

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
17 DECEMBER 1997**

**REFERENCE FROM EDUCATION TRANSITION COMMITTEE
(Director of Corporate Services)**

1 COMPLETION OF WHITEGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- 1.1 The report attached as Appendix A was considered by the Education Transition Committee at its meeting held on Thursday 11 December 1997.
- 1.2 Following debate the motion set out below was adopted. Pursuant to Standing Orders, Members of the Committee requested that the matter be referred to the Council as a recommendation for decision.
- 1.3 In view of the need to take firm decisions in relation to the proposed school extension as a matter of urgency to meet anticipated pupil admissions, exceptionally the Mayor has agreed to accept the recommendation of the Education Transition Committee for consideration at this Special Meeting.
- 1.4 In the event of the Council adopting the recommendations of the Education Committee, it will be necessary for this Council to be appointed as agents for the present Local Education Authority in order for the proposed contract to proceed.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE EDUCATION TRANSITION COMMITTEE

- (i) that the Council approve the traditional build single storey building provided that:
- (a) the final tender, together with the full tendered cost of temporary accommodation fall below £750,000 allowing for a 5% error (ie. £712,000).
- (b) the money be committed before any contracts are signed other than for temporary classrooms.
- (ii) should either of the above conditions not be fulfilled, then the officers (without further reference to the Committee) proceed with Option 1 as referred to in the report submitted.
- If this second option is adopted due to condition (i)(a) not being met, any balance of this £750,000 could be used for artificial surfaces or other work to be agreed with the Governors.
- (iii) should condition (i)(a) fail by a relatively small sum of money, the Governors be given 7 days to indicate whether they can make up any shortfalls.

RESOLVED that the Director of Education be authorised to request the County Council to proceed with the necessary provision of appropriate temporary accommodation to meet anticipated needs during construction.

(Note: This resolution does not form part of the recommendations to the Council and has been actioned accordingly)

2.2 **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION**

That in order to proceed with all pre-contract work in the event of the Council adopting the recommendations of the Education Transition Committee, the Council request Berkshire County Council as present Local Education Authority to appoint this Council as agents for the purpose of completing this phase of Whitegrove Primary School.

3. **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Detailed information concerning the background to the project is included in the Appendix to this report.

3.2 The reference in paragraph (i)(b) of the Committee's recommendation relates to an agreement on behalf of all 6 of the Berkshire Districts that completion of Whitegrove Primary School is of sufficiently high priority to be funded from the County Council's balances before such balances are allocated on an equitable basis to the successor authorities.

3.3 The effects of the recommendations put forward by the Education Transition Committee are as follows:

- (i) in the event of the final tender together with all the cost of temporary accommodation being less than £712,000, completion of this phase of Whitegrove Primary School would proceed on the basis of a single storey traditional building;
- (ii) in the event of the final tender marginally exceeding £712,000, completion as a single storey traditional building would depend on the School Governing Body agreeing to meet the balance of costs;
- (iii) in the event of the final tender substantially exceeding £712,000, completion would proceed as a single storey modular building with any balance of funding available for other completion works.

3.4 The Borough Council does have powers during the "shadow" period to incur expenditure of a preparatory nature in relation to the services for which the Council will become responsible from 1 April 1998. However this does not extend to entering into specific contracts of the nature proposed. These powers continue to be vested in the County Council as Local Education Authority until abolition. In order to meet the crucial deadlines associated with this project, it will be necessary for both authorities to agree that the Borough Council be appointed agents for the Local Education Authority in the matter. An additional recommendation is therefore submitted to cover this point.

Background Papers

Published Works only

Contact for further information

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