

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Thursday 15 February 2001.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N E Agar	M D Colne	J A Hobday	M H O'Neill
T I Ambrose	R N Copping	M J Hobday	J E Price
J E Anderson	D J Drake	M H T Janes	D Royall
D A Ashley	R J M Ellis	T G M Kent	R Sanderson
M V Bayes	K F Emsall	D L Kerr	A M R Searing
D Beatty	B C Engel	A Kilkerr	R H Smith
J D Beesley	F J Escott	I H Laidlaw-Dickson	R J Smith
D E Billing	G L Francis	B J Lamb	W A Storey
N K Brook	G D Game	A Lee	I E M Tarry
H A Burningham (Chairman)	J Gipps	N Lindop	J Taunton
G Burrow	P V Goggins	D B Lloyd	R A G Thomas
F Button	A K Gray	D E Lloyd	M L Tomlinson
P T J Channell	M Green	R Mays	J W A Usher
A R Choudhrey	B P Hall	J T Metcalf	G F Wenham
G R Churchurch	B N W Hammond	R Mills	C J White
R A Clark	N A D Haslam	S J Mills	B Wing
F W Clayton	R Hebborn	M V Moore	B A York
K J Coleman	D W Hills	J R Morton	

Upon consideration of the agenda for the meeting of the County Council held on 15 February 2001, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

1. MINUTES

Upon the Chairman inviting the Council to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2000, **C J White** proposed the following motion, which was duly seconded:-

“That minute 9.1 be amended to reflect that the motion was carried not lost.”

The motion was lost, whereupon the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 28 November 2000 were confirmed.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Deaths of County Councillor Michael Wilson, former Chief Constable Peter Sharpe and former County Councillor J G McKenna

The Chairman reported the death on 18 December 2000 of County Councillor Michael Wilson, who had represented St Albans South since May 1997, and paid tribute to him.

The Chairman also reported the death on 1 December 2000 of the former Chief Constable, Peter Sharpe. I H Laidlaw-Dickson, Vice-Chairman of the Police Authority, paid tribute to him.

The Chairman finally reported the death of the former County Councillor John McKenna who had represented Letchworth (West) from 1977 to 1981.

The Council stood for a moment in their memory.

2.2 Retirement of Spencer Robeson

The Chairman announced the forthcoming retirement on 31 March 2001 of Spencer Robeson, County Transport Services Manager.

Members joined the Council in thanking him for his 40 years of service with the County Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

2.3 Departure of Joan Blake, Committee Administrator

The Chairman reported that Joan Blake, Committee Administrator in the County Secretary's department would be leaving after 12 years service with the Council and paid tribute to the contribution she had made. The Council wished her well for the future.

2.4 New Year's Honours

The Chairman congratulated Geoffrey Dobson, Chief Probation Officer, on being awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List.

2.5 Investors in People

The Chairman congratulated the People & Property Department of Corporate Services on being accredited with Investors in People status.

2.6 Award to the County Music Service

The Council congratulated the County Music Service on winning the major trophy in the National Music Council Local Education Authority Music Awards for 1999-2000.

2.7 Floods

The Executive Member for Protection, G D Game, updated the Council about flooding in parts of the county earlier in the week. The Emergency Planning Team would continue to liaise with HESMIC partners to ensure that emergency arrangements were in place should further flooding occur.

2.8 Successful Schools

The Chairman announced that certain Hertfordshire schools had been included by the Chief Inspector of Ofsted in his list of the most successful schools in the country.

Heads and Governors from each school were invited to the meeting and the Chairman presented a representative from each of the schools with a gift to acknowledge their achievement. K F Emsall, T G M Kent and C J White joined the Chairman in paying tribute to the schools concerned, along with all other schools in the County which provide such a high standard of education.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 7(1)

3.1 N A D Haslam asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

“How soon is a decision expected with respect to funding for the Baldock Bypass?”

I E M Tarry replied:-

“Following the announcement by DETR in December 1999 that the Baldock Bypass had been provisionally accepted, there have been numerous discussions between Hertfordshire’s officers and officials from DETR about the appropriate funding mechanism. In November 2000, the DETR finally announced they would give the County Council responsibility to decide whether the scheme should be funded conventionally through direct grant or by use of use the Private Finance Initiative. However, a condition was placed on the conventional funding route by DETR that the grant allocation would be capped. The precise terms of this condition were very unclear.

