

**EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE
14 DECEMBER 1998**

Present: Councillors Mrs Hayes (Chairman), Barnard, Mrs Doyle,
Good, Mrs Hirst, Taylor, Thompson, Wheaton, Worrall

Apologies for Absence were received from:
Councillors Beadsley and Ward

37. Substitute Members

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

Councillor Mrs Hirst for Councillor Beadsley
Councillor Mrs Doyle for Councillor Ward

38. Minutes

The minutes of the Sub Committee held on 16 September 1998 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39. Fair Funding – Improving Delegation to Schools (Item 1)

The Director of Education presented a report summarising the results of the statutory consultation exercise with governing bodies and other interested parties on Fair Funding. The report outlined the formula to be used in allocating budgets to schools for those items being delegated for the first time in 1999/2000 and provided details of the additional budget headings required to be delegated together with indicative budgets. Since the report had been prepared there had been further detailed analysis of the draft regulations and a revised set of recommendations relating to insurance premiums was tabled at the meeting.

Regulations were expected to be approved by Parliament before the recess and approval for the recommendations would be contingent upon there being no substantive changes to the draft.

RESOLVED that, subject to any substantive change in the draft regulations following Parliamentary approval:

- (i) the Education Committee be requested to consider the differential funding between primary and secondary schools as part of the 1999-2000 budget process;
- (ii) the formula for the allocation of the budget for emergency repairs, reactive maintenance, building and mechanical/electrical services maintenance in 1999-2000, be a combination of floor area and flat rate per pupil numbers, in the ratio 50:50, with pupils at Kennel Lane attracting a weighting of 3 times the standard for primary and second school pupils;

- (iii) the formula for the allocation of the budget for reactive maintenance etc. in 2000-2001 be reviewed and consideration given to budget allocations through usage of an annual buildings conditions survey;
- (iv) the proportion of the expenditure on equipment safety inspection contracts in 1998-99 between primary, secondary and special phases be maintained in 1999-2000. Within each phase the formula for the allocation of the budget should be by flat rate per pupil numbers.
- (v) within the age range 11-18; the formula for the allocation of the budget for the Consortium for Local Education Authorities Provision of Science Services to secondary and special schools should be by flat rate per pupil numbers
- (vi) the educational budget share of joint use agreements be retained centrally by the LEA;
- (vii) the income targets for tenanted school properties be allocated to relevant schools on the basis of an equal amount for each tenanted property;
- (viii) the budget for supply cover for official union duties be retained centrally by the LEA;
- (ix) the budget for special staff be retained centrally by the LEA, with the exception of provision for supply cover for staff attending child protection case conferences and support for staff with disabilities which should be allocated on the basis of a flat rate per pupil numbers;
- (x) the budget for protection of the salaries of re-deployed staff be allocated on an actual cost basis;
- (xi) Advisory Services outside the EDP be delegated on the basis of usage between the different phases with a flat rate allocation per pupil numbers;
- (xii) the budget for property related insurance premiums be maintained centrally at the value of the current premium;
- (xiii) the budget for liability related insurance premiums be maintained centrally at the value of the current premium;
- (xiv) where a school requests these items to be delegated, that property related insurances be allocated in proportion to the overall total schools property valuation that each school comprises, and the liability related insurances be allocated on the basis of a flat rate per pupil allocation; and
- (xv) that all formula for the allocation of budgets in 1999-2000 should be reviewed for 2000-2001 in order to confirm that the most accurate available measures are being used and that relative needs of all schools (by phase, size and special circumstances) are taken into account appropriately.

40. **Budget Advance for St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School (Item 2)**

The Director of Education reported on the request received from the Governors of the St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School for assistance as the school could not contain its planned expenditure within the approved budget and an overspend was forecast. Following meetings with the Chair of Governors, the Headteacher and representatives of the Education Department it had been established that the projected deficit had arisen from heavy expenditure on curriculum materials in preparation for an Ofsted inspection and the forecast pupil numbers used in determining the 1997/98 school budget being overstated.

It had been established that there was a revised projected deficit of £14,000 and, with careful budget management and realisation of the projected number of pupils, a budget plan had been formulated to repay the deficit over two financial years.

RESOLVED that a budget advance of £14,000 be agreed for St Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School to be repaid by the end of the 2000-2001 financial year, and that the advance be interest free.

41. **Progress Report on Services to be Provided Under Contract (Item 3)**

The Director of Education reported on the progress with the contract for music tuition provided by the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and advised that the contract was expected to be signed on 16 December 1998.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chairman, agree the contract for music tuition from 1 September 1998 to 31 August 1999 with the Berkshire Young Musicians Trust and report the outcome back to the Sub Committee.

42. **Reducing Class Sizes in Key Stage 1 (Item 4)**

The Director of Education reported on a submission which had been made to the Department for Education and Employment for funding to provide an additional 8 classrooms at 7 schools. It was noted that the outcome of the application was likely to be known sometime after the end of January 1999.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee note the details of the submission to the DfEE and that a sum, to be identified, be included within the Education Capital Programme 1999/2000 in respect of this item.

43. **St Michael's Easthampstead C of E Primary School (Item 5)**

The Director of Education reported on a request from the governors of St Michael's CE Primary School (Easthampstead) for continuing funding with their capital programme to provide more accommodation.

The Sub Committee noted that whilst there had been an indicative figure of £95,000 included as a possible commitment for 1999/2000 capital programme it was expected that the maximum figure required would be £84,000.

RESOLVED that it be recommended that a high priority be given to assisting St Michael's CE Primary School (Easthampstead) with finance for its building programme from the Education Capital Programme 1999/2000 subject to the school exploring means of obtaining funds from other sources.

44. **Progress Report on Application to The Adult and Community Learning Fund (Item 6)**

The Director of Education reported on an application for funding for the maximum grant available of £10,000 and it was expected that notification of the fund should be received during the week beginning 14 December 1998 for expenditure in the spring term.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and that the Director of Education commission appropriate research upon receipt of grant funding.

45. **Items for Information**

The Sub Committee received and noted the following item which was submitted for information only:

Building Better Schools

(Item 7)

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8pm

CHAIRMAN