

EDUCATION COMMITTEE
18 JUNE 1998

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman), Councillors Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Doyle, Egan, Fawcett, Good, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst, Mills, Taylor and Thompson

Substitute Members: Councillor Mrs Ballin (for Councillor Mrs Sutcliffe)
Councillor Flood (for Councillor Ward)

Church Representatives: Mr G Anderson, Mr D McCann

Teacher Representatives: Mrs M Desai, Mr J Haig, Mrs L Wales

Apologies for Absence had been received from:
Councillor Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe, Wheaton and Worrall

89. Membership of the Committee

The Chairman welcomed Mr D McCann to his first meeting as representative of Portsmouth Diocese.

90. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

91. Governor Selection Sub Committee

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings of the Governor Selection Sub Committee held on 21 April and 22 May 1998, as set out in Appendices A and B, be received and noted.

92. Education Consultation Panel

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Education Consultation Panel held on 12 May 1998, as set out in Appendix C, be received and noted.

93. Education Quality Assurance Sub Committee

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Quality Assurance Sub Committee held on 13 May 1998, as set out in Appendix D, be received and noted.

94. **Education Budget Sub Committee**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings of the Education Budget Sub Committee held on 14 May and 15 June 1998, as set out in Appendix E & F, be received and noted; and that the request (Minute 15) for an additional £460,000 to support the "Building Better Schools" initiative and £10,000 for the Bracknell Forest Schools Music Festival, be recommended to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

95. **Transport & Awards Sub Committee**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Transport & Awards Sub Committee held on 18 May 1998, as set out in Appendix G, be received and noted.

96. **Teachers Joint Consultative Committee**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Teachers Joint Consultative Committee held on 19 May 1998, as set out in Appendix H, be received and noted; and that the recommendation (Minute 3) regarding an extension of the early retirement policy to the October meeting of the Education Committee, be adopted.

97. **Joint Advisory Sub Committee on Children's Services**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Advisory Sub Committee on Children's Services held on 27 May 1998, be received and noted.

98. **Quarterly Operations Report (Item 1)**

The Director of Education presented the first in what would be a series of quarterly operations reports. The report summarised current issues affecting the Education Department and significant events since the Committee's previous meeting in March 1998. The second section of the report detailed the main activities of the individual sections of the Department and monitored progress in achieving the policy objectives and performance indicators established in the operational service plan for 1998/99. The report also presented a brief summary of planned and actual revenue and capital expenditure.

RESOLVED that the quarterly operations report be noted.

99. **Baseline Assessment (Item 3)**

The Director of Education advised that the authority was required to nominate an approved baseline assessment scheme for use in schools from September 1998. The scheme would be used with pupils aged 4 or 5 who attended an infant, primary or special school, full or part time. The Director of Education and the Bracknell Forest Baseline Assessment Advisory Group recommended that the Committee nominate the Surrey Baseline Assessment Scheme for use in schools across the Borough.

It was noted that schools throughout the Borough had indicated their willingness to take up the nominated scheme and the Chairman agreed to write to Headteachers to thank them for their co-operation.

RESOLVED that the Surrey Baseline Scheme be nominated for use in schools from September 1998.

100. **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) (Item 4)**

The Director of Education advised that as a new unitary authority, Bracknell Forest was required to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise the LEA on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship.

The LEA was also required to convene an occasional body to produce and recommend an agreed syllabus for religious education called an Agreed Syllabus Conference.

The report set out the functions and suggested constitution and membership of the SACRE.

RESOLVED :

- (i) That a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) be established for Bracknell Forest Borough Council during the Autumn Term 1998;
- (ii) That the suggested constitution attached as Appendix A to the report be adopted for consultation with the organisations listed therein; and
- (iii) That a further report be brought to the meeting of the Committee in October 1998.

101. **Offsite and Hazardous Activities (Item 5)**

The Director of Education presented a report seeking agreement to a recommended policy for offsite and hazardous activities and the adoption of the procedures and arrangements which had been made in respect of these.

RESOLVED :

- (i) that the policy framework attached as Appendix A to the report be continued;
- (ii) that the procedures and arrangements set out in the report be adopted and approved; and
- (iii) that the emergency arrangements be noted.

102. **Employment of Children (Item 6)**

The Director of Education advised the Committee of the changes to the legislation governing the employment of children, and of the need to make new Byelaws.

The Department of Health had implemented EC Directive 94/33 on the protection of young people at work, and advised local authorities to revise their Byelaws on children's employment. A model Byelaw had been issued to all Local Education Authorities for consideration. A number of minor alterations had been made to the model to provide Byelaws appropriate to Bracknell Forest.

It was noted that the making of Byelaws was a matter reserved to the full Council.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) the Byelaws adopted from Berkshire County Council be revoked; and
- (ii) Byelaws be made on the employment of children in accordance with those set out in Appendix I.

103. **Parent Governor Representatives for Education Committees (Item 7)**

The Committee received a report on the Department for Education and Employment's (DfEE's) proposals for the appointment of parent governor representatives to Education Committees.

The Schools' Standards and Framework Bill was expected to become law in 1998 and provided the Secretary of State with delegated authority to make regulations requiring LEAs to include parent representatives on their Education Committees. The DfEE had recently issued a consultation paper on the possible content with the regulations to be made under this legislation. The Committee was invited to approve a draft response to the consultation document.

RESOLVED that the draft response to the consultation, attached as Annexe A to the report, be approved.

104. **Term Dates for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 (Item 8)**

The Director of Education advised that term dates for 1999/2000 needed to be set before the summer holiday break. The necessary consultations were still underway and the Committee was invited to delegate the agreement of the dates to the Director, in consultation with the Chairman.

RESOLVED that responsibility for the setting of term dates for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001 be delegated to the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chairman.

105. **Items for Information**

The Committee received and noted the following items for information:

Item 9 - Redundancies in the Education Library Services
Item 10 - The use of Reasonable Force to Control or Restrain Pupils

106. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Item 2 which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (9) Information relating to potential negotiations for a contract

107. **Establishment of a Pupil Referral Unit**

In accordance with Standing Order 25 Councillor Mills declared a pecuniary interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting.

The Director of Education presented a report on progress made towards the identification of a site for the proposed Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (PRU).

The report set out the background to the proposed establishment of PRU and outlined the requirements for a Unit to accommodate between 25 and 30 pupils attending at any one time.

A number of options for the location of the PRU had been investigated and details of these were set out in an Appendix to the report. In addition a potential site had been identified at Brownlow Hall, Warfield.

Following debate, three options were identified for further investigation and detailed work prior to a final decision on the choice of a site.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Officers continue to investigate the potential sites at College Hall, Brownlow Hall and Priestwood Annexe, including concurrent discussions with the Planning Department on planning issues, in order that acceptable options may be presented to the meeting of the Budget Sub Committee on 23 July 1998; and
- (ii) That the Budget Sub Committee be authorised to make a final decision on the choice of the site for the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN