work being undertaken across the Education Portfolio (attached as **Appendix A** to the minutes).

In considering the update, the Chairman agreed a review of the Education Portfolio Plan should be undertaken to define specific targets and timescales as well as ensure the Plan continued to reflect the current activities of the Portfolio. There was also a need to provide an update on progress in developing sold services across the Portfolio.

A Co-opted Member highlighted the need to ensure that training continued to be provided to early years and childcare providers, particularly following changes to the early years foundation stage curriculum. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that there was still a programme of support for early years and that the Council would continue to fulfil its statutory obligations for early years training.

In considering school improvement, another Co-opted Member noted the benefits of using experienced head teachers as schools' advisors. Ofsted inspections were now more results driven with a focus on the progress pupils had made, and it was important to ensure that school improvement continued to be prioritised.

**A) MEMBERSHIP OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES**

**Report ED12056**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining LA Governor appointments to five schools and academies in the Borough.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the following LA Governor appointments, subject to CRB checks:**

**Burwood School**

**Mrs Jane Clark  
(Orpington)**

**Mrs Dolores Ward  
(West Wickham)**

<b>Midfield Primary School</b>	<b>Mrs Linda Sokoloff (Orpington)</b>
<b>Princes Plain Primary School</b>	<b>Reverend Roger Bristow (Bromley)</b>
<b>Scotts Park Primary School</b>	<b>Mr Adrian Donoghue (Bromley)</b>
<b>St Anthony's RC Primary School</b>	<b>Mr Jonathan Appleby</b>

**B) REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT - FARNBOROUGH  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Report ED12057**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining the revised Instrument of Government for Farnborough Primary School.

**RESOLVED** that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to approve the revised Instrument of Government for Farnborough Primary School, and that the Instrument be made by the Common Seal of the Council of the London Borough of Bromley.

**C) REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN:  
OUTCOMES**

**Report ED12058**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report providing details of the outcomes and recommendations of the Primary School Development Plan Working Party, which had met on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2012 to consider the strategic planning of primary school places and school organisation in the Borough.

The Head of Access and Admission highlighted that the number of reception pupils in Bromley schools had risen from 3165 in January 2007 to 3706 in January 2012. The number of reception pupils was projected to remain at between 3790 and 4070 until at least 2020 which would continue to place pressure on the number of Reception class places and would have an impact on Secondary class places in due course.

In considering the report, a Co-opted Member underlined the need to ensure that schools were not adversely impacted where bulge years were introduced at a neighbouring school. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that key drivers for the introduction of a bulge year included the impact on neighbouring schools as well as the number of school places needed in the local area.

Councillor Brian Humphrys was concerned at the recommendation to formally consult on extending the age range of Bromley Road Infant School, to

become a 1 Form of Entry (FE) Primary School and Worsley Bridge Junior school to become a 2 FE Primary School with the potential to expand to 3 FE. He noted that the introduction of a 1 FE Primary School would reduce the number of school places available to infant pupils in the area of Bromley Road Infant School, and that it could be difficult to recruit Head Teachers for 1 FE Primary Schools which leads to issues with sustaining standards. He was also concerned any additional places created by expansion of Worsley Bridge Junior School would largely benefit out-of-Borough pupils. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that discussions had been held with the London Borough of Lewisham around the implications of any expansion of Worsley Bridge Junior School but that there was significant housing development in the Copers Cope Ward which would increase the demand for school places in the area by Bromley residents.

Councillor Brian Humphrys also highlighted the potential introduction of a primary school as part of the Harris Beckenham school offer and noted the importance of working with Harris Beckenham to ensure that this would not impact the number of secondary places provided. The Head of School Access and Admissions confirmed that representations had been made to Harris Beckenham around the increased demand for secondary places from 2016/17 to encourage the school in considering expansion to 8 FE.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to endorse the recommendations of the Primary School Development Plan Working Party, taking into account the views of the Education PDS Committee, and authorise the Director of Education and Care Services to undertake consultation with schools and other key agencies on the proposed temporary and permanent expansion of places and to implement the proposals where feasible as set out below.**

**Planning Area 1 - Wards: Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator, Clock House**

- **Malcolm Primary School to increase its intake to 2 FE for a further year.**
- **To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity initially on a temporary basis to 2FE (from 1.5 FE) at St John's C.E. Primary School for reception in 2013/14.**
- **To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 2 FE (from 1.5 FE) at St John's C.E. Primary School.**

**Planning Area 2 - Wards: Copers Cope, Kelsey and Eden Park**

- **To review, with Governors the feasibility of Clare House Primary School to permanently increase its intake to 2 FE.**
- **To formally consult on extending the age range of Bromley Road Infant School to become a 1 FE Primary School and Worsley Bridge**

Junior School to become a 2 FE Primary School with the potential to expand to 3 FE.

