

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

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00 pm on 18 March 2014

### **Present:**

Councillor Nicholas Bennett J.P. (Chairman)  
Councillor Neil Reddin FCCA (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillors Kathy Bance MBE, Julian Benington,  
Peter Fortune, Julian Grainger, David McBride,  
Alexa Michael and Sarah Phillips

Joan McConnell, Darren Jenkins and Alison Register

### **Also Present:**

Councillor Stephen Wells, Portfolio Holder for Education

Councillor Robert Evans

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

Apologies for absence were received from Jo Brinkley, Dolores Bray-Ash, Father Owen Higgs, Janet Latinwo and Rachel Opadiran.

The Chairman noted that this was the final Education PDS Committee meeting of the 2013/14 municipal year and thanked all Members, Co-opted Members and Officers for their support to the Committee over the past year.

The Chairman advised Members that Father Owen Higgs would be resigning from the Education PDS Committee as of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 as he was leaving the Diocese of Rochester to take up the post of Vicar of St Gabriel's in Pimlico, and thanked him on behalf of the Members of the Education PDS Committee for the excellent contribution he had made to both the Education and the Children and Young People PDS Committees.

### **62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the Declarations of Interest made at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013 and 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were taken as read.

### **63 MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2014 AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were agreed.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be agreed and that matters outstanding be noted.

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

No questions had been received.

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

No questions had been received.

**66 PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE**

The Portfolio Holder for Education gave an update to Members on work being undertaken across the Education Portfolio.

The need to create additional primary school places in the Borough had been identified as a priority, and the Local Authority continued to work with the Archdiocese of Southwark around the feasibility of establishing a new Catholic secondary school in the Borough.

The Local Authority had been notified it was to receive a substantial increase in Basic Need Capital Grant from the Department of Education over the next two years to fund capital improvements in schools across the Borough. A consultation was currently being undertaken on the proposed programme of funding, potentially totalling £42.3m for Bromley, and Members were advised that the grant received by the Local Authority would be shared between Local Authority Maintained schools and academy and free schools. A consultation exercise would be undertaken with schools to identify where the capital grant could best be spent, and Members and Co-opted Members were requested to nominate schools they felt would benefit from capital funding.

Members were advised that the new funding formula for the Dedicated Schools Grant was also likely to provide an increased level of funding for Bromley schools into the future. Currently at consultation stage with the Department for Education, the increased level of funding for all schools, including Local Authority Maintained schools and academy and free schools potentially totalled £19.1m for Bromley.

Consideration was being given to how the Phoenix Youth Centre, Hawes Lane and the Phoenix Centre, Masons Hill could work together more closely into the future. A Co-opted Member requested that any consultation that affected Early Years Provision not be undertaken over the summer period and that Early Years Providers be contacted via e-mail to ensure they received the consultation in good time to respond.

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

**A) UPDATE ON UNDER PERFORMING SCHOOLS - INCLUDING  
UPDATE ON CATEGORISATION REPORT, RISK ANALYSIS  
AND SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS BY THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Report ED14024**

The Portfolio Holder for Education introduced a report that outlined 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.

The overall percentage of pupils achieving a good level of development across all seven areas of learning at the Early Years Foundation Stage was 61% across all Bromley schools against a national average of 52%, with girls outperforming boys both locally and nationally. At the Early Years Foundation Stage, 39% of pupils in receipt of free school meals reached a good level of development, against 63% of pupils who did not receive free school meals, which was a gap of 24% against a national gap of 19%.

Across Key Stage 1 teacher assessments, Bromley's performance remained above the national average at all levels. At Level 2+, pupils who did not receive free school meals outperformed pupils in receipt of free school meals in all areas, however there was evidence of a slight improvement in the last year with an increase of 15% in reading, 20% in writing and 13% in mathematics for pupils in receipt of free school meals against respective national increases of 12%, 15% and 10%.

Overall Bromley's Key Stage 2 attainment results were consistently above the national average, but there remained a wide range of achievement across Bromley primary schools.

