

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a MEETING held at COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE on FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2000.

PRESENT: Mrs CA Soden (Chairman), Mr RJ Baddeley, Mrs LCS Bennett, Dr P Biggs, Mr RG Catton, Mr PCB Coleman, Mrs ME Groom, Mr J Hawkins, Mr H Head, Mrs G Hill, LT Col DBW Jarvis, Mr D Lay, Mr J Mackey, Mr AJ Madgett, Mrs DJ Main, Canon L O'Driscoll, Mr AG Peach, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs JBP Savage, Mrs J Scott, Mrs SL Singleton, Mr JE Syme, Lt Col P Tarrant, Mrs MSN Taylor and Mrs I Throp

Mr PG Allnatt, Mr PR Davis and Mrs JH Seager also attended the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 26.

The following decisions are not within the Committee's delegated powers and are recommendations to:

Policy & Resources Committee - Minute Numbers 105(4), 109(4), 111(5) and (6), 120(3)
Corporate Services Sub-Committee – Minute Numbers 117 and 127(1)
County Council – Minute Number 118(1)

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

It was noted that the following Parent Governor Representatives had now been appointed to the Committee:

Mr J Mackey – Special Education Needs Representative
Mrs S L Singleton – Representative for Primary Schools in North and West Wiltshire.

103. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved: To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2000.

104. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman expressed her thanks to the following:

(1) Steven Corbett

Mr Steven Corbett, Head of the Pupil and Student Services Branch in the Education and Libraries Department who is taking early retirement. Mr Corbett has given many years of service to the Department.

(2) Henry Head

Mr Head for his many years of service as the Diocesan Director of Education for the Salisbury Diocese. Mr Head is retiring later this month from this post.

(3) Lt. Col. Tarrant

Colonel Tarrant for his service as army representative on the Committee for the past two years.

(4) Mrs Jacqui Ikin

Mrs Ikin from the School Improvement and Support Branch who retires at the end of January after ten years service as a General Primary School Advisor.

Bureaucratic Burdens

The Chairman reported that the promised report on the bureaucratic burdens on Headteachers, Governors and Administrative Officers would be brought forward to a meeting of the Committee in due course.

Learning and Skills Council of Wiltshire and Swindon

The Chairman congratulated Mr Peter Chalke, Leader of the County Council, and Mrs Jane Scott, Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, together with Mr George Bright, Principal of Wiltshire College and a co-opted member of the Committee, on their appointment to the Learning and Skills Council of Wiltshire and Swindon.

105. **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 action plan as outlined in Appendix 1 of the report and to note the budgetary impact.*
- (2) *To proceed with the DataEase conversion in this financial year with as minimal an effect on the budget as possible.*
- (3) *To request the Chief Education Officer to include the effect of the above decision in the budget report to the Committee in February.*
- (4) *To ask the Policy and Resources Committee to note the above decisions.*

106. **Budget Monitoring Statement 2000/01** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

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

107. **Write off of Uncollected Debts** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the report.*

108. **Budget Monitoring Report Capital Expenditure 2000-01** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the report.*

109. **Capital Programme 2001/2002** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the report.*
- (2) *To welcome corporate developments in the approach to planning and providing buildings for use by school pupils, young people and the public.*
- (3) *To consult on the following options for providing further secondary school places in West Wiltshire:*
 - (a) *Local public/private partnership hybrid in aided category.*
 - (b) *Traditionally financed school in aided category.*
 - (c) *An incremental approach involving the expansion of a number of existing schools.*
- (4) *To request the Policy & Resources Committee to agree to apply as much as is necessary of any receipt arising from the Hardenhuish School land sale proposal to the proposed King's Lodge School extension; and to ask the Director of Environmental Services, County Treasurer and Solicitor to the Council to report to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on any developments in the proposed Hardenhuish land sale.*
- (5) *To authorise the Chief Education Officer to submit a targeted funding bid after consulting with the Group Spokesmen.*

- (6) *To endorse the indicative programmes suggested for primary and secondary school basic need set out in Tables 2 and 4 of the report; to approve the priority list of capital projects for 2001/02 (attached as an appendix to these minutes) and later years for submission to the Policy and Resources Committee.*

(Note: Mr PCB Coleman declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to the provision of services for children with autism/SEN. Mr Coleman remained in the chamber and spoke and voted on this item.)