**Planning Area 3 - Wards: Shortlands, West Wickham, Hayes and Coney Hall**

- Hawes Down Infant School to increase its intake to 3 FE for a further year.
- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at St Mark's C.E. School if future demand was sufficient.

**Planning Area 4 - Wards: Bromley Town, Plaistow and Sundridge, Bickley**

- Scotts Park Primary School to increase its intake to 3 FE for a further year.
- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at Bickley Primary School for reception in 2013/14.

**Planning Area 5 - Wards: Bromley Common and Keston, Petts Wood and Knoll, Farnborough and Crofton**

- Keston C.E. Primary School to permanently increase its intake to 60.
- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at Southborough Primary School for reception in 2013/14.

**Planning Area 6 - Wards: Chislehurst, Mottingham, Chislehurst North**

- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at Edgebury Primary School for reception in 2013/14.
- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at Castlecombe Primary School for reception in 2013/14.
- To continue to pursue discussions with the Governors and Diocese regarding Chislehurst C.E. School increasing its PAN by 1 FE, in light of any potential relocation.

**Planning Area 7 - Wards: Cray Valley West and Cray Valley East**

- Midfield Primary School to permanently increase its intake to 60.
- To review, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE at Leasons Primary School for reception in 2013/14.

**Planning Area 8 - Wards: Orpington, Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom**

- **No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area**

**Planning Area 9 - Wards: Biggin Hill and Darwin**

- **No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area.**

**D) TRANSFER OF THE ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE**

**Report ED12063**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report outlining recent changes to the strategic management of the Bromley Adult Education College and briefing Members on future plans for school workforce development and staff training at the College.

Following transfer of strategic management responsibility for the Bromley Adult Education College to the Education Portfolio in September 2012, proposals had been developed to relocate courses currently delivered at the Education Development Centre to the Widmore site of the Bromley Adult Education College to create a joined-up service for adult education, workforce development and employee training. It was also proposed to relocate remaining staff and functions based at the Education Development Centre to alternate sites including the Widmore and Bromley Civic Centre sites, to release the Education Development Centre site for educational purposes.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder agree in principle to recommend future use of the Education Development Centre site for educational purposes.**

**E) 2013/14 FUNDING REVIEW - OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION WITH SCHOOLS**

**Report ED12059**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report providing details of the outcome of consultation undertaken with schools around the 2013/14 review of funding for schools, which aimed to simplify the local funding arrangements for 2013-14 and to introduce a new approach to high needs funding that would help to improve transparency, quality and choice for young people and their families and carers.

Following agreement at the meeting of Schools' Forum on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the Local Authority released four proposed funding models to all schools as part of the consultation on the proposed funding formula for 2013/14. The Local Authority received 38 consultation responses, comprising 33 from Primary Schools (including six individual responses from one school and three

from another school), one from a Special School and four from Secondary Schools, and at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the Schools' Forum endorsed the Local Authority's recommendation for funding model version 12 to be adopted as the new funding formula for 2012/13. Maintained primary school representatives also agreed that funding for contingencies, free school meal eligibility and staff costs supply cover would be de-delegated back to the Local Authority, but that funding for support for Ethnic Minority pupils and for the Behaviour Support Services would not be de-delegated.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to agree that funding model version 12 be used for the 2013/14 funding formula.**

#### **48 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Portfolio Holder Briefing comprised two reports:

- Education Portfolio Plan: Mid Year Performance Report 2012/13
- Education and Care Services Contract Reports - Education Contracts
- Minutes of the Education Budget Sub Committee held on 25th September 2012

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder Briefing be noted.**

#### **49 SUPPORT FOR UNDER PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

##### **Report ED12060**

The Committee considered a report outlining the current school improvement strategy to support underperforming schools in Bromley and the future challenges in the light of the evolving education agenda.

