

Appendix 1

Extract from the Minutes of Council, 24th March 2015

131. MOTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10

Three motions had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.

a) Motion from Councillor Fiona Onasanya

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Onasanya and seconded by Councillor Scutt:

Council notes:

- There have been a number of significant changes to the educational system in recent years, changes which have resulted in an increasingly diverse and autonomous school system.
- To maintain and develop the standards of early education, the Council's Early Years Service provides support and challenge across the sector. This includes working with providers in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector, Children's Centres and also the maintained sector including nursery and primary schools up to KS1.
- The PVI sector, including childminders, accommodates approximately 80% of funded education places for three or four year olds. They are also the largest provider of free early education for the most vulnerable two year olds.
- Local Authorities retain a statutory duty under the 1996 Education Act to promote high standards so that children and young people achieve well and fulfil their potential: this statutory duty is fundamental.
- There have been significant changes within the Early Years sector recently. Free nursery education places for all three and four years olds is now well-established and the target to accommodate 40% of the most disadvantaged two years olds is being embedded. The extension of the Early Years Pupil Premium to eligible three and four year olds is imminent, with Cambridgeshire piloting this from January 2015.
- Early years practitioners, when planning and guiding children's learning must reflect in their practice children's ability to play and explore, actively learn, create and critically think. It is important that these principles are not overlooked in Early Years practice whilst the changes described above are embedded.
- The importance of learning through play in children's development, which is enshrined in Article 31 of the UN convention on the Rights of the child,

needs to be recognised. *[Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child (leisure, play and culture) 'Every child has a right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities'.]*

This Council believes:

- Early childhood must be recognised as a crucial stage in its own right not just as a preparation for school.
- Quality early years provision that has regard to the importance of play is critical to a child's development and lifelong learning.

This Council resolves:

- To note its recognition of the value of play in the Early Years.
- To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm this Council's belief that learning through play remains a vital part of the initial training for those working towards a qualification in Early Years (including qualified teachers status) and also in the continuing professional development for those already working in the sector

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor David Brown and seconded by Councillor Bywater (deletions struck through and additions in bold).

This Council resolves:

- ~~—— To note its recognition of the value of play in the Early Years.~~
- ~~—— To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council to confirm this Council's belief that learning through play remains a vital part of the initial training for those working towards a qualification in Early Years (including qualified teachers status) and also in the continuing professional development for those already working in the sector~~
- **In accordance with Part 4.1, Section 12.6 (a) (i) of the constitution, to refer this matter to the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee for consideration.**

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bates and seconded by Councillor Hipkin that the amendment be put. On being put to the vote, this proposal was carried by a majority.

[Voting pattern: all Conservatives, some Liberal Democrats, some UKIP and all Independents in favour; most Liberal Democrats, one UKIP and all Labour against; 1 UKIP abstained; 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 UKIP did not vote]

Following further discussion, the amendment on being put to the vote was carried

by a majority.

[Voting pattern: all Conservatives, some Liberal Democrats, most UKIP and most Independents in favour; most Liberal Democrats, all Labour and one Independent against; 1 UKIP abstained]

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Bullen and seconded by Councillor McGuire that the question be put. On being put to the vote, this proposal was carried by a majority

[Voting pattern: most Conservatives, one Liberal Democrat, most UKIP and most Independents in favour; most Liberal Democrats and most Labour against; 5 abstained; 5 did not vote]

It was resolved by a majority:

In accordance with Part 4.1, Section 12.6 (a) (i) of the constitution, to refer this matter to the Children and Young People Policy and Service Committee for consideration.

[Voting pattern: most Conservatives, most Liberal Democrats, most UKIP, all Labour and all Independents in favour; one Liberal Democrat and one UKIP against; 3 UKIP abstained; 1 Conservative did not vote]