

To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers

From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT

Ask for David Roberts
Ext. 25562
Minicom 26611
My Ref. DR/
Your Ref.

CABINET
22 MARCH 2002

MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

D A Ashley, D Beatty, R J M Ellis (Chairman), G D Game, R I N Gordon, M H T Janes, D B Lloyd, D E Lloyd, J M Pitman, I E M Tarry.

Other Members present:

M V Bayes, D E Billing, N K Brook, D W Hills, T G M Kent, R Mays, R Mills, P A Ruffles, and I Simpson.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 22 March 2002 as circulated, copy annexed, executive decisions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet in relation to the matters on which decisions were made at this meeting and set out below.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet held on 11 February 2002 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON ADMISSION RULES FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED NURSERY, INFANT, JUNIOR AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

(Forward Plan Ref. A037/02)

Decision

Council be recommended:

That the Council adopts the following rules on the basis of the recent statutory consultation :-

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove that they have a particular medical or social reason why they must go to the school

Rule 3: Children who attend the linked infant school at the time of application.

Rule 4: Children who have a brother or sister on the roll of the school, or linked school

Reasons for the decision

To make proposals for possible admission rules for the academic year beginning September 2003.

Statutory consultation had been undertaken involved proposals to change two existing rules and introduce an admissions process for children entering junior schools as required by the Rotherham Judgement.

The proposed rule changes were generally supported by the responses to the consultation process.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

3. REVIEW OF ADMISSIONS RULES FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS 2003/2004

(Forward Plan Ref. A034/02)

Decision

Council be recommended:

1. That the principle of priority areas for single-sex and co-educational community schools comprising defined parishes and towns be agreed.

2. That the rules for single-sex community schools be agreed as follows:

Rule 1: Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school

Rule 2: Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school

Rule 3: Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application

Rule 4: Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, having regard to the wishes of the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.

Rule 5 : Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule to apply to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA having regard to the wishes of their Governing Bodies

Rule 6: Children who live in the priority area. Places will be allocated to each parish or town in proportion to the number of applications made. In the event of there being more applications than places available to a particular parish or town, places will be allocated in the following order:-

- (i) to those who would have to travel further to another non-faith maintained school than the one applied for.
- (ii) to those living closest to the school

Rule 7: Children living outside the priority area who live closest to the school.

3. That the priority areas for St Albans Girls and Verulam Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Aldenham	Kimpton	Sandridge	St Michael
Colney Heath	London Colney	Shenley	St Stephen
Harpenden	Redbourn	St Albans	Wheathampstead

4. That the priority areas for Hitchin Boys and Hitchin Girls Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Baldock	Holwell	Letchworth	St Ippolyts
Codicote	Ickleford	Lilley	St Pauls
Graveley	King's Walden	Offley	Walden
Hexton	Knebworth	Pirton	Weston
Hitchin	Langley	Preston	Wymondley

5. That the priority area for Hatfield Girls School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Hatfield	North Mymms	Welwyn	Welwyn Garden City
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6. That the priority area for Presdales School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Aspenden	Essendon	Little Berkhamsted	Stapleford
Bayford	Great Amwell	Little Munden	Tewin
Bengeo	Great Munden	Much Hadham	Thundridge
Rural	Hertford	Sacombe	Ware
Bramfield	Hertford Heath	Stanstead Abbots	Wareside
Brickendon	Hertingfordbury	Stanstead St	Watton-at-Stone
Liberty	Hunsdon	Margarets	Widford
Datchworth			

7. That the priority area for Richard Hale School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Bayford	Hertford	Sacombe	Ware
Bengeo Rural	Hertford Heath	Stanstead Abbots	Wareside
Bramfield	Hertingfordbury	Stanstead St	Watton-at-Stone
Brickendon	Hunsdon	Margarets	Welwyn
Liberty	Little	Stapleford	Widford
Datchworth	Berkhamsted	Tewin	Woolmer Green
Essendon	Little Munden	Thundridge	
Great Amwell			

8. That the Executive Member makes proposals to County Council following further consideration of the issues raised concerning Beaumont, Roundwood Park, Sandringham and Sir John Lawes Schools and the following parishes and towns:

Ayot St Lawrence	King's Walden	St Michael
Colney Heath	London Colney	St Pauls Walden
Flamstead	Markyate	St Stephen
Harpenden	Redbourn	St Albans
Harpenden Rural	Ridge	Shenley
Kimpton	Sandridge	Wheathampstead

