

**STRATEGY & POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**20 MAY 1997**

Present: Councillor Bettison (Chairman)  
Councillors: Angell, Mrs Ballin, Birch, Good,  
Jones, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Mills, North,  
Sargeant, Wade, Ward and Wheaton.

Also present: Councillors: Barnard, Mrs Doyle, Egan, Flood,  
Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes and Thompson.

54. **Scheme Of Members Allowances. (Item 2)**

The Borough Administrator submitted proposals for interim adjustments to the existing scheme of members allowances in accordance with the decision of the Annual Council meeting.

It was noted that the proposed adjustments reflected inflation of two years, the substantially increased workload as a result of unitary status and the higher level of involvement which committee vice chairman would have in view of the increased workload. It was further noted that a review of the allowances scheme would take place later in the year and reported back to the committee with a view to the introduction of a new scheme of allowances from 1 April 1998 when the full operational responsibilities of the new unitary Council would commence.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the existing scheme of Members' Allowances be confirmed for the 1997/98 financial year and that the following adjustments be made with new payments effective from 20 May 1997 on the following basis.
  - (a) Basic Allowance - The present annual basic allowance of £494 (including telephone allowance) be increased to £523.64.
  - (b) Attendance Allowance - The present payment for attendance at approved duties be increased from £24.58 to £30 and that Schedule 2 of the scheme be amended as follows:-

**SCHEDULE 2**  
**APPROVED DUTIES**

There is specified as an approved duty for the purpose of payment of attendance allowances attendance at meetings of the Council; attendance at meetings of Committees and Sub-Committees, Steering Groups and Focus Groups by Councillors appointed to be members of those committees, sub committees, or groups and to which Members of more than one political group are invited; attendance at meetings of any other body to which the Council makes one or more appointments or nominations by the Members so nominated; attendance at authorised planning site visits and at internal and external training and other seminars approved by the Council plus such other duties as may be specifically authorised by resolution of any Committee.

- (c) Special Responsibility Allowance - Payments be on the following basis and that Schedule 1 of the scheme be amended accordingly.

Leader of the Council	£6,000
Deputy Leader of the Majority Group	£1,750
Principal Committee Chairman (6)	£2,000
Strategy & Policy Committee	“
Education Transition Committee	“
Leisure Services Committee	“
Public and Environmental Services Committee	“
Social Services Transition and Housing Committee	“
Planning and Transportation Committee	“
Sub Committee Chairman	£1,500
Housing Sub Committee	“
Social Services Transition Sub Committee	“
Highways Sub Committee	“
Planning Control Sub Committee	“
Finance & Property Sub Committee	“
Personnel Sub Committee	“
All Vice Chairmen above	£250
Chairmen of non Principal Committees as follows:-	£250
Access Committee	“
Direct Services Board	“
Audit Performance & Scrutiny Committee	“
Education Quality Assurance Sub Committee	“
Education Budget Sub Committee	“
Hackney Carriage Sub Committee	“
Town Centre Sub Committee	“
Christmas Festivities and Millennium Sub Committee	“
Leader of Principal Opposition Group	£2,000
Deputy Leader of Principal Opposition Group	£1,500

- (ii) the Officers investigate an equitable way of reviewing the overall Members Allowances for the year commencing 1 April 1998 and report back to the Strategy & Policy Committee.

**55. Appointment Of Representatives To BCC Committees. (Item 3)**

The Chief Executive advised the Committee that the Berkshire County Council had invited the Borough and District Councils to nominate members to attend meetings of the County Service Committees and Sub Committees concerned with transition. The Chief Executive further suggested that, in accordance with past practice, it would be appropriate for each main service policy committee, transition sub committees and the Strategy & Policy Committee to co-opt one local county councillor as a non-voting member during the shadow year.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) The following members be authorised to attend meetings of the County Committee and Sub Committees as indicated:

County Transition Committee	Councillor Bettison
Assets Sub Committee	Councillor Bettison
Personnel Sub Committee	Councillor Sargeant
Education Committee	Councillor Ward

Social Service Committee	Councillor Angell
Public Protection Committee	Councillor Egan
Environment Committee	Councillor Mills
Community Services Committee	Councillor North
European and Regional Affairs Committee	Councillor Mrs Ballin
Planning Committee	Councillor Mrs Ballin
Performance Review and Audit Committee	Councillor Birch
Superannuation Fund Investment Committee	Councillor Sargeant

- (ii) Each Main Service Policy Committee, the Strategy & Policy Committee, the two Education Sub Committees and the Social Services Sub Committee be authorised to co-opt one local County Councillor to serve as a non-voting member thereon for the shadow year and that the Education Consultation Panel be authorised to co-opt three local County Councillors to serve as non-voting members thereon during the shadow year.

**56. Community Forum For Birch Hill, Hanworth And Great Hollands. (Item 4)**

The Borough Administrator advised the Committee that the appointment of representatives to serve on the community forum for Birch Hill, Hanworth and Great Hollands had been deferred by the Annual Council meeting for further consideration by the Committee. The Committee were provided with further information relating to the setting up of the community forum and noted that, whilst the original constitution had been agreed in principle, it had never been formally opted.

**RESOLVED** that Mrs J Angell, Mrs D Henfrey and Mr M Wallace be appointed to serve on the community forum for Birch Hill, Hanworth and Great Hollands as the Council's representatives for the current Municipal Year

**57. Binfield Library. (Item 5)**

The Committee were advised of the background relating to the Council's support and financial commitment for a project to provide a new library in Binfield by the County Council.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the Committee confirm the resolution of the Policy & Resources Urgency Sub Committee of 3 December 1996 to support a financial contribution of £500,000 towards the Binfield library project;
- (ii) Unresolved issues regarding the project be reported to the Leisure Committee for consideration and that the final details of the scheme be reported to the Strategy & Policy Committee for ratification;
- (iii) A Focus Group be established to develop and consider all aspects of the project and that Councillors Harrison, Mills and North together with two other members and appropriate officers and members of the County Council be appointed to serve thereon.

**58. Berkshire County Council's Statutory Transfer Orders. (Item 6)**

The Borough Personnel Manager submitted a summary of preliminary listings identifying the category of County Council staff to be transferred to the Borough Council on vesting day in 1998.

**RESOLVED** that the Berkshire County Council Statutory Transfer Order list be approved and that the Borough Personnel Manager be authorised to approve amendments there to in consultation with the Chairman of the Personnel Sub Committee.

59. **Exclusion Of Public And Press. (Item 7)**

**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 tabled item and items 8 and 9 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following categories of Schedule 12A of that act.

- (1) Information relating to employees of the Council (Items 8 & 9)
- (9) Terms to be proposed for a contract for acquisition of property (Tabled item)

60. **Office Accommodation (Tabled Item)**

*The Chairman had previously agreed that this item should be submitted to the Committee on grounds of urgency in view of the pressing need to acquire suitable office accommodation for the unitary authority having regard to prevailing condition in the property market.*

In a report containing exempt information the Committee were advised of the outcome of negotiation which had taken place in relation to the acquisition by the Council of a suitable office building in Bracknell town centre. The Committee further received a detailed financial appraisal by the Borough Finance Officer setting out the capital and revenue financial implications, and the timetable for completion of the purchase required by the vendors.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) The Committee confirms the offer of £15m for the unencumbered freehold interest in the building concerned in its existing condition subject to a satisfactory survey;
- (ii) A survey of the building be commenced immediately and an interim report be prepared within the timescale set out; and
- (iii) Subject to the interim survey report being satisfactory the officers be instructed to proceed with exchange and completion of the transaction.

61. **Detailed Structures. (Item 8)**

In a report containing exempt information the Committee received a summary of the process and outcome of the development of draft detailed structures for the unitary authority together with benchmark costings for the draft structures proposed.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) approval in principal be given to the detailed structures submitted as a basis for consultation of interested parties subject to the following adjustments:-
  - (a) All landscape and grass cutting to be dealt with by public and environmental services.
  - (b) Community Centres to remain as a leisure services function dealt with at arms length as at present;
- (ii) officers be requested to report back to the next special meeting of the Committee on 25 June with the results of the consultation exercise;
- (iii) Further detailed costings be reported to the next meeting; and
- (iv) the Resource Analysis Focus Group be requested to consider the definition of posts identified as new and posts which will not be filled at this stage.

62. **Unitary 98: Remuneration For Preparation Work (Item 9)**

The Committee noted that the agreed scheme of remuneration for Borough employees engaged on preparational work for the new authority had expired on 30 April 1997.

**RESOLVED** that pending new officers taking up their posts, the flat rate salary supplement of 10% continue from 1 May 1997 for Chief Executive, Chief Officers and appropriate lead officers subject to the list being monitored by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

The meeting commenced at 7.50pm  
and concluded at 10.25pm.

**CHAIRMAN**