At Key Stage 4, the percentage of pupils gaining 5+ A\*-C grades including English and mathematics who were eligible for free school meals in Bromley had improved at 48% compared with 76% of pupils who did not receive free school meals, which was a gap of 28% compared with a gap of 32% in the previous year and against a gap of 27% nationally. Although attainment in Bromley schools was generally above the national average, groups of pupils, particular those who were eligible for free school meals, did not make the desired rate of progress, and there were small but significant numbers of schools where sustainable improvement was not yet achieved. This remained a priority for Bromley schools.

In considering the report, the Chairman 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. The Chairman requested that more detailed information on the use of Pupil Premium by schools be provided to the next meeting of Education Budget Sub-Committee.

A Co-opted Member noted the gap in attainment for pupils who were eligible for free school meals at the Early Years Foundation Stage. It was hoped that the increase in free early education funding for two year olds would reduce the gap in attainment, and this should be supported by working to ensure early years provision across the Borough continued to be of the highest standard. In response to a question from a Member, the Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance confirmed that work had previously been undertaken to track the early years settings of each pupil in Key Stage 1, however due to the small numbers involved at each school, results had proved inconclusive. It was confirmed that once free early education was expanded to 40% of two year olds, the possibility of tracking children would be revisited.

The take-up of free school meals was currently used to allocate Pupil Premium funding to schools, and a Member queried how this would be affected by the provision of free school meals to all pupils at Key Stage 1. The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance confirmed that the existing free school meal data held by schools would be used in 2014/15. To support this, schools had encouraged parents who might be eligible to apply for free school meals in advance of the January census date to ensure funding was maximised for 2014/15. The future mechanism for Pupil Premium funding had yet to be confirmed, but was likely to draw data from other information held by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Vice-Chairman 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. Another Member underlined issues in reporting attainment for the small schools in the Borough, where the performance of an individual child could significantly affect the attainment data of the school. The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance confirmed that a wide range of information was taken into account when the Local Authority was considering if a school needed additional support

In considering the overview of Ofsted outcomes at Bromley Local Authority Maintained Schools, a Member queried the categorisation of two schools which had previously had 'Good' Ofsted judgements. The Head of Schools and Early Years Commissioning and Quality Assurance confirmed that the Local Authority had identified some concerns at Princes Plain and Southborough Primary Schools, and that targeted support was being provided to these schools to address the issues identified and support sustainable improvement.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The annual report on the standards of attainment and progress in Bromley schools during 2012/13 be noted;**

- 2) **Ofsted outcomes for academies in Bromley be noted; and,**
- 3) **The update of Ofsted outcomes for Local Authority Maintained Schools in Bromley, including detail in respect of schools identified as underperforming, an outline of the Local Authority support and challenge provided and a rating of risk be noted.**

**67 PORTFOLIO HOLDER PROPOSED DECISIONS**

**A) BASIC NEEDS PROVISION UPDATE (CAPITAL) INC UPDATE ON THE GLEBE EXPANSION**

**Report ED14028**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report providing an update on progress in delivering the Basic Need Programme, which supported the provision of sufficient school places through improvements to and expansion of Bromley schools, and to set out the forward programme for the period 2014-17. The report also outlined the current position of the expansion project at the Glebe School, and details of the proposed expenditure of Section 106 funding as part of the programme of improvements to and expansion of Bromley Schools. The Basic Need Programme was fully funded by the Department for Education Basic Need Capital Grant.

The updated list of schemes within the Basic Need Programme had been developed to meet the estimated increase in the number of reception age pupils in the Borough from September 2014 onwards. 'Bulge years' and permanent expansions were planned at a number of existing local schools to provide the required pupil places, which would be delivered through a combination of modular build and internal refurbishment.

A feasibility study was also being undertaken to support the expansion of the Glebe School to provide an additional two forms of entry for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Options from the feasibility study would be reported to the Council's Executive at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, and approval would be sought to proceed to detailed design, planning submission and tender processes for the expansion, with the expectation of establishing an additional form of entry (8 pupils) at the Glebe School in September 2014, and a further form of entry in September 2015.