The Local Authority had a statutory duty to intervene in Local Authority maintained, community and voluntary aided schools where there were serious concerns that needed to be addressed, including schools where performance was consistently below floor targets or where there was a serious drop in performance. If necessary improvements were not made within a set timescale, the Local Authority could use appropriate statutory powers of intervention, including requiring the Governing Body to work with another school for the purpose of school improvement, the suspension of delegated authority or to seek academy sponsorship for the school. The Local Authority also had a statutory responsibility to take action when a school went into an Ofsted category of concern, with an expectation by the Department for Education that where a school has been judged by Ofsted to require 'Special Measures', conversion to an academy with a strong sponsor would be the normal route to secure improvement. There were currently three primary schools in Bromley that had been judged to require 'Special Measures', with one convertor academy judged as 'notice to improve'. Two Local Authority Maintained Schools in Special Measures would become sponsored academies by September 2013.

In considering the report, a Member suggested that it would be useful for the information provided on schools' Ofsted outcomes to show each schools direction of travel through Ofsted levels to make it easier to identify where schools were showing improvement or where there was a need for school improvement measures to be put in place. There was also potential to map risk factors for each school, such as having a deficit budget or upcoming senior staff changes to support long term planning. A Member asked that case studies be used to demonstrate how the school improvement strategy had helped support individual schools to improve.

A Member underlined the importance of the 'critical friend' role of a strong Governing Body. The Chairman also highlighted the value of schools developing links to Higher Education, and it was noted that the Bromley Schools' Collegiate, which offered training in the Secondary sector was now expanding to the Primary Sector.

**RESOLVED that Members' comments on the current school improvement strategy and how this accords with the local agenda for the future be noted.**

## **50 SUPPORT FOR UNDER ACHIEVING GROUPS OF CHILDREN - CLOSING THE GAP**

### **Report ED12061**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on support for underachieving groups of children and outlining where gaps had been closed. The groups of children who had been identified as being vulnerable to underachievement had been identified nationally as boys, pupils eligible for Free School Meals, minority ethnic groups and pupils with English as an additional language, pupils with special educational needs and looked after children. The attainment for all indicators from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 4 in Bromley was higher than the national average; however in some indicators the gaps in achievement between identified groups were similar.

A number of national strategies had been implemented to support schools to reduce gaps in achievement including the introduction of the Pupil Premium and initiatives such as 'Every Child a Reader', 'Every Child a Writer' and SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning). Local strategies introduced to support schools in Bromley included a school by school analysis of data by Research and Statistics to identify underperforming groups, using 'Closing the Gap' as a focus for school reviews, providing school based intervention for schools in a category of concern, a dedicated specialist teacher for Family Learning and the Looked After Children team. Advice, support and training for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) and Inclusion managers was also available and there was a comprehensive 'Sold Services' offer which all schools could buy into to provide specialist support.



A number of schools in Bromley had narrowed the gap for some of the most vulnerable pupils with carefully focused and targeted intervention and it was expected that the Annual Standards Report would indicate an increasing trajectory of improvement for those schools with the highest number of vulnerable pupils.

In considering the report, a Co-opted Member noted that it would be useful to identify the Ofsted grading of schools attended by children who scored lower in attainment in their early years settings, and highlighted that the closure of children's centres across the Borough might impact the provision of support for underachieving groups of children who had not yet started school.

Early intervention was key in supporting children who were underachieving. There was also a need to consider the progress of children who were just above the threshold for additional support. It was noted that the Pupil Premium would allow more sustained support to be provided to children who were underachieving. A Co-opted Member highlighted the success of the recent 'Achievement for All' research project which had been undertaken as part of the recent Pathfinder project.

Another Member underlined the importance of parental challenge to improvement. The Chairman agreed that there was need to develop a series of standards around what the Local Authority expected from schools to support stronger challenge from parents.

The Executive Director of Education and Care Services advised the Committee that it was key to clarify the Council's role as a champion for children and their parents and carers. It was important to have a strong relationship with local schools; however schools should be primarily responsible for driving their own improvement.

