

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on 3RD NOVEMBER, 2000.

PRESENT: Mrs CA Soden (Chairman), Mr BE Atfield, Dr P Biggs, Mr RG Catton, Mrs C Crisp, Mr PR Davis, Mrs MEM Groom, Mr J Hawkins, Mr H Head, Mrs G Hill, Mr CP Humphries, Mr D Lay, Mr C Newbury, Mr AJ Madgett, Mrs DJ Main, Mr AG Peach, Mrs JBP Savage, Mrs JA Scott and Mrs MSN Taylor.

Mr IC West also attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 26.

The following minutes are not within this Committee's delegated powers and have been referred to the following:

| <u>Minute No.</u> | <u>Committee/Sub-Committee</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| 87(4) & 95(a) | Policy & Resources Committee |
| 92 | Corporate Services Sub-Committee |

83. **Membership** The Director of Corporate Services reported the membership of the Committee incorporating any changes since the previous meeting.

84. **Apologies** Apologies for absence were received from Mr G Bright, Mr R Nethercott, Canon L O'Driscoll and Mrs P Rugg.

85. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 28th September 2000.

86. **Chairman's Announcements**

(1) **PFI Project** The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Private Finance Initiative contract with White Horse Partnership had now been signed, securing the building of Abbeyfield School, Chippenham, and the rebuilding of Malmesbury and Wootton Bassett Schools. The news was welcomed as providing outstanding opportunities for pupils and teachers in Wiltshire that would be brought about by one of the largest school PFI contracts yet signed. The Chairman also thanked all the officers concerned for their extensive efforts in bringing this matter to a successful conclusion.

(2) **Wiltshire College** The Chairman was pleased to welcome the establishment of Wiltshire College from 1st November, resulting from the merger of Chippenham, Lackham and Trowbridge Colleges, and the Committee wished every success to its staff and students in the future.

- (3) Lifelong Learning Seminar The Chairman reminded members that the seminar on Lifelong Learning, postponed from September 28th, would now take place on 13th November, 2000.

87. **Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy and Action Plan - Progress Report** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To endorse the draft ICT Strategy attached as Appendix 1 to the report.*
- (2) *To endorse the action plan as outlined in Appendix 2 to the report and to note the budgetary impact.*
- (3) *To continue with the roll out of the schools e-mail project as outlined in the action plan (with an outturn of £187,000).*
- (4) *To seek the endorsement of the Policy and Resources Committee for the above decisions taking into account the budgetary and OFSTED implications.*

88. **Revenue Budget**

- (a) **Budget Monitoring Statement Revenue Budget 2000/2001** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the report.*
- (2) *To receive further reports and to continue to monitor spending carefully at future meetings.*

- (b) **Revenue Budget Monitoring Report on Overspending within the 1999/2000 Revenue Budget and Effects in 2000/01** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer including an internal audit report,

Resolved:

- (1) *To receive the results of the review of the overspending on certain activities in 1999/00 as detailed in the Management Summary of the Internal Audit Report attached as an Appendix to the report.*
- (2) *To note the contextual information on the New Framework legislation taking effect in April 1999; successful development in Wiltshire of full cost "internal trading" arrangements and their consonance with DfEE, OFSTED and Best Value requirements.*
- (3) *To note action already taken to avoid a recurrence of such budgetary difficulties.*

- (4) *To support the further improvements, as set out in paragraphs 11-14 of the report, which would be discussed, and if possible, negotiated with central departments, particularly to ensure that budgetary commitments are clear at the start of the financial year.*

89. **Budget Monitoring Report Capital Expenditure 2000-2001** On receiving a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the report.*

90. **Specialist Schools Supplementary Credit Approval** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To approve a supplementary capital estimate of £100,000 for The John Bentley School, Calne.*