9. That subject as in 8, above, the rules for co-educational community schools be agreed as follows:

- Rule 1:** Children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs naming the school
- Rule 2:** Children who can prove they have a particular medical or social reason for attending the school
- Rule 3:** Children who have a brother or sister at the school at the time of application.
- Rule 4:** Children of staff permanently employed at the school where the Local Authority has determined, having regard to the wishes of the Governing Body, that this is necessary to reduce recruitment and/or retention difficulties.
- Rule 5:** Children who live in the priority area for the school and who demonstrate an aptitude in the area of the school's specialism (with those demonstrating the greatest aptitude being given priority). This rule to apply to 10% of places in those schools determined by the LEA having regard to the wishes of their Governing Bodies
- Rule 6 :** Children who live in the priority area and who would have further to travel to another non-faith co-educational school than the one applied for. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest to the school.
- This rule will be applied until 90% of places at the school have been allocated.
- Rule 7:** Children who live in the priority area who live closest to the school.

Rule 8: Children who live outside the priority area and who would have further to travel to another non-faith co-educational school than the one applied for. Where more children qualify under this rule than there are places available, places will be allocated to those who live nearest to the school.

Rule 9: Children living outside the priority area who live closest to the school.

10. That the priority area for Birchwood High School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Albury	Furneux Pelham	Little Hallingbury
Birchanger	Gilston	Much Hadham
Bishop's Stortford	Great Hallingbury	Sawbridgeworth
Eastwick	High Wych	Sheering
Elsenham	Little Hadham	Stocking Pelham
		Thorley

11. That the priority area for Broxbourne, Sheredes and Turnford Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Broxbourne	Nazeing	Waltham Cross
Cheshunt	Northaw & Cuffley	
Hoddesdon	Stanstead Abbots	

12. That the priority area for Edwinstree, Freman College, Greneway, Meridian, Ralph Sadleir and Roysia Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Anstey	Buckland	Nuthampstead
Ardley	Buntingford	Reed
Aspenden	Cottered	Royston
Barkway	Great Munden	Standon
Barley	Hormead	Therfield
Braughing	Kelshall	Westmill
Brent Pelham	Meesden	Wyddial

13. That the priority area for Chauncy, Sele and Simon Balle Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Bayford	Hertingfordbury	Tewin
Bengeo Rural	Hunsdon	Thundridge
Bramfield	Little Berkhamsted	Ware
Brickendon Liberty	Little Munden	Wareside
Great Amwell	Sacombe	Watton-at-Stone
Hertford	Stanstead St Margarets	Widford
Hertford Heath	Stapleford	

14. That the priority area for Barclay, Barnwell, Collenswood, Heathcote, Marriotts, Nobel and Thomas Alleyne Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:

Aston	Datchworth	Knebworth	Walkern
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Benington

Graveley

Stevenage

15. That the priority area for Monks Walk, Onslow St Audreys, Sir Frederic Osborn and Stanborough Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:
- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Ayot St Peter | Hatfield | Welwyn Garden City |
| Codicote | North Mymms | Welwyn |
| Essendon | Potters Bar | Woolmer Green |
16. That the priority area for Knights Templar School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:
- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Ashwell | Clothall | Rushden |
| Baldock | Hinxworth | Sandon |
| Bygrave | Newnham | Wallington |
| Caldecote | Radwell | Weston |
17. That, subject as in 8, above, the priority area for Fearnhill, Highfield, Norton and Priory Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:
- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Hexton | Langley | Pirton |
| Hitchin | Letchworth | Preston |
| Holwell | Lilley | St Ippolyts |
| Ickleford | Offley | Wymondley |
18. That the priority area for Hertswood School comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:
- | | | |
|----------|--------|-------------------------|
| Aldenham | Bushey | Elstree and Borehamwood |
|----------|--------|-------------------------|
19. That the priority area for Adeyfield, Astley Cooper, Bridgewater, Cavendish, Francis Combe, Hemel Hempstead, Kings Langley, Longdean and Westfield Schools comprising the following parishes and towns be agreed:
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Abbots Langley | Hemel Hempstead | Pinner |
| Aldbury | Kings Langley | Rickmansworth |
| Berkhamsted | Little Gaddesden | Sarratt |
| Bovingdon | Maple Cross | Tring |
| Chipperfield | Nash Mills | Tring Rural |
| Chorleywood | Nettleden with Potten | Watford |
| Croxley Green | End | Watford Rural |
| Flaunden | Northchurch | Wiggington |
| Great Gaddesden | Northwood | |

Reasons for the decision

To make proposals for possible secondary admission rules and priority areas for 2003/04. Responses to consultation on the proposals had shown a good level of support for the proposed rules and most of the priority areas

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

4. REVIEW OF HOME-START CONTRACT

(Forward Plan Ref. A020/02)

Decision

1. That the development plan summarised in the report and, in particular, the intention that redistribution of current Children, Schools and Families funding among a larger number of schemes must be contingent upon the securing of alternative funding from other sources, be endorsed.
2. That the Council provides a 4 year contract for Home-Start from 1 April 2002.

