

## EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE

23 JULY 1998

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

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Councillors Good and Taylor

### 18 **Substitute Members**

The Committee noted the attendance of the following substitute Members under Standing Order 38: Councillor Mrs Shillcock for Councillor Taylor.

### 19 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Sub Committee held on 15 June 1998 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 20 **Additional Funding for Curriculum Support Materials : Brakenhale School (Item 1)**

The Director of Education presented an application for additional funding for books and other materials to assist Brakenhale School in the implementation of its post-Ofsted Action Plan.

The Ofsted inspection report of February 1998 had identified some serious weakness in the Brakenhale School's provision concerning poor levels of literacy and the significant underachievement of boys. The school, in conjunction with its attached advisor, had prepared a bid for additional funding for materials to address these issues. A copy of the bid was attached to the report as Appendix A.

**RESOLVED** that £19,521 (priorities A and B) be allocated to the Brakenhale School from the Schools Specific Contingency to be spent as detailed in Appendix A of the report.

### 21 **Response to Fair Funding : Improving Delegation to Schools (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee received a report on the Government's proposals for increasing financial delegation by LEAs to schools. The proposed arrangements, published in June 1998, built on and would replace local management of schools (LMS) and would extend delegation to many areas of funding currently retained by LEAs centrally. The proposals stated that the new funding requirements were to be implemented in April 1999. The Authority had been requested to respond to these proposals by 31 July 1998. A proposed response was attached to the report as Appendix A.

The report also sought the Sub Committee's endorsement for the proposed timetable for consultation on and implementation of the final requirements in Bracknell Forest.

The Sub Committee recorded its thanks to Alison Sanders, Assistant Director of Education, for preparing a comprehensive response. A number of minor textual improvements were requested.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the response to the Government's proposals be approved as set out at Appendix A of the report, with minor textual amendments to be made by the Director of Education.
- (ii) that the proposed timetable for consultation and implementation be endorsed as set out at Appendix B of the report.

### **22 Education Library Service (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee considered a report on the proposed joint arrangement with other Berkshire LEAs for the provision of the Education Library Service.

In November 1997 the Education Transition Committee had agreed that Bracknell Forest should be the Host Authority for the Education Library Service. Officers had been authorised to continue detailed work on the proposed joint arrangement and to report back at an appropriate time.

It was noted that since that meeting of the Committee Wokingham District Council had decided not to be a party to the agreement although individual schools in Wokingham District were still able to purchase services under the agreement.

The report set out two suggested methods of funding; the first to operate until the budget for school libraries was devolved to schools whilst the second method of funding would apply if and when devolved funding came into effect under the Government's new Fair Funding proposals.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to conclude an agreement for the Education Library Service in accordance with the proposals set out in the report.
- (ii) that any final amendments be made by the Director of Education in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub Committee at the conclusion of detailed negotiations between the Berkshire Unitary Authorities.

### **23 Berkshire Young Musicians Trust (Item 4)**

The Sub Committee considered a report on the proposed contract for the provision of music tuition services in schools, which were currently provided by the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust (BYMT).

The current contract for music tuition services was due to expire on 31 August 1998 having been executed by BYMT and Berkshire County Council in March 1993. Discussions between the Unitary Authorities (except Wokingham) had led to the proposal that each of the five unitary authorities would enter into separate agreements with BYMT. The agreements would be similar, based upon the same jointly negotiated model with minor amendments to deal with specific requirements by individual authorities.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the Borough Solicitor be authorised to conclude an Agreement for music tuition with the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust in accordance with proposals set out in the report.
- (ii) that any final amendments be made by the Director of Education in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub Committee.

24 **Whitegrove Primary School – Extension : Tender Procedures and Tender Acceptance (Item 5)**

The Sub Committee considered the arrangements for tendering for the extension works at Whitegrove Primary School. The extension of the school had been approved by the Council at a special meeting on 17 December 1997. Tenders for a traditional extension to Whitegrove Primary School were expected to exceed £500,000, in which case contract standing orders required that the tender list be submitted to Committee for approval.

