

FINANCE AND PROPERTY SUB COMMITTEE
10 MARCH 1998

Present: Councillor Bettison (Chairman), Councillors Egan, Fawcett,
Mrs Hayes, Mrs Pile, Ryan, Wade and Wheaton.

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Mrs Hirst

48. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 27 January 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. **Minutes of the Voluntary Grants Panel**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary Grants Panel held on 26 February 1998 be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

50. **Capital Programme 1998/99 - 2000/01 (Item 1)**

In accordance with Standing Order 23 Councillor Egan declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Tea House scheme.

In a joint report from the Director of Corporate Services and Director of Planning and Transportation the Sub Committee was advised of progress on its capital programme for 1997/98 and the schemes which members might wish to put forward for inclusion in the Council's capital programme for 1998/99.

At its meeting on 11 February 1998 the Strategy and Policy Committee had invited service committees to review their capital spending requirements for the forthcoming year and to submit proposals to its next meeting on 19 March. The Annexes to the report detailed the current spending profiles of the schemes in the Sub Committee's capital programme, the schemes to be carried forward from the previous year into 1998/99, and some proposed new schemes for the coming year.

RESOLVED That the Strategy and Resources Committee be requested to:

- (i) carry forward resources into the 1998/99 capital programme to fund the previously approved schemes listed in Annexe B of the report; and
- (ii) include the new schemes summarised in Annexe C in the capital programme for 1998/99.

51. **Berkshire Women's Aid (BWA) Grant Application 1998/99 (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Social Services and Housing, providing additional information on the grant application from the Berkshire Women's Aid, as requested at the previous meeting of the Sub Committee on 27 January 1998.

Berkshire Women's Aid currently received a grant of £25,000 from Bracknell Forest and the application was for this to be continued for a further year. It was noted that in the continuing discussions about grant aid to voluntary organisations within Bracknell Forest there was a need to identify service areas and groups to which the Council should target its scarce resources. Within the Social Services and Housing Department, thought would be given to the way in which services were developed to respond to the broad challenge presented by the problems of domestic violence, as well as ways in which it could work in partnership with organisations such as Berkshire Women's Aid and Victim Support. The Sub Committee considered that options for developing such partnerships and links with other local voluntary organisations needed to be explored further.

RESOLVED that

- (i) in the light of the restrictions on the Borough Council's ability to provide continuing funding for all voluntary organisations, a grant for Berkshire Women's Aid of £5,000 be made available for 1998/99; and
- (ii) the Director of Social Services and Housing undertake further investigation relating to the incidence of domestic violence within the local area and to explore the options for alternative service developments, linking with other local voluntary organisations and report back to the next Finance and Property Sub Committee.

52. **Bracknell and District Victim Support Scheme (Item 3)**

In a report from the Head of Policy Development the Sub Committee received further information on the grant application from the Bracknell and District Victim Support Scheme, as requested at the previous meeting of the Sub Committee on 27 January 1998.

Investigations had demonstrated that the service was supporting a large number of people within the Borough. The total costs for the service had been estimated at £24,150 per annum. However, as Victim Support worked across the areas of both Bracknell Forest and Wokingham District, it was proposed that the costs should be split equally between the two. This meant that the share equating to Bracknell Forest would be £12,075.

In the absence of a specific legal power for making a grant of this nature reliance was placed on Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore the award of a grant was recommended to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDED to the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- (i) that an initial grant of £12,075 be awarded to the Bracknell and District Victim Support Scheme for 1998/99; and
- (ii) that subject to satisfactory evaluation of the use of this grant, a two year service agreement be negotiated with Bracknell and District Victim Support Scheme for 1999- - 2001.

53. **Run Off Arrangements for Outstanding Construction and Non-Construction Contracts Transferring from Berkshire County Council (Item 4)**

In accordance with Standing Order 23 Councillor Egan declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of one of the contractors mentioned in Annexe D.

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Planning and Transportation, regarding the arrangements being made to deal with a number of building, building services and non-construction contracts entered into by Berkshire County Council which would not be completed by vesting day.

Annexes to the report provided details of contracts for work on individual buildings within the Borough, which would be taken on by the Borough Council, together with the lead authority arrangements for the following types of contracts:

- (a) Cross boundary contracts affecting Bracknell Forest
- (b) Countywide service contracts
- (c) Countywide supplies and services contracts.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the arrangements being made for dealing with outstanding matters on all contracts relating to properties transferring to this Council on vesting day be noted;
- (ii) the Borough Surveyor in consultation with the Borough Solicitor be delegated authority to confirm the arrangements for the vesting of County Council contracts in District and Borough Councils and to enter into any necessary agreements to give effect to those arrangements; and
- (iii) Bracknell Forest Borough Council be the "lead authority" on run off arrangements for the contracts for Science Laboratory refurbishment in schools, digital locks, fume cupboards, water conditioners, pool maintenance, intruder alarms, standby generators and tar paving.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.20pm.

CHAIRMAN