

**EDUCATION TRANSITION COMMITTEE  
11 DECEMBER 1997**

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman), Councillors Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Doyle, Fawcett, Good, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe, Thompson, Wheaton and Worrall

Teacher Representatives: Mr J Haig, Ms L Wales

Oxford Diocesan Council: Mr G Anderson

Also Present: Councillors Bettison and North

Apologies for Absence were received from:  
Councillors Mills and Taylor  
and from Mrs Desai (Teacher Representative)

**389. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 November 1997 were approved as a correct record.

**390. Education Quality Assurance Sub Committee**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Quality Assurance Sub Committee held on 12 November 1997 as set out in Appendix A hereto be received.

**391. Public Participation - Submission on behalf of the Governors of Whitegrove Primary School**

Mr R Stok, Chairman of the Governors of Whitegrove Primary School addressed the meeting and submitted information in support of the Governing Body's preferred option for completion of the Whitegrove Primary School buildings to meet anticipated needs from April 1998.

**392. Completion of Whitegrove Primary School (Item 1)**

Consideration was given to a report by the Director of Education dealing with the options for the construction, timescale and associated costs of the various options for the proposed extension at Whitegrove Primary School.

The Committee noted that the school had been designed on the basis that accommodation would be increased in 2 phases by the addition of modular buildings but that the Committee had previously formed the view that the option of extending the school through a traditional building in a single phase should also be considered.

Accordingly a feasibility study into the alternatives available had been undertaken and the costings and other implications were reported to the Committee. The Committee further noted that an agreement had been reached on behalf of the six Berkshire District Authorities

that completion of Whitegrove Primary School was of sufficiently high priority to be funded from the County Council's balances before those balances were distributed to the successor authorities.

Following debate the following Motion was adopted and, pursuant to Standing Order 44, a number of Members of the Committee requested that the matter be referred to the Council as a recommendation for decision.

Accordingly it was

**RECOMMENDED**

- (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.

It was further

**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.

393. **Progress Report on Preparation for Unitary Status (Item 2)**

The Director of Education submitted a progress report on the project plan for the establishment and subsequent operation of Bracknell Forest Local Education Authority with particular reference to the progress being made with regard to the recruitment of key staff.

**RESOLVED** that the report and good progress being made be noted.

394. **Education Development Plan (Item 3)**

The Director of Education reported on the forthcoming statutory requirement for the Council to prepare an Education Development Plan by the end of March 1999 and submitted a first draft aimed at establishing a strategic framework for the plan over the period 1998 - 2002.

The plan submitted comprised a service description, service profiles, identified pressures and issues and a statement of service purpose.

The Committee noted that, within the strategic framework, the annual service priorities for 1998 - 99 would be considered by the Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and that the Committee adopt the proposed statement of service purpose and strategic objectives.

**395. Scheme of Local Management for Schools for 1998/99 (Item 4)**

The Committee noted that the Borough Council was required to have a scheme of Local Management for Schools agreed by 31 December 1997 for submission to the Department for Education and Employment for approval. The Committee had previously agreed that the approach to local management should be based on minimal change from the model currently used by Berkshire County Council and that consultation with schools had subsequently taken place on a proposed draft scheme.

**RESOLVED** that the scheme of Local Management for Schools in Bracknell Forest in 1998/99 be based on the Berkshire County Council scheme with the following amendments:

- Outer Fringe London Weighting to be incorporated in appropriate formula components
- the funding of resourced schools to be simplified and based on a model that is place driven for staffing and pupil driven for support, capitation and other costs
- funding for four year olds in reception classes in the two terms prior to the term in which they reach the age of five to be at a rate of 30% of the nursery AWPU.

**396. New Deal for Schools 1998-2001 Funding Bid (Item 5)**

The Director of Education reported to the Committee on the details of the Government's funding arrangements for the three year New Deal for Schools Programme and the Committee noted that bids for work at County, voluntary (including aided) and maintained special schools for projects beginning in 1998/99 were to be submitted by 16 January 1998. The Government required Local Education Authorities before submitting bids to undertake various steps in relation to management policy definition, assessment of relevant needs of school building stock, consultation with schools and other relevant bodies, prioritisation, partnership funding and impact on educational standards. Accordingly consideration was given to a draft statement of policy and to proposed processes and timetables for consultation arrangements.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Committee note the report submitted and the proposed consultation process for the formulation of the Council's bid; and
- (ii) approve the draft policy statement submitted.

**397. The Standards Fund 1998-99: National Grid for Learning Grant (Item 6)**

The Director of Education submitted proposals for an application to the Department for Education and Employment for funding under the Standards Fund for using new technologies to raise standards in schools. The Committee noted that the National Grid for Learning was intended to provide a national focus and agenda for harnessing new technologies to raise

educational standards, particularly in literacy and numeracy, and to improve the quality of life and Britain's competitiveness. Funding bids had been invited for support in 1998-99 by 15 December and details of the Council's bid amounting to £400,000 were submitted for the Committee's approval. The bid encompassed proposals to establish a Borough wide area network capable of connecting all schools, libraries, Council offices and other educational establishments to assist schools to deliver curriculum and support the development of a learning community.

**RESOLVED** that the Director of Education be authorised to bid for funding from the Standards Fund on the basis of the submission attached to the report before the Committee.

**398. Joint Arrangements for the Provision of Services on Sensory Impairment (Item 7)**

The Committee received proposals for continuing current arrangements for support to children with sensory needs through joint arrangements with the other new unitary authorities in Berkshire in a consortium to be lead by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the proposal for a joint service to meet sensory needs, led by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, be supported in principle; and
- (ii) the Officers be requested to continue preparation of the proposed scheme and to report back to the Committee.

**399. Behaviour Support Plan (Item 8)**

The Director of Education advised the Committee that the Local Education Authority was required to produce a Behaviour Support Plan by 31 December 1998 which should accord with draft guidance issued by the Department for Education and Employment. Details of the topics to be included within the plan were noted by the Committee together with the timescale for preparation of the plan following the publication of final guidance early in the new year.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and that the development of a Behaviour Support Plan be included within the Council's Education Development Plan.

**400. Extension to the Arrangements for English Language Support (Item 9)**

The Committee noted that following its previous decision to approve the provision of English Language Support on a contract basis from Reading Borough Council for the five month period from 1 April 1998 to the end of the current project on 31 August 1998, the Government had subsequently announced that the period for current projects would be extended to the end of the financial year 1998/99. Accordingly it was recommended that the existing contract with Reading Borough Council be extended for the full financial year.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the period of the contract with Reading Borough Council in relation to English Language Support be extended from the current five month period to the full financial year 1998/99; and
- (ii) Officers be authorised to continue contract negotiations with Reading Borough Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

**CHAIRMAN**