

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Agenda Item No.

13

COUNTY COUNCIL

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2003 AT 10.30 A.M.

PROTOCOL FOR NEWS RELEASES

Report of the County Secretary considered by the Cabinet on 27 January 2003

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Executive Member:- Robert Ellis

1. Purpose of report

To recommend the amendment of the Protocol for News Releases to allow Chairmen of Cabinet Panels to be quoted in County Council news releases.

2. Background

The Protocol for News Releases. (Annex 20 to the Constitution, Section 3) states that County Council News Releases which relate to Cabinet or Executive decision making may contain quotes from the Leader of the Council or an Executive Member.

The Protocol predates the introduction of Cabinet Panels. A good deal of the Executive's business is now considered at meetings of these Panels, and the Cabinet therefore feel it would be appropriate to amend the Protocol to allow Chairmen of Cabinet Panels to be quoted in news releases, with the prior consent of the relevant Executive Member.

3. Financial Implications

None

4. Cabinet Proposal

That the Constitution be amended so that paragraph 3.3 of Annex 20 reads as follows:-

“Subject to this [the requirement that news releases must not be designed to affect support for a political party] news releases which relate to Executive decision making may contain quotes from the Leader of the Council, an Executive Member or, with the prior consent of the relevant Executive Member, the Chairman of a Cabinet Panel”

Background Papers: None