Reasons for the decision

Home-Start is a voluntary organisation providing regular help and support to families under stress with children under five in their own homes.

The report suggested a four year development plan in partnership with Home-Start.

The principles of the plan were:

- to enable Children, Schools and Families(CSF) funding to be distributed according to need.
- to ensure schemes were helped to gain increased external funding.
- to ensure the service was extended across the whole county.
- to demonstrate the financial savings Home-Start makes for CSF.
- to employ the improved working relationship with Home-Start to advance the development plan.
- to provide a four year contract for Home-Start.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

5. ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING PLAN

(Forward Plan Ref. A025/02)

Decision

Council be recommended:

That:

- a) Council note with regret the transfer of responsibility for adult and community learning away from the democratically accountable County Council.

- b) the Council should seek to maintain a key role in influencing the nature and scope of ACL provision both as a provider and through integration in its own policies and services including Out of School Hours Learning, Parenting Strategies, Community Strategies and Family Learning.
- c) the Adult and Community Learning Plan 2002/2003 be adopted, incorporating the priorities contained in Appendix 4 of the report.

Reasons for the decision

The Council is required to submit an Adult and Community Learning Plan to the local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) by 28 March 2002.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

6. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF ST PAULS INFANTS AND HASLEWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOLS, HODDES DON

(Forward Plan Ref. A022/02)

Decision

- 1. That the Director of Children, Schools and Families should publish statutory notices to close St. Paul's Infants' and Haslewood Junior Schools, Hoddesdon on 31 December, 2002.
- 2. That if no objections to the proposal are received, the Director of Children, Schools and Families be authorised to approve the proposal, or if objections are received the Director should refer the objections, with comments on behalf of the LEA, to the Hertfordshire School Organisation Committee.
- 3. That the County Council supports the publication, by the Diocese of St Albans, as promoters, of a statutory notice seeking to establish a new Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School with a standard number of 45 in the current premises of St Paul's Infants' and Haslewood Junior Schools from 1 January 2003.

Reasons for the decision

Consultations had been undertaken on the proposal to amalgamate these two schools to form a new Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School in Hoddesdon, with a reduced standard number of 45 pupils, in view of current and forecast demand for places in the area.

Consultation responses were largely favourable. The governing bodies of the two schools were in full support of the proposal going forward. The Diocesan Board for Education, who would sponsor the formation of the new school, were also in support.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

7. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW NURSERY CLASS AT HOMERSWOOD, WELWYN GARDEN CITY
(Forward Plan Ref. A046/02)

Decision

1. That the Director of Children, Schools and Families should publish statutory notices to change the age-range of Homerswood Primary School, Welwyn Garden City to 3-11 years in order to enable the establishment of a new nursery class from 1 September, 2002.
2. That if not objections to the proposal are received, the Director be authorised to approve the proposal, or if objections are received the Director should refer the objections, with comments on behalf of the LEA, to the Hertfordshire School Organisation Committee.

Reasons for the decision

To enable the provision of a mornings-only designated nursery class for four-year-olds at the school. The Knightsfield pre-school, a voluntary sector childcare provider currently located on the Homerswood site would continue in the afternoon, focussing on three year old provision. This changed approach had the full support of the Homerswood governors and of the pre-school who no longer wished to be the provider of 4 year old places and wished to see a designated nursery class on the school site.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

8. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
(Forward Plan Ref. A001/02)

Decision

That the recommendations arising from the Best Value Review of Environmental Management Services be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Best Value Review of Environmental Management Services began in June 2001 and had concluded with a set of recommendations supported by an Improvement Plan. The suggested approach has been agreed by the Member Review Group. Overall the recommendations sought to gain better value from existing resources by focussing activity on key priorities which would improve public access to the countryside, improve the sustainable management of environmental resources through advice and information and better manage the council's assets.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

9. ANNUAL INTEGRATED HIGHWAY WORKS PROGRAMME 2002/2003
(Forward Plan Ref. A017/02)

Decision

That the Annual Integrated Highway Works Programme 2002/03, as recommended by the Transport Panel, be approved for implementation.

Reasons for the decision

The introduction of an integrated highway works programme enabled:

- Greater clarity to be achieved regarding the types of highway works to be undertaken.
- A ready means of monitoring and demonstrating the effectiveness of the way in which the County Council is utilising its financial resources in order to meet its strategic objectives. This is particularly relevant with the advent of the “single capital pot”.
- The opportunity to pre-programme multiple activities on a particular stretch of road or locality, in order to minimise disruption to the travelling public and affected communities whilst at the same time maximising the effectiveness of resources to achieve policy or service objectives.

