

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

30 MARCH 1999

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Ballin, Beadsley, Birch, Mrs Doyle, Egan,
Fawcett, Flood, Good, Mills, Ryan, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe,
Thompson, Wheaton and Worrall

Church Representatives:
Mr G Anderson, Mr D McCann

Teacher Representatives:
Mrs M Desai, Mr J Haig

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Barnard, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst and Mrs L
Wales

531. **Substitute Members**

The Committee noted the attendance of the following substitute Member under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Mrs Ballin for Councillor Harrison
Councillor Birch for Councillor Mrs Hayes
Councillor Flood for Councillor Barnard
Councillor Ryan for Mrs Hirst.

532. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

533. **Urgent Item of Business under Standing Order 7**

The Chairman gave notice that he had agreed to the addition of an item of urgent business to the Agenda for the meeting. The report concerned variations in cost under the planned maintenance programme. An urgent decision was required to vary the contract cost to enable further works to take place under the programme.

534. **Joint Advisory Sub Committee for Children's Services**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Advisory Sub Committee for Children's Services held on 17 February 1999 be received.

535. **Education Consultation Panel**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Education Consultation Panel held on 2 March 1999 be received.

536. **Education Governors Selection Sub Committee**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Education Governors Selection Sub Committee held on 15 March 1999, as set out in Appendix A hereto, be received and the recommendation in Minute 30 be adopted.

537. **Transport and Awards Sub Committee**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Transport and Awards Sub Committee held on 15 March 1999, as set out in Appendix B hereto, be received and the recommendations in Minutes 15, 16 and 17 be adopted.

538. **Quality Assurance Sub Committee**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Quality Assurance Sub Committee held on 17 March 1999, as set out in Appendix C hereto, be received.

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

The Director of Education presented the fourth Quarterly Operations Report summarising the activities of the Education Department since the last meeting of the Committee. He drew the Committee's attention to Appendix 1 setting out the targets established under the first Education Service Plan, produced in January 1998, and showing the progress made in achieving the targets. Appendix 2 provided details of the performance of Unitary Authorities against targets and the Chairman commended the achievements of Bracknell Forest.

The Director of Education also tabled copies of two letters recently received from the Department for Education and Employment giving unconditional approval to the Early Years Development and Childcare and the Education Development Plans.

RESOLVED that the Quarterly Operations Report be received.

540. **Education Service Plan 1999/2000 (Item 2)**

The Director of Education introduced the Education Service Plan that, as the strategic plan for the Education Service brought together key strategic objectives from the range of plans initiated locally or nationally. The Plan was divided into three parts which described the policy objectives to be achieved, the Committee business timetable showing the key items to be considered by Members during the year and Service Levels and performance indicators. Progress against the agreed performance targets and service levels would be monitored and reported each Committee cycle under the Operations Report.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Education Committee's Service Plan as outlined in Appendix A to the report be agreed; and
- (ii) the Policy Objectives in the Service Plan be submitted to the Strategy and Policy Committee for inclusion in the Council's overall Service Plan 1999/2000.

541. Revenue Budget 1999/2000 (Item 3)

Following consideration, at its last meeting, of the financial plan for 1999/2000 the Committee's recommendations had been considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee which had made allowances for the rate of inflation and approved corporate spending proposals as part of the process of setting the level of Council Tax.

The Director of Education informed the Committee of its detailed budget in the light of the overall budget package agreed by the Council.

RESOLVED that the detailed budget as outlined in Annexe B to the report be noted.

542. School Organisation Plan (Item 4)

The Director of Education advised the Committee that the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 set out the arrangements for decisions on School organisation to be taken at a local level. A School Organisation Plan was being developed which would consider the need to add or remove school places within the area of the Local Education Authority. The Plan was due to be published for widespread consultation on 15 April and a further report would be brought to the next Education Committee on the outcome of the consultation. It would then be subject to approval by the School Organisation Committee by 31 August.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the draft School Organisation Plan as the basis for statutory consultation.

543. Capital Programme 1999/2000 – 2001/02 (Item 5)

The Strategy and Policy Committee had requested service Committees to review capital spending requirements for inclusion within the Council's three year Capital Programme. The Director of Education reported on the requirements for 1999/2000. Although estimates of future schemes had been included in the three year programme the costs were indicative and would need to be reviewed at the same stage in the planning process next year.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the projected carry forward of resources from the 1998/99 programme as outlined in Annexe A to the report be noted; and

- (ii) the schemes summarised in Annexe C to the paper be submitted to the Strategy and Resources Committee for inclusion in the 1999/2000 Capital Programme.

544. Planned Maintenance Programme, Contract Cost Variation on Replacement Roofing at Great Hollands Infants and Junior Schools (Urgent Item)

The Committee was advised that as part of the 1998/99 planned maintenance programme, funded from the Department of Education and Employment New Deal for Schools 2 grant, the roof covering on Great Hollands Infant and Junior School was being replaced. The favourable level of tendering had enabled more roofing and associated work to be done than originally envisaged within the available budget and it was proposed to add the re-roofing of the boiler house, at a cost of £4,845 to the work.