In the event that it was necessary to proceed with the alternative modular design, approval for single tender action was also requested.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) approval be given to the list of building contractors shown at Annexe B in the exempt papers, to tender for the construction of a traditional extension to Whitegrove Primary School;
- (ii) should it be necessary, as an alternative, to build a modular extension to the school, that in accordance with Standing Order 67 that Standing Orders 65 and 66 shall not apply because it is not reasonably practicable to seek competitive tenders due to (a) the specialised nature of this building type, and (b) that existing rates provided as a result of competitive tendering are available from Rollalong Ltd and that consequently an order be placed with that company.

25 **Crowthorne Primary School : Replacement of Horsa Building – Single Tender Action (Item 6)**

The Borough Surveyor reported that the Education capital programme included the replacement of a life expired pre-cast building (a Horsa building) at Crowthorne Primary School. It was proposed to replace it with a modular building available from a single supplier.

The report also advised on three urgent actions which had been taken in order to allow timely progress of the Education planned maintenance programme.

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order 67 that Standing Orders 65 and 66 shall not apply because it is not reasonably practicable to seek competitive tenders due to (i) the specialised nature of this building type, and (ii) that existing rates provided as a result of competitive tendering are available from Rollalong Ltd and that consequently an order be placed with that company.

26 **Acceptance of Tender to replace boilers at Birch Hill Primary School, Meadowvale Primary School and Brakenhale Comprehensive School (Item 7)**

The Borough Surveyor reported that the planned maintenance programme 1998/1999 included replacement of boilers at Birch Hill Primary, Meadowvale Primary and Brakenhale Schools. Tenders had been invited for the work to be carried out during the summer holidays. Only one tender had been received, in which case contract Standing Order 76 (9) required Committee approval for its acceptance.

**RESOLVED** that the tender received from Alpha Plumbing & Heating Ltd be accepted, for replacement boilers at Birch Hill Primary, Meadowvale Primary and Brakenhale Schools.

27 **Approved Duty for attendance at South East Region Chairmen's Meetings (Item 8)**

The Sub Committee considered a report proposing that the attendance of the Chairman of the Education Committee at the termly South East Region Chairmen's and Chief Education Officer's meetings be accepted as an approved duty for the purposes of the Members' Allowance scheme.

**RECOMMENDED**

- (i) that agreement be given to the Chairman of the Education Committee attending the Chairmen's and Chief Education Officers' South East Region Meetings; and
- (iii) that the attendance of the Chairman at the meetings be an approved duty for the purpose of the scheme of Members Allowances.

28 **Land Adjacent to Sandhurst School (Information Item 9)**

The Director of Leisure Services submitted a report for information on some suggestions for improvement to the grounds of Sandhurst School, Sandhurst Sports Centre and the public open space off Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst.

29 **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 items 10, 11 and Annexe B to agenda item 5 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act.

- (9) Information relating to negotiations for a contract

30 **Site for a Pupil Referral Unit (Item 10)**

The Sub Committee considered a report on the site for the establishment of the secondary pupil referral unit for Bracknell Forest.

At its meeting on 18 June, the Education Committee had considered a report outlining a number of options for the siting of a pupil referral unit for secondary age children. The Committee had identified three sites meriting further investigation and Officers had been asked to report the outcome of their investigations to this meeting of the Budget Sub Committee for determination. The report summarised the issues that had been identified in respect of each of the three sites including the likely development costs, planning considerations and other advantages and disadvantages of the sites.

**RESOLVED** that College Hall be approved as the site for the establishment of the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit.

31 **Contract for the Supply of Information and Communication Technology (Item 11)**

The Sub Committee considered a report on the outcomes of the tendering process for the supply of equipment and services to establish the Bracknell Forest Learning Network.

The report summarised the tender responses that had been received and the criteria against which they had been evaluated. The company/consortium that best met the requirements with the Borough for this stage of the Bracknell Forest Learning Network programme was Research Machines PLC.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the internet service provider for all schools under this programme shall be Research Machines PLC;
- (ii) the contract for the supply of education ITC equipment and services be awarded to Research Machines PLC; and
- (iii) the Director of Education be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub Committee, to establish the programme for the installation of extended networks.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and concluded at 7.40pm.

**CHAIRMAN**