

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 17 January 2017

Time: 2.00pm to 4.50pm

Present: Councillors Sir P Brown, S Bywater, D Divine, P Downes, S Hoy, M Leeke, Z Moghadas, L Nethsingha, S Taylor, J Whitehead (Chairwoman) and J Wisson
Co-optee: F Vettese

Apologies: Councillors D Brown (Vice Chairman) and M Loynes
Co-optee: R Beeson

Also in Attendance: Councillors G Gillick, J Hipkin, M Mason and D Jenkins

235. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were noted as recorded above. Councillor Nethsingha declared a personal interest in Item 3: Petitions as the parent of a child attending Chesterton Community College. Councillor Hoy declared a personal interest in Item 5: Review of Secondary Provision in Fenland as a member of Wisbech Town Council.

236. APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

In the absence of Councillor D Brown it was resolved to appoint Councillor P Downes as Vice Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chairwoman proposed to vary the order of business from the published agenda to take Item 5: Review of Secondary School Provision in Fenland and Item 8: Future Pattern of Primary Provision in Histon and Impington immediately after Item 3: Petitions in view of the large number of members of the public present with a particular interest in those items.

237. MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 6 DECEMBER 2016 AND ACTION LOG

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016 were agreed as a correct record by those present and signed by the Chairwoman.

The following updates to the Action Log were noted:

- **Minute 168: Building Community Resilience:** The Interim Executive Director for Children, Families and Adults had chaired a meeting with partners the previous day and would circulate an update outside of the meeting;
- **Minute 231: Business Planning:** Councillor Hoy asked that the update on the outcome of the meeting which took place between herself, the Headteacher of Meadowgate School and officers regarding her concerns about the footpath should be expanded.
(Action: Service Director, Strategy and Commissioning)

It was resolved to:

1. Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2016 as a correct record;
2. Note and comment on the action log.

238. PETITIONS/ PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Committee received a petition from Mateja Jamnik, the parent of a child attending Chesterton Community College. The full text of the petition is attached at Appendix A.

Ms Jamnik said that her on-line petition had been signed by over 1140 parents and prospective parents of children and young people attending Chesterton Community College and called on the Children and Young People Committee to make a firm decision to support the expansion of Chesterton Community College, beginning in 2018. Ms Jamnik said that the local authority's work on demography proved that there was a basic educational need for more secondary school places in the local area and that by 2019 there would be 80 children unable to attend a local secondary school. It was Government policy to support successful schools and to encourage parental choice in relation to schooling. To this end she called upon the Committee to support the expansion of Chesterton Community College with a clear timetable to make additional places available in 2019. Ms Jamnik said that consideration of the Chesterton proposals should not be linked with the number of pupils attending North Cambridge Academy as both schools would be full by 2019.

The Chairwoman noted that the Committee would not be debating the issue at this time as a review of secondary school provision in Cambridge would be considered at the Committee's next meeting on Tuesday 28 February. She therefore asked that Members should restrict themselves to asking only factual questions or for clarification of the points raised.

Councillor Nethsingha noted the work carried out by the local authority on projected demographic figures in the area and the substantial development occurring on the edge of the Cambridge.

Councillor Downes sought clarification of the current published admission number (PAN) for Chesterton Community College and its future aspirations with regard to student numbers. With the permission of the Chairwoman the Headteacher of Chesterton Community College replied from the public gallery that Chesterton Community College currently had a PAN of 180 students, but was accepting 210 students. It aspired to adding two additional forms of entry which would take it to a PAN of 240.

The Chairwoman thanked Ms Jamnik for presenting her petition and sharing her views with Members. She would receive a written response to the points raised following the Committee's consideration of secondary school provision in Cambridge on 28 February 2017.

KEY DECISION

239. REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN FENLAND

The Committee received a report from the Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults and presented by the 0-19 Area Education Officer describing the

outcome of the Phase 2 consultation on a review of secondary provision in Fenland District and the additional site evaluation work undertaken to identify a preferred site for a new secondary school in Wisbech.

Phase 1 of the consultation had been considered by the Committee in February 2016 and it was resolved that a new secondary school should be established in Wisbech with the preferred site being on land owned by the College of West Anglia (CWA) and adjacent to Meadowgate School. However, the Committee had expressed some significant reservations about this location and wished to be satisfied that no better alternative sites were available in Wisbech. This concern was addressed through the Phase 2 consultation which sought stakeholders' views both for and against the Meadowgate site and also on whether any better alternative sites were available locally. 71% of respondents supported the proposal to establish a new secondary school in Wisbech, but 79% opposed the location of a new school secondary school on the CWA site. The consultation exercise had identified a number of potential new sites and the revised proposals reflected this. It also contained proposals to manage the demand for new places prior to the opening of the new school and in response to anticipated rising demand for places in Chatteris and Whittlesey.

Councillor Gillick addressed the Committee in his capacity as a local member and questioned whether current and future demographics in Fenland justified the need for a new secondary school. The Chairwoman said that the County Council had an obligation to provide a school place for every child in the county and officers confirmed that demographic studies indicated a forecast shortfall of 247 Year 7 places by 2024, based on existing pupil cohorts.

The following points were raised in discussion and in response to questions from Members:

- Members thanked officers for producing a much improved plan in response to the Committee's comments on the original proposals submitted in February 2016;
- Officers confirmed that full account would be taken of the emerging position on the wider development taking place in the Wisbech area as part of the detailed evaluation of the proposed sites;
- Councillor Yeulett said that the Neale-Wade Academy in March was near capacity and noted that it was hoped that the proposed new school in Wisbech would reduce the pressure for places at Neale-Wade pending a longer term review of secondary provision in March;
- Members welcomed confirmation that the on-going work could include a travel assessment to ensure that the needs of the whole of the community of Wisbech were taken into account;
- Officers confirmed that examining potential providers' track record of working with existing schools formed part of the overall evaluation process;
- Members asked that a map of the whole of the catchment area should be provided when the plans returned to Committee.
(**Action:** Head of 0-19 Place Planning and Organisation)

In light of the discussion it was resolved to:

1. Provide a new secondary school in Wisbech in response to the identified need for additional places for children aged 11-16 year either on land east

of the town, north and south of Sandy Lane or land to the north west of the town at Dowgate Road allotments, subject to completion of a more detailed feasibility study;

2. Make provision in the capital programme of £23m in 2019/20 for a new secondary school in Wisbech to open in September 2020;
3. Approve officers working with the Brooke Weston Trust as the sponsor of the Thomas Clarkson Academy (TCA) to manage the potential demand for the additional places needed in Wisbech prior to the opening of the new secondary school in the town;
4. Make provision in the capital programme for the one form of entry (FE) (150 place) expansion of both Cromwell Community College, Chatteris and Sir Harry Smith Community College, Whittlesey in response to the anticipated rising demand for places within their respective catchment areas;
5. Make the provision of a new secondary school in March dependent on the major housing allocation sites identified in the Local Plan coming forward.

DECISIONS

240. THE FUTURE PATTERN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN HISTON AND IMPINGTON

The Committee received a report from the Head of 0-19 Place Planning and Organisation on an identified basic need requirement for additional primary school places in Histon and Impington in response to changing demographic needs. A public consultation on four possible options in 2016 had proved inconclusive so officers had worked with the Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET), Impington Village College and local members to consider how best to provide sufficient current and future capacity. The proposal was to extend the age range of both schools in line with the Local Authority's established preference for continuity in a single school throughout a child's primary provision. This was predicated on the ability to re-locate the existing infant school onto a new site and it was noted that the future use of the existing infant school site if vacated was a key area of concern to the local community. If the proposals were agreed this would be a decision for the County Council's Assets and Investment Committee in due course.

The Committee noted that a request to speak on this item had been received from Lesley Birch, the Executive Principal of Cambridgeshire Primary Education Trust (CPET). Ms Birch said that this was an important issue across both villages. CPET was a local Trust which was committed to working with families, the local community, Impington Village College and the Local Authority to provide the best education in the best possible environment. In response to questions from Members Ms Birch confirmed that CPET was happy to work with the Parish Council to ensure the successful implementation of the proposals and that the next phase of discussion with officers would address the issues of safe routes to school and safe access to the school sites.

Councillor Jenkins addressed the Committee in his capacity as a local member, but noted that his interest in this issue related not only to his role as a county councillor but

also as a trustee of the Morris Education Trust which ran Impington Village College and as the Chairman of Histon and Impington Parish Council. He described Histon and Impington as a vibrant community with a changing demography. In his role as a county councillor he favoured the proposals which would enable young children to be educated close to home, whilst as the Chairman of the County Council Health Committee he was mindful of the importance of early education to long-term life chances. Work between CPET and the Morris Education Trust was consistently constructive even when disagreements occurred and the Parish Council had the previous evening agreed to support in principle the re-organisation of primary provision in the area, although it had sought an assurance that this would be achieved through working closely with the local community and taking account of their views.

Councillor Mason addressed the Committee in his capacity as a local member. He noted the issues surrounding the proposed expansion of the two existing primary schools and thanked officers for their work in carrying out a difficult demographic exercise. He had attended the Parish Council meeting the previous evening and had listened carefully to the variety of opinions expressed by local residents and parents. Particular concern had been expressed regarding the need for a proper highways infrastructure to support access to the new and existing school sites, the development of a green belt site and the legacy issue relating to the existing infant school site which local residents would like to see re-used for a community purpose.

In response to questions from Members officers said that there was a strong and well-established relationship between CPET and the Regional Schools Commissioner and Ms Birch confirmed that CPET had already shared their plans with the Regional Schools Commissioner.

It was resolved to:

1. Endorse the strategy for securing the expansion of primary school places in Histon and Impington in permanent accommodation by September 2019, the elements of which are:
 - i. The relocation of the current Infant School to a new site and expansion of its age range to serve children aged 4-11 to provide a total of 420 places (two forms of entry (FE)); and
 - ii. The expansion of the Junior School on its current site and expansion of its age range to serve children aged 4-11 to provide a total of 420 places (2FE), with the accommodation necessary to provide 630 places (3FE) to meet future demand;
2. Give approval to progress work on a formal proposal to relocate Histon and Impington Infant School from its current site to the Buxhall Farm site and extend its age range to become an all-through primary school in consultation with the Cambridge Primary Education Trust (CPET); and
3. Note and endorse the identified need for an additional £10m capital investment to secure the delivery of the education strategy, resulting in a total allocation in the Council's capital programme of £16m;
4. Ask officers to engage with Histon and Impington Parish Council, which had indicated its willingness to play a positive role in enabling the strategy to be implemented successfully.

The Committee adjourned for a short break from 3.15-3.20pm.

241. CAPITAL PROJECT – CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT IN ARTS, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION (CREATE)

The Committee received a report from the Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults and presented by the Head of Cambridgeshire Music describing work to date on a project to convert a council-owned community arts building in north Cambridge into a state of the art national Centre for Research and Engagement in Arts, Technology and Education (CREATE).

The importance of cultural education and its wider benefits was widely recognised by senior leaders in schools. This project sought to export opportunities to engage with the arts beyond the immediate community to schools, children and families across Cambridgeshire through the use of technology. Funding opportunities were being pursued across multiple streams in relation to the start-up costs and the revenue business plan would be sustainable without on-going funding from the County Council.

The following points were raised in discussion of the report and in response to questions from Members:

- The Chairwoman endorsed the proposals in principle, but said that the General Purposes Committee would probably want to investigate the possibility of a new build as well as the proposed refurbishment of the existing building. A new build might also include the option of some form of adequately sound-proofed housing above the arts space which would offer an additional stream of income generation;
- A number of Members described the proposals as innovative and exciting;
- Members expressed some concern about access to the proposed site and transport links, but noted that the majority of users were expected to live locally or to access services remotely via digital interaction;
- Access to services would combine a mixture of free at the point of contact and buy-in options, but the buy-in cost to schools would be minimal at around £50 per year;
- Further additional sites were planned longer term for bases in the Wisbech, March or Huntingdon areas which would bring physical access to the arts to more rural areas of the county in addition to the virtual access being offered via the north Cambridge project;
- In response to Members' questions about proposed income generation the Head of Cambridgeshire Music said that a cautious business model had been produced regarding future use of the space by local cultural groups in addition to income from Trusts, charities and central government;
- Existing community use of the premises would be accommodated where possible. Councillor Moghadas asked to be advised of whether the Bangladeshi community group which used the existing premises would continue to have access in the future;
(**Action:** Head of Cambridgeshire Music)
- Members asked that the split of public income between the County Council, the Arts Council for England (ACE) and Cambridge City Council should be made more clear (paragraph 4.1.3 refers).

Summing up the discussion, the Chairwoman said that the Committee endorsed the proposals in principle, but that further detailed work was required before they were

submitted to the General Purposes Committee for a decision. The question of transport links and access issues should be addressed and it should be made more clear that most access would be virtual. A much clearer and more detailed business plan was required, including more information on income generation proposals and how these would cover running costs. The possibility of a new build should be addressed including the potential income generation opportunities this might offer via housing on the site or increased paid use of the facilities if transport and access issues could be addressed. It should also make clear the extent to which rural communities would be actively involved in and benefit from the project.

(Action: Head of Cambridgeshire Music)

It was resolved to:

1. Endorse the proposals in principal, subject to further detailed work
2. Request that a revised report be submitted to a meeting of CYP Spokes in February 2017 and circulated to all members of the Committee for comment. Subject to Spokes' approval the report would be submitted to the General Purposes Committee in March 2017.

