

# Minutes



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

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

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## **CABINET 23 APRIL 2018**

### **ATTENDANCE**

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

D A Ashley, T L F Douris, T C Heritage, T W Hone, R M Roberts, R Sangster, J D Williams  
(Leader of the Council)

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

F R G Hill (attending on behalf of C B Wyatt-Lowe)

#### Other Members in Attendance

D Andrews, P Bibby, C B Woodward

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 23 April 2018 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 19 March 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

#### **CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS**

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### **3. PUBLIC PETITIONS**

3.1 There were no public petitions.

### **4. 'INSPIRING LIBRARIES' – DELIVERING THE NEXT PHASE** [Forward Plan Ref: A011/18]

#### **Decision**

4.1 Cabinet:

- i. endorsed the Outline Business Case, attached at Appendix A to the report, which had identified that the County Council should adopt a Public Service Mutual as the preferred model for the future delivery of library services, subject to the agreement of a detailed Business Case; and
- ii. delegated to the Director of Resources authority to proceed to developing the Full Business Case and detailed Business Plan to support the setting up of a Public Service Mutual for approval by Cabinet in the autumn of 2018.

#### **Reasons for the decision**

- 4.2 The Inspiring Libraries strategy is an innovative and ambitious programme, designed to ensure that Hertfordshire continues to be a leading library authority, providing high quality library services to meet the changing demands of the next decade. In November 2017, Cabinet agreed the ambitions and priorities for the next phase of the Inspiring Libraries strategy to 2021, and asked for exploratory work to be undertaken to consider whether an alternative delivery model for Hertfordshire Libraries would be the best way to achieve those ambitions.
- 4.3 Following a successful application to the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for a Mutuals Support Programme to provide independent support and advice, an initial options appraisal identified a Public Service Mutual as the most appropriate alternative model for the delivery of library services.
- 4.4 The initial high level financial case for a Public Service Mutual indicates that it could be a financially viable model, and could achieve most, but not all of the £500,000 saving requirement without reductions in services. Maintaining the service 'in-house' would require significant service reductions in order to meet this target. The Outline Business Case concludes that a Public Service Mutual is the model offering the greatest scope to continue to deliver an affordable,

sustainable and responsive public library service to Hertfordshire residents now and in the future. However, more work is required to test this conclusion in a Full Business Case.

- 4.5 Cabinet considered the above in reaching its decision, together with the responses to the consultation exercise; the financial implications; the County Council's statutory obligation to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service and to deliver the ambitions of the Inspiring Libraries strategy; the equalities implications; and the recommendations of the Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel.

**Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

**5. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES - BELSWAINS PRIMARY SCHOOL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD AND ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ST ALBANS**  
[Forward Plan Ref: A017/18]

**Decision**

5.1 Cabinet:

- (i) authorised the Director of Children's Services to publish statutory notices to enlarge the premises at both St Peter's Primary School, St Albans and Belswains Primary School, Hemel Hempstead, by the size and date below:

School name	Area	Date of expansion	Expansion by form of entry (FE)	Increase in admission number
Belswains	Hemel Hempstead	01.09.2019	1.0 f.e (to 2 f.e.)	30
St Peter's	St. Albans	01.09.2020	1.0 f.e (to 2 f.e.)	30

- (ii) agreed to the capital costs of enlarging both Belswains Primary School, Hemel Hempstead and St. Peter's Primary School, St Albans, as detailed in paragraph 5.2 of the report; and
- (iii) approved the application of S106 funds, as identified in Appendix 4 to the report, subject to the completion of relevant school expansion and town planning processes where necessary.

### **Reasons for the decision**

- 5.2 Cabinet's decisions were reached following consideration of the Council's statutory responsibilities, responses to all consultations, the support from both governing bodies for the proposals, the financial implications of the proposals, the outcome of the equalities impact assessments undertaken, and the recommendations of the Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel.
- 5.3 Cabinet's decisions will ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient primary school places as close as possible to the demand for them.

### **Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

## **7. FUTURE OF TOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARE** [Forward Plan Ref: A019/18]

- 7.1 Discussion took place on this item in Part I.

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

- 8.1 Cabinet then decided to move into Part II ('closed' session') and passed the decision at paragraph 8.2 below.
- 8.2 That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves 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.
- 8.3 Following discussion on the Part II Report on the item referred to at 7 above and Recommendations, Cabinet moved back into Part I (open session) and considered the Part I Recommendations and made the decisions at 9.1.

## **9. FUTURE OF TOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARE** [Forward Plan Ref: A019/18]

### **Decision**

- 9.1 Cabinet agreed:
- (i) that the County Council conclude an agreement with the Ivy Learning Trust Board around the sponsorship of Tower Primary School, Ware, as set out

in the Part II report;

- (ii) to delegate to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism, authority to agree the required terms and conditions required for the agreement between the County Council and Ivy Learning Trust Board with regards the sponsorship of Tower Primary School, Ware;
- (iii) that the County Council provide Tower Primary School, Ware, with £37,000 of additional capital funding to deal with outstanding building condition and ICT issues;
- (iv) that an application for an in-year variation to the school's Published Admission Number to reduce it to 15 in September 2019 will be made to the Office of the School Adjudicator;
- (v) that the revenue funding required, as set out in the Part II Report, be agreed by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Members for Resources, Property and the Economy and for Education, Libraries and Localism.

### **Reasons for the decision**

- 9.2 Tower Primary School is a maintained 2 to 11 years school and is currently only 66% full and has modest reserves for 2017-18 financial year. In March 2017, the School was judged by Ofsted to be Inadequate; therefore, the Secretary of State for Education is required to issue an Order directing its conversion to Academy status under Section 4 of the Academies Act 2010 ("the Act").
- 9.3 Discussions were held by the Regional Schools Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education with a number of academy trusts already operating within Hertfordshire, but no suitable solution was found. As a result, the Ivy Learning Trust based in Enfield was approached by the DfE to sponsor Tower Primary School, Ware.
- 9.4 Initial discussions between the County Council and the Ivy Learning Trust board were positive and the Ivy Learning Trust board has approved in principle the sponsorship of the School.
- 9.5 In reaching its decision, Cabinet considered the above, together with the Council's statutory responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient school places available in the County to meet demand; the financial implications of the proposal set out in the Part II report, and the recommendations of the Education, Libraries & Localism and the Resources, Property and Economy Cabinet Panels

### **Any alternative options considered and rejected**

None.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

**CHAIRMAN’S  
INITIALS**

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