

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET
MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.**

**COUNTY COUNCIL
THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2003 AT 10.30 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

7

PROTOCOL FOR NEWS RELEASES

Report of the County Secretary

Author: Andrew Laycock

Tel: 01992 555500

Executive Member:- Robert Ellis

1. Purpose of report

To enable Cabinet to consider amending the Protocol for News Releases to allow Chairmen of Cabinet Panels to be quoted in County Council news releases; and to enable the Council to amend the Constitution accordingly.

2. Background

The Protocol for News Releases. (Annex 20 to the Constitution, Section 3) states that County Council News Releases which relate to Cabinet or Executive decision making may contain quotes from the Leader of the Council or an Executive Member.

The Protocol predates the introduction of Cabinet Panels. A good deal of the Executive's business is now considered at meetings of these Panels. It may, therefore, be appropriate to amend the Protocol to allow Chairmen of Cabinet Panels to be quoted in news releases.

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Conclusion

The Cabinet may wish to consider authorising Chairmen of Cabinet Panels to be quoted in County Council news releases, and if so to propose to the Council that the Constitution be amended so that paragraph 3.3 of Annex 20 reads as follows:-

“Subject to this [the requirement that news releases must not be designed to affect support for a political party] news releases which relate to Executive decision making may contain quotes from the Leader of the Council, an Executive Member or, with the consent of the relevant Executive Member, the Chairman of a Cabinet Panel”

Background Papers: None