**RESOLVED that Members' comments on issues raised with underperforming groups in Bromley and how this accords with the local agenda for the future be noted.**

**51            COMPARISON OF THERAPY PROVISION IN BROMLEY  
                     SCHOOLS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

This item was withdrawn.

**52            EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2012/13**

**Report ED12062**

The Committee considered the forward rolling work programme for the year ahead, based on items scheduled for decision by the Education Portfolio Holder and items for consideration by the Education PDS Committee.

In considering the work programme for the Committee, the Chairman confirmed that the item on 'Comparison of Therapy Provision in Bromley

Schools and Independent Schools' that had been withdrawn from the agenda would be considered at the meeting of Education PDS Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. A number of additional reports would also be considered at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 including 'Intervention and Support for High Priority Schools' and 'The Education Portfolio Budget for 2013/14'. Scheduled items on 'Effective Governance (role of the Local Authority)' and 'School Governance' for consideration at the same meeting would be merged into a single report.

The Chairman noted that there was potential for a joint meeting to be held with Care Services PDS Committee to consider future scrutiny of the Children's Board.

The Chairman reminded all Members and Co-opted Members of the Education PDS Committee that they were all invited to attend the Education Seminar on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This seminar would explore a range of themes and issues that were key to the Education Portfolio including Looked After Children – the role of the Virtual Head Teacher, Raising the Participation Age, SEN Strategy and School Places.

**RESOLVED that the Education Programme 2012/13 be noted.**

The Meeting ended at 8.55 pm

Chairman

# Minute Annex

## Education Portfolio Holder Update

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2012.

1. Discussions continue with the Department, and David Laws regarding the LACSEG settlement, some nine other Councils including Hillingdon and Bexley which are like Bromley low costs educators and with high Academy conversion levels are supportive of the Bromley position. A meeting of a delegation from the councils group has been requested with David Laws, seeking at least some tapered relief to the potential loss, (as schools have).
2. A meeting will be held shortly with Lord Hill to discuss the role of Free Schools and sponsored academies in the Borough, with a view to addressing the shortfall in Primary places and upcoming shortfall in Secondary places. The use of existing premises is being investigated for such expansions.
3. The examination of potential costs saving within Statutory areas of the Portfolio remit is continuing with a view to a more Commissioned operation in these areas.
4. An examination of the current performance of many LBB primary schools suggests that they are no longer able to show levels of performance and attainment to place LBB high in the peer group of similar authorities. Efforts will be made to understand why this is happening, and to make this information public. Initial assessment suggests schools in Southwark and Tower Hamlets are now out performing numbers of our Primarys. Potentially failing schools will be identified and answers sought as to why underperformance is occurring. Efforts will be made to 'beef up' governing bodies in these schools. Members will note that three Primary schools have recently failed Ofsted inspections; this is not an acceptable pattern.
5. A major review of the Education Portfolio Plan put in place in May will be undertaken to define specific targets and timescales as well as ensure the Plan reflects the current activities of the Portfolio. With the arrival of the new Director in post this rigorous re-examination can be more realistically undertaken.
6. Discussions continue with the Diocese of Rochester regarding the CE primary schools and the Bishop Justus secondary school with regard to a progressive conversion to Academy status using a hub and spoke Trust model. Current timetable will take three Primarys to Academy status by April 2013 with the remaining CE Primarys converting over the 18 months following.
7. Discussion continues with regards to the expansion of Selective education in the Borough. Newstead Woods has increased its PAN by 30 and St Olaves should increase by 15. Neither school is interested at this time in expansion using a satellite site.
8. Discussions continue with the Arch Diocese of Southwark regarding RC education in the Borough. Secondary provision is being suggested on the Holy Innocents site and a site at Avalon Road Orpington is also a possibility. The Archdiocese is still seeking to sell the All Saints site for residential purposes. St Marys Primary will join St James as an Academy in April. The Archdiocese Education Board is currently actively supporting Academy conversion on a major scale in Kent and cannot also support Bromley schools conversions en mass, individual schools are being supported to convert.
9. The closure of the EDC is going ahead with some functions transferring to the Civic Centre while others will operate from Bromley College in future. A number of redundancies will result. The EDC will be mothballed in April prior to expansion of Princes Plain Primary.

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