

**EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE
9 MARCH 1998**

Present: Councillors Barnard (Chairman), Councillors Beadsley, Fawcett,
Thompson, Ward and Wheaton

Also Present: Councillor Mrs Sutcliffe

7. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 15 September 1997 were agreed as a correct record.

8. Capital Programme 1998/99 - 2000/2001

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education setting out criteria for ranking school improvement projects, the draft Education Capital Programme 1998/2001 and a draft statement of aims for asset management.

The Sub Committee discussed the ranking criteria for school improvements projects. It was suggested that a reference to the reduction of surplus places should be clarified to indicate that this would be done on a prudent and reasonable basis. The reference to schools causing concern meant cases where capital expenditure on the schools buildings and facilities were considered to be a substantial source of concern which could be remedied by building work.

The Director of Education tabled supplementary information on the capital programme for replacement of temporary buildings, LEA contributions to aided schools schemes and school improvement projects which were individually discussed.

It was noted that the Borough Engineer was making arrangements to re-visit the school condition surveys which were being handed over from Berkshire County Council. There was an estimated £3m maintenance backlog in schools across the Borough.

Concerns were expressed about the possibility of schools inferring that firm plans were in place for the capital programme in future years. It was agreed that the 1999/00 and 2000/01 columns would be given a new heading to the effect that they were schemes requested so far and that provisional figures only would be included.

It was noted that the draft criteria for ranking school improvement projects set out in Annexe A were not set out in a priority order: schemes would be ranked according to how many of the criteria they fulfilled and to what extent.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) that the criteria for ranking school improvement projects detailed in Annexe A to the report be approved;
- (ii) that the school improvement schemes and annual provisions summarised in Annexe B be included in the capital programme for 1998/99;

**Appendix A as
referred to in Minute 603**

- (iii) that the draft statement of aims for the Asset Management Plan set out in Annexe B to the report be approved as the basis for further consultation; and
- (iv) that the three year programme of school improvements detailed at Annexe B forms part of the LEA's provisional Asset Management Plan with the amended headings for future years agreed in the meeting.

9. Education Budget 1998 - Inflation Allowance

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education setting out budgets to which inflation on running expenses as added and detailed inflation in allocations. This was the last piece of information needed for the compilation of detailed schools' budgets.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 6.35pm.

CHAIRMAN