

To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers

From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT

Ask for David Roberts
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My Ref. DR/
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CABINET
21 JULY 2003

MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

D Beatty, R J M Ellis (Chairman), R I N Gordon, M H T Janes,
J M Pitman, A M R Searing, I E M Tarry

Other Members present:

T I Ambrose, E M Clarke, M D Colne, M Green, R Mays, D T F Scudder, I Simpson,
I H Laidlaw-Dickson, C J White, B A York.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 21 July 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 23 June 2003 were confirmed as a correct
record.

2. RACE EQUALITY SCHEME
(Forward Plan Ref. A042/03)

Decision

That the Race Equality Scheme be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 required all public bodies to produce and consult on a Race Equality Scheme setting out how the County Council will meet its obligation to promote racial equality. Cabinet had approved a draft scheme in July 2002 and a detailed public consultation process had been completed.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

3. HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE POLICY
(Forward Plan Ref. A043/03)

Decision

That the Health and Attendance Policy be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The purpose of the Health and Attendance Policy was to ensure that absence due to ill health is kept to a minimum and that staff welfare was managed appropriately. Where people are absent, support would be structured to ensure that they are able return to work as quickly as possible.

The new policy incorporated the latest advice from the Employers' Organisation and current employment law.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

4. BOROUGH OF BROXBOURNE COMMUNITY PLAN
(Forward Plan Ref. A049/03)

Decision

That the Community Strategy for Broxbourne be endorsed.

Reasons for the decision

To agree priorities for the development of services and local facilities with partner organisations.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

5. SINGLE CAPITAL POT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY
(Forward Plan Ref. A033/03)

Decision

1. That the Core Data Sheet and Property Performance Indicator data be approved for submission to the Government.
2. That the Capital Strategy be approved.

Reasons for the decision

The County Council needed to submit the core data sheet and the property performance indicators to the Government by 31 July 2003 in order to secure an allocation from the Single Capital Pot.

The Capital Strategy set out the Council's capital spending priorities related to each of the Council's promises to the people of Hertfordshire.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

**6. A REPLACEMENT ASSET SCHEME:
HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES, SOUTH WEST
HERTFORDSHIRE**
(Forward Plan Ref. A046/03)

Decision

That:

- (i) a replacement asset scheme be established under which the existing household waste recycling centre (HWRC) at Hunton Bridge would be closed and (together with the remainder of the neighbouring former highways depot) sold, with the capital receipt arising being utilised to partially offset the cost of building a new household waste recycling centre at Waterdale; and
- (ii) approval to the details of the budgets for capital expenditure, to the timing of the investment in the new HWRC and the property sale decisions, be delegated to the Corporate Director (People and Property), in consultation with the Executive Member (Resources) and the Executive Member (Environment).

Reasons for the decision

The County Council first gave approval for the construction of a new HWRC at Waterdale in February 2002 as part of the budget-setting process for 2002/03. However, subsequent increases in the scheme costs (due to unforeseen ground conditions and drainage requirements) meant that the project could not be completed within the available funds. Having regard to new information about the existing Hunton Bridge HWRC, a revised project was identified, developing a new HWRC at Waterdale so as to also function as a replacement for Hunton Bridge and using the capital receipt from disposal of the old site to offset the overall scheme costs.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

7. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR

(Forward Plan Ref. A034/03)

Decision

1. That the following carry forwards over £75,000 be approved -
 - (a) Service: Community Information –
Customer Services Centre
Amount: £252,000
Reason: To fund the technical upgrade required to allow the Customer Service Centre to continue to function as existing software becomes inadequate, particularly with reference to the Children, Schools and Families and Adult Care System, and as the software progressively goes off support. It will also help to pay for the costs associated with renewing the contract during 2004.
 - (b) Service: Corporate Services –
Telecommunications Infrastructure
Amount: £214,000
Reason: To complete the upgrade of local networking and to improve the resilience of the Internet Service.
 - (c) Service: Environment –
Long Term Structural Maintenance
Amount: £220,000
Reason: To complete two schemes programmed for construction in 2002/03 that have been delayed until 2003/04 in order to minimise disruption to the public.

2. That the Children, Schools & Families overspend be offset against other 2002/03 underspends.
3. That the remaining overall underspend of £2.958m be returned to general reserves.

Reasons for the decision

As set out in the report.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

**8. SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING:
THE STANSTED/ M11 CORRIDOR STUDY, HARLOW OPTIONS STUDY AND
DELIVERY VEHICLES TO REALISE DEVELOPMENT**

Decision

1. That Cabinet endorses the views of the Structure Plan and Regional Issues Panel on the Harlow Options Study and delivery vehicle consultation namely :
 - "a) The technical findings of the study are inadequate and insufficiently robust to be used as a basis for any development proposals in further studies.
 - b) The level of development necessary to meet the regeneration objectives set out in the report is not made clear.
 - c) The role the proposed sites could play in meeting the objectives is not adequately addressed.
 - d) There is no justification provided for the development of sites in Hertfordshire.
 - e) The public consultation process has been inadequate and the public have exhibited no confidence in the findings of the report.

The Panel is concerned that the HCC response makes it clear that any proposals for delivery vehicles should recognise the need for a democratically accountable body working within partnerships to create new sustainable communities and having the powers that any single purpose body might hold."

2. In addition, Cabinet specifically resolves that :-

- a) In relation to Sub paragraph 4 above, Cabinet expresses grave doubts about the relevance of the Green Belt sites in Hertfordshire to the regeneration of Harlow .
- b) It also expresses concern that the transport infrastructure proposals are inadequately researched and are poorly related to the objective of regenerating Harlow

Reasons for the decision

As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

9. "INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH" - RESPONSE TO THE STRATEGIC HEALTH AUTHORITY'S CONSULTATION PAPER
(Forward Plan Ref. A044/03)

Decision

That the Cabinet respond to the SHA consultation paper:

- (i) Fully supporting the conclusions of the Scrutiny Committee.
- (ii) Expressing a preference for Option 2 because:
 - Overall the people of Hertfordshire would be better served by a new hospital than the development of an existing site;
 - The possibility of a medical school – albeit in the longer term- is attractive and better supported by Option 2;
 - Building on a Greenfield, or Brownfield, site is likely to be less problematic and disruptive than converting a current one;

whilst recognising that the benefits of the options are finely balanced.

- (iii) Asking the SHA to consider Option 2b (*as option 2 except that Hemel Hempstead would become the acute hospital and Watford the non acute*) as an alternative due to the better site and state of buildings in Hemel Hempstead.
- (iv) Requesting that the SHA should note in particular:
 - These proposals have major implications for social care services and the council needs to be involved and informed at every stage

- That the knock on effects for the social care budget must form part of financial planning
- That the issue of effective use of community hospitals must be addressed
- That the access and transport issues need to be more fully analysed and taken account of in planning and implementation
- That the Council will need to examine proposals for new sites once a proposal is made.

Reasons for the decision

To respond, on behalf of the Executive, to the consultation document issued by the Strategic Health Authority.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

10. LEA RESPONSE TO THE ADJUDICATOR REGARDING CHANCELLOR'S SCHOOL

Decision

That, if the Adjudicator considers there is merit in the Objection by Brookmans Park Primary School, he might consider inserting a new Rule 4 in the rules determined by the governing body giving priority to children living within two miles of the School as measured by the shortest designated route.

Reasons for the decision

The Adjudicator had invited the Council to respond to an objection received.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None