

**STRATEGY AND POLICY EXECUTIVE SUB COMMITTEE  
27 NOVEMBER 1997**

Present: Councillor Bettison (Chairman), Councillors Angell, Birch,  
McCormack and Wheaton

Also Present: Councillor Mrs Keene

**8. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 24 September 1997 were approved as a correct record.

**9. South East Regional Forum 1997/98 (Item 3)**

The Committee received a report on discussions which had taken place over the last 18 months between the County Councils, District and Borough Councils and the unitary authorities in the South East of England within a forum aimed at establishing a formal structure to act as a regional voice on a wide spectrum of issues of concern to local government. The Committee noted specific areas of immediate concern including the proposed establishment of Regional Development Agencies and were advised that discussions had lead to proposals for the creation of a formal organisation to be known as the South East Regional Forum (SERF).

**RESOLVED** that the Borough Council join the South East Regional Forum for the year 1997/98 at a subscription fee of £1,000.

**10. Airtrack - Proposed Heathrow Airport South West Rail Link (Item 4)**

The Director of Planning and Transportation reported on developments which had taken place following previous approvals to establish a Consortium of local authorities and private sector concerns to explore the possibility of establishing a link by rail to Heathrow Airport from South West using the Reading/Waterloo line.

A sum of £5,000 had been set aside as the Council's contribution to a feasibility study on the basis of matching funding for a European grant and it was reported that whilst the issue of European funding was still being actively pursued, difficulties and delays had been experienced with the application and this had caused delays in moving the feasibility study forward.

This delay had been a cause for much concern to the Consortium and, to enable progress on the feasibility study to be accelerated, it had been proposed that the existing funding should be

made unconditional and that additional funding from the members of the Consortium should be requested.

**RESOLVED** that the existing amount of £5,000 set aside for the feasibility study for Airtrack, the Heathrow Airport south west rail link, be released irrespective of the availability of European matched funding and that an additional amount of £5,000 be allocated as the Council's contribution to the feasibility study.

11. **Joint Business Directory for Bracknell Forest Borough and Wokingham District (Item 5)**

A Committee received a detailed report on proposals to produce a business directory for the combined administrative areas of Bracknell Forest Borough and Wokingham District in accordance with commitments contained within the Borough Economic Development Strategy for 1997/98 and previous decisions. Tenders for the production of the proposed directory had been obtained and a company had been selected to undertake the necessary work on behalf of the Borough Council, Wokingham District Council and Thames Valley Enterprise. Costs in the current financial year arising from the collation of the necessary data, purchasing the data (for use by the Borough Council) and other administrative costs would be met from within appropriate budgets but maintenance of the database would need to be funded in future years.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the selected company be instructed to commence research work for the production of the business directory;
- (ii) the necessary funds be allocated in future financial years for the maintenance of the database; and
- (iii) the data be purchased jointly by the Council with Wokingham District Council and Thames Valley Enterprise, and that the Directory be fully funded, i.e. incurring the minimum of public expenditure through 25% advertising.

12. **The Bracknell Forest Registration Scheme 1997 (Item 6)**

The Sub Committee received a Draft of the Bracknell Forest Registration Scheme 1997 which had been placed on deposit prior to submission to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for approval having regard to any representations made by interested parties. It was noted that the Draft Scheme dealt with the arrangements to be made for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages which would become a responsibility of the unitary authority from 1 April 1998. The Draft Scheme provided for the continuation of existing service levels and would be funded from the disaggregation of the County Council's budget.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Bracknell Forest Registration Scheme be approved in the form submitted, subject to the consideration of any representations from interested parties;

- (ii) the Borough Solicitor be authorised to make the Order if no representations are received;
- (iii) any representations received be reported to the Strategy and Policy Committee to be held on 17 December 1997 for consideration.

13. **Exclusion of Public and Press**

**RESOLVED** that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Items 8 and 9 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

- (1) Information relating to Council Employees

14. **Bracknell Forest Borough Council/Sandhurst Town Council Partnership Development: Outline Secondment Proposals for Officer Exchange (Item 9)**

In a report containing exempt information the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services advised the Committee of proposals which had been developed jointly with Sandhurst Town Council to explore partnership working between the authorities through the introduction of a senior officer secondment exchange.

Details of the proposed arrangements were submitted and the Sub Committee noted that there were no direct financial implications or other personnel impediments.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Committee support the proposal to initiate a pilot partnership development with Sandhurst Town Council as outlined in the report submitted; and
- (ii) a officer exchange programme involving Sandhurst Town Council's Executive Officer and Bracknell Forest's Borough Administrator be commenced for a period of nine months commencing on 19 January 1998.

15. **Chief Executive's Pay Settlement (Item 8)**

*NOTE: The Chief Executive and departmental officers withdrew from the meeting for the consideration of this item.*

The Committee received a report containing exempt information on the agreement which had been reached in the national negotiating body for Chief Executives on a new package of pay and conditions for Chief Executives in England and Wales.

The national agreement required the Council to conduct a local review of the salary of the Chief Executive within the agreed national framework and the Committee received appropriate supporting information in order to conduct the necessary local review.

**RESOLVED** that no change be made to the existing salary structure for the Council's Chief Executive.

The meeting commenced at 7.40pm and concluded at 8.50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**