

**AGENDA for a meeting of the CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Hertford on  
WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 at 10.30 a.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** a short video by the Friends of Musley Infants School, Ware will be shown in the Ballroom prior to the meeting. [This relates to the petition to be presented to the meeting]

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**MEMBER MEETINGS (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)**

Conservative	16 January 2002	2.00pm	Committee Room 'C'
Labour/Liberal Democrat	17 January 2002	2.00pm	Room 156
Conservative	23 January 2002	9.30am	Committee Room 'B'
Labour	23 January 2002	9.15am	Room 106
Liberal Democrat	23 January 2002	9.30am	Room 246

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE - 22, QUORUM - 6**

County Councillors (16)

T I Ambrose, D E Billing, R S Clements, A D Dodd, B C Engel, A K Gray, F Guest,  
D W Hills, T G M Kent (Chairman), L R Kercher, B J Lamb, M H O'Neill, D A A Peek,  
S Quilty, R H Smith (Vice-Chairman), J Taunton

Representative Members

**Voting (6)**

Parent Representatives (4)

P Cherry	North area
M W Thompson	South area
C Broadhurst	East area
T Douris	West area

Church Representatives (2)

J Reynolds	Education Board of the Diocese of St Albans
M Stothard	Archdiocese of Westminster Schools Commission

**Non-voting (9)**

Co-opted members from Educational Establishments within the County (6)

C Brooks	Secondary Headteacher's Association
P Brooks	National Association of Governors and Managers
I Gibson	National Association of School Masters/ Union of Women Teachers
J Hayes	National Union of Teachers
G Rowlands	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
S Springett	National Association of Headteachers

Co-opted members from the Health and Voluntary Sectors (3) to be appointed at this meeting

L Wallace	Chair of Hertfordshire Association for Young People (HAYP)
C Whittle	Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire MENCAP
One other to be notified	

**AGENDA**

**AUDIO SYSTEM**

The Council Chamber has an audio system to assist those with hearing impairment. Anyone who wishes to use this should contact main (front) reception.

**PART 1 (PUBLIC) AGENDA**

Meetings of the Committee are open to the public (this includes the press) and attendance is welcomed. However, there may be occasions when the public are excluded from the meeting for particular items of business. Any such items are taken at the end of the meeting and are listed under "Part II ('closed') business".

**MINUTES**

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 2001 (previously circulated).

## **PUBLIC PETITIONS (Standing Order SC.11)**

Any member of the public, (who is a resident in Hertfordshire or is on the electoral register for Hertfordshire) may present a petition to the Committee. An authorised representative of any Hertfordshire parish or town council subscribing to a parish charter approved by the County Council may also present a petition to the Committee in relation to matters within that parish. The subject of the petition must be appropriate for the Committee and must be signed by at least 100 residents or business ratepayers of Hertfordshire.

Notification of intent to present a petition must be given in writing to the County Secretary, (County Hall, Hertford, SG13 8DE) at least **fourteen clear days** before the meeting where an item relating to the subject matter of the petition does not appear on the agenda for the meeting and at least **three clear days** before where the item is the subject of a report.

If you have any queries about the procedure please contact Julia Harries, on telephone no. (01992) 555563.

- (i) **Victoria Shaw**, representing the Friends of Musley Infants School, Ware will present a petition on behalf of parents regarding the proposed closure of the school.

## **QUESTION TIME (Standing Order SC.9(4))**

Members are able to question the Executive Member(s) on matters which are not the subject of reports on the agenda. A member who wishes to ask a question shall give written notice of it to the County Secretary at least **three clear working days** before the meeting, stating to whom the question is to be put. Written copies of the questions and answers shall be available at the meeting. Questions shall be answered orally at the meeting in the order in which notice has been received. The member asking the question may ask one supplementary question. The person responding may choose to answer such a supplementary question, or promise a written reply within seven days. The period of time allocated for questions shall not exceed **ten minutes**. Any questions remaining after that period has elapsed shall be answered in writing within seven days. The Chairman may, however, accept questions without notice if satisfied they are urgent. Such questions shall not count towards the allocated time limit of ten minutes and shall be answered orally at the meeting or in writing within seven days.

Questions relating to matters on the agenda shall be asked when that matter is discussed and may be addressed to the Chairman or to an officer, who may answer orally or may undertake to provide a written reply within seven days.

The following questions had been received at the time of agenda despatch.

**1** **David Billing** will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following questions:

*'In regard to the Youth Service:*

- 1. When will its management be decentralised, so that local staff can be fully integrated into the CSF Quadrants?*
- 2. Does the Cabinet support the case for rationalising the capital assets of the Service, so that the condition and suitability of the buildings retained can be urgently improved, and when will such work start if it is approved?'*

**2** *'Will the Executive Member assure the Committee that the "Children with Disability" fora will be re-instated in those areas of the County where they have been discontinued, so that there is a consistent policy on this means of involving parents as stakeholders? Would he also state clearly what is happening to all other CSF-related local fora, including:*

- a) Learning disability locality planning groups*
- b) other groups involving CSF and NHS?'*

**3** **Tanis Kent** will ask the Executive Member, **Robert Gordon**, the following question:

*'As a result of several cases I have heard of lately, I am concerned about the amount of training that is being given to teachers and support staff who have to deal with autistic children especially in primary schools.*

*Can the Executive Member say:*

- (i) What training is being offered to classroom assistants who are employed to work with an autistic child?*
- (ii) Are they all offered training and do they all undertake it?*
- (iii) Is a record kept of assistants who have been trained so that their expertise can be used for another child, and we build up a pool of expertise?*
- (iv) If an autistic child is placed in a mainstream class what training is given to the class teacher?'*

All reports are reports of the Director of Children, Schools and Families unless stated otherwise.

**The following reports are attached to this agenda: -**

The Executive Member for these items is Robert Gordon, unless stated otherwise.

**1. FUNCTIONS AND REMIT OF THE CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of the County Secretary

**ITEMS REFERRED BY CABINET:**

**2. (a) BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002/03**

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Strategy - Anne Fisher

Executive Members: Robert Ellis and Bernard Lloyd

**(b) CSF PROPOSED RESOURCE BUDGET 2002/03 - 2005/06**

Joint report of the Finance Director and the Director of Children, Schools and Families

Executive Members: David Beatty and Robert Gordon

*To follow*

**3. CSF PLAN 2002/07**

*To follow after meeting of Strategy Panel on 16 January 2002*

**SCRUTINY ITEMS:**

**4. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**5. REPORTS BACK ON ONGOING SCRUTINY ITEMS**

**(i) CHILDREN OUT OF SCHOOL**

**(ii) CASUAL ADMISSIONS** *to follow*

**(iii) FIXED TERM EXCLUSIONS**

**6. POSSIBLE NEW SCRUTINY ITEMS**

- (i) PROSECUTION OF PARENTS**
- (ii) TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES FOR YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE**

**ITEMS REFERRED TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL (Standing Order SC.7(2))**

At a committee meeting the leader of the Opposition or a spokesman nominated by that Leader may require one identified item to be reported from that meeting to the Council.

**PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA**

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There are no items of Part II (Confidential) business on this agenda but if items are notified the Chairman will move: -

"That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) ... of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act."

**Please note that full papers have been despatched to Committee members only. All other members have been sent the front sheets of each report.**

**If you require a copy of any of the reports mentioned above or require further information about this agenda please contact Julia Harries, Committee Services, County Secretary's Department, on telephone no. (01992) 555563 or fax. 01992 555518**