

**To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers**

**From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT**

Ask for Ron Coxall
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**CABINET
20 NOVEMBER 2000**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

D A Ashley, D Beatty, R J M Ellis (Chairman), K F Emsall, G D Game,
M H T Janes, J M Pitman, J E Price, A M R Searing, I E M Tarry

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 20 November 2000 as circulated, copy annexed, action was taken or decisions were reached on individual items as recorded below:

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 October 2000 were confirmed as a correct record.

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE - GREEN PAPER

Agreed the following proposal to the Executive Committee at 2.15 p.m. for decision:

That the response to the Green Paper be agreed, as set out in the Appendix to the report, subject to the amendments on the attached sheet, and that this be submitted to the DETR by the consultation deadline of 8 December 2000; with the proviso that, should any further amendments or additional comments be required once the consultation with schools is concluded, the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Executive Member (D Beatty) and the Lead Members of the Resources Select Committee (D E Lloyd, I H Laidlaw-Dickson and P V Goggins), be authorised to make the final response.

2. REVIEW OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Agreed the following proposal to the Executive Committee at 2.15 p.m. for decision:

That the policy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved for distribution to schools and other stakeholders by the beginning of the Spring Term 2001, subject to the retention of the paragraph on page 1 which is shown as deleted, and to clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the County Council's new Children, Schools and Families and Adult Care Services in relation to the policy.

3. MEMBERS ALLOWANCES - REGIONAL & NATIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION BODIES

Agreed the following proposal to the Executive Committee at 2.15 p.m. for decision:

That the Members Allowances Scheme be amended to extend the entitlement to claim Travelling & Subsistence Allowance to all LGA bodies (both regional and national) whether the member is appointed by the Council or through a regional or national political process; expenditure where the member is appointed through the regional or national political process to be charged to, and contained within, the members conferences budget which is allocated between the groups.

4. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND IT FACILITIES, MANAGEMENT AND PC SUPPORT - BEST VALUE REVIEW

Agreed the following proposal to the Executive Committee at 2.15 p.m. for decision:

That the recommendations of the Member Review Panel be adopted, as set out in Section 3 of the report and in accordance with the timetable set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

5. REVIEW OF TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Agreed the following proposal for consideration by the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee on 25 January 2001:

That the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2001/02, as set out in the report, be agreed.

6. BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME

Agreed the following proposal for consideration by all Select Committees in January 2001:

That the timetable for Best Value Reviews in 2001/2002, as set out in the report, be agreed, and that progress in implementing agreed Best Value reviews be reported quarterly to the Cabinet.

7. EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2001/2002

Agreed the following proposal for consideration by the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee on 24 January 2001:

That the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee consider the draft plan and the outcome of consultation and revisions to future targets, and make comments to the Cabinet on 29 January, in order that a final draft plan can be put to full Council on 15 February 2001 for approval.

8. PENSION FUND ISSUES

Agreed the following proposal for action by the Investment Panel:

That, in January 2001, one or more pensions providers be invited to tender to administer AVCs and stakeholder pensions for the Hertfordshire Pension Fund, with the selection process being overseen by the Investment Panel, and that the outcome be reported back to Cabinet, thence the Executive Committee for a final decision.

9. A COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE

Agreed proposal for consideration by the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee on 25 January 2001:-

That the approach to community planning, as set out in Section 3 of the report, be agreed.

Andrew Laycock
County Secretary

**CABINET SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO ITEM 1 - COUNTY COUNCIL
RESPONSE TO GREEN PAPER****Section A - General Principles**

Amend last sentence to read:-

“These could be addressed by increasing the total amount of Government support and returning business rates fully to their local area.”

Section B - Revenue Grant Distribution System - Method of Grant Distribution

That an additional paragraph be added under Section B, Method of Grant Distribution:

“However, if the ACA is reduced the Government must accept responsibility for any resulting service reductions or higher Council tax increases. The Government must also ensure that the South East is represented at any future discussions about ACA or the issue of higher costs in particular geographic areas.”

Section D - Taxes and Charges**Council Tax Collection**

Delete this paragraph and substitute the following in its place:-

“The Council recognises the benefits to Council Tax payers which should result from the reduced cost of collecting Council Tax across a wider geographic area.”

Business Rate

Add to end of first sentence:-

“ and will enter into discussions with them to explore ways of making this happen, including consideration of a Business Forum.”

In the second paragraph, amend the first sentence to read:-

“The Council believes strongly that the total level of business rates in Hertfordshire should be returned to the County to fund local services.”