



## **Neighbourhood Nursery Update Local Committee for Woking 15 October 2002**

### **KEY ISSUE:**

To inform the Committee about the progress of the Neighbourhood Nursery in the Sheerwater and Maybury area.

### **SUMMARY:**

It is expected that the Neighbourhood Nursery will cost under £600,000 to build. Approximately £150,000 has already been identified, and this means that £350,000 more is needed.

Between £15,000 and £100,000 may be available from the Department for Education and Skills after the review of Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative projects is completed. Officers will be meeting with the nursery providers in early October to find out if they will be able to raise the additional funds.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None – this report is for information

## Introduction and Background

1. The Neighbourhood Nursery is an initiative of the National Childcare Strategy and is to be located in the wards with the highest indices of deprivation by 2004. In Woking, the Sheerwater and Maybury area was identified as the most appropriate.
2. Possible locations for the projects were discussed by the Woking 'Shadow' Local Committee on 21 January 2002. The Committee felt that, if feasible, the best location would be somewhere on the site used by Broadmere and Bishop David Brown Schools, with the Sheerwater Community Centre as second choice. After further exploration of the feasibility, space and cost of the possible sites, the community centre site looked more viable.

## Analysis and Commentary

### The Current Situation

3. With the assistance of the childcare providers, Woking Borough Council produced a plan for a 100-place nursery at the Sheerwater Community Centre site. The cost of this nursery was over £700,000.
4. After further consultations with the childcare providers,, the plans were altered and it is proposed that the building will be made of a wooden structure with brick cladding. This means that the building costs are now under £600,000. So there is still a shortfall in finances of about £350,000.
5. Officers are examining ways of raising the extra £350,000. Between £15,000 and £100,000 may be available after the Department of Education and Skills has reviewed all the Neighbourhood Nursery Initiative projects. Other funds may be available from the childcare providers. Officers will be consulting them in early October to find out if they are still interested in the project and able to raise the additional capital.
6. It is expected that the amount of available funds will be known by the 22 October when the Neighbourhood Nursery Selection panel meet to choose a Childcare Provider.

**Report by: John Alywine-Mosely, Business Support Advisor, Early Years and Childcare Service and Anita Kim, Local Support Officer for Woking.**

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	<b>Item 2 – Sheerwater/Maybury Neighbourhood Nursery, Woking Local Shadow Committee, 21 January 2002.</b>

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