110. The Standards Fund 2001-02 On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the activities to be supported by the DfEE from the Standards Fund in 2000/2001 and the bids submitted.*
- (2) *To ask the Chief Education Officer to report to the February meeting of the Committee giving details of the final allocations which have been received from the DfEE.*

111. Revenue Budget 2001/2002 On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the current position regarding the budget for 2001-2002, and register the Committee's concern to the Policy and Resources Committee that, despite the overall increase in Standard Spending Assessment and in specific grants, the funds available are insufficient to meet all of the Government's targets, (the current identified shortfall is £2,580,000), without seriously reducing the Department's capacity to fulfil its functions, particularly in a year when it will be inspected.*
- (2) *To ask officers to continue their dialogue with schools on those issues where further decision and clarification are required, particularly in relation to the take-up of Standards Fund, relative funding for different age groups and increased delegation.*
- (3) *To request a further report at the February meeting that takes account of budgetary developments and negotiations.*
- (4) *To note the budgetary difficulties created by factors beyond the Committee's control, especially the pressure resulting from the loss of adult education funding from the Standard Spending Assessment (a net loss of £600,000) and from the need to provide places for additional pupils and new schools (£1,500,000).*
- (5) *To draw the attention of the Policy and Resources Committee to the continuing and exceptional demands faced by the Education Committee.*

- (6) *To note the particular problems faced by Wiltshire in relation to other authorities. In particular, at a time when government has indicated its intention to “level up” funding, its continuing disadvantage from Area Cost Adjustment is particularly regretted, and to ask the Policy and Resources Committee to pursue this matter with Central Government.*

112. Education Development Plan 2000/01: Monitoring and Interim Evaluation Report On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the contents of the report.*
- (2) *To endorse the emerging priorities for 2001/02, subject to consultation with headteachers, governors, teachers and the dioceses.*
- (3) *To request that a presentation of the draft Education Development Plan for 2001/02 be made at the meeting of the Committee in March.*
- (4) *To request a report on implementation of the current Education Development Plan at the June 2001 meeting of the Committee.*

113. Implications of the MacPherson Report On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To ask all Wiltshire Schools to present final figures for test and examination results according to ethnic grouping by February 2001.*
- (2) *To ask all Wiltshire schools to report on the number of racist incidents logged between 1 September 2000 and 25 July 2001.*
- (3) *To ask all schools to use the Commission for Racial Equality’s Framework “Learning for All” as part of their self-evaluation process.*
- (4) *To agree that all members of the County Council be invited to attend the seminar to be organised for officers in the Education and Libraries Department on The Parekh Report, The Race Relations (Amendment) Act, The Human Rights Act 1998 and the Commission for Racial Equality’s Framework “Learning for All”.*
- (5) *To agree that attendance at the above seminar be an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.*

114. Services to Schools: A Report on the Work of the School Services Board On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To note the high levels of support from Wiltshire Schools for the Maintenance of a broad range of County Council services and the work of the School Services Board.*
- (2) *To note the results of the review of Wiltshire County Council services by the School Services Board and endorse the conclusions reached.*
- (3) *To introduce discounted two year contracts for services whilst maintaining the present option of one year contracts.*
- (4) *To include the new services recommended by the Schools Services Board.*
- (5) *To endorse the maintenance and development plans of the School Services Board for 2001.*
- (6) *To request a report in the summer term 2001 on the level of purchase secured by County Council services and their resultant viability.*

115. **Recruitment of Headteachers** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the contents of the report, and to seek a further report on the situation, and initiatives to address it, in June 2001.*

116. **SACRE Annual Report to Education Committee 2000** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved: *To note the report.*

117. **Stonehenge School, Amesbury: Playing Field and Access Road (Holders Road)** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

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

- (1) *To agree that Gleasons Ltd should have access to Holders Road for the purpose of carrying out repairs.*
- (2) *To agree that the land comprising the road required to be improved by the highway authority be appropriated to the Environmental Services Department upon completion of the road improvement works to the satisfaction of the Director of Environmental Services.*
- (3) *To approve in principle a lease of playing fields at Holders Road as shown on the map attached as Appendix B to the report to Amesbury Town Council for a period not exceeding 20 years on terms to be agreed by the Director of Environmental Services, the Solicitor to the County Council, and the Chief Education Officer.*

118. **Asbestos Materials in School Buildings** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To recommend County Council:*
 - (i) *To agree that the current programme of monitoring and containing the asbestos situation in Wiltshire Schools in accordance with health and safety legislation and guidelines should continue.*
 - (ii) *To note that best value would not be achieved by the adoption of a general policy of pro-active asbestos replacement.*
- (2) *To request that a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee giving details of the schools affected by asbestos and of the health and safety regulations relating to asbestos in buildings.*

119. **Westbury: Retention of a single Mobile Classroom Without Toilets at Westbury Leigh CE Controlled Primary School, School Lane** On considering a report by the Director of Environmental Services which was considered by the Environmental Services Sub-Committee at its meeting held on 8th November 2000 where it was resolved:

“ To express the Sub-Committee’s concerns at the lack of toilet facilities to the Education Committee”.

Resolved: *To note that a bid for extra permanent accommodation at Westbury Leigh CE Primary School is included in the list of capital programme bids to be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee and that the current situation at the school is a temporary one.*

120. **Integrating Education & Libraries Services and Children and Families Services** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer and the Director of Social Services,

Resolved:

- (1) *To approve in principle the integration of the Education and Libraries Service with the Children and Families Division of Social Services.*
- (2) *To ask officers to prepare detailed proposals for consideration by the Education and Social Services Committees.*
- (3) *To ask the Policy and Resources Committee to note the decisions taken on this matter by the Education and Social Services Committees.*

121. **William “Doc” Couch Trust** On considering a report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) *To thank the executors of the donor’s estate for such a generous endowment.*
- (2) *To ask that members of the Awards Sub Committee and the County Council make application to the Charity Commission for a Scheme to appoint the County Council as trustee of the William “Doc” Couch Trust.*
- (3) *To request that a further report dealing with the arrangements for managing and administering the Trust be brought forward upon completion of the scheme.*
- (4) *To request that a report be brought to the Policy and Resources and Education Committees on future arrangements for the administration of County Trust Funds generally.*

122. **Partnership Board for Wiltshire and Swindon Connexions** On considering an invitation from the Partnership Board requesting the Committee to nominate a member to serve on the board.

Resolved: *To nominate Mrs C A Soden to serve on the Partnership Board.*

123. **Members Allowances** On report,

- (1) Three Tier Working Party Consultations

Resolved: *To approve members’ participation in the forthcoming consultations to be held with interested parties as an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.*

- (2) LGA meeting in the Regions

Resolved:

- (a) *To nominate the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and the three Group Spokesmen to attend the LGA meeting in the Regions to be held at County Hall on 5th February 2001.*
- (b) *To agree that attendance at the meeting be an approved duty for the purpose of claiming attendance, travelling and subsistence allowances.*

124. **Schools Standards Framework Act 1998: Exclusion and Admission Appeals** On report,

Resolved: *To note the decisions of the Appeal Panels set out on the Agenda paper.*

125. **Reports of Sub-Committees and Working Parties** On report,

Resolved:

To receive the minutes of the following Sub-Committees and Working Parties:

<i>Scrutiny Sub-Committee</i>	<i>26th October 2000</i>
<i>Awards Sub-Committee</i>	<i>10th November 2000</i>
<i>Governors' Appointments Sub-Committee</i>	<i>10th November 2000</i>
<i>Three Tier Review Working Party</i>	<i>15th November 2000</i>

The Committee considered the following recommendation from the Joint Children's Working Party meeting held on 15th November 2000:

“To recommend the Education Committee to appoint Mrs JBP Savage to represent the County Council on the Strategic Planning and Monitoring Board of the Young People's Support Service”.

Resolved: *To approve the appointment of Mrs JBP Savage to the Strategic Planning and Monitoring Board of the Young People's Support Service.*

126. **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved: *To agree, in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in minute number 127 below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 9 and 12 of Part 1 of schedule 12A to the Act.*

127. **Site for a Primary School at Cepen Park North, Chippenham** The Committee agreed that this matter should be considered as an urgent item because the issue had been raised at a meeting held after the agenda had been circulated and a decision was required before the next meeting of the Committee. On considering a confidential report by the Chief Education Officer,

Resolved:

- (1) To ask the Corporate Services Sub Committee to request officers to pursue the proposed conditional contract and to resolve the issues highlighted in the report as far as possible.*
- (2) To request officers to bring back a further report to the next meeting of the Committee, with a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee if necessary.*

(Note: Mr PG Allnatt declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a member of Chippenham Town and North Wiltshire District Councils. Mr Allnatt remained in the Chamber during the debate and spoke on this item.)

(Duration of meeting: 10.30. a.m. - 1. 15 p.m.)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Marie Todd, of the Committee Services Unit, direct line (01225) 713011.

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