

To: All Members of the County Council  
All Chief Officers

From COUNTY SECRETARY'S  
DEPARTMENT

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

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CABINET  
10 MAY 2004

MINUTES  
ATTENDANCE

**MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

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:

D Billing, E M Clarke, M Downing, D W Hills, J A Hobday, S E Jones,  
T G M Kent, I H Laidlaw-Dickson, D B Lloyd, J T Metcalf, A Oaten, R Mays,  
R M Roberts, I Simpson, B A York.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 10 May 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 1 April 2004 were confirmed as a correct record.

**2. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/2005**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A063/03)

**Decision**

Council be recommended that the draft Best Value Performance Plan be approved, subject to:

1. The amendment of Promise 19 by the replacement of 'getting' with 'becoming'

so that it reads, 'give the public value for money by becoming more cost efficient every year.'

2. Further changes to the draft Best Value Performance Plan being agreed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Member, the Leader of the Council and the Opposition Group Leaders, before the Plan is published on 30 June 2004.
3. Reference being made to the work of the Money Advice Unit in the text supporting Promise 17.

**Reasons for the decision**

As set out in the report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**3. HERTS TOGETHER - THE COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY STRATEGY**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A016/04)

**Decision**

That Cabinet:

1. Welcomes the comments of the Best Value Performance Plan Panel.
2. Recognises that the Hertfordshire Community strategy, produced by Herts Together the county-wide strategic partnership, sets the priority areas for the Partnership, and endorses the work of Herts Together in working together to achieve its shared priorities, engaging with communities and being a voice for Hertfordshire.
3. Endorses the links that have been made to ensure that the Hertfordshire Community Strategy themes and the Promises as set out in the Best Value Performance Plan are aligned
4. Recommends that Council adopt the Hertfordshire Community Strategy, subject to the proviso that the Chief Executive is authorised, in consultation with the Executive Member, to agree the final version of the Strategy.

**Reasons for the decision**

The County Council is required by the Local Government Act 2000 to prepare, in consultation with stakeholders, a County Strategy which indicates how it intends to promote the social, economic and environmental well-being of the County.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**4. MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW 2002 – 2016, DRAFT PROPOSED PRE-INQUIRY CHANGES FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A015/04)

**Decision**

That Council be recommended to approve:

1. the responses to the representations made to the Second Deposit Draft as set out in Appendix A to the report;
2. the Pre-Inquiry Changes document as set out in Appendix C to the report;
3. the proposed consultation on the Pre-Inquiry Changes as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report

**Reasons for the decision**

The Minerals Local Plan forms part of the Development Plan for Hertfordshire and guides how and where mineral extraction should take place within the county.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**5. GENETICALLY MODIFIED (GM) CROPS AND FOODS**

**Decision**

The Cabinet welcomes the recommendations of the Environment Scrutiny Committee and resolves to:

1. Maintain the current policy of advising tenants on the Rural Estate not to grow GM crops.
2. Ensure that new tenancies include a prohibition against growing

GM crops.

- 3 Continue the policy of requiring school meals and other catering contractors to only provide foodstuffs that are free of GM organisms.
- 4 Make an application to the relevant authorities under Article 19.3(c) of Directive 2001/18/EC to exempt Hertfordshire from the area of consent should an application for EU marketing consent be sought for any GM crop in the future.
- 5 Propose that the East of England Regional Assembly adopts a policy of seeking to prevent the growth of GM crops in the region.

**Reasons for the decision**

Cabinet considered the recommendations of Environment Scrutiny Committee following consideration of the issue of genetically modified (GM) crops and food at its Public Hearing held on 23 March 2004.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**6. QUANTUM CARE LTD. CARE CONTRACT**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A007/04)

**Decision**

That the contract with Quantum Care, for the operation of 26 care homes for the elderly, be extended to 2010 (a three year extension) in order to facilitate further partnership working on new services and replacement homes which will ensure continued access to high quality services for residents of Hertfordshire.

**Reasons for the decision**

As set out above.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**7. THE HAVERS INFANT AND THE FIRS JUNIOR SCHOOLS, BISHOPS STORTFORD – PROPERTY ASPECTS**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A079/03)

**Decision**

That:

1. The Firs School site, with expanded buildings, be used to accommodate the new primary school.
2. The previously developed land area at The Havers School site be made available for disposal for housing development, and the playing fields area be retained against the potential needs of other schools in the area.
3. The proposed self financing replacement asset scheme, together with appropriate management arrangements for the commitment of funds for the provision of additional buildings and facilities at The Firs Junior School site and for the programme of disposal of land at The Havers Infants School site, be approved.
4. To assist with management of the scheme, the approval to the details of the budgets for capital expenditure, the timing of the investment in the new accommodation and of land sale decisions be delegated to the Corporate Director (People and Property), in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Education.

**Reasons for the decision**

As set out above.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**8. REVISED CABINET PANEL STRUCTURES - Children, Schools and Families**  
(Forward Plan Ref. A022/04)

**Decision**

That the following revised structure for Children, Schools and Families Cabinet Panels be implemented from the Annual Meeting of the County Council.

- (a) The Achievement, Children & Families, Schools Resources, Corporate Parenting and Special Needs Panels be abolished.

- (b) That a Children, Schools and Families Panel be established as follows:

Membership:

[12 (7:5\*) \*5 to include the parent governor or church representative]

12 voting members, 6 drawn from the Children's Services Cabinet Panel and 6 drawn from the Education Cabinet Panel (including one parent governor or church representative from the CSF Scrutiny Committee). 2 non-voting members, 1 drawn from the CSF Scrutiny Committee and the other from the appropriate Management Partnership Group

Remit:

To advise decision-makers on strategic issues and responding to such issues arising from the work of other Cabinet panels. The panel will meet four times per year (with additional meetings as required) with its work linked to the planning, finance and review cycle.

- (c) That a Children's Services Panel be established as follows

Membership: [12 (7:5)]

12 voting members. 2 non-voting members, 1 drawn from the CSF Scrutiny Committee and the other from the appropriate Management Partnership Group

Remit:

to advise decision-makers on issues with regard to vulnerable children and families, including their educational, social and health needs.

- (d) That an Education Panel be established as follows:

Membership:

[12 (7:5\*) \*5 to include the parent governor or church representative]

12 voting members, including one parent governor or church representative from the CSF Scrutiny Committee. 1 non-voting member from the appropriate Management Partnership Group

Remit:

to advise decision-makers on issues with regard to raising educational standards and achievement, promoting participation, engagement and access to education including pre-school and post compulsory education

- (e) That a Corporate Parenting Member Group be established as follows:

Membership:

[7 (4:3\*) \*3 to include the parent governor or church representative]

7 voting members (including one parent governor or church representative from the CSF Scrutiny Committee)

Remit:

to consider and advise on operational matters relating to the responsibility of the Council and of Members as Corporate Parents and to co-ordinate visits to HCC residential establishments for such children in public care and report back appropriately.

- (f) The rules of political proportionality apply to the membership of all Cabinet Panels as per the constitution
- (g) The CSF, Education and Children's Services Cabinet Panels are interdependent
- (h) The Director of CSF will work with the Cabinet Panel Chairmen and the Executive Members to maintain a work programme for the Cabinet Panels. The business of the Panels will be managed to avoid double-handling.
- (i) The Council be recommended to allocate the Special Responsibility Allowances previously held by the Chairman of three of the abolished Panels to the Chairmen of the new Panels.

**Reasons for the decision**

As set out in the report.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None

**9. PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION OF QUALIFIED SOCIAL WORKERS (UNDERTAKING CHILD PROTECTION WORK) IN CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**

(Forward Plan Ref. A021/04)

**Decision**

The series of measures (set out in paras. 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 of the report) intended to improve the recruitment and retention of Social Workers undertaking Child Protection work in Children, Schools and Families and the additional funding of £1.1m in 2004/05 rising to £1.72m in the year 2007/08 necessary to implement the proposals, be approved.

**Reasons for the decision**

As set out above and in the report.

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date: 14 May 2004**

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None