

## HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday, 31 March 2015.

### MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews	R J Henry	I M Reay
D A Ashley	T C Heritage	L F Reeve
J R Barfoot	D J Hewitt	R M Roberts
S A Batson	F R G Hill	P A Ruffles
S Bedford	N A Hollinghurst	R Sangster
R H Beeching	T W Hone	D T F Scudder
N Bell	T Hunter	A M R Searing
J Billing	T R Hutchings	R H Smith (Chairman)
F Button	S L C Johnston	A Stevenson
L A Chesterman	A Joynes	R A C Thake
R F Cheswright	L R Kercher	R G Tindall
G R Churchard	A King	A S B Walkington
M J Cook	P F J Knell	M A Watkin
M Cowan	D E Lloyd	C J White
M S Crawley	J Lloyd	A D Williams
H K Crofton	P V Mason	J D Williams
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	C B Woodward
D S Drury	R Mills	C B Wyatt-Lowe
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
E M Gordon	M D M Muir	
R I N Gordon	R G Parker	
D Hart	A Plancey	
K M Hastrick	R G Prowse	
C M Hayward	S Quilty	

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Meeting of the County Council held on 31 March 2015, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

#### 1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record subject to (iv) of the Note under Item 5 being revised to read:-

“(iv) **G McAndrew** declared an interest as he is a representative of East Herts District Council on Lee Valley Regional Park Authority which levies a precept on the County Council.”

- 1.2 The Minutes, as amended, were signed by the Chairman.

## **2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) Death of former County Councillor Betty Goble**

The Chairman informed Council that he had recently received the sad news that former councillor Betty Goble had passed away.

Betty was elected as a Conservative councillor representing North Herts Rural from 1981 – 1997. A very active Member, during that time she served as Chairman of the Fire and Public Protection Committee and the Planning and Economic Development Committee; and as Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee and of the Environment Committee. Amongst others, Betty had also served on the Council's Social Services, Education, and Highways Committees.

She represented the Council on Herts Council for Voluntary Services and, in 1996, was appointed as Chairman of the Regional Environment Protection Advisory Committee.

D A Ashley, J Lloyd and C J White spoke in tribute.

Council stood in silence in memory of Betty Goble.

### **(b) Chris Roberts – Graduate Trainee**

Council congratulated graduate trainee Chris Roberts, who had been awarded a prize for being one of the best performing candidates in CIPFA's Professional Qualification exams for 2014.

### **(c) National Award for Wellbeing at Work**

Council was informed that the County Council won a national award in the Pay and Rewards Awards 2015 for wellbeing at work.

### **(d) Public Health**

The Chairman announced that the Minister for Public Health had recognised two Hertfordshire programmes, 'MOVE WEEK' and the 'Hertfordshire Asian Women's Association', in her Public Health Excellence Award in Parliament.

Four others were nominated from Hertfordshire; 'Workplace Health work through Business in the Community'; 'Early HIV testing uptake by HertsAid'; and two County Council Officers, Jez Cox for his work on cycling and Sian Price for her work on health walks.

Hertfordshire had the single biggest number of people recognised of any area.

**(e) Children's Services Annual Awards**

Council were informed that, on Tuesday 17 March 2015, Children's Services had held their annual awards event, where teams and individuals were recognised for the exceptional work they did in improving the lives of children, young people and their families in Hertfordshire. Also recognised at the event were staff who had gained qualifications during the year and those who had given 20 and 30 years' service to the Council. Council congratulated all involved.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 8(10)**

**3.1** There were no public questions.

**4. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 15**

**4.1** There were no public petitions.

**5. OFFICER REPORTS RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS**

**5A. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR NURSERY, PRIMARY, JUNIOR, MIDDLE AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE CO-ORDINATED SCHEMES FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOLS FOR 2016/17**

**5.1** The following motion proposed by **C M Hayward** and duly seconded was CARRIED:-

*“That County Council determines its admissions arrangements for 2016/17 so that:-*

- (i) the schemes of co-ordination for primary and secondary schools for 2016/17 are as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;*
- (ii) the oversubscription criteria and arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled schools, including the over-subscription criteria for nursery schools and classes are as set out in Appendices 3, 4 and 5 to the report;*
- (iii) the sixth form arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools as determined for 2015/16 are agreed for 2016/7, as set out in Appendix 6 to the report; and*
- (iv) the published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools are approved as documented in Appendices 7 and 8 to the report.”*

**5B ADDITION TO THE 2015/16 – 2017/18 CAPITAL PROGRAMME:  
A120 LITTLE HADHAM BYPASS**

**5.2** R I N Gordon declared that he had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest being a beneficial interest in land lying to the south of Tilekiln Farm, Standon Road, Little Hadham. He left the room and did not participate in the debate or vote on item 5B.

