

**EDUCATION BUDGET SUB COMMITTEE**  
**15 SEPTEMBER 1997**

Present: Councillor Barnard (Chairman)  
Councillors Beadsley, Fawcett, Mrs Hayes, Thompson,  
Ward and Worrall

Also present: Councillor Mrs Hirst

Apologies for Absence were received from:  
Councillors Good, Wheaton and County Councillor Winter

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 13 May 1997 were approved as a correct record.

**4. Budget Process Briefing**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Borough Finance Officer outlining the project plan to prepare the Borough Council's first budget as a unitary authority and detailing the particular aspects relevant to education. A great deal would depend on the indicative SSA, expected from the Government in December defining how much financial support would be allocated to Bracknell Forest.

Schools were generally happy with the level of delegation to them under the existing Berkshire County Council LMS scheme. There was also a wish for a 'seamless transition' from the current budgets. The Sub Committee noted the various definitions of aggregated, potential and general schools' budgets under LMS.

**RESOLVED** that the report and presentation be noted.

**5. Scheme for the Local Management of Schools**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education outlining the need for the Borough Council to draft its local management of schools scheme by the end of December 1997.

The Sub Committee received a detailed presentation on the system of age and needs weighted pupil units. It would be necessary for the Borough to consult schools and the DfEE on its draft formula.

In accordance with Council's budget strategy, the aim was for a seamless transfer. However Officers were looking to simplify aspects of the funding for resourced units in schools, for the funding of four year olds. Finally, the Sub Committee noted the timetable for devising Bracknell Forest's LMS scheme.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

**6. Grants for Education Support and Training (GEST)**

The Chairman welcomed Alison Sanders, newly appointed Assistant Director of Education who provided the Sub Committee with an introduction to the annual process by which the government achieves its educational priorities by offering grants for support and training. Priorities are categorised and bids need to be submitted for all categories in which the Borough Council would seek funding. The DfEE were very late this year in coming forward with the GEST circular which would form the basis of the Borough Council's GEST bid and it was thought that this was due to possible changes of approach by the new Government.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm  
and concluded at 9.40pm.

**CHAIRMAN**