

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MONDAY 12 JULY 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.

Agenda Item No.

15

PROPERTY PLAN 2004 ONWARDS

Report of the Corporate Director (People & Property)

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Executive Member: David Beatty

1. Purpose of report

To present the draft Property Plan.

2. Summary

Attached is a draft Property Plan.

If approved this document would be the County Council's high level statement of intent on property. It draws together into one simple document:

- our overall direction
- the 4 issues on which we will focus
- our proposed actions in response to these
- our targets for this work.

The key item is whether or not the stated issues, actions and targets are those which the county council wishes to pursue.

3. Conclusion

Cabinet is invited to consider whether to approve the plan, with or without amendments.

4. Background

The production of the plan follows the consideration of the Property Performance Report and the Property Context Report by the Property Panel in May and the identification of several 'big issues'.

The Property Panel considered the draft plan in June. The Panel recommended to the Executive Member - Resources that four changes are made to the wording of the plan to clarify meaning. These have been accepted and incorporated into the version presented with this report.

If the plan is approved then an action programme will be created and implemented. The programme will be available on Connect. Implementation progress will be formally reported to the Property Panel early next year. Interim briefings on progress will be provided.

5. Financial Implications

The implications of the plans' actions in response to the four issues are:

Issue	Financial implications
Improve, replace or dispose of our accommodation that is inappropriate for service delivery.	To be included in any specific proposals for investment or changes to the procurement of property. A business case for office rationalisation is anticipated at the September Cabinet.
Increase the flow and speed of capital receipts from property to fund investment in service delivery.	Additional capital resources for investment in service delivery.
Maximise the opportunities from the DfES' <i>Building Schools for the Future</i> initiative to replace or upgrade all secondary schools from 2005 onwards.	Successful bids for funding will secure externally supported capital funds. There may be a need to invest additional budget in preparation to be successful.
Make sure that the way we take and implement property decisions sets best practice and maximises the efficient use of our external property services consultants and contractors.	Any identified financial implications will be reported as part of simplifying our business processes programme.