

To: All Members of the County Council
All Chief Officers

From COUNTY SECRETARY'S
DEPARTMENT

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CABINET
17 SEPTEMBER 2007

MINUTES
ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

K F Emsall, R I N Gordon (Chairman), D E Lloyd, S M P Newton, S J Pile,
J M Pitman

Other Members present:

M V Bayes, C L Berry, D E Billing, M Downing, B C Engel, S E Jones, T G M Kent, I H
Laidlaw-Dickson, R Roberts, A M R Searing, R H Smith, R A C Thake.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 17 September 2007 as
circulated, copy annexed, executive decisions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet in relation to
the matters on which decisions were made at this meeting.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 23 July 2007 were confirmed as a
correct record.

2. A120 LITTLE HADHAM BYPASS – SELECTION OF PREFERRED ROUTE
(Forward Plan ref. A050/07)

Decision

Cabinet:

1. Confirmed Option 5 as the route of the preferred corridor for the Little
Hadham Bypass.
2. Requested that further detailed investigation and design of the route be
progressed seeking in particular to minimise the impact on local farms,
Standon and the environment
3. Requested that further detailed work be undertaken to determine the
alignment at each end of the route with the results of those investigations to
be considered by the Highways and Transport Panel and reported back to

Cabinet.

(J M Pitman voted against the above decision.)

Reasons for the decision

Cabinet took into account the results of public consultation concerning route options, the traffic, economic and environmental constraints analyses, and the recommendation of the Highways and Transport Cabinet Panel, as set out in the report.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

Route options were described in the report.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR HERTFORDSHIRE
(Forward Plan ref. A057/07)

Decision

1. The Cabinet remained opposed to and deeply concerned about the scale of growth proposed for Hertfordshire in the Secretary of State's "Proposed Changes to the draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy" and the failure of the Regional Spatial Strategy process adequately to consider the Infrastructure and Investment implications of this level of growth.
2. In order to ensure that development in Hertfordshire comes forward in a manner that creates sustainable communities and that local authorities and other partners have a comprehensive understanding of future infrastructure and investment needs, Cabinet agreed (subject to the agreement of Herts Leaders on 3 October 2007) to proceed with the development of a joint Infrastructure and Investment Strategy for Hertfordshire as outlined in the report.

Reasons for the decision

As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

4. CORPORATE ASSESSMENT OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(Forward Plan ref. A047/07)

Decision

Cabinet

1. Noted the generally strong findings of the Inspection particularly with regard to vision, leadership, prioritisation, capacity and partnership working.
2. Noted that virtually all the outstanding CRB checks have already been completed satisfactorily with the cost being met through the resolutions under item 7 of this agenda
3. Approved the actions set out in the report to address the areas for improvement identified in the Audit Commission's inspection report progress against those actions to be monitored by Performance & Resources Cabinet Panel with further reports to Cabinet when appropriate.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to the Audit Commission's Corporate Assessment of the County Council.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

**5. JOINT AREA REVIEW OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES IN HERTFORDSHIRE:
POST-INSPECTION ACTION PLAN**
(Forward Plan ref. A047/07)

Decision

Cabinet:

1. Noted the findings of the Joint Area Review (JAR) inspection of children's services in Hertfordshire.
2. While recognising the issues highlighted by the Report, welcomed its acknowledgement of demonstrable improvement, "strong leadership and a clear vision for improvement from senior officers and councillors" and 'good' capacity to improve further
3. Approved the key priorities for the Post-Inspection Action Plan to improve the performance of children's services in Hertfordshire, as set out in the report.
4. Welcomed the external support offered by DCSF which will help accelerate the rate of improvement including the enhancement of performance and

financial management systems

5. Noted that resolutions under item 7 of this agenda allocate resources to fund the Post-Inspection Action Plan for the period September 2007 – March 2009
6. Asked Education Cabinet Panel to consider the findings relevant to its remit and, in particular, post 16 provision and performance
7. Called for regular reports on progress against the Action Plan to the Children's Services & Corporate Parenting Cabinet Panel and the Performance & Resources Cabinet Panel with further reports to Cabinet when appropriate.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to the findings of the Joint Area Review inspection of children's services in Hertfordshire.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

6. IMPROVEMENTS IN FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT

Decision

Cabinet approved the implementation of the recommended improvements to Fire and Rescue Service systems and equipment requiring capital investment with the cost being met through the resolutions under item 7 of this agenda.

Reasons for the decision

In order to implement the improvements recommended by the internal report into the fire in February 2005 at Harrow Court, Stevenage.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

7. COUNTY COUNCIL REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITOR 2007/08

Decision

1. That virement of £2.34m, from the package of in-year savings identified by Children, Schools & Families, be approved to offset the increased pressures on children with disabilities (£1.245m) and out of county social care placements (£1.095m).
2. That virement of £1m be approved from the capital budget saving on

Langleybury to support the financial requirements relating to Fire & Rescue systems and equipment (£274,000), the council's response to the Corporate Assessment report (£150,000) and the Joint Area Review (£576,000). To the extent that there is a need to fund more of the JAR requirement in 2007/08 that this be subject to a further report. If not required in the current year that the further £424,000 needed to fund the JAR response be a call on the 2008/09 budget.

Reasons for the decision

As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE - FORMULA GRANT DISTRIBUTION CONSULTATION

Decision

Cabinet approved the response to consultation on formula grant distribution for submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government subject to the reversal of the responses to questions 28 and 29. The proposed letter should be from the Leader and revised to highlight the Cabinet's concerns on adequacy of funding, maintenance of the floor and 'supported' borrowing.

Reasons for the decision

To respond to Government consultation.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

9. THE FUTURE OF THE SITE OF RYELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HODDESDON

Decision

That, as there is no need to retain the property for service or strategic purposes, the site of the former Ryelands School, Essex Road, Hoddesdon be declared surplus to requirements and available for disposal.

Reasons for the decision

As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None

10. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

BUNCEFIELD OIL STORAGE DEPOT: A VIEW ON THE SITE'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Decision

Cabinet:

1. Fully supported Dacorum Borough Council and local partners in seeking to maximise the opportunities to regenerate the Maylands industrial area.
2. Considered the submission of any planning application prior to the conclusion of HSE's work on safety around oil depots to be premature.
3. Recognised there is a case for making best use of the underground infrastructure in providing supplies of aviation fuel.
4. Would be opposed to the storage of petrol and diesel on the site.
5. Would want to see any future use of the site to meet the highest possible standards in terms of safety and risk management.
6. Asked the Director of Environment to write to BP and other interested parties outlining the county council's position.

Reasons for the decision

To determine the County Council's position regarding the future use of the Buncefield site facility.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None