91. **Trowbridge Paxcroft Mead New Primary School Designated Area** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To approve the transfer of the 7 dwellings at the eastern end of Hilperton Road, from the catchment area of Hilperton CE Primary School to the catchment area of the new primary school as shown on the map at Appendix 2 to the report.*
- (2) *To approve the transfer of Lavender Close, Magnolia Rise, Jasmine Way, Honeysuckle Close and Broadcloth Lane (East) from the catchment area of Paxcroft Primary School to the catchment area of Longmeadow Primary School, as shown on the map at Appendix 3a to the report, at such time as the building between West Ashton Road and Longmeadow School is completed.*
- (3) *To approve the inclusion of the area of the Paxcroft Mead development shown at Appendix 3b to the report, within the catchment area for Paxcroft Primary School;*
- (4) *To adopt, in principle, the designated area of the new Paxcroft Mead primary school as that area shown on the map attached at Appendix 4 to the report subject to the determination of the exact boundary once actual road layouts are known. It is a well-defined geographical area, which should encourage the new school to be seen as being at the heart of the new housing area.*

92. **Staverton School** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To recommend the Corporate Services Sub-Committee:*

- (1) *To approve the acceptance of the land and the capital contribution as part of the Terms of a Section 106 Agreement;*
- (2) *To approve the entering into of a Management Agreement with Staverton Parish Council; and,*
- (3) *To approve the granting of a Lease for 99 years to Staverton Parish Council.*

93. **Secondary School Perceptions of the Performance of the Local Education Authority** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the contents of the report, particularly in relation to:*

- *the determination of the Department's priorities for work.*
- *the allocation of resources to the Department and within it.*
- *relationships between the Department and Wiltshire Secondary Schools.*
- *the performance of looked after children.*

94. **School Standards and Framework Act 1998: Exclusion and Admission Appeals**
On report,

Resolved: *To note the following Appeal Panel decisions:*

| <i>School</i> | <i>Appeal</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Decision</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>St Mark's CE Junior</i> | <i>Admission</i> | <i>6th September 2000</i> | <i>Dismissed</i> |
| <i>Queens Crescent</i> | <i>Admission</i> | <i>12th September 2000</i> | <i>Allowed</i> |
| <i>The George Ward</i> | <i>Exclusion</i> | <i>18th September 2000</i> | <i>Allowed</i> |
| <i>Christ Church CE</i> | <i>3 Admissions</i> | <i>22nd September 2000</i> | <i>2 Allowed</i> <i>1 Dismissed</i> |
| <i>Wyvern College</i> | <i>Exclusion</i> | <i>6th October 2000</i> | <i>Dismissed</i> |

95. **Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties**

(a) Community Services Sub Committee

Resolved: *To receive the minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 22nd September 2000.*

On considering the following recommendation from the Sub Committee:

The Wiltshire Library Plan 2000

To request the Education Committee to recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee that an additional £300,000 be added to the Library Service's stockfund in 2001/2002 to meet the Sub-Committee's highest priority and the National Library Standard.

Resolved: *To approve the recommendation detailed above.*

(b) Three Tier Review Working Party

Resolved: *To receive the minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting held on 11th October, 2000.*

(c) Education and Social Services Scrutiny Sub Committee

Resolved: *To defer receipt of the minutes of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 26th October as they had not yet been published.*

96. **Urgent Items** The Chairman was of the opinion that the following item should be considered as a matter of urgency as details were received after the circulation of the agenda and it was important to inform the Committee of the adjudicator's decision at the earliest opportunity.

Application by Coombe Bissett CE VC First School for a Change in Age Range

On receiving a letter from the Office of the Schools Adjudicator stating that the adjudicator had approved the application by Coombe Bissett CE VC First School for a change in age range,

Resolved: To ask the Chief Education Officer to send a letter on behalf of the Committee expressing the Committee's continuing support for all schools affected by the Three Tier Review worded as follows:

“Dear Colleague

The Education Committee received a letter from the Schools Adjudicator regarding Coombe Bissett (which I understand you have also received) at its meeting of 3 November.

Members debated the implications of this letter briefly but they recognised that it would be fully discussed at the meeting of the Three Tier Review Working Party on 15 November.

Attention was drawn to the unsettling effects of the debate on this issue and members wanted to confirm their continuing support for the work of all the schools affected during this period of uncertainty.”

(Duration of meeting: 10.30am - 12.10pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Lee Gallagher, of the Committee Services Unit, direct line (01225) 713058.

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115.

11/03