

## **EDUCATION BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 8 April 2014

### **Present:**

Councillor Neil Reddin FCCA (Chairman)  
Councillor Julian Benington (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Julian Grainger and David McBride

Councillor Stephen Wells, Portfolio Holder for Education

### **Also Present:**

Carol Arnfield, Head of Service: Bromley Adult Education College  
Jane Bailey, Interim Assistant Director: Education  
James Mullender, Senior Accountant  
Nina Newell, Head of Schools, Early Years Commissioning and Quality

### **32 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nicholas Bennett JP.

### **33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **34 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

No questions had been received from members of the public.

### **35 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2014 AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be agreed.

### **36 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING Q3 2013/14 & ANNUAL CAPITAL REVIEW 2014 TO 2018**

#### **Report FSD14031**

On 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Executive received the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly capital monitoring report for 2013/14 which also presented for approval the new capital schemes

supported by Council Directors in the annual capital review process, and agreed a revised Capital Programme for the five year period 2013/14 to 2017/18. The Sub-Committee considered a report outlining the changes agreed by the Executive in respect of the Capital Programme for the Education Portfolio.

In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman, the Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that the Local Authority would receive a Government grant of £387k for the upgrade of school kitchens at Local Authority Maintained schools to facilitate the provision of free school meals for all pupils in Key Stage 1. The revenue cost of providing the free school meals would be met by the Government.

**RESOLVED that the revised Capital Programme agreed by the Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for Education for approval.**

## **37 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013/14**

### **Report ED14045**

The Sub-Committee considered a report setting out the budget monitoring position for the Education Portfolio based on expenditure to the end of January 2014. The Schools' Budget, funded from the Dedicated Schools' Grant and specific grants was forecast to be in an underspend position of £3,774,000, which would be carried forward into the next financial year. The controllable part of the Non-Schools' budget, funded from Council Tax, Revenue Support and specific grants, was forecast to be in an underspend position of £184,000.

In considering the budget monitoring position for the Education Portfolio, the Chairman highlighted the projected shortfall of income of £126k for Behaviour Services. This was due to lower than anticipated uptake of respite placements by schools following delegation of the budget for Behaviour Services to schools from 2013/14, a fall in income generated from packages due to long term sickness, and higher than budgeted resources required to generate income. The Interim Assistant Director: Education advised Members of the Sub-Committee that a consultation was currently being undertaken on the potential to assimilate the Respite and Behaviour Services into the proposed Bromley Alternative Provision Academy, which aimed to become a hub for behaviour support services in Bromley to better support the full continuum of behaviour needs at an earlier stage and support more young people to remain in a mainstream setting. The consultation would close on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

In response to a question from a Member regarding the overspend of £221k currently projected for the Bromley Adult Education College, the Head of Service: Bromley Adult Education College confirmed that the Skills Funding Agency grant covered the direct costs of delivering courses to support jobseekers back into employment, but did not contribute to the College's overhead costs in the case of all the qualifications delivered. Students in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance could not be charged to attend courses which supported them back into employment.

A Member queried the overspend of £175k in the Schools' Budget. The Senior Accountant confirmed that the demand for school places had exceeded projections made at the start of the academic year, and that there continued to be a high demand for pupil places across the Borough which had required the provision of additional classes at some schools. Another Member noted that free early education for 2 year olds, which had been funded by Dedicated Schools Grant since 2013/14, was expected to underspend by £870k. The Head of Schools, Early Years Commissioning and Quality confirmed that this funding had been introduced in April 2013 to support the creation of nursery places which did not become statutory until September 2014, which had resulted in a cost saving. The underspend had been used to offset a projected overspend of £570k on providing free early education for 3 and 4 year olds. An additional £1.3m of free early education funding for 3 and 4 year olds had been built into the 2014/15 budget to offset an expected increase in take up of places following the expansion of free early education for 2 year olds in previous years, and to make up for the historical shortfall of budget.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The latest 2013/14 budget projection for the Education Portfolio be noted; and,**
- 2) The Education Portfolio Budget Monitoring Report 2013/14 be recommended to the Portfolio Holder for Education for approval.**

**38 COST IMPLICATIONS OF RECHARGES - BEHAVIOUR SERVICE AND PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT ALTERNATIVE PROVISION**

**Report ED14046**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Education PDS Committee considered a report outlining developments within the Behaviour Service and Bromley Pupil Referral Unit and the potential for reorganisation of these services as part of the proposed Bromley Alternative Provision Academy. Following consideration of this report, the Chairman of Education PDS Committee requested that a report detailing the cost implications of any reorganisation of these services be provided to the next meeting of the Education Budget Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee considered a report setting out potential cost implications should the functions of the Behaviour Service and Respite Service be integrated into the proposed Bromley Alternative Provision Academy. All services provided by the Local Authority had elements of costs attributed to them as recharges to fund back-office functions not directly linked to service delivery. Recharges were allocated against individual service areas according to various drivers which included the number of full-time equivalent staff and office space. There was currently £133k of recharges attributed to the Behaviour Service and Respite Service, which was funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant. If these services were to be delivered by another supplier, the Dedicated Schools Grant could no longer be used to contribute to the overheads and support costs of delivering

these services in-house, and the recharge would become a new cost pressure on the Council.

