

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  
10 FEBRUARY 2003**

**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, J M Pitman, I E M Tarry.

Other Members present:

K Crout, M Green, J A Hobday, D W Hills, T G M Kent, I H Laidlaw-Dickson, R Mays,  
D Scudder, I Simpson, B A York.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 10 February 2003 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 27 January 2003 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (including Borrowing Strategy)**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A028/03)

It was noted that column headings in the table on page 6 of the report should read "Revised  
Credit Limit £m".

**Decision**

Council be recommended that the Treasury Management Strategy for 2003/ 2004 be  
approved.

**Reasons for the decision**

To agree and recommend to Council an annual strategy for Treasury Management be prepared and approved in advance of the new financial year.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**3. CHARGING POLICY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL SERVICES AND FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

(Forward Plan Ref. A001/03)

**Decision**

That a charging policy including the following elements be agreed:

1. income from capital be treated on the same basis as for residential care (disregarded below £12,000, assumed income of £1 per week for every £250 between £12,000 and £19,500).
2. the principle of charging 75% of disposable income above the threshold be continued.
3. Option 3, the hybrid solution, be adopted in respect of disability costs and thresholds.

**Reasons for the decision**

To comply with the requirements of the Department of Health statutory guidance "Fairer Charging for Home Care and Other Non-Residential Social Services".

The County Council also needed a charging policy for its new Supporting People responsibilities. This needed to be consistent with the policy for non-residential services.

The County Council's policy was more generous than "Fairer Charging".

Some requirements of "Fairer Charging" were mandatory.

There were some areas where the County Council had discretion. These were primarily the treatment of income from capital between £12,000 and £19,000, the percentage of disposable income charged, the treatment of disability related income and expenditure and the thresholds above which charges are levied.

There were three options relating to disability costs and thresholds:

- Option 1 - a more generous policy for both non-residential services and Supporting People

## MEMORANDUM

Date: 12 February 2003

- Option 2 - "Fairer Charging" for both non-residential services and for Supporting People
- Option 3 - A hybrid of options 1 and 2.

Option 1 had potentially serious financial implications for the County Council, while Option 2 had serious implications for current and future clients. Option 3 avoided these negative implications and had been the subject of consultation with groups representing those affected by charges. These groups had expressed their support for this option.

### Any alternative options considered and rejected

Options 1 and 2 outlined above.

#### **4. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN ALTERATIONS 2001 TO 2016 - DEPOSIT VERSION**

(Forward Plan Ref. A012/03)

### Decision

Council be recommended to agree that:

1. The County Council reaffirms its commitment to fighting the loss of greenfields by bringing forward Alterations to the current Structure plan in line with PPG3 and the 'Plan, Monitor and Manage' approach.
2. The Structure Plan Policy Alterations be placed on deposit for Public Consultation.
3. The deposit period run from Wednesday 5 March to Wednesday 16 April 2003
4. Representations received after the 16 April only be accepted in exceptional circumstances, such as to assist other Local Authorities in the time tabling of their committees, and in consultation with the Executive Member for the Environment
5. The Summary of Representations Received and Proposed Responses, the Stage 2 Sustainability Appraisal, a Statement of Public Consultation, and Revised Technical Reports on Housing Capacity and Employment, also be placed on deposit with the Alterations.
6. Authority to carry out minor amendments, including typographical errors, to the Explanatory text and Technical Papers before publication, be delegated to the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member.
7. That a revised timetable be agreed for the Structure Plan Alterations leading to its Adoption in Spring 2004, including the holding of an Examination in Public in September / October 2003.

**Reasons for the decision**

Pre-deposit public consultation on proposals to roll forward the County Structure Plan was approved by County Council on 18 June 2002. Public consultation was carried out over a period from 8 July to 30 September 2002. The consultation documents comprised a number of proposed policy amendments, together with a discussion of options for taking forward the main development strategy and employment policies of the Plan

The public consultation generated a great degree of interest and many written submissions, which had been carefully considered by the Structure Plan panel over a series of meetings. In addition a telephone survey of the County Council's Citizen Panel was carried out in October by MORI, together with a number of focus groups, which covered the major issues of the consultation. The Structure Plan Panel had also considered the results of these surveys.

