

**EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE
16 SEPTEMBER 1998**

Present: Councillors Barnard (Chairman), Beadsley, Mrs Doyle,
Good, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Shillcock, Ward, Wheaton, Worrall

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillors Taylor and Thompson

32. Substitute Members

The Sub Committee noted the attendance of the following Substitute Members under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Mrs Shillcock for Councillor Taylor
Councillor Mrs Doyle for Councillor Thompson

33. Minutes

The minutes of the Sub Committee held on 23 July 1998 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34. Budget Monitoring Report April to June 1998 (Item 1)

The Director of Education presented a report summarising the budgetary control statement for the first 3 months of the current financial year. Whilst this was a very early stage in the life of the new Education Service, there were important financial developments of which the Sub Committee needed to be aware.

The main budget variances highlighted in the report included:

A saving of £170,000 due to successful rate revaluation appeals

An overspend of £114,000 on premature retirement/dismissal costs.

An overspend of £98,000 on special educational needs.

The report would form part of the Education Department's Quarterly Operations Report to the Education Committee in October.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the management action outlined in the report be endorsed.

35. Contract for Travellers' Education (Item 2)

The Director of Education reported on progress with contract arrangements for the Travellers' Education Service.

The Education Transition Committee in September 1997, had agreed the principle of a joint arrangement for travellers' education with the six unitary authorities, with

Wokingham District Council acting as the lead authority. At that stage the Committee had agreed to the contract lasting for a twelve month period. However, it was now clear that the other participating authorities considered that the arrangement should be on the basis of a 3-year contract. This view had been arrived at due to the staffing issues involved and the nature of the arrangements for the DfEE bidding process. The bid for the next 3-year cycle needed to be prepared during the current financial year.

RESOLVED that the Borough Solicitor, having regard to budgetary provision and regular monitoring reports, be authorised to conclude the necessary contract negotiations on the basis of a 3-year contract.

36. **Items for Information**

The Sub Committee received and noted the following items which were submitted for information only:

Capital Programme 1998/99 – Progress report	(Item 3)
Result of Tendering for the Whitegrove Primary School – Extensions	Item 4)

The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m.
and concluded at 6.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN