

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Cabinet,  
Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Deborah Jeffery  
Ext: 25563

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## **CABINET 12 DECEMBER 2016**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE CABINET**

D A Ashley, T L F Douris, R I N Gordon (Chairman), T C Heritage, R M Roberts,  
J D Williams, C B Wyatt-Lowe

#### Deputy Executive Members attending on behalf of an Executive Member

A Stevenson (attending on behalf of C M Hayward)

#### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

D Andrews

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 12 December 2016 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions 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 reached at this meeting.*

### **PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS**

#### **1. MINUTES**

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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**2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

2.1 There were no questions from Members of the Council to the Executive.

**3. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

3.1 There were no public petitions.

**4. HERTFORDSHIRE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY 2016 - 2019**

[Forward Plan Ref: A051/16]

**Decision**

4.1 Cabinet agreed:-

- i. the combined Hertfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2016-19 and its delivery plan, attached at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report, and its proposed governance structure, attached at Appendix 2 to the report);
- ii. the Director of Public Health’s proposal to produce a combined Drugs and Alcohol Commissioning Plan to inform Commissioning of required services; and
- iii the Director of Public Health’s proposal to explore the possible risks, benefits and legal framework for procuring a single drugs and alcohol treatment provider for all ages from April 2019.

**Reasons for the decision**

4.2 The Hertfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and its Delivery Plan outlines the County Council’s plans for reducing the harms caused by drugs and alcohol misuse to individuals, families and communities in Hertfordshire. It has been informed by the Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment, which was completed in 2015 and provided a comprehensive overview of issues relating to the misuse of drugs and alcohol in Hertfordshire. The Strategy is supported by a delivery plan to be overseen by the Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Board and delivered through additional topic groups. It addresses the misuse of both drugs and alcohol and considers the needs of all ages.

4.3 In approving the Strategy and its Delivery Plan, Cabinet considered the results of the equalities impact assessment undertaken, together with the action plan developed to mitigate any potential impact on those with protected characteristics; that no additional Public Health funding will be required to deliver the Strategy; and the endorsement of the Strategy from the Public Health, Localism & Libraries Cabinet Panel.

4.4 The next step will be the production of a commissioning plan that sets out

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commissioning intentions to meet all aspects of the Strategy and responsibilities for the relevant commissioning teams.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

4.5 None.

**5. TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION: A POLICY STATEMENT ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES**

[Forward Plan ref: A050/16]

**Decision**

5.1 Cabinet approved the draft e-cigarette policy statement, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

**Reasons for the decision**

5.2 The policy statement is written primarily for policy makers who need to consider whether or not to permit the use of electronic cigarettes in workplaces, enclosed public places and external public areas. The potential approaches for different organisations and environments are described in Appendix 1B to the report. This draft policy statement has been developed in consultation with members of a national e-cigarette policy group (which includes representation from the Association of Directors of Public Health Action on Smoking and Health, Public Health England, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and stop smoking services), Hertfordshire Public Health Board and Hertfordshire Tobacco Control Alliance.

5.3 Whilst Hertfordshire County Council promotes responsibly the use of e-cigarettes to help smokers to quit or reduce smoking, the Authority acknowledges that e-cigarettes are not entirely without risk, and continues to monitor ongoing impact and evidence. This line is entirely consistent with national guidance and was included within Hertfordshire's Tobacco Harm Reduction Guidance which was endorsed by the Public Health & Localism Cabinet Panel in February 2015.

5.4 In approving the Policy Statement, Cabinet considered the equalities impact assessment undertaken and the action plan in place to mitigate any potential impacts; that there are no direct financial implications arising from the Policy Statement; and the recommendations from the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

5.6 None.

**6. EQUALITY STRATEGY 2016 - 2020**

[Forward Plan ref: A049/16]

**Decision**

6.1 Cabinet:-

- i. agreed the Equality Strategy 2016-20, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, taking into account the views of the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel at its meeting on 9 December 2016; and
- ii. noted that the Diversity Board will oversee and monitor delivery of the top level actions set out in the Equality Strategy.

