

FINANCE & PROPERTY SUB COMMITTEE
7 OCTOBER 1997

Present: Councillor Bettison (Chairman)
Councillor Egan, Fawcett, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst, Mrs Pile,
Ryan, Wade and Wheaton

Also Present: Councillor North

12. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Sub Committee held on 13 May and 8 July 1997 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13. **Voluntary Grants Panel - Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary Grants Panel held on 10 September 1997 were received and noted.

14. **Capital Grants to Town and Parish Councils. (Item 1)**

(Councillor Fawcett declared an interest in the grant relating to Binfield Parish Council and left the meeting during the consideration of this grant, but returned for consideration of the other grants contained within the following item.)

In a joint report the Chief Executive and the Director of Planning and Transportation reported that the Borough Council had set aside £125,000 in its 1997/98 Capital Programme for Capital Grants for Town and Parish Councils and gave details of the schemes submitted and sought members views on the level of grants to be awarded.

In referring to the conditions of grant payment set out in the report, the Borough Surveyor indicated that he had discussed these with the Borough Council's Access Officer and both felt it would be useful for her to be involved in the various schemes detailed designs at an early stage to ensure that none of this work presented problems on access for the future. Accordingly it was suggested that the first condition in each grant payment be extended to include ".....and consultation with the Borough Council's Access Officer".

However, in considering the grants before it, the Sub Committee was of the view that further information was needed with respect to three of the grants, namely from Winkfield Parish Council, Crowthorne Parish Council and Warfield Parish Council as, on the information submitted, no partnership contributions appeared to be being made toward the schemes and accordingly recommended that these three grants be referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee for consideration with the Director of Planning and Transport ascertaining further information as appropriate.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) grants be made to Sandhurst Town Council, Binfield Parish Council and Bracknell Town Council in the sums of £20,000, £6,000 and £42,400 respectively for the projects as submitted and detailed with the officers' report;
- (ii) grants submitted by Winkfield Parish Council, Crowthorne Parish Council and Warfield Parish Council in the sums of £37,340, £12,250 and £4,642 respectively be referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee for consideration pending the Director of Planning and Transportation ascertaining further information with regard to likely partnership contribution from the respective Parish Councils.

15. Energy Manager's Report. (Item 2)

In a detailed report the Energy Manager reviewed the role of his post, the Council's use of energy, its energy costs and made recommendations for the means of improving energy efficiency over the next five years.

The Energy Manager was present at the meeting and answered Members' questions thereon.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the report be noted and that the goal of achieving a 15% reduction in primary energy usage across all the current buildings be endorsed; and
- (ii) support be given to the proposal to include funding in the support capital programme for work to improve energy efficiency in all Council buildings which have central metering, with the resulting nett cost savings being returned to the support capital fund in order to make the scheme self financing.

16. Adoption of Approved Contractors List

The Director of Planning and Transportation informed the Sub Committee that following the Council becoming a unitary authority, there would be an increase in the type of construction related works. Accordingly it was proposed to adopt Berkshire County Council's approved lists of contractors alongside the Borough Council's own approved list.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the current Berkshire County Council approved lists of contractors (January 1996 - December 1998) be adopted for the Borough Council's use, in conjunction with the Borough Council's own approved lists of contractors; and
- (ii) the review of the Council's construction related approved lists of contractors be deferred until end of December 1998.

17. Six Months Review/Budget Pressures - Information Item

The above information item was noted.

18. **North Ascot Community Centre. (Tabled Item)**

In an item agreed to be dealt with by the Committee as a matter of urgency the Acting Borough Leisure Officer reported on the need for an additional grant of £6,000 to be awarded to North Ascot Community Association for urgency repairs.

The report contained full details of the circumstances and the reasons for the urgency.

RESOLVED that an additional grant of £6,000 be awarded to North Ascot Community Association, subject to the Association signing a lease for the building.

19. **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 the following Items which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that Act:

(8) Terms proposed for the acquisition or disposal of property (Item 6 and tabled item)

(9) Terms proposed for the contract (Items 5 and tabled item)

20. **Payroll Services Post April 1998. (Item 5)**

In the report containing exempt information the Director of Corporate Services reported on the need to secure member authority to continue with officer discussions with CSL (who currently provide payroll services for the Berkshire County Council) with a view to them continuing to pay Berkshire County Council direct transfer employees who join the unitary authority on 1 April 1998.

RESOLVED that the officers continue discussions on the feasibility of extending the Berkshire County Council CSL contract for payroll services.

21. **The Future of Calcott, Rectory Close, Bracknell. (Item 6)**

In a joint report containing exempt information the Directors of Social Services and Housing and Planning and Transportation sought the Sub Committee's approval on the sale of Calcott, Rectory Close as proposed by the Housing Sub Committee at its meeting on 23 September 1997.

RESOLVED that the sale of the freehold of Calcott to the East Berkshire NHS Trust on the terms reported be approved to enable the redevelopment of the site with a group home for residents leaving Church Hill House.

(Councillor Bettison declared a pecuniary interest in the following item and, in accordance with Standing Orders, left the meeting at this juncture)

COUNCILLOR WADE IN THE CHAIR

22. New Shop Lettings at Priestwood Square

In a tabled report submitted as a matter of urgency by the Director of Planning and Transportation and containing exempt information, members' approval was sought to the letting of vacant shop units at Priestwood Square.

RESOLVED that approval be given to:

- (i) the letting of 1 Priestwood Square to Pizza de Action Limited on the terms reported, subject to planning permission being granted; and
- (ii) the letting of 9 Priestwood Square to Mr A Day on the terms reported.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.35pm.

CHAIRMAN