In considering the report, the Chairman noted that there had been a deed of variation to Section 106 funds related to the Blue Circle site development. The Head of Strategic Place Planning confirmed that a contribution of £500k would be made for education use, and that this would be provided in two payments of £250k. There was no longer a requirement for a contribution to be made to a dual use facility.

In response to a question from a Co-opted Member, the Head of Strategic Place Planning confirmed that there was lower than expected demand for the

additional places at the Glebe School for 2014/15, and that it was felt that one additional form of entry would be sufficient to meet demand for places.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- 1) Approve the updated list of schemes within the Basic Need Capital Programme;**
- 2) Recommend the Council's Executive to release Section 106 funds for the projects set out in Appendix 2 to Report ED14028**
- 3) Agree the procurement and award of contract of schemes within the Basic Need Programme through traditional procurement, the Lewisham Modular Buildings Framework or through devolution of Basic Need Capital Grant to schools; and,**
- 4) Authorise the Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services to submit planning applications at the appropriate time in respect of the list of schemes.**

**B) BROMLEY SEED CHALLENGE SCHEME - 2013/14  
ALLOCATION OF FUND**

**Report ED14031**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report setting out the proposed allocation of £300,000 that was available through the Bromley Seed Challenge Programme to support school-led capital projects at Local Authority maintained schools in the Borough. In line with local and national policy, in-year Seed Challenge allocations would be honoured at schools that subsequently converted to academy status. The Seed Challenge Programme was fully funded by the Department for Education Capital Maintenance Grant.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- 1) Approve the list of schemes set out in Appendix 1 to Report ED14031;**
- 2) Note the historical bidding patterns and allocations of Seed Challenge Grant as set out in Appendix 2 to Report ED14031; and,**
- 3) Authorise the Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services to submit planning applications at the appropriate time in respect of the schemes set out in Report ED14031 where required.**

**C) ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING: SCHOOLS PLANNED  
MAINTENANCE & SUITABILITY PROGRAMME 2014-15**

**Report ED14029**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report setting out the proposed 2014-15 Education Planned Maintenance and Suitability programmes, which were fully

funded by the Department for Education Capital Maintenance Grant. Bromley's allocation for 2014-15 was £1,808,711 of which £1,208,711 had been allocated to the Planned Maintenance Programme, £300,000 to the Seed Challenge Fund, £150,000 to the Security Fund and £150,000 to the Suitability Fund.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to:**

- 1) Recommend the Council's Executive to approve the 2014/15 Schools Planned Maintenance and Suitability Programme.**
- 2) Recommend the Council's Executive to approve the list of schemes to be included in the 2014-15 Planned Maintenance Programme set out in Appendix 1 to Report ED14029;**
- 3) Authorise Officers to develop a Seed Challenge Programme for 2014-15 for future consideration by the Portfolio Holder for Education; and**
- 4) Authorise the Executive Director: Education, Care and Health Services to submit planning applications at the appropriate time in respect of the schemes set out in Report ED14029 where required.**

**D) DRAWDOWN OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR DELIVERING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS STATUTORY REFORMS ARISING FROM THE FAMILY & CHILDREN ACT 2014**

**Report ED14043**

The Portfolio Holder introduced a report that outlined progress being made through the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Pathfinder Programme in trialling and testing Phase 2 of the reforms, and seeking approval for the release of Government funding held in the 2014/15 central contingency.

The SEND Pathfinder was developed in partnership with London Borough of Bexley to test areas within the Children and Families Bill, published on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013, which aimed to take a more holistic approach to special educational needs and disability for children and young people in England. The Bromley and Bexley SEND Pathfinder had been asked to test the development and application of Education, Health and Care Plans for children and young people with complex needs from birth to 25 years, as well as areas including development of personal budgets, banded funding and preparing for adulthood (transition).

In December 2012, the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley were notified that further funding of £150k had been granted to take the SEND Pathfinder work forward until September 2014, in line with the timescales for the implementation of the new special educational needs reforms. During this

additional phase of the SEND Pathfinder programme, Education, Health and Care Plans would be scaled up for proposed full implementation for all new children and young people meeting the complex needs threshold in Pathfinder local authorities from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Work would align with the current statutory SEN legislative processes around statements, which would cease to be produced from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 when the Children and Families Act 2014 would be enacted and the Local Offer would come into effect.

Pathfinder funding of £240,000 had been released to the Local Authority by the Department for Education for Phase 1 (2011/12) and a further £165,000 was released for Phase 2 (2012/13). Conditions of use of the funding included repayment to the Department of Education if the funding provided was not used to deliver statutory responsibilities relating to the Children and Families Act 2014. It was now requested that the final amount of £381,937 be released from the Council's central contingency fund. This was Year 3 funding for the SEND Pathfinder and was likely to be the final year of funding.

In considering the report, a Member queried if the use of personal budgets was being progressed. The Head of SEN Services confirmed that work continued on developing personal budgets for education but that clarification was needed from the Department for Education on a number of issues before these could be introduced, such as person management in schools for services purchased through personal budgets. The final Code of Practice would be published in May 2014, which should provided additional clarity.

Another Member highlighted work being undertaken around transition planning and preparing for adulthood and requested that an update report be provided to the Education PDS Committee in September 2014.

**RESOLVED that the Portfolio Holder be recommended to recommend the Council's Executive to approve the drawdown of £381,937 of Government funding held in the Council's central contingency fund for 2014/15.**

## **68 EDUCATION INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Information Briefing comprised four reports:

- Annual Update on Youth Services - 2013
- Update of the 2014/15 Education Portfolio Plan
- Achieving Two Year Olds Capital Allocation March 2014 Update
- Bromley Academy Programme Update

**RESOLVED that the Information Briefing be noted.**

## **69 CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM OF SCHOOL ORGANISATION**

### **Report ED14027**

The Committee considered a report providing an update on the new school organisation regulations that came into effect on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014, and



outlining the impact of these on the delivery of the Local Authority's programme of school expansions.

The school organisation system provided the legal and policy framework that governed how schools were categorised, the process by which they could make significant changes to their size and characteristics, and the process by which new schools could be opened and Local Authority Maintained schools closed.

Following consultation undertaken during Autumn 2013, the Government announced new arrangements which significantly reduced the bureaucracy required for making changes to school organisation and gave greater freedom to Local Authority Maintained schools to make changes to the size or age range of their school without following a statutory process. The changes would also assist local authorities by reducing the time required to consult on school expansion. Local authorities would retain their overarching duty to ensure sufficient high quality school places, along with powers to propose changes to Local Authority Maintained schools where they felt it necessary to meet that duty.

In considering the report, a Member highlighted the importance of schools consulting with the parents and carers of their pupils and the local community when seeking to make a change to the organisation of their school. Another Member was also concerned that schools follow the appropriate decision making processes when seeking to make a change to the organisation of their school. The Chairman requested that a guidance note outlining the new processes be provided to Members of the Education PDS Committee following the meeting.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The changes in arrangements with regard to consultation for changes to the organisation of schools be noted;**
- 2) The changes in arrangements under which schools could decide to expand without the need for statutory consultation as long as certain requirements were met be noted; and,**
- 3) The implications the changes to the system of school organisation would have on the delivery of the school expansion programme be noted.**

**70           SUMMER BORN CHILDREN GUIDANCE & CURRENT POSITION**

**Report ED14025**

The Committee considered a report setting out the issues, context and implications of policy regarding the admission of summer-born children to primary school.

Under current admissions arrangements, local authorities must make provision for admitting all children in the September following their fourth birthday, although parents could defer entry until the term in which a child reached compulsory school age (five years). The Admissions Code detailed the statutory guidelines with regard to the admission of children below compulsory school age, deferred entry to school, and admission outside of a child's age group, which was permissible in exceptional circumstances, such as where a child had missed part of a year due to ill health. The Department for Education had published non-statutory advice on the admission of summer-born children in July 2013 that set out three key principles. These comprised that school admissions authorities were required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday but that flexibilities existed for children whose parents did not feel were ready to begin school, that school admissions authorities were responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to but should make this decision based on the circumstances of the case, and that there was no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal year group.

In Bromley, deferred entry to Reception was currently only considered on exceptional grounds and where supported by professional evidence. The decision on deferral was made on a case-by-case basis by each admission authority. Own admission authorities, such as academy schools, were advised to consult with the Local Authority to ensure that there was fairness in decision making across the Borough. Although the law did not specifically prescribe the year to which a child must be admitted, there was an expectation that children would be educated within their chronological age group. It was uncommon for children in Bromley to be educated outside their age cohort except in exceptional circumstances, such as ill health or a child having a statement of Special Educational Needs which determined deferral necessary to meet their individual learning needs. The Early Years curriculum was designed to meet the needs of all children across the age cohort, and schools and early years providers were equally expected to adhere to the required standards.

In considering the report, a Co-opted Member was concerned that parents of summer-born children did not appear to have a choice in when their child started school, with many parents feeling pressured for their child to start Reception in the September after their fourth birthday. The Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that it was possible for parents to defer their child's place and begin Reception later in the year. A Member noted that parents were not seeking to defer their child's start date to Reception, but to be free to apply for their child to join Reception in the September after their fifth birthday and benefit from a full year in Reception.

In considering the possibility for summer-born children to join Reception in the September after their fifth birthday, the Portfolio Holder for Education underlined the current high demand for primary school places and was concerned that further pressure might be placed on the number of school

places available through any move to defer the Reception start date of summer-born children. The Vice-Chairman was also concerned that if children were educated outside of their age cohort, it would impact their whole education.

A Member requested that more information be provided to Members of the Education PDS Committee on the science behind moves to request summer-born children started in Reception in the September after their fifth birthday. A Co-opted Member also requested that the Local Authority write to the Department for Education for clarification, and that guidance on the admission of summer-born children be provided to schools across the Borough

In summarising the debate, the Chairman noted that there were arguments for both retaining the existing system, which was supported by the statutory Admissions Code, and to introduce more flexibility for the admission of summer-born children.

The Vice-Chairman moved that no further action be taken at this time until there was a change to the statutory Admissions Code. Councillor David McBride seconded this motion.

Following a vote of 6-4, Members RESOLVED that no further action be taken at this time until there was a change to the statutory Admissions Code.

Councillor Kathy Bance MBE requested that her vote against the motion be recorded.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The current position with regards to the administration of admissions for summer-born children be noted; and,**
- 2) The implications to the Local Authority to a change in the current admissions arrangements be noted.**

**71 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SCHOOL GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP**

**Report ED14033**

The Committee considered a report providing details of the outcomes and recommendations of the School Governance Working Group, which was reconvened by the Education PDS committee at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 and had met on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to consider how the role of Local Authority Governors might be developed.

Following consideration, the School Governance Working Group had developed a number of proposals to support the role of the Local Authority Governor into the future, including recruitment, selection and training process

for Local Authority Governors, the development of best practice and work to promote the benefits of Local Authority Governors to academy schools.

In considering the report, the Chairman confirmed that it was proposed that a pool of high quality candidates be developed to allow Local Authority Governors to be matched with schools seeking a particular skill set. It was also hoped that this would help build the prestige of the important role of Local Authority Governors.

A Member underlined the value that Local Authority Governors, or other Governors that had strong links to the Local Authority, such as Members, added to Governing Bodies, and noted that Members should be encouraged to become Local Authority Governors where appropriate. The Chairman advised Members that Local Authority Officers had also been encouraged to apply to become Local Authority Governors.

The Vice-Chairman requested that an update be provided to the Education PDS Committee on implementing the recommendations of the School Governance Working Group in November 2014.

**RESOLVED that the recommendations of the School Governance Working Group be endorsed, and that a further report on progress to implement the recommendations be provided to the meeting of Education PDS Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

## **72 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the annual report of the Education PDS Committee for 2013/14. It was noted that the annual report would be provided to the Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2014 before submission to Full Council on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**RESOLVED that the annual report of the Education PDS Committee be approved.**

## **73 EDUCATION PDS PROGRAMME 2013/14**

### **Report ED14021**

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

The Chairman requested that a report providing an update on Free School Meals at Key Stage 1 be considered at the next meeting of the Education PDS Committee to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.

Members also requested that a report on transition planning and preparing for adulthood be reported to the Education PDS Committee at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup>

September 2014, that a report providing an update on implementing the recommendations of the School Governance Working Group be reported to the Education PDS Committee at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014, and that a report providing an update on the development of the Pupil Referral Unit provision at Grovelands and the broader issue of education provision for pupils with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties be reported to the meeting of Education PDS Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**RESOLVED that the amended Education Programme 2013/14 be noted.**

**74 UPDATE ON THE BEHAVIOUR SERVICE AND PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT**

**Report ED14023**

The Committee considered a report outlining developments within the Behaviour Service and Bromley Pupil Referral Unit.

In September 2013, an Interim Executive Board was established to replace the management committee of the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit, after a number of concerns were identified following a review of the provision. In December 2013, the Secretary of State for Education granted an academy order for the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit to become an alternative provision academy under the sponsorship of Bromley College of Further and Higher Education. Due diligence processes were now underway, and it was expected that the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy would open in September 2014.

The Respite Service offered a preventative function that worked with young people identified as having difficulty in managing their behaviour within mainstream school, and was judged by schools that commissioned places as being an effective service. The Behaviour Service offered a range of services comprising the Home and Hospital Tuition Service, which was included in the bundle of services currently being market tested, the Primary Behaviour Service and a management and administrative function. It was proposed to assimilate the Respite and Behaviour Services into the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy, which would 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. These proposals would affect a number of Local Authority staff and a consultation was currently being undertaken which would close on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

In considering the report, the Chairman requested that a copy of the consultation document be provided to all Members of the Education PDS Committee.

In response to a question from a Member, the Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that it would be the responsibility of the Bromley Alternative Provision Academy to decide how behaviour services provision could best be delivered across the Borough in the future, which could include

use of other Bromley College of Further and Higher Education sites and provision to ensure pupils were offered a personalised curriculum. The means by which schools could refer pupils to the provision was currently being developed by Bromley College in partnership with the Local Authority and Fair Access Panel to ensure the right process was in place.

In response to a question from a Co-opted Member, the Interim Assistant Director: Education confirmed that Bromley College was working closely in partnership with the Local Authority around how the primary element of the Alternative Provision Academy should be delivered, and that consideration was being given as to how to pupils could best be supported back into mainstream education where appropriate. Bromley College of Further and Higher Education was also working to expand its alternative provision offer for 14-16 year olds to ensure a wide range of opportunities were available to students with a range of needs.

Members were advised that there would be cost implications for recharges of approximately £133k to the Local Authority, should the functions of Respite and Primary Behaviour Support services be integrated with the proposed Bromley Alternative Provision Academy, as Dedicated School Grant would no longer be used to contribute to the overheads and support costs of delivering these services in-house. The Chairman requested that a report detailing these cost implications be provided to a future meeting of the Education Budget Sub-Committee.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1) The Secretary of State for Education's decision to grant an academy order for the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit to become an alternative provision academy sponsored by Bromley College of Further and Higher Education and to be known as Bromley Alternative Provision Academy be noted;**
- 2) Members' comments on the proposal to close the Respite and Primary Behaviour Support services, integrating the functions into the Pupil Referral Service, be noted; and,**
- 3) The cost implications of this proposal be noted.**

**75 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.**

**76 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY 2014**

**RESOLVED** that the exempt minutes of the Education PDS Committee meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be agreed.

The Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

Chairman