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

*“That Council agrees to add the Little Hadham Bypass project to the Council’s capital Programme for 2015/16 – 2017/18 to reflect the total cost and contributions of all parties (set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report).”*

**5.4** The following amendment was proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded:-

*“Add the words “to request Cabinet to reconsider the inclusion of a junction on the bypass at Albury Road to minimise the effect on Little Hadham of HGV traffic and subject to agreed design and consultation additional capital expenditure, if required, be subject to Council’s confirmation as necessary.” ”*

**5.5** The amendment at 5.4 was then voted upon and LOST, the recorded vote being:-

Those in favour of the amendment (14):-

S Bedford	K M Hastrick	R G Tindall
G R Churchard	N A Hollinghurst	A S B Walkington
M Cowan	R G Parker	M A Watkin
D S Drury	R G Prowse	C J White
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	D T F Scudder	

Those against the amendment (39):-

D Andrews	F R G Hill	I M Reay
D A Ashley	T W Hone	R M Roberts
J R Barfoot	T Hunter	P A Ruffles
R H Beeching	T R Hutchings	R Sangster
F Button	S L C Johnston	A M R Searing
R F Cheswright	P F J Knell	R H Smith
M S Crawley	D E Lloyd	A Stevenson
H K Crofton	P V Mason	R A C Thake
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	A D Williams
D Hart	M B J Mills-Bishop	J D Williams

C M Hayward  
T C Heritage  
D J Hewitt

M D M Muir  
A Plancey  
S Quilty

C B Woodward  
C B Wyatt-Lowe  
W J Wyatt-Lowe

Those abstaining from voting on the amendment (13):-

S A Batson  
N Bell  
J Billing  
L A Chesterman  
M J Cook

E M Gordon  
R J Henry  
A Joynes  
L R Kercher

A King  
J Lloyd  
R Mills  
L F Reeve

**5.6** The substantive motion was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

*“That Council agrees to add the Little Hadham Bypass project to the Council’s capital Programme for 2015/16 – 2017/18 to reflect the total cost and contributions of all parties (set out in paragraph 4.1 of the report).”*

Those in favour of the substantive motion (39):-

D Andrews  
D A Ashley  
J R Barfoot  
R H Beeching  
F Button  
R F Cheswright  
M S Crawley  
H K Crofton  
T L F Douris  
D Hart  
C M Hayward  
T C Heritage  
D J Hewitt

F R G Hill  
T W Hone  
T Hunter  
T R Hutchings  
S L C Johnston  
P F J Knell  
D E Lloyd  
P V Mason  
G McAndrew  
M B J Mills-Bishop  
M D M Muir  
A Plancey  
S Quilty

I M Reay  
R M Roberts  
P A Ruffles  
R Sangster  
A M R Searing  
R H Smith  
A Stevenson  
R A C Thake  
A D Williams  
J D Williams  
C B Woodward  
C B Wyatt-Lowe  
W J Wyatt-Lowe

Those against the substantive motion (14):-

S Bedford  
G R Churchard  
M Cowan  
D S Drury  
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst

K M Hastrick  
N A Hollinghurst  
R G Parker  
R G Prowse  
D T F Scudder

R G Tindall  
A S B Walkington  
M A Watkin  
C J White

Those abstaining from voting on the substantive motion (13):-

S A Batson  
N Bell  
J Billing  
L A Chesterman  
M J Cook

E M Gordon  
R J Henry  
A Joynes  
L R Kercher

A King  
J Lloyd  
R Mills  
L F Reeve

**6. THE EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**6A. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**6.1** The following motion proposed by **R I N Gordon** was CARRIED:-

*“That the report of the Executive (being the report under Standing Order 7) be received and that the position of Key Decisions in the decision-making process shown in the current edition of the Forward Plan referred to in the report be noted.”*

**6B. MOTIONS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**6B(i) 6.2** The following motion proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:-

*"This Council*

- (i) notes with increasing concern the failure of its contractor under the Highways Service Term Contract to ensure faulty street lights are repaired within the agreed timescales; and*
- (ii) is particularly concerned that there has been a growing problem of lights not being repaired for up to four months.*
- (iii) notes and welcomes:*
  - the persistent pressure by the Executive Member, officers, along with issues highlighted by other councillors, on the contractor for them to meet the contract standards*
  - the preparation and implementation of an Improvement Plan as required by the contract, given the poor level of performance*
  - the introduction of new working methods by the contractor*
  - the contractor's decision to double resources dedicated to traffic routes' and its decision to appoint a new Head of Street Lighting*
  - the increase in productivity from around 440 jobs a week in early February to 660 by mid-February*
  - the increase in the number of HCC street lighting audits.*