A replacement page 33 of the report was tabled at the meeting listing an additional pedestrian facility scheme in Watford District.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

**10. CONSULTATION ON PLANNING GREEN PAPER AND DAUGHTER
CONSULTATION PAPERS**
(Forward Plan Ref. A033/02)

Decision

1. The Local Government Association model as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be supported and therefore commended to the Government as an alternative and more effective model for reforming the planning system.
2. The County Council expresses its concern over the potential implications for local democracy that would result from the Green Paper's proposed model for reform of the planning system .
3. The detailed comments set out in Section 2 of this report be agreed as this Council's response to the Planning Green Paper
4. The comments set out in Appendix 2 of the report , be agreed as this Council's response to the daughter consultation papers on planning obligations, compulsory purchase and major infrastructure projects

Reasons for the decision

Concerns had been expressed by many organisations that the Government's current proposals would not deliver the outcomes it seeks. These views were shared by the County Council.

The proposed changes would result in a less efficient, more undemocratic, and less effective system. It would also create a system which would demand significantly more staff to operate it, at a time when attracting and retaining people in planning is becoming increasingly difficult. As a result, whilst there were aspects of the Green Paper to be welcomed, e.g. measures relating to development control and the rationalisation of national planning guidance, the main thrust of the proposed reforms to the plan making system needed to be substantially reworked.

The Daughter Papers each raised concerns of varying importance. The paper on Compulsory Purchase contained some sensible improvements to the system. However, it did not go far enough if it was to encourage much greater use of these powers for positive planning purposes.

The paper on Major Infrastructure Projects raised very important issues regarding the level of involvement of local people, and their democratically elected representatives, in decisions on proposals which would have major impacts on their quality of life. A more robust system was required for such decisions, but the proposal to rely on the main chambers of the two Parliamentary Houses to consider detailed technical arguments would not suffice.

The paper on Planning Obligations raises a host of issues and concerns. The need to improve on the current system was accepted, but moving to a tariff system raised a number of important matters of principle and detailed problems of implementation. Moving to a system which was based on the sustainable needs of local communities, giving developers more certainty about the level of contribution and making the system more transparent were sound objectives. However, there were major problems associated with breaking the direct link between a development, its impact, and the contribution it makes to necessary infrastructure. Much more work was required to ascertain whether a system as proposed could operate effectively.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

11. ADULT CARE SERVICES STRATEGY & SPECIFIC GRANTS (Community Care Plan)

(Forward Plan Ref. A030/02)

Decision**Council be recommended:**

1. That the vision and core aims of the Adult Care Services Department together with Service Strategies for Adult Care Services for 2002/03 and proposals to meet rising demands and reshape services using specific grants and County Council resources allocated to meet service pressures, be approved.
2. That the report be approved as the Community Care Plan for Hertfordshire for 2002/03.

3. That the extension of the Carers Services pilot and an expansion of the target group as set out in Appendix 4, be approved.
4. To congratulate Mrs Rose Cottle for her commendable efforts in raising nationally the crisis situation being faced by all Social Services departments in delivering social care.

Reasons for the decision

The proposed strategies, vision, core aims and uses of resources meet the objectives of the County Council in relation to adult care services and should form the basis of Adult Care Services activity for the coming year, and the County Council's contribution to any joint planning and service delivery.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

12. MULTI-AGENCY CARERS STRATEGY
(Forward Plan Ref. A029/02)

Decision

1. That the draft Multi-Agency Carers' Strategy for Hertfordshire be endorsed as the framework within which the County Council will promote the health and well-being of carers.
2. That the process for agencies to develop Action Plans for 2002-03 be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The multi-agency strategy had been prepared and considered by the Hertfordshire Carers Strategy Group and the Adult Care Services Carers Topic Group. It was designed to provide an overarching approach to supporting carers over the next five years, that all relevant agencies could sign up to. It built on what carers had been saying about their needs and concerns in Hertfordshire through conferences and other consultation exercises through the Carers' Impact project. It developed further the themes of the National Carers' Strategy and the Carers and Disabled Children Act, 2000.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

13. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN 2002/ 2003
(Forward Plan Ref. A019/02)

Decision

Council be recommended:

That the 2002/03 Food Law Enforcement Plan be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) required all food law enforcement authorities to have a plan for that activity.