242. FREE SCHOOL PROPOSALS

Standing item. There were no proposals to discuss.

243. EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2016

The Committee received a report from the Director of Learning about educational performance in Cambridgeshire in 2016 at Key Stages 1 – 4. With the agreement of the Chairwoman an additional paper was tabled showing the results obtained by the best and worst performing local authorities to provide a comparison with the results in Cambridgeshire.

The Director of Learning reported a good performance in children aged five with outcomes rising to slightly above the national average. Results at the end of Key Stage 1 (age seven) showed a slight decline and a robust action plan had been instigated for the coming year to target performance in phonics and writing. The Cambridgeshire School Improvement Strategy 2016-18 which had been approved by the Committee on 11 October 2016 had included measures relating to Key Stage 1 phonics and an update on the impact of this would be provided in due course. A pleasing performance was noted at the end of Key Stage 2 (age eleven) with performance in reading, writing and maths all in line with national figures for the first time since 2011. The proportion of children in the county attending a primary school rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted had also continued to rise steadily and stood at 84% in November 2016, its highest level to date. Performance at Key Stage 4 (age sixteen) was good, but a meaningful comparison with previous years' figures was difficult as this was the first year since the introduction of the new Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measures.

A key area of concern remained the performance of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in Cambridgeshire in comparison with other local authorities. Progress was being made, but there was still more to be done. Performance within these groups was the weakest in Fenland, but encouragingly the fastest rates of progress were also being seen in Fenland. Since September 2016 both the Cromwell Academy and the Neale-Wade Academy had moved from an Ofsted rating of 'requiring improvement' to 'good'. Encouraging progress was also being seen at the Thomas Clarkson Academy.

The following points were raised in discussion of the report and in response to questions from Members:

- Members were pleased to note improvement in many areas, but expressed disappointment that many figures remained below the national average;
- It was noted that significant changes in the way that primary and secondary educational performance was measured meant that the new Key Stage 1 and 2 benchmarks and many of the Key Stage 4 benchmarks were not directly comparable with those in previous years;
- Cambridgeshire's school funding levels currently stood at 130 out of 152 local authorities and represented the continuation of historically low funding levels;
- Members were keen that best practice from the county's most successful schools should be shared with those performing less well;
- Members noted that an Ofsted report for Ernulf Academy had been published that day and had rated it as requiring improvement in all areas. The Director of Learning offered to discuss the findings direct with the local member Councillor S Taylor once he had had the opportunity to consider them fully;
(**Action:** Director of Learning)
- Outcomes for Looked After Children (LAC) in Cambridgeshire schools continued to be below that of their peers both within the county and nationally. This was an area of concern, but it was noted that LAC represented a relatively small cohort consisting of young people with very particular needs which made meaningful comparison less easy. Robust plans were in place to support these young people on an individual basis according to their needs to enable them to achieve to the best level possible;
- Councillor Downes reported that 14% of children and young people in Cambridgeshire attended independent schools compared to a national average of 7%. The Director of Learning said that he had a paper on this issue which he would circulate to the Committee for information, although there were a number of caveats on the figures;
(**Action:** Director of Learning)
- The Interim Executive Director said that it was hoped that the Devolution 2 deal would offer new opportunities to tackle inequality in provision in partnership with other providers such as health.

In light of the discussion it was resolved to:

1. Note and comment on the report.

244. BUSINESS PLANNING

The Interim Executive Director for Children Families and Adults (CFA) said that savings proposals across CFA totalling £19.8m had been reported to the Committee before Christmas together with investment opportunities of £9m across the next four years. She would circulate a short paper later in the week setting out the main savings and investment proposals for Members' information in preparation for the budget setting debate at Full Council on 14 February 2017. Should Members require any additional information she invited them to contact her direct.

(**Action:** Interim Executive Director CFA)

It was resolved to note a verbal update from the Interim Executive Director for Children, Families and Adult Services.

245. SCHOOLS FUNDING 2017-18

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Finance Manager which set out the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations published by the Department for Education (DfE) on 20 December 2016 and sought the Committee's approval of the local approach to funding schools for 2017-18.