In considering the report, a Member underlined the need to ensure the level of recharges attributed to the Education Service was reasonable and reflected the services provided.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) Members comments on the financial position of the proposal and the cost implications of recharges be noted; and,**
- 2) The Executive be requested to consider how the recharge position should be managed**

**39 PUPIL PREMIUM TO HELP DISADVANTAGED PUPILS**

**Report ED14050**

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Education PDS Committee considered a report outlining the standards achieved in schools across Bromley during the academic year 2012-13, based on an analysis of recently published National Curriculum assessments and GCSE/GCE examination results from Summer 2013. Following consideration of this report, the Chairman of Education PDS Committee was concerned that although the standards achieved in schools across Bromley were generally higher than the national average, there continued to be a gap in attainment for pupils who were eligible for free school meals, and requested that more detailed information on the use of Pupil Premium by schools be provided to the next meeting of Education Budget Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee considered a report setting out the amount of Pupil Premium funding allocated to each school and the way this funding was utilised, and providing a comparison of the performance of children in receipt of Pupil Premium funding at each school.

In considering the report, the Portfolio Holder for Education noted that on the initial analysis of data provided, there appeared to be no direct correlation between the information provided by schools on how Pupil Premium was used and the performance of children in receipt of the Pupil Premium, and that it was not clear that higher levels of Pupil Premium provided to a school delivered better outcomes for pupils in all cases. A Member also emphasised that the performance of pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium at small schools could be disproportionately affected by the attainment of one or two pupils as the cohort was often very small.

In discussion, Members generally agreed that it was important to encourage schools to use Pupil Premium funding in an innovative way and to ensure that the progress of all pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium was supported, including those pupils who were high achieving. The Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that a Head Teachers conference was being planned, and that an expert in Pupil Premium had been invited to the conference to advise schools on

how they could demonstrate using Pupil Premium to the best effect.

In response to a question from a Member, the Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that Pupil Premium funding was available to pupils in both mainstream and non-mainstream schools, such as special schools and pupil referral units up to the end of Year 11, and was paid to schools according to the number of pupils who had been registered as eligible for free school meals at any point in the previous 6 years or who had been in Care for 6 months or longer. Following the introduction of free school meals for all pupils in Key Stage 1, it was likely that a new measure would be needed to assess the eligibility of pupils to receive the Pupil Premium, and this was likely to be based on families identified as having low incomes or who were eligible to receive certain benefits, and Looked After Children.

The Head of Schools, Early Years Commissioning and Quality confirmed that a number of proposed future actions to support the effective use of the Pupil Premium by schools had been developed. These included consideration of data on the performance and progress of pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium when undertaking categorisation of schools to determine which should be a high priority for support. Schools would also be reminded of the requirement for them to publish details of the use of their Pupil Premium. Following a recent announcement by the Government of plans for Pupil Premium to be expanded to Early Years in 2015/16, it might also be necessary to explore how best to track the performance of pupils in receipt of the Pupil Premium as they progressed through their education.

**RESOLVED that the report and proposed future actions be noted.**

#### **40 EDUCATION PORTFOLIO INFORMATION ITEMS**

##### **a) CONSULTATION - FAIRER SCHOOLS FUNDING 2015/16**

###### **Briefing ED14047**

The Sub-Committee considered an information briefing outlining the details of the documentation on fairer schools funding recently released for consultation by the Department for Education.

The Department for Education was currently undertaking a consultation on plans to allocate an additional £350m funding to schools in 2015/16, to increase the per-pupil budgets for the least fairly funded local areas. The proposal aimed to ensure that in 2015/16, every local area would attract a minimum level of funding for each of its pupils and schools, making the distribution of funding fairer, whilst ensuring that no area received a cut to its per-pupil budget. The consultation on these proposals would close on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014, and it was expected the results of the consultation would be published in Summer 2014.

Bromley was currently one of the lowest funded local authorities in London and under the proposals could potentially benefit from £19.1m additional

funding for all schools in the Borough in 2015/16, including Local Authority Maintained schools and academy and free schools.

In discussion, Members were advised that the Schools Forum would develop its response to the consultation at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**RESOLVED that the information briefing be noted.**

**b) ATTAINMENT FIGURES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES THAT ARE SIMILAR TO BROMLEY**

**Briefing ED14049**

The Sub-Committee information briefing outlining attainment figures for Local Authorities that were similar to Bromley.

On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, the Education PDS Committee considered a report outlining the standards achieved in schools across Bromley during the academic year 2012-13, based on an analysis of recently published National Curriculum assessments and GCSE/GCE examination results from Summer 2013. In considering this report, the Vice-Chairman of Education PDS Committee emphasised the need to focus on continuous improvement for all groups and requested that attainment figures for Local Authorities that were similar to Bromley be provided to the next meeting of Education Budget Sub-Committee for Members' consideration.

Bromley generally performed well against its statistical neighbours. Against all reported measures, Bromley was ranked in the top five and, against 16 of the reported measures, Bromley was ranked in the top three. At Early Years Foundation Stage, Bromley had the highest attainment with 60% of pupils achieving a good level of development, and at Key Stage 4, Bromley also had the highest attainment, with 93% of pupils attaining 5+ A\*-C GCSEs.

In discussion, Members were concerned that the high performance of many schools across the Borough, particularly those at secondary level, might make it more difficult to identify areas of low attainment where averages were used to assess pupil performance. The Vice-Chairman also queried if the increased take up of vocational courses might impact the number of pupils attaining 5+ A\*-C GCSEs in future academic years.

The Chairman requested that attainment figures for Local Authorities that were similar to Bromley be provided to Education PDS Committee in future as part of the annual report outlining of standards achieved in schools across Bromley during the previous academic year.

**RESOLVED that the information briefing be noted.**

**41 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**42            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Education Budget Sub-Committee would be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

**43            LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006 AND THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the items of business listed below as it was likely in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information.

**44            COUNCIL-RUN NURSERY PROVISION**

The Committee considered the report and supported the recommendations.

The Meeting ended at 8.35 pm

Chairman