

**EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE
14 MAY 1998**

Present: Councillor Barnard (Chairman), Councillors Beadsley,
Good, Mrs Hayes, Thompson, Ward, Wheaton and
Worrall

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Barnard be elected Chairman of the Education Budget Sub Committee for 1998/99 municipal year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Ward be appointed Vice Chairman of the Education Budget Sub Committee for 1998/99 municipal year.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 9 March 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Budget Advances for Schools (Item 2)

The Sub Committee considered a report which set out budgetary pressures being experienced by some schools. The Sub Committee noted that Berkshire County Council had in the past approved budget advances to schools together with agreed schedules for repayment. The Sub Committee considered proposed advances for six schools, which were in accordance with the agreed Local Management of Schools scheme. On the basis that the advances represented a call on school rather than Local Education Authority balances with no direct financial implications for the Council, the Sub Committee approved budget advances to six schools.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the budget advance of £84,814 for Brakenhale School and the revised schedule for repayment over 8 years be approved;
- (ii) the budget advance of £126,500 for Sandhurst School and the schedule for repayment over 4 years be approved;
- (iii) the new budget advance of £16,000 for The Pines Junior School and the schedule for repayment over 4 years be approved;
- (iv) the budget advance of £4,466 for Wooden Hill Primary School, due to be repaid in the current financial year, be approved;
- (v) the budget advance of £15,000 for Garth Hill School, due to be repaid over 4 years, be approved; and

- (vi) the budget advance of £25,000 for Edgbarrow School due to be repaid over 3 years be approved.

5. Contract for Adult Education 1998/99 (Item 1)

The Director of Education reported on the proposed terms of the contract with Bracknell and Wokingham College to provide adult education in Bracknell Forest for the 1998/99 academic year. The Sub Committee noted that in the past the take up of courses had been high with 7,000 enrolments annually. The proposed terms of the contract were on the whole based on the previous contract. There were, however, some variations: the budget for concessions would be cash limited at £20,000; a residence qualification for students would be introduced; and the safety net figure, at which the contract was fully funded was raised from 90% to 95%. The Sub Committee also considered the eligibility criteria for concessions and agreed that for those over sixty years of age an income related threshold could be explored, after further consultation with the College. In addition, there would be during the course of the year a review of the entitlements to concessionary rates; this would include such criteria as the receipt of benefits; concessions for partners and dependants of those receiving benefits and a possible 25% concessionary rate for those aged 16 - 19 not in full time education.

RESOLVED that the terms of the contract for adult education as set out in paragraphs 4.4 to 4.10 of the report at item 1 of the agenda be approved, subject to in relation to the entitlement to concessionary rates:

- (a) the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub Committee, being authorised to consider and determine the detailed criterion for those over 60 years of age; and
- (b) consideration being given to the introduction of those entitlements set out in sub paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of paragraph 4.5 of the report, after monitoring of the 1998/99 contract.

6. 1998/99 Section 122 Budget Statement (Item 3)

The Sub Committee was advised that under Section 122 of the Education Act, 1996, each Local Education Authority was obliged to publish a budget statement outlining plans spending in respect of schools governed by its approved Scheme for Local Management of Schools. The statement detailed expenditure under the categories of General Schools Budget, the Potential Schools Budget and the Aggregated Schools Budget. The statement also showed that spending per pupil had risen by £185 (8.71%) in 1998/99 to £2,308.

RESOLVED that the report (item 3 of the agenda) and the Section 122 budget statement for 1998/99 attached at annexe A to the report be noted.

7. New Deal for Schools - Outcome and Additional Bids (Item 4)

The Director of Education reported that following the introduction of the Government's New Deal for Schools Scheme Bracknell Forest had been allocated £745,500 for roofing repairs in twelve schools, which had to be spent within the 1998/99 financial year. The Government, however, had not allocated any funding for other categories of maintenance. The Sub Committee, therefore, agreed that the planned maintenance programme, estimated at £1,175,500, would be revised to take account of the allocation. The Sub Committee was also advised that the Department for Education and Employment had invited Local Education Authorities to apply for grants for outside toilets and heating systems and an indicative allocation of £31,000 had been set for Bracknell Forest, with the Council being expected to match this funding with its contribution.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the revised Planned Maintenance allocation be approved; and
- (ii) the proposed funding be agreed.

8. Capital Expenditure to Reduce Infant Class Sizes (Item 5)

The Sub Committee considered a report which advised of the Government's aim to reduce class sizes for infants to below 30 pupils by September 2001. A copy of the bid for funding at each school, which had been submitted to the Department for Education and Employment, was circulated at the meeting. The outcome of the bidding exercise was expected in the autumn.

RESOLVED that the report (item 5 of the agenda) be noted and the proposed approach to achieve the aim of reducing class sizes to below 30 for pupils aged 5 to 7 years old be endorsed.

9. Scheme for the Local Management of Schools - Appendices (Item 6)

The Sub Committee was advised that the Council's agreed Scheme of Local Management of Schools had been submitted to the Department for Education and Employment and had received approval in March 1998, coming into force on 1 April 1998. At the time the scheme had been submitted, a number of the appendices to the scheme had not been available. Minor changes had been made to the appendices operated by Berkshire County Council in order to comply with existing Borough policies and procedures. One of the appendices, the criteria for school evaluation and development would be available in July, as this would be largely revised.

RESOLVED that the report (item 6 of the agenda) be noted and the appendices to the Scheme for the Local Management of Schools be endorsed.

10. Education Capital Programme 1998-99 Nursery Expansion (Item 7)

The Education Committee had allocated £40,000 as part of its approved capital programme for the expansion of nursery provision within the Borough, with the detail of the expanded provision to be determined in consultation with the Early Years Forum. The Sub Committee considered a proposal to re-equip existing surplus accommodation at Uplands Primary School for the purpose of renting these

premises to a private provider of nursery education. This partnership would aim to provide new nursery places in the south of the Borough and assist in keeping Bracknell Forest pupils within the Borough later in the education system.

RESOLVED that the scheme to re-equip existing surplus accommodation at Uplands Primary School for the purpose of renting this to a private provider of nursery education be implemented, subject to consultation with the Early Years Forum at its next meeting

11. Exclusion of the Public and the 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 the following items which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

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| (9) | Information relating to negotiations for a contract | (Item 8) |
| (1) | Information relating to particular employees | (Item 9) |

12. Terms of Reference for West Bracknell Area Study (Item 8)

The Director of Education submitted a report detailing the terms of reference for the West Bracknell Area Study.

RESOLVED that the scope of the project and the terms of reference specified in paragraph 4.2 of the report (item 8 of the agenda) be approved.

13. Redundancies in Schools 1998/99 (Item 9)

The Sub Committee considered a report which detailed the redundancies taking place in four schools within the Borough.

RESOLVED that the report (item 9 of the agenda) be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.00pm and
concluded at 7.08pm.

CHAIRMAN