There had been relatively little change to the DSG for 2017-18 and no inflationary increase had been included so schools would need to absorb any pay increases or other inflationary costs. Significant growth within the county had resulted in the need for new and expanding schools and in recognition of this the Cambridgeshire Schools Forum had agreed by a majority at its meeting on 14 December 2016 to increase the centrally held Growth Fund from £2m to £2.5m. There were increasing pressures on the High Needs Block relating both to increasing numbers of pupils within this category and higher levels of assessed need amongst those pupils. The Cambridgeshire Schools Forum had discussed these issues in detail on 14 December 2016 and had agreed to endorse the transfer of up to £2.25m to accommodate pressures on the High Needs Block, less any uplift received from central government, with the commitment that officers would work with schools to minimise this figure. The final DSG settlement contained an uplift for Cambridgeshire of £1.58m which meant that the actual amount to be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block would be £0.67m (£2.25m less the £1.58m uplift from the DfE). To minimise turbulence for individual schools no major changes were proposed to the local funding formula for 2017-18. However, in light of the funding of pressures on the Growth Fund and High Needs Block the estimated Basic Entitlement values for primary and secondary schools in 2017-18 were expected to be at lower levels than in 2016-17. No changes were proposed to High Needs funding levels per pupil. A paper on the National Funding Formula would be considered by the Schools Forum when it met next on 27 January 2017 and a report would be submitted to the Children and Young People Committee at a later date.

The following points were raised in discussion of the report and in response to questions from Members:

- The Schools Block figure based on all under 16 school aged pupils at paragraph 1.3 of the report was corrected from £4,257 to £4,311;
- The illustrative data received from the DfE on the National Funding Formula and High Needs reform suggested that Cambridgeshire's schools would benefit by a net £4.4m (1.4%) in 2018/19, rising to £6.3m (2%) in 2019/20 compared to 2016/17 baseline figures. However, there would be a significant redistribution of funding between schools within the county which would result in gains and losses dependent on individual circumstances. This could potentially be mitigated in 2018-19 by local formula decisions, but the impact from 2019-20 onward would be dependent on the extent to which the 'hard' national formula was implemented;
- The second stage consultation was open until 22 March 2017 and officers were working closely on this with the Schools Forum and through wider engagement such as school governor briefing meetings.

Summing up the discussion, the Chairwoman noted that the proposed hard funding formula would remove the flexibility which existed under the current arrangements to redistribute some funds to address local need. The Committee would wish to keep a close watch on this issue going forward.

It was resolved to:

1. Approve the transfer of funding between the Schools Block and High Needs Block;
2. Approve the local schools funding formula for primary and secondary schools as set out in Appendix A to the report, prior to submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

246. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Finance Manager setting out the financial and performance position for those services for which the Committee held responsibility as at the end of November 2016. An overspend was of £1,969k was forecast which represented a slight improvement from the previous month when the forecast overspend had been £2,012k. The Interim Executive Director reported continued pressures on children's services budgets, but no significant changes from the previous month. At present CFA was £1.8m short of achieving a balanced budget, but the Chief Finance Officer was reasonably confident that this would be resolved by the end of the financial year. If this was not the case it would be carried forward to 2017/18.

The Chairwoman noted that the nature of the finance reporting cycle meant that the figures reviewed by the Committee were always out of date. It would be helpful in future if the report included a statement of the original budget agreement, expenditure to date and an indication of whether the budget was on course for an over or underspend.

(Action: Strategic Finance Manager)

It was resolved to review and comment on the report.

247. AGENDA PLAN, APPOINTMENTS TO INTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS AND PANELS OR PARTNERSHIP LIAISON AND ADVISORY GROUPS AND COMMITTEE TRAINING PLAN

The Committee agreed that the Spokes meeting which was planned to take place on 28 February 2017 following the conclusion of the meeting of the full committee should be rescheduled.

(Action: Executive Officer, Children Families and Adults Directorate)

The Chairwoman asked Members to continue to hold the 11 April 2017 reserve committee date in their diaries in case it became necessary to meet on that date.

It was resolved to note the Committee Agenda Plan.

248. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would meet next on Tuesday 28 February at 2.00pm at Shire Hall, Cambridge.

Chairwoman

Item 3: Petitions

Text of a petition from Mateja Jamnik:

'We the undersigned ask that the County Council's Children and Young People's Committee make a clear commitment, with a date, to fund the expansion of Chesterton Community College, and the building investment which supports that expansion. Chesterton Community College is a popular local school, and one which is already over-subscribed. The population statistics demonstrate the need for a significant increase in secondary school places in North West Cambridge, and Chesterton School has been working with the County Council to plan to meet this need. Parents and residents in the Chesterton area are concerned that unless a clear date is set for the expansion of Chesterton, the school will not be able to take all the children from the local area who would like to attend. Chesterton is the only secondary school in Cambridge which has not received significant capital investment in recent years, and it is time the County Council showed support for this very successful local school.'