It is important, that the County Council fully understands the implications of any constraints placed on funding by the DETR as this could have very significant budget implications in future years on this scheme costing about £36m. Therefore, officers have continued to press DETR for clarification and agreement over the sharing of risks. Much depends upon the speed of response from DETR but I am hopeful that all these details will be finalised for a decision in March or June at the latest.

Additionally, I am pleased to say that the Secretary of State last week finally confirmed the supplementary Orders for the scheme, following a Public Inquiry held in February 2000. These provide the powers to commence construction of the bypass.

We should soon therefore be in a position to bring about the long awaited improvements for the people of Baldock and for those using the roads in the area.”

N A D Haslam then asked the following supplementary question:-

“With regard to the balance between the PFI bid and direct funding, would it be right to assume that, if there was direct government funding, there would be more delay?”

I E M Tarry undertook to provide a written reply within 7 days.

3.2 B A York asked the Leader of the Council:-

“Would he agree that promotion of Holocaust Memorial Day in the county was successful in bringing reflection on the genocides of the past and on the continuing need to combat the horrors of racism and discrimination? On behalf of the whole Council would he express thanks to the Library Service and the many schools for their activities leading up to, and on, Memorial Day? Will he commit the Council to committing itself to promotion of activities to the Memorial Day in the future?”

R J M Ellis replied:-

“I do not think that I can agree with Mr York that the promotion of Holocaust Memorial Day in the county was wholly successful.

Whilst the County Council was involved through our libraries and schools - and our thanks do indeed go to the schools and the library service for their efforts - the activities organised by district were decidedly patchy both as regards organised efforts and public support.

North Herts District Council organised a series of candle lighting ceremonies - they were not well attended (only 7 other people joined me in Knebworth for example). St Albans had an exhibition in the foyer of the council offices and it is reported this was well received. However, Stevenage had an exhibition in the local shopping centre that was not well received - indeed a couple of negative letters from holocaust survivors were received.

The County Council Chairman was amongst those who attended a tree planting ceremony in Welwyn Hatfield. Hertsmere appears to have had the most successful day with many attending an assembly. Feedback has been very positive.

In the remaining five districts we are not aware that any commemoration was organised.

Members will recall that the County Council issued a News Release on the Holocaust Memorial Day. Only two of the county's newspapers featured it!

It is too early to say if the concept of the Holocaust Memorial Day will gain strength or fail to engage the public. Having waited almost sixty years to launch the idea may mean that the public do not see any immediacy in it: personally, I think that the wider issues of genocide will need to be more prominent in the future. Stalin's victims far outnumbered any other and in our own times Rwanda, the Sudan, East Timor and the former Yugoslavia show the appalling universality of man's capacity for horror beyond our understanding."

B A York then asked the following supplementary question:-

"I was not aware there would be such differing views on the day. Could the Leader try to ensure that where things were not successful we will do what we can as a County Council to improve things next time?"

R J M Ellis replied:-

"The County Council will do what seems appropriate at the time. At the end of the day it will be for local communities themselves and the public to support them. The County Council can encourage but cannot ensure that it happens."

3.3 B A York asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

“On the matter of the snowfall on 28 December 2000:

County Councillor Mrs Iris Tarry (Conservative):

‘The lorries were out an hour before the snow started... clearing main roads, bus routes and roads in and out of villages. After these main routes are clear, the lorries are then moved on to other routes with steep gradients, poor drainage or other significant hazards.’

County Councillor Doug Drake (Conservative):

‘I was concerned at the poor standard of treatment received to Royston’s roads and footpaths during last week’s snow. I find it unacceptable that certain roads, especially on hilly terrain, were not treated, even after requests for emergency action. I am looking for assurances that this situation is remedied, and that we receive the quality of service that we should expect.’

Who is right - and why? Has County Councillor Drake received assurances?”

I E M Tarry replied:-

“The summary quoted by Mr York of the road salting priorities adopted during periods of snow when decisions are placed under local control is essentially correct.

When snow fell during the holiday period on 28 December 2000 our operation was complicated by very light traffic and very low temperatures. Consequently the action of the salt on the snow took longer to react and crews had to spend more time treating the main roads before attending to secondary problems. The situation was further complicated by the fact that back up labour to assist with hand salting, normally sourced from District Council staff, was not available on the day to help deal with problems in Royston as NHDC had stood their men down and sent them home.

Councillor Drake was therefore correct in drawing this to my attention and we have been assured that action has been taken to ensure that back up labour will be available in future.”