Other variations had already been approved under delegated authority but this new work took the total variation costs to £17,600, or 13.5% of the contract sum and Financial Regulation 20 requires Committee authorisation to a variation when it exceeds 10% of the contract sum.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the variations in cost totalling £17,600 in accordance with Financial Regulation 20 where a variation in contract costs exceeds the contract sum by 10%

545. Community Sports/ Greenway Capital Project (Item 6)

The Director of Education reported on a proposal by Leisure Services to develop a Community Sports/ Greenway Project on land in the vicinity of Sandhurst School. Preliminary discussions had been held and there was considerable support for such a scheme, as described, from the local community. As the scheme was developed further consultation would take place and a planning application would be submitted to ascertain the feasibility of the proposals.

In supporting the proposal the Committee considered the possible sale of some land for housing should be pursued as it would generate additional funding towards the cost of the scheme.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Committee support the scheme in principle and, in particular, the proposal to sell a small parcel of land for housing purposes;
- (ii) the Leisure Services Committee take the lead role in progressing the scheme;
- (iii) the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chairman of the Education Committee be given delegated authority to agree details within the scheme and
- (iv) a further report be brought to the Committee before any potential development is formally authorised.

546. **Review of Special Educational Needs (Item 7)**

The Director of Education reported on the outcome of the Special Education Needs Review by a task group comprising headteachers and officers from the LEA. The report had been endorsed by a Special Education Focus Group and the Director of Education sought approval to use it for formal consultation.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the outcome of the review of Special Educational Needs in Bracknell Forest be noted;
- (ii) the document attached as an Annex to the report be used as the basis for consultation with schools, parents voluntary groups and other agencies and
- (iii) the Director of Education report on the outcome of the consultation to the Education Committee at its meeting in June 1999.

547. **Proposed Closure of Holly Spring Assessment Resource (Item 8)**

The Director of Education reported on the outcome of the consultation resulting from the proposal to close the Assessment Resource at Holly Spring Infant School and sought approval for the publication of the required statutory notices.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the outcome of the consultation on the proposed closure be noted;
- (ii) the Borough Solicitor proceed with the publication of statutory notices concerning the closure of the resource and
- (iii) planning for appropriate alternative provision in line with the preliminary recommendations of the SEN review be progressed.

548. **Teachers – meeting the challenge of change (Item 9)**

The Director of Education informed the Committee of the issues raised to date from the consultations on the Green Paper “Teachers – Meeting the Challenge of change”. After several briefings and consultation meetings the proposed response shown as Appendix B to the report had been prepared.

RESOLVED that the draft response to the consultation paper be agreed.

549. **Redeployment of Teachers (Item 10)**

The Director of Education reported on a proposal to reinstate the arrangements whereby a sum of money was paid by the LEA to schools to cover the additional costs incurred by schools when they accept the redeployment of a teacher who would otherwise be made redundant. He advised the Committee that clarification of the legal position was still being sought and Members suggested that the NUT should be approached informally to ascertain their views on the legal issues.

RESOLVED that consideration of the matter be deferred to enable the legal position to be clarified.

550. **School Standards and Framework Act 1998 – Reconstitution of School Governing Bodies (Item 11)**

The Committee was advised that from 1 September 1999 all maintained schools enter new legal categories for which differently constituted governing bodies were required by the School Standards and Framework Act. The approval of the Committee was sought to the administrative arrangements necessary to effect the changes.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Director of Education make the new Instruments of Government for the maintained schools in the Borough, by order of the Education Committee, on or before 1 June 1999;
- (ii) the Governor Selection Sub Committee be authorised to make a final decision in the unlikely event that there is an irresolvable disagreement between the Director and a governing body on the content of their draft Instrument of Government;
- (iii) the following procedure be adopted in respect of governing bodies with surplus LEA Governors:
 - (a) serving LEA governors in the affected schools be notified that their term of office will be terminated at midnight on 31 August 1999 unless they are reappointed and
 - (b) those governors be invited to apply for reappointment by the Governor Selection Sub Committee during the Summer Term, in the normal way; and
- (iv) the draft Notes of Guidance to Headteachers and Governing Bodies on arrangements for Parent, Teacher and Staff Governor Elections as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 to the paper and amended by the Director of Education, be adopted by Governing bodies for use in schools.

551. **Budget Advance for Ranelagh CE Aided Secondary School (Item 12)**

The Director of Education reported upon a request received from Ranelagh CE aided school and the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education for a budget advance of £20,000 from the Council to assist them with the Governors 15% contribution towards the cost of Phase 2 of a major capital building project at the school.

RESOLVED that an interest free budget advance of £20,000 be approved for Ranelagh CE aided secondary school to be repaid by the end of 2001-02 financial year.

552. **Grants to Voluntary Organisations**

The Director of Education reported on applications received from Voluntary Organisations for grant aid

RESOLVED that

- (i) the following annual grant applications for 1999/2000 be approved:

The Ark	£7,500
BOOSA	£7,000
South East Berkshire Education Business Partnership	£5,000

and that the Director of Education makes appropriate arrangements for the transfer of funds; and

- (ii) the application from Windsor Greek Evening School for a grant of £300 be refused.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN