

C REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS

The Scheme of Delegation to Schools

- 1 The scheme of delegation to schools has been amended to ensure that from 1 April, 85% of the Local Schools Budgets in Buckinghamshire is delegated to schools. This is an increase from 80.5% in the current year, and will ensure that we achieve the target for delegation set by the DfEE.
- 2 In order to achieve the 85%, the following budget items have been delegated to schools in 2001/02:
 - ◆ Third party liability and buildings insurance
 - ◆ Free schools meals (primary schools only – already delegated to secondary and special schools)
 - ◆ Maternity leave cover
 - ◆ Electrical testing and fire extinguishers
 - ◆ Lettings and swimming programme administration
- 3 In addition, some budgets previously held centrally for special educational needs have been delegated to schools. They include funding to support pupil's moderate or specific learning difficulties in mainstream schools.
- 4 The DfEE is likely to require further increases in delegation, to 87% in 2002/03 and 90% in 2003/04.

Meadowcroft Infant and Junior Schools, Aylesbury

- 5 Meadowcroft Infant and Junior Schools, Aylesbury, combined on 1 January 2001 as The Thomas Hickman School.

The Future of Grammar Schools in Buckinghamshire

- 6 To date we have no further news about the ballot on the future of grammar schools in Buckinghamshire.

Performance Management in Schools

- 7 The new system of Performance Management in Schools has now been resumed. It was briefly delayed last year as a result of a judicial review.

Buckinghamshire Education Business Partnership

- 8 The Education Business Partnerships (EBPs) in Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern/South Bucks and Wycombe have combined to form a single Buckinghamshire Education Business Partnership.
- 9 The new EBP, which will continue to operate from its existing three offices, was awarded accreditation by the National EBP Network in January.
- 10 One of the reasons for the merger was to prepare our EBP to link up with the new Education Business Link Organisation for Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. This will be a company jointly owned by the three Councils concerned which will contract with the local Learning and Skills Council for funding to support the EBP.

Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

- 11 The new Buckinghamshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education was formally presented to the LEA by my colleague Mr Graves, the Chairman of the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education) on 4 April.

The Hatters Lane School

- 12 The Hatter Lane school will close on 31 August 2001, to reopen as a Fresh Start School, with the new name of Highcrest Community School, on 1 September 2001.

Oak Green School

- 13 On 1 September 2001, Oak Green School will be enlarged and take in Southcourt Infant and Beech Green Nursery Schools, both of which will close.

Learning and Skills Council

- 14 The Learning and Skills Council for Milton Keynes, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire took on its responsibilities officially from 1 April 2001. In the short term this chiefly affects further education and continuing education, but in the longer term there will be implications for the funding of post-16 education in secondary schools.

MIKE APPLEYARD
CABINET MEMBER, SCHOOLS