B A York then asked the following supplementary question:-

“Would the Executive Member comment on the letter in the Welwyn Hatfield Review from a Mr Metcalf of Wheathampstead which said that County Councillor Tarry might like to believe most roads, bus routes and roads in and out of villages had been salted, but he and his wife had arrived back by car from Glasgow and the only difficult road conditions were as they approached Wheathampstead, where the main roads were very poor.”

I E M Tarry replied:-

“I have not seen the letter Mr York refers to – it would have been nice if he had shown it to me beforehand. But rest assured that while we are safe in our beds 56 lorries are on standby to go out salting the 1,555 kms of roads in the county. A round trip costs about £30,000 so every trip has to count. The priorities are main roads, A and B roads, and entrances and exits to villages. I can assure you the staff do their damndest to cover these situations and I think it is churlish for some people to criticise instances of this kind.”

3.4 B A York asked the Executive Member for Environment:-

“On the matter of the Housing Road Show:

County Councillor Mrs Iris Tarry (Conservative):

‘By taking this issue out to shopping centres, market squares and community halls, we hope to build a good picture of what local people think. After all, the decisions we take today must serve us well for the future.’

County Councillor Bernard Engel (Conservative) in the Herts and Essex Observer (11.01.01):

‘He criticised the prospect of the county formulating policy from the answers at the exhibition. “There’s considerable danger in this approach that has been made to the public because you get general answers to specific problems and therefore the answers you get - to a certain extent - are meaningless,” he said.’

Who is right - and why?”

I E M Tarry replied:-

“I fully understand Mr Engel's concerns that taking this consultation exercise in isolation to formulate policy would not be appropriate. However, this is not the case as the Roadshow is only the start of an extensive programme of consultation that will run for the next year or so to inform and involve the public in our review of the current Structure Plan policies.

The feedback I have had from the Roadshow so far is that it is receiving a lot of interest and will be of great assistance in highlighting the issues that the Structure Plan Panel will need to discuss when assessing the outputs of the Urban Capacity Study in the summer.”

B A York then asked the following supplementary question:-

“When does the Executive Member expect the current surveys on housing capacity studies in towns to be made public?”

I E M Tarry undertook to provide a written reply within 7 days.

3.5 C J White asked the Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families:-

“What steps are being taken to encourage the recruitment of teachers from overseas to head off the impending teacher shortage in the county?”

K F Emsall replied:-

“Teachers from overseas have an important part to play in managing the current difficulties being experienced by Hertfordshire schools. Overseas trained teachers not only bring their skills to the classroom, but also fresh perspectives which help us in our improvement efforts. They do, however, require additional support to ensure they are fully up to speed with the national curriculum, assessment arrangements and the English education system.

In order to support schools we are developing proposals for a Strategic Partnership with a recruitment agency in Australia. If approved, this will include the creation of a video-conferencing interview facility at Wheathampstead, where headteachers and governors can “virtually” meet prospective teachers. We are also liaising with a UK based supply agency and bringing their work to schools attention. Other partnerships with LEAs could potentially lead to recruitment from South Africa, New Zealand and Cyprus, though these are much less developed at this juncture. Good practice at locating and recruiting teachers from abroad is being disseminated, as well as advice on the pitfalls of such recruitment.

This work is being done by the Recruitment and Retention team. They are working on a number of initiatives to support schools in their recruitment efforts of, including overseas teachers. As more overseas teachers are recruited central training programmes will be put in along with other support structures for overseas teachers. Networks are being developed and the LEA is supporting and encouraging schools to collaborate in such initiatives.”

C J White then asked the following supplementary question:-

“Will the Executive Member be reporting at the next County Council meeting or some other suitable meeting such as Children, Schools and Families Select Committee, about the continuing way this problem is being addressed so we can monitor it and would he agree that the recent government announcements and incentives will only make a marginal difference?”

K F Emsall replied:-

“Yes and yes.”

3.6 C J White asked the Executive Member for Adult Care Services:-

“Since services for children, families and the elderly became accessible via Herts Connect, what has been the change in the number of referrals to the appropriate social worker teams?”

J E Price replied:-

“The transfer of calls and referrals to the Customer Service Centre has taken place on a phased basis during 2000/01. The first transfer was of Three Rivers functions on 17 April 2000. For all other districts referrals taken for the care groups in question over the year will have been partly via the customer service centre, partly through districts prior to transfer and also through hospitals - this on a continuing basis.

For the period from the first transfer to the CSC, 17 April 2000 to 27 January 2001 compared to the same period the previous year referral rates for the care groups in question across the whole county were as follows:

Children & Families - referrals rose by 1.24% from 12,535 to 12,691
Elderly & Physical Disability - referrals fell by 6.75% from 26,057 to 24,298
- This figure includes referrals from hospital teams which, for all care groups, have fallen by 9.2% from 4,566 to 4,144.

In Three Rivers, the district which has been in the longest the position for the same period is as follows:

Children & Families - referrals rose by 8.09% from 1,088 to 1,176
Elderly & Physical Disability - referrals fell by 4% from 1,675 to 1,608.”

C J White then asked the following supplementary question:-

“Is the Executive Member content that the people who are making contact with the County Council are actually receiving an adequate response? It could be interpreted that they are actually getting less professional help.”

J E Price replied:-

“Yes, I am content they are getting the right response. There are other factors which need to be taken into account when looking at these figures. For example the 1999/2000 figures include calls from the elderly arising from the flu outbreak which has not occurred this year.”

4. QUESTIONS - HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY – STANDING ORDER 7(2)

N A D Haslam asked the Vice-Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority (I H Laidlaw-Dickson):-

“Are there any plans to reduce the opening times of Police Stations in North Herts?”

I H Laidlaw-Dickson replied:-

“In order to answer this question, I need first to distinguish between the hours that police stations are open as operational bases and the hours that the enquiry offices are open to the public.

The specific answer then is:-

There are no current plans to change the hours during which police stations in North Herts are operational.

Following an analysis of public use of all four of the North Herts Division public enquiry offices the following changes have been made. At Hitchin and Baldock the enquiry office opening hours have remained the same. With effect from the 5th February 2001 the Royston enquiry office will be open from 0800 to 2200 daily (prior to that date it was open until midnight). With effect from the 19th February 2001 the Letchworth enquiry office will open from 1000 to 1800 daily (prior to that date it had been open 0800 to midnight).

These changes were made in line with the results of detailed analysis, with the opening hours being tailored according to public need, and to release police officers in order that they can return to front line police duties.

It should be borne in mind that these adjustments reflect the changing use of enquiry offices over recent years. For emergencies, contact is almost always by telephone; and the 999 system is well known and always available.

For non-emergency business the public generally use 'phone, letter or email. It is in this context that the opening hours of enquiry offices have been adjusted to maximise meeting the street needs of the communities.

It should be noted that all Police enquiry offices have free public telephones outside available 24 hours a day for contact direct to the local control room. Also available are indexed maps of the local area for those who require directions.

The Police Authority's Performance Review Panel have also recently decided to make representations to the Home Office for a national non-emergency police contact number e.g. 333. This would make it easier to contact the police and should reduce the number of 999 calls, some of which prove not to be emergencies."

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None notified.

6. PUBLIC PETITIONS

Mr P Cook from Heath Farm Lane, St Albans presented a petition containing just over 1000 signatures on behalf of residents of land adjacent to Bernards Heath, St Albans, seeking to secure the registration of the Lower Heath as a town or village green.

The petition was referred to the Director of Environment for consideration and report to the local member (R Mills) and Group Spokesmen.

**7. COUNTY COUNCIL RESOURCE BUDGET
2001/2002 - 2004/2005**

The Council received a supplementary report from the Finance Director (Item 7a).

7.1 The following motions were proposed by **D Beatty** and duly seconded:-

“ 1. That the revenue budget for 2001/02 proposed by Cabinet on 29 January 2001 be agreed, subject to:

(a) an increase of £62,000 in the Education budget to reflect the increase in the Education SSA in the final settlement

(b) the following changes within the Education budget:

	Increase/ (Decrease) £'000
Inflation	4,020
Pressures for Change	
Demography	(840)
Free School Meals	(200)
Service Enhancements	(2,818)
Grant	(100)

(c) an increase of £600,000 in the Adult Care Services budget and £150,000 in the Environment budget to create specific provisions to deal with unforeseen pressures (e.g. buses), and this would bring the total increase in the provision for buses to £1,050k, compared to the total of £900k cut from bus support by the previous administration between 1997 and 1999.

(d) a provision for salt bins of £112,000 to be made from within the overall resources being made available for the Environment service.

(e) the creation of a crime and disorder fund of £100,000 under the control of the Chief Executive to meet local initiatives.

(f) an increase of £1.0 million in the Corporate Services budget and decreases in the Adult Care Services budget of £774,000 and the Children, Schools and Families budget of £226,000, to reflect the transfer of the Money Advice Unit and Locality Development Workers.

(g) a contribution to council tax benefit costs of £1,851,000.

to produce a budget set out below:

	2001/02
	Revenue Budget
	£m
<i>Adult Care Services</i>	134.083
<i>Children, Schools and Families</i>	549.147
<i>Community Information</i>	17.161
<i>Corporate Services</i>	11.978
<i>Environment</i>	68.779
<i>Protection</i>	
<i>Fire and Rescue</i>	24.222
<i>Fire Pensions</i>	4.459
<i>Coroners</i>	0.664
<i>Emergency Planning</i>	0.223
<i>Registration</i>	0.577
<i>Trading Standards</i>	1.944
<i>Protection Subtotal</i>	32.089
<i>Central Items</i>	25.111
<i>Contribution to Capital Programme</i>	1.620
	839.968
<i>Use of Reserves</i>	(2.900)
<i>Capitalisation of Annual Provisions</i>	(3.300)
<i>Council Tax Benefit</i>	1.851
<i>Budget for Council Tax Purposes</i>	835.619

2. *That the £8,918,000 available for Education service enhancements be allocated as follows:-*

	£'000
Additional cost of Standards Fund Contributions	2,528
Discontinuation of School Budget Support Grant	1,083
Programme for Raising Achievement in Under-Achieving Schools	600
Teachers Recruitment and Retention Strategy	100
Home Tuition for Excluded Pupils	300
Hospital and Home Education Service	570
Growth in School Budget Shares	3,737

3. *That the growth in school budget shares of £3,737,000 should be allocated between the priority areas identified by the School Funding Review Steering Group as follows:-*

	£'000
Economic Deprivation	893
Casual Admissions	140
Looked After Children	244
ICT	754
Primary Sector Non-Contact Time	753
Implementation of Curriculum 2000	753
Growth in Special School budgets	200

4. *That the Capital Programme set out as follows be agreed:-*

TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME

(includes funding from all sources but excluding annual provisions)

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04
	£m	£m	£m
<i>Adult Care Services</i>	2.375	0.885	0.450
<i>Children, Schools and Families</i>	31.920	26.215	27.523
<i>Community Information</i>	0.628	0.377	1.237
<i>Corporate Services</i>	2.284	1.328	0.210
<i>Environment</i>	26.346	25.335	23.701
<i>Protection</i>	2.425	3.804	0.299
<i>As yet unallocated</i>	0.000	1.500	2.500
TOTAL	65.978	59.444	55.920

5. *That to support the expenditure proposals a council tax increase of 6.0% and a withdrawal of £2.9 million from reserves be agreed.*
6. *That the budgets allocated to schools cover the 2001/02 teachers' and non-teaching staff awards and that the provisions for other 2001/02 pay awards be made and delegated to service committees when the awards are known.*
7. *That the Finance Director be authorised to make any adjustments that need to be made to finalise the Adult Care and Children, Schools and Families Services budgets and to make the technical accounting adjustments necessary in order to present the budget in accordance with best value accounting requirements.*
8. *That the Finance Director be authorised to borrow on behalf of the County Council for the year ending 31 March 2002 such amounts as are required to meet approved capital expenditure within the limits of the basic and supplementary credit approvals received; the amounts to be borrowed for periods which will not result in the overall borrowing limit of £150 million being exceeded, and of which no more than £70 million shall be short term and 30% with variable interest rate terms.*
9. *That vehicles and equipment up to a value of £3.5 million be purchased by the County Council in the year ending 31 March 2002, the total cost of which to be financed by entering into operating lease agreements as defined by Regulation 20 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) Regulations 1997, with the County Council acting as lessee.*

10. That the Band D council tax for the County Council in 2001/02 be £656.34 and that the amount of tax calculated for all bands be as follows:

<i>Band A</i>	<i>£437.56</i>
<i>Band B</i>	<i>£510.49</i>
<i>Band C</i>	<i>£583.41</i>
<i>Band D</i>	<i>£656.34</i>
<i>Band E</i>	<i>£802.19</i>
<i>Band F</i>	<i>£948.05</i>
<i>Band G</i>	<i>£1,093.90</i>
<i>Band H</i>	<i>£1,312.68</i>

11. That the precept amounts required from the District Councils be as follows:

<i>Broxbourne Borough Council</i>	<i>£22,642,784.87</i>
<i>Dacorum Borough Council</i>	<i>£35,438,421.96</i>
<i>East Hertfordshire District Council</i>	<i>£35,571,494.90</i>
<i>Hertsmere Borough Council</i>	<i>£26,054,728.98</i>
<i>North Hertfordshire District Council</i>	<i>£29,761,540.40</i>
<i>St Albans City & District Council</i>	<i>£37,595,811.54</i>
<i>Stevenage Borough Council</i>	<i>£17,668,679.36</i>
<i>Three Rivers District Council</i>	<i>£24,037,671.46</i>
<i>Watford Borough Council</i>	<i>£19,821,139.83</i>
<i>Welwyn Hatfield District Council</i>	<i>£24,894,844.93</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>£273,487,118.23</i>

12. That the Chief Executive be authorised to issue the council tax leaflets after consultation with the Leader of the Council.”

- 7.2** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **R Sanderson**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That as the Efficiency Saving 27: ‘Review monthly targets for elderly residential and nursing home placements’, in the budget for Adult Care Services has nothing to do with efficiency it should be re-classified as a Service Reduction.”

- 7.3** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **R Mills**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the budget for Adult Care Services be amended to delete the Service Reduction of £90,000 labelled ‘Efficiency Saving 27. Review Monthly targets for elderly residential and nursing home placements’, as this will increase waiting times for vulnerable elderly people waiting to go into residential and nursing care. This £90,000 to be found from the additional Social Service Grants of £2.1m received since the budget was formulated in December.”

- 7.4** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **R Mills**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the budget for Adult Care Services be amended to increase the provision for residential care by a minimum of £300,000, so that resources are available both to purchase additional places from existing providers and to block purchase additional places in new provision coming on stream in the County, with the objective of reducing waiting lists and bed blocking to a realistic minimum. Since it costs £60,000 per year to keep an older person in a hospital bed unnecessarily and far less to maintain someone in a residential home or in a nursing home, any reduction in blocked beds offers a significant overall saving to the public purse. Resources saved by the NHS and beds freed-up should be used to reduce waiting lists for residential care. This £300,000 to be found from the additional Social Service Grants of £2.1m received since the budget was formulated in December.”

- 7.5** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **T G M Kent**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the Revenue budget for Children, Schools and Families include the following growth item:-

(That in view of the worrying figures for teacher vacancies across the County) an additional £100,000 be found for the recruitment and retention of teachers, and that the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee in June scrutinise the way the policy is working and make recommendations on how this and any further funding required should be used.”

- 7.6** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **B A York**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That in order to return to previous overall levels of service, prevent further reductions in services and provide some small real growth, the service enhancement for Bus Routes within the Environment budget be increased by a further £300,000 to be funded from genuine efficiency measures.”

- 7.7** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **B A York**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the proposed Saving of £200,000 by allowing advertising on Street Lights be rejected on road safety and environmental grounds.”

- 7.8** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **P V Goggins**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That in view of the concerns expressed by Hertfordshire residents about the rapid deterioration in the condition of our roads, £1.83 million be added to Highways Maintenance - Non Principal Roads, in Appendix 5F; the increase to be funded by the deferral of the Financial Systems Review outlined in Appendix 6F.”

- 7.9** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **P V Goggins**, and duly seconded, was WITHDRAWN following discussion:-

“That the efficiency savings in respect of advertising on street lamps (Appendix 5D) be deleted; the increase in net expenditure being funded by further efficiency savings.”

- 7.10** The following amendment to 7.1.1 proposed by **P V Goggins**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the increase in library fees and charges at Appendix 3E be deleted, the change to be funded from an increase in Council Tax.”

- 7.11** The following amendment to 7.1.4 was proposed by **J T Metcalf** and duly seconded:-

“That the Capital Programme be amended to include provision of up to £300,000 in 2001-02 to ensure that the county council’s policy for extra-care sheltered housing places as outlined in the Best Value Performance Plan, proposed by the Cabinet, can be implemented and, in particular, that the plan being developed with Hertsmere Borough Council for a scheme on the Brook House site can go ahead without delay. The money to be taken from reserves or from any overall savings accruing from the implementation of motion (7.4) above.”

- 7.12** Following discussion, the amendment at 7.11 was WITHDRAWN and the following amendment proposed by **J T Metcalf**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Cabinet and Council ensure that the County Council’s policy for extra care sheltered housing places as outlined in the Best Value Performance Plan, proposed by the Cabinet, can be implemented and, in particular, that the plan being developed with Hertsmere Borough Council for a scheme in Borehamwood, on the Brook House site, or elsewhere, can go ahead without delay.”

- 7.13** The motions at 7.1, as amended by minute 7.12, were then CARRIED:-

- 7.14** The following motion was then proposed by **R Mays** and duly seconded:-

“That the County Council welcomes the increase in Government support for Hertfordshire of £32.4 million (6.2% after allowing for changes in function), together with an increase from £7.0 million to £12.8 million in direct payments to school budgets.”

- 7.15** The following amendment to 7.14 proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED and then ADOPTED as a substantive motion:-

“That the motion be amended to read:-

‘That the County Council welcomes the increase in Government support for Hertfordshire as part of the run up to the general election but regrets:

- (1) the increasing use of direct and specific grants which limit our ability to prioritise areas of local need*

- (2) *that we are still being under-funded by £15 million for learning disability clients*
- (3) *that we have received only £21.48 per head of population for LTP compared with a national average of £27.60.*

The Council therefore calls on all political groups to lobby Government to address these issues'.

8. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

8.1 The following motion was proposed by **A M R Searing**, and duly seconded:-

- “ 1. That the Best Value Performance Plan 2001-2002, including the Best Value Review Programme, be approved.*
- 2. That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, to make such further changes as become necessary, prior to the printing of the final version.”*

8.2 The following amendments to 8.1.1 proposed by **J T Metcalf**, and duly seconded, were CARRIED:-

- “ 1. That page 13 of the Plan be amended by stressing the importance of speed limits and their enforcement in cutting the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads.”*
- 2. That the Plan be changed by listing the actions to promote Social Inclusion on the page where this is mentioned as a key objective.”*

8.3 The following amendment to 8.1.2, proposed by **C J White**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That the members to be consulted include the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group.”

8.4 The motions at 8.1, as amended by minute 8.2, were then CARRIED:-

9. QUALITY PROTECTS - MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2001/2002

The following motion proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Quality Protects Management Action Plan 2001/2002 be approved.”

10. YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE PLAN 2001/2002

The following motion proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the draft Youth Justice Plan 2001/2002 be approved.”

11. ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL - HERTFORDSHIRE’S EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2001/2002

The following motion, proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Education Development Plan 2001/2002 be approved, subject to minor corrections and amendments being agreed by the Director of Education in consultation with Group Spokesmen.”

12. EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE DEVELOPMENT PLANS 2001/2004

The following motion, proposed by **D A Ashley**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Early Years Development and Childcare Plans for Hertfordshire 2001/2004 and the Implementation Plan for 2001/2002 be approved.”

**13. REPORT OF THE CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SELECT COMMITTEE - 24 JANUARY 2001**

(presented by **T G M Kent**, Chairman of the Select Committee)

13.1 Item 1 - School Funding Arrangements

The following motion proposed by **T G M Kent**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That in view of the opposition from the schools no decision to delegate school meals for primary school pupils should be made this year. A system for delegation should be worked out so that if it is necessary to delegate them next year, schools will be reassured that it will not involve them in excessive extra work.”

13.2 The Report of the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee dated 24 January 2001 was received and adopted.

**14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - PROPOSALS FOR
EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND NEW CONSTITUTION**

14.1 The following motion proposed by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the Council notes the report and instructs the County Secretary to bring a further report on future executive arrangements to the next Council meeting on 3 April 2001.”

14.2 The following motion proposed by **R Mays**, and duly seconded, was LOST:-

“That in the Executive arrangements to be considered by the Council on 3 April the term of office of the Leader of the Council be set at one year.”

14.3 The following motion proposed by **R Mays**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the New Member Structures Panel receive a full report on the proposed Executive Arrangements, including details of ‘Key Decisions’, and make recommendations to the Council on 3 April.”

15. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - SEPTEMBER 2001 TO JULY 2002

The following motion proposed by **R J M Ellis**, and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

“That the programme of meetings for September 2001 to July 2002, as circulated with the agenda, be agreed, subject to amending the date of June 2002 Children, Schools and Families Select Committee from 18 to 19 June.”

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

None were notified.

ANDREW LAYCOCK
County Secretary