

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
26 JANUARY 2004

MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

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

Other Members present:

N E Agar, D Billing, E M Clarke, P V Goggins, J A Hobday, T G M Kent, R Mays,
I Simpson, R J Smith, B A York.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 26 January 2004 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 15 December 2003 were confirmed as a correct
record.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL RESOURCE BUDGET 2004/05 TO 2007/08
(Forward Plan Ref. A062/03)

Decision

That further consideration of the 2004/05 budget be deferred until the Cabinet on 9
February 2004 when information will be available on the outstanding items including
the Final Local Government Finance Settlement and the tax base and Collection
Fund Surplus.

Reasons for the decision

As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

3. PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF THE HAVERS INFANT AND THE FIRS JUNIOR SCHOOLS IN BISHOP'S STORTFORD

Decision

1. That the Council publish statutory notices to close The Havers Infant and The Firs Junior Schools and to open a new primary school on the Firs Junior School site from April 2006.
2. That, in the event of there being no statutory objections to the closure, the Director of Children, Schools and Families be authorised to confirm it .

Reasons for the decision

The benefits of the proposed amalgamation supported by the results of consultation were set out in the report.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

4. REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN NORTH EAST WATFORD - PHASE 1: REVIEW OF LEAVESDEN GREEN AND ALBAN WOOD SCHOOLS (Forward Plan Ref. A052/03)

Decision

1. That the Council publish statutory notices to:
 - (a) close Alban Wood Infant and Alban Wood Junior Schools and open a new primary school with a planned admission limit of 30 on the Alban Wood Infant site with effect from September 2005, and
 - (b) reduce the planned admission limit to 30 at Leavesden Green School, with effect from September 2005.
2. That, in the event of there being no statutory objections to the closures, the Director of Children, Schools and Families be authorised to confirm them .

Reasons for the decision

As set out in the report including the results of consultation on the proposals.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

5. UNDER 10 FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE SERVICE

(Forward Plan Ref. A053/03)

With the permission of the Chairman, Tanis Kent asked when the consultation with stakeholders would commence and whether the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee would have the opportunity to comment on the proposals at its March meeting?

Jane Pitman replied that she recognise the need to proceed with some urgency and would propose that the consultation commence without delay. Consultation responses could be received up to the end of March. Robert Gordon added that the proposal had twice been considered by Members through the Children and Families Panel.

Decision

That the proposals for the remodelled Family Support Service for children under 10, be approved for full consultation with stakeholders without delay.

Reasons for the decision

The proposed service structure and capital strategy will enable delivery of an effectively focused family support service, targeted both on children and families at greatest risk and on prevention. It responds to the vision of future Children's Services outlined in the Green Paper, "Every Child Matters", strengthening support to families through a multi-agency approach and taking the service closer to local communities. The improvement in facilities for staff, including ICT, mobility and a better career structure, will assist retention. The Quadrant rather than District based structure will embed the service securely within Local Services and improve cohesion.

Positioning more of the service at the complex end of the family support continuum and utilising the increased mainstream early years services to support all families and those with early stresses promotes inclusion, provides a full range of family support and effectively targets resources at those most in need.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

6. REGIONAL FIRE MANAGEMENT BOARDS

(Forward Plan Ref. A003/04)

Decision

1. To approve, on behalf of this County Council;
 - (a) The establishment of Regional Fire Management Board, for the East of England, on the basis of one representative of each constituent authority.
 - (b) The use of the draft constitution developed by the LGA as the constitution for the East of England Regional Fire Management Board.
 - (c) That support arrangements be provided by the constituent authorities as appropriate, with the associated costs of those arrangements being shared equally.
2. The Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Services, be authorised to approve the detailed arrangements for the Board.

Reasons for the decision

To meet the expectations set out in the Government White Paper "Our Fire and Rescue Service" which outlined the requirement for "voluntary" Regional Fire Management Boards to be in place by 1 April 2004, it is sensible for the East of England Forum to become the regional management board for the area as a joint committee of the constituent authorities. The East of England Forum consists of the constituent Fire Authorities of Bedfordshire and Luton, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

7. THE AVIATION WHITE PAPER: THE FUTURE OF AIR TRANSPORT**Decision**

1. The County Council re-affirms its position as set out in minutes of County Council on 15 July 2003 with regard to the future development of Stansted, Luton and Heathrow airports and summarised as follows:
 - challenging the need to meet unconstrained demand
 - having extreme concern at the environmental impact on the county of airport development.
 - opposition to new runways at any of the airports

- seeking thorough investigation of less environmentally damaging alternatives.
- 2. The Director of Environment, in consultation with the County Secretary, examines carefully the case for legal challenge and takes appropriate action, including making available the necessary resources in consultation with the relevant Executive Members.
- 3. The Director of Environment continues to work closely with our Districts and neighbouring authorities to investigate the need for, and costs, of new infrastructure required by the potential airport development.
- 4. County Council be recommended to endorse this approach.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to the contents of the Aviation White Paper.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

8. **CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES - A NEW APPROACH TO PLANNING OBLIGATIONS**
(Forward Plan Ref. A080/03)

Decision

That the response to the Government consultation "Contributing to sustainable communities – a new approach to planning obligations", made on 8 January 2004, be endorsed.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to Government consultation on reform of the system for planning obligations.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

9. **EXPENDITURE ON STILES ON RIGHTS OF WAY: REPORT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST**
(Forward Plan Ref. A002/04)

Cabinet noted the letter from Mr M H Westley, dated 21 January 2004, setting out comments on the Council's Statement of Policies and Good Practice Guide.

Decision

1. That the Action Plan be approved.
2. That the Director of Environment, In consultation with the County Secretary and the Executive Member, Environment, be authorised to take action to implement the Action Plan.
3. The County Council be recommended to endorse the action being taken in response to the report.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to the District Auditor's report.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

10. LEA RESPONSE TO THE ADJUDICATOR REGARDING OBJECTION TO THE ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS BY WESTFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND GREENFIELDS JMI&N SCHOOL

The Chairman agreed to consider this item of urgent business in order to confirm the details of a response to the Schools Adjudicator.

Copies of the letter of the Director of Children, Schools and Families to the Schools Adjudicator dated 23 January 2004 were circulated at the meeting.

Decision

That the County Council's position expressed in the 23 January 2004 letter to the Schools Adjudicator be confirmed.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to the Schools Adjudicator in relation to objections to admission arrangements.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None