**Reasons for the decision**

6.2 The Equality Strategy 2016 – 2020, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, sets out the County Council’s commitment and vision for equality and diversity and the Authority’s pathway to achieving this. The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 requires the Council to publish at least every four years one or more equality objectives it thinks will achieve any of the following:-

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.3 The County Council’s Equality Strategy 2016-20 demonstrates how it will continue to integrate equality across the range of its functions. It follows the themes set out in the Equality Framework for Local Government allowing the Authority to benchmark performance against other similar authorities.

6.4 In approving the Equality Strategy, Cabinet took into consideration that there are no direct financial implications arising from the Strategy and the recommendations from the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

6.5 None.

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**7. HCC FINANCE REPORT – QUARTER 2, 2016/17**

[Forward Plan ref: A056/16]

**Decision**

7.1 Cabinet agreed:-

- i. that capital budgets of £16.296m, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be reprogrammed to 2017/18 or future years; and
- ii. that the Director of Resources be authorised to re-programme £1.6m of planned top-up to the Spend to Achieve Capital Receipts Reserve.

**Reasons for the decision**

7.2 As set out above.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

7.3 None.

**8. LAND AT HARPENDEN ROAD, ST ALBANS**

[Forward Plan ref: A068/16]

**Decision**

8.1 Cabinet authorised exclusion of the former playing field from the land at Harpenden Road, St Albans, shown edged red at Appendix 2 to the report, which Cabinet had previously agreed be sold.

8.2 This decision is to enable detailed consideration in the context of the Local Planning Authority's emerging District Plan of the possible need to use of the former playing field to meet the pressing demand for additional primary school places but without excluding its possible use as a public open space.

**Reasons for the decision**

8.3 Cabinet has previously resolved that the majority of this land, including the former playing field part, be sold and a planning application for the housing and re-provision of youth facilities has been prepared. Discussions have been held with St Albans City & District Council at pre-application stage and those included the possible transfer of the former playing field part of the land to that Council in order that it can be made available as additional public open space.

8.4 Arising from the forecast need for additional school places to serve central St Albans, suitable land needs to be identified and allocated within the Detailed Local Plan for the District. An options study has shown that the former playing

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field at this site is potentially suitable for development as a 2 form entry primary school scheme and to be compatible with development of the other parts of the surplus land for housing and re-provision of youth facilities, as previously intended. The planning application for the housing and re-provision of youth facilities now needs to be amended to take account of these new circumstances and to exclude the area of land that might be suitable for development as a primary school so that it can comprise part of an evolving education strategy.

- 8.3 In reaching its decision, Cabinet considered the above together with the Council's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet the demand for them; the current planning position; the current programme of works; the financial implications; and the recommendations from the Resources & Performance Cabinet Panel.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

**9. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OBTAIN LAND IN STEVENAGE FOR STRATEGIC PURPOSES**

[Forward Plan ref: A067/16]

**Decision**

- 9.1 Cabinet agreed to acquire the freehold title of land at Q3 Building, Caxton Way, Stevenage, on terms to be approved by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources & Performance.

**Reasons for the decision**

- 9.2 The County Council owns an office campus site in Stevenage comprising of three adjoining office buildings with an undercroft car parking area. Two of the office buildings, Robertson House and Farnham House are used for the County Council's own use and the third building, Abel Smith House, is let out to third parties. In addition, part of Robertson House is used as a conference centre. Adjacent to the office campus site is the Stevenage Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) which is also in the Council's ownership. Between the two sites is the Q3 building which is now vacant and has been offered for sale by the current owner. Given the land sits between the HWRC and the Stevenage Office Campus which are both in the Council's freehold ownership, the opportunity to acquire such a well located parcel of land is considered to be in the Council's strategic interest.
- 9.3 In arriving at its decision to approve the acquisition of the freehold title of the land at Q3 Building, Caxton Way, Stevenage, Cabinet considered the above, the Council's statutory power to transact, town planning consents which designate the site as an employment zone, the property implications of the

proposal including potential strategic uses for the site, the financial implications of the proposal set out in the Part I and Part II reports, the potential risks associated with acquiring the site, and the recommendations of the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

**10. PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA  
EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Decision**

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA**

- 1. TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO OBTAIN LAND IN STEVENAGE FOR STRATEGIC PURPOSES**  
[Forward Plan ref: A067/16]

**Decision**

- 1.1 The decision reached on this item of business is set out at item 9 above.

**KATHRYN PETTITT,  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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