

**AGENDA for a meeting of the CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Hertford on
WEDNESDAY 23 JUNE 2004 at 10.00 a.m.**

MEMBER MEETINGS (FOR MEMBERS ONLY)

Conservative	16 June 2004	2.00pm	Committee Room 'C'
Opposition	21 June 2004	11.00am	Room 156
Conservative	23 June 2004	9.30am	Committee Room 'B'
Labour	23 June 2004	9.15am	Room 106
Liberal Democrat	23 June 2004	9.30am	Room 12

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE - 22, QUORUM - 6

County Councillors (16)

D E Billing, N K Brook, P T J Channell, A D Dodd, B C Engel, A K Gray,
F Guest, D W Hills, T G M Kent (Chairman), B J Lamb, A Lee, M H O'Neill,
S Quilty (Vice-Chairman), I Simpson, R H Smith, J Taunton

Representative Members

Voting (6)

Parent Representatives (4)

P A Cherry	North area
J E Shire	South area
M Calvert	East area
R Tucker	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)

Teacher Representatives (6)

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

Co-opted members from the Health and Voluntary Sectors (2 + 1 vacancy)

M Mitchell	Executive Director, Dacorum CVS
L Wallace	Chairman of Hertfordshire Association for Young People (HAYP)

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 [SC.8]

To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 17 March and 5 April 2004 (previously circulated).

PUBLIC PETITIONS [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.

QUESTIONS [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 **five clear working days** ((where a working day is Monday to Friday, 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m.) 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 have been received from Tanis Kent:

- 1 *'Have the recommendations made by the Casual Admissions Topic Group set up by the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee been put into effect? In particular, the recommendation that people should not continue on the Continuing Interest list indefinitely but be given the chance to re-apply.'*
- 2 *'The striking Youth Workers said that Hertfordshire gets a £2million grant for youth work, but only half of that goes to the County Youth Service:

a) Is the size of the Government grant correct?
b) What is the grant spent on?'*
- 3 *'How many pupils living in the Cheshunt/Waltham Cross area did not get a place at a ranked school and were written in to a school in Hertford or Ware this year?'*
- 4 *'Does the Cabinet member for Education consider it equitable that parents with access to the Internet could find out their child's secondary placement from 5.00pm on the day before allocation letters were due to be delivered?

If this system is to continue, what steps are to be taken to see that the website does not crash as it did this year?'*
- 5 *'What % of the young people who appear before the Youth Justice Panel have been out of school for a) 6 months, and b) 12 months?'*

The following question has been received from Lorna Kercher:

- 6 *'How many Letchworth children were allocated secondary places in Stevenage this year? How many are actually going to go to Stevenage?'*

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

The following reports are attached to this agenda: -

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The Executive Member for this item is Jane Pitman.

- 1 **THE INSPECTION OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES,
HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, DECEMBER 2003** *to follow*

The Executive Members for this item are Derrick Ashley and Jane Pitman

2 CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR DRIVERS
Report of the Director of the Environment

EDUCATION

The Executive Member for these items is Robert Gordon.

3 PERFORMANCE OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN AT ALL KEY STAGES

4 PROVISION FOR 14-19 YEAR OLDS AND RECREATIONAL COURSES IN DACORUM

5 PETITION FROM ST JOSEPH'S RC JUNIOR SCHOOL, WALTHAM CROSS

The Executive Members for these items are Robert Gordon and Jane Pitman, plus David Beatty for items 6 and 7.

6 COUNCIL PROMISES AND LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT (LPSA) MONITOR REPORT – 'TRAFFIC LIGHT' MONITOR
Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families and the Head of Performance Improvement

7 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR TO 29 FEBRUARY 2004
Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families and the Finance Director

8 SCRUTINY UPDATE AND WORK PROGRAMME REPORT
Report of the Head of Scrutiny

ITEM FOR REPORT TO THE COUNCIL [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, fax. 01992 555518 or email julia.harries@hertscc.gov.uk