In terms of the main development strategy, the Structure Plan Panel considered the consultation responses received in the context of the changed circumstances which have emerged over the last six months. These changed circumstances included the new monitoring results on housing commitments and capacity, the delay in the SERAS consultation programme and consequent delay in any Aviation White Paper, and the progress and timetable of the Planning and Compensation Bill. Cabinet agreed with the Panel's view that, on balance, option C, the County Council's preferred option based on a "plan, monitor, manage" approach, which does not require the allocation of greenfield sites for development, remained the best strategy. Appropriate policies to reflect this were now contained in the draft plan.

In reaching its conclusions, the Structure Plan Panel had also considered Part 2 of the sustainability appraisal of the emerging plan alterations, which has been conducted by consultants. The Appraisal would form one of group of documents placed on deposit, to be read in conjunction with the Plan Alterations. Also taken into consideration were the comments of District Council's made at a Joint Member Meeting held in January.

Finally, a number of revisions to the main body of policies in the draft plan, have been suggested by the Panel, in response to consultation responses, and in particular suggestions by District Council officers. Again, these policies had been examined by the Stage 2 Sustainability Appraisal.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**5. POLICY FOR SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION BEING PROVIDED IN HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS**

(Forward Plan Ref. A007/03)

**Decision**

That the sex and relationship education guidance document be approved and published.

**Reasons for the decision**

To assimilate latest government advice and expectations in order to provide clear and unambiguous direction to schools.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**6. SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS 2003/ 2004****Decision**

1. That the proposed model for allocating funding to those schools where circumstances do not enable schools to provide classes of 30 pupils or less, as set out in Appendix A to the report be implemented with effect from September 2003.
2. That the existing arrangements for allocation of funding for KS1 class size be kept in place for the remainder of the academic year i.e. until August 2003.
3. That funding be delegated to primary schools with Behaviour Support Units operating Extended Roll Support mainly on a per place basis, with a small per pupil allocation relating to those pupils on roll at the unit, rather than those supported in neighbouring schools.
4. That funding for the Forest House Teaching Unit attached to St Luke's Special School be delegated mainly on a per place basis, with a small per pupil allocation for each pupil on roll in the unit.
5. That the new category of extended place be introduced for EBD schools within the formula for funding schools
6. That the changes proposed to the Scheme for Financing Schools arising from the statutory guidance from the DfES and need to align the Scheme with guidance given in other documents published by the authority be made.
7. That changes proposed to the Scheme for Financing Schools to recognise the new powers for governing bodies to provide community facilities, under the Education Act 2002, be made.
8. That the place numbers for special schools, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed.

**Reasons for the decision**

To consider the outcomes of consultation with headteachers and governors on the proposed arrangements for funding schools in 2003/04 and later years, and agree proposed changes to

**MEMORANDUM**

the Scheme for Financing Schools.

**Date: 12 February 2003**

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**7. REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES (PREPARATIONS) BILL**

(Forward Plan Ref. A014/03)

**Decision**

That:

1. the response to soundings exercise on the level of interest in holding a referendum about establishing an elected regional assembly, set out in Appendix 3 to the minutes of the Regionalism Panel; and
2. the response to the consultation on proposed statutory guidance to be issued to the Boundary Committee for England by the Secretary of State, set out in Appendix 4 to the minutes of the Regionalism Panel,

be approved, and Council be recommended to endorse both responses.

**Reasons for the decision**

To respond to the soundings exercise on the level of interest in holding a referendum about establishing an elected regional assembly in the East of England; and to consultation on proposed statutory guidance on local government reviews.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**8. LETCHWORTH – FORMER NORTON SCHOOL SITES.**

(Forward Plan Ref. A024/03)

**Decision**

That,

1. Subject to the grant of planning permission, the freehold part of the former Norton School main site (Area A) be sold for residential development.
2. Subject to the grant of planning permission for housing development, to consent to disposal from the Department for Education and Skills and to agreement of terms with the Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, a joint sale with the Foundation of

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date: 12 February 2003**

Area B for residential development be arranged.

3. Areas A and B should be marketed at the same time to establish a comprehensive development scheme and to achieve best value.
4. The County Council should retain ownership of the detached playing fields (Area C).
5. Subject to joint sale of Area B with the Foundation being achieved, an allocation from the County Council's share of the proceeds of that sale be made to fund the construction of a second PE space for The Highfield School.
6. Approval of the detailed budgets for these proposals and to the timing of commitments be delegated to the Corporate Director, People and Property in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Children, Schools and Families.

**Reasons for the decision**

To establish the property policy for the former Norton School premises in Letchworth, and enable the provision of a second PE space for The Highfield School.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None