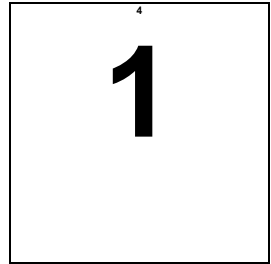


**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MONDAY 5 APRIL 2004 AT 10.00AM**



**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF FIVE OAKS PRIMARY AND NURSERY  
SCHOOL AND HAZELGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL, HATFIELD, AND THE  
OPENING OF A NEW TWO FORMS OF ENTRY SCHOOL ON THE FIVE  
OAKS SITE.**

*Report of the Director of Children, Schools and Families*

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Places  
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Executive Member: Robert Gordon

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To enable the Scrutiny Committee to consider the decision taken by the Cabinet on 15 March 2004 to close Five Oaks Primary and Nursery School and Hazelgrove Primary School, Hatfield and open a new school on the Five Oaks site; and to decide whether to recommend the Cabinet to reconsider their decision under Standing Order SC.7(3).
- 1.2 To consider the implementation timing defined in the Cabinet's decision, and the processes of consultation which led to its decision.
- 1.3 The Cabinet report and minutes of 15 March 2004 are attached; the next meeting of the Cabinet is on 19 April 2004.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Three members of the Scrutiny Committee have called this Special Meeting in accordance with Standing Order SC3(4) to 'call-in' the decision made by Cabinet on 15 March 2004.
- 2.2 Since 15 March, the following action has been taken. Statutory notices were sent to the local press on the afternoon of the 15 March which was the print deadline for that week's edition. The newspaper came out on the 17 March and on the same morning, at the start of the school day, statutory notices were posted up. The previous day, 16 March, an e-mail of the notice was sent to all local Members, the spokesmen of the political groups and the Leader of the Council. That day also,

copies were posted to the Diocesan Directors of Education and the Secretary to the School Organisation Committee.

- 2.3 The Statutory Notices will run until 7 May 2004 during which time anyone may make comments or objections to the proposals. If there are any objections, the proposals will go to a meeting of the School Organisation Committee for decision on 20 May. If there are no objections, the County Council may decide the matter and notify the Secretary to the School Organisation Committee and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.
- 2.4 If Cabinet is asked to reconsider its decision, as long as this is done by the end of the Statutory Notice period, 7 May, and if Cabinet re-affirms its decision, no difference will have been made to the timetable. If any part of the County Council process delays the matter either going to the School Organisation Committee, or being decided by the County Council by 20 May, there will be a delay which would impact on the implementation of the proposals.

### **Conclusion**

The Scrutiny Committee should consider whether to recommend to Cabinet that the decision taken on 15 March 2004 be reconsidered, under Standing Order SC.7(3).

### *Background information used in writing this report:*

Cabinet report and minutes 15 March 2004  
Hertfordshire County Council Constitution