The plan summarised the Council's approach to food law enforcement, and set out the resources available to meet the expected standards of inspection and enforcement.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

14. COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR
(Forward Plan Ref. A045/02)**Decision**

That

- a) The virement in respect of insurance cost savings be approved as follows:
From: ACS, CS&F, CI, Corporate Services, Environment & Fire
To: Contingency
Amount: £1,060,000
Reason: To reflect the transfer of insurance cost savings from service revenue accounts to contingency.
- b) Determination of proposed carry forwards be deferred.
- c) That services continue to manage their expenditure in order to eliminate or reduce the pressures on the current year budgets and that any resultant overspendings at the year end be carried forward as a first charge against the 2002/03 budget.

Reasons for the decision

As at 31 December 2001 an overall pressure of £0.994m (0.12%) was projected on the latest budget of £837.502m.

The principal reasons for the variation in the forecast revenue outturn were listed in Table 2 (Para 1.2) of the report whilst a more detailed analysis was shown in Appendix A to the report.

Services had identified potential carry forward requests of £0.691m.

The report analysed by service the forecast capital variance of £8.846m, which included £4.337m on self-financing schemes. Analysis by type of variance was also shown together with a detailed analysis.

If the current position had been maintained, current proposed carry forwards approved and all the net overspends met from reserves, there would be a net reduction of £1,379,000 in the level of reserves at 31 March 2002.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

15. COMMUNICATIONS BEST VALUE REVIEW - OUTCOME
(Forward Plan Ref. A038/02)

Decision

That the recommendations and implementation plan arising from the Best Value Review of Communications and the Council's communications strategy, be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Best Value Review of Communications began in July 2001 and produced a set of recommendations and an implementation plan which had been approved by the lead member review group.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

16. JOINT BEST VALUE REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY
(Forward Plan Ref. A015/02)

Decision

That the recommendations and implementation plans arising from the Joint Best Value Review of Community Safety, be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Joint Best Value Review of Community Safety began in September 2001 and produced a set of recommendations and implementation plans which had been approved by the lead member review group.

The recommendations were designed to improve both the operation and the impact on the ground of the Community Safety Partnerships between HCC, the Districts and the Police.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

17. PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW
(Forward Plan Ref. A014/02)

Decision

That the recommendations and implementation plan, arising from the Best Value Review of Personnel and Employment, be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Best Value Review of Personnel and Employment produced a set of recommendations and an implementation plan which had been approved by the lead member review group.

The recommendations of the review were designed to ensure best value from the activities and processes required to employ staff and to support changes in the way staff are organised and developed.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

**18. PROPERTY DISPOSALS ARISING FROM LEARNING DISABILITY
ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY**
(Forward Plan Ref. A043/02)

Decision

1. That the self-financing arrangements to reprovide accommodation for adults with learning disability in Hatfield, Welwyn Garden City and Hoddesdon be agreed in principle subject to the management arrangement set out in paragraph 3 below.
2. That the properties at Roe Hill House, Hatfield, Spring House, Welwyn Garden City and Lintons and Lord Street, Hoddesdon be sold and the capital receipt from the sales be used to fund replacement accommodation for adults with learning disability.
3. The budgets for capital expenditure for the schemes, the timing of investment in the new accommodation and of land sales be delegated to the Corporate Director (People and Property) in consultation with the Cabinet members with responsibility for Resources and Adult Care Services.

Reasons for the decision

To dispose of a number of properties currently used to provide accommodation for adults with learning disability and to re-invest the capital receipt back into the re-provision of accommodation for this client group. This was part of a Development Plan and Property Strategy forming an important element of the Council's Learning Disability Accommodation Strategy.

It was the most efficient use of these specific property assets to dispose of the properties and re-invest the capital receipts generated, as self financing capital schemes, into the re-provision

of accommodation most suited to the current care model for the specific needs of the client group and in more appropriate geographic locations.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

19. COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - Pathfinder for the Process

Decision

1. That the work underway to produce a self-assessment document to the required deadline be noted.
2. That the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive be authorised to sign off the self-assessment for delivery to the Audit Commission.

Reasons for the decision

All top-tier authorities would be subject to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) during 2002. This assessment had been introduced by the Audit Commission, working with other inspectorates, in response to widespread criticism from the local government community that there were too many inspections and that they overlapped and sometimes contradicted each other.

The CPA would involve all of the inspectorates (Ofsted, SSI, HMI Fire Services etc) and deliver a single annual report card. Authorities will be placed in one of four streams, Top Performing, Striving, Coasting or Failing and future inspection, freedoms and possibly financial rewards will be based on the outcome.

Hertfordshire had volunteered to be a pathfinder authority for the CPA.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None