Therefore Council requests that:-

- (a) *the Executive Member continues to meet regularly with senior management of the contractor while performance remains below contract standards, to receive and review comprehensive and accurate performance data; and*
- (b) *unless there is a significant movement towards meeting the agreed repair times in accordance with the Improvement Plan, the Executive Member be asked to procure a report to his Panel on the options available to the Council under the contract."*

**6B(ii) 6.3** The following motion was proposed by **N Bell** and duly seconded:-

*"Since 2010, 800 Sure Start centres have been closed. The Herts Labour group calls on the Council to require the Executive to guarantee the continued existence of the 82 Sure Start centres, as an integral part of early years services in Hertfordshire, and to take whatever action is necessary so that this much needed and excellent service is retained."*

**6.4** The following amendment was proposed by **R M Roberts** and duly seconded:-

*"Delete: all words before 'Council'*

*Delete: 'to require'  
Insert: "congratulates"*

*Delete: 'guarantee'  
Insert: "that, on recommissioning Hertfordshire's Children's Centres to 2018 it guaranteed"*

*Delete: 'to take whatever action necessary so'  
Insert: "asserts its intention"*

*At end, insert: "for years to come" "*

**6.5** The amendment at 6.4 was then voted upon and CARRIED.

**6.6** The substantive motion was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

*"Council congratulates the Executive that, on recommissioning Hertfordshire's Children's Centres to 2018, it guaranteed the continued existence of the 82 Sure Start centres, as an integral part of early years services in Hertfordshire, and asserts its intention that this much needed and excellent service is retained for years to come."*

## 7. QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

- 7.1 During the period for questions to Executive Members under SO(8)(7)(c) the following Members asked questions (and, where indicated, supplementary questions) of the Executive Member or their Deputy as stated [the audio recording of this item of business can be found here [Questions to Executive Members](#)]:-

[Questions are listed by portfolio rather than chronologically]

Executive Member	Questioner	Subject
Leader of the Council	M Cowan	County Council response to planning proposals in Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's draft Local Plan
	L F Reeve	The Committee of the Regions <sup>1</sup>
	M A Watkin	School place planning and forecasting
	L F Reeve	Proposed development of Radlett Aerodrome site
Adult Care & Health	A King	Monitoring of homecare agency working practices <sup>1</sup>
	R G Tindall	Care sector worker pay
	R J Henry	Review of Learning Disability Services (savings on day services) <sup>1 2</sup>
Children's Services	M A Watkin	Funding for the multi-agency safeguarding hub <sup>1</sup>
	J Billing	Homestart family groups in North Hertfordshire <sup>1</sup>
	N Bell	Schools' involvement in the Herts UK Youth Parliament <sup>1</sup>
Community Safety & Planning	M Cowan	Plans for fire provision in Welwyn Hatfield and across the County <sup>1</sup>
	L F Reeve	Coroner's Service (emergency and out of hours services) <sup>1 2</sup>
Customer Service, Performance & Libraries		None
Enterprise, Education & Skills	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Local Enterprise Partnership (Croxley Rail Link) <sup>1</sup>
	E M Gordon	System for school place planning <sup>1</sup>
Highways & Waste Management	C J White	Resurfacing of roads by Eurovia in his division <sup>1 2</sup>
	M J Cook	The revised project plan under the contract for the recycling

		and energy from waste facility at New Barnfield, Hertfordshire <sup>1</sup>
	R Sangster	Croxley Rail Link
Public Health & Localism	S Bedford	Air Quality Report (introduction of a low emission zone in Hertfordshire) <sup>1</sup>
	R Mills	Air Quality Report (sustainable public transport) <sup>1</sup>
Resources & Transformation	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Croxley Rail Link
	L F Reeve	Budget underspend for 2014/15 <sup>1</sup>

Notes: 1 - denotes that a supplementary question was also asked  
2 – denotes that a written reply will be given

## 7.2 Written questions to Executive Members – Standing Order 8(9)

There were no written questions.

## 8. PAY POLICY 2015/16

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

*“That County Council adopts the Pay Policy for 2015/16, including a revised pay ratio as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.”*

8.2 The following amendment was proposed by **L F Reeve** and duly seconded:-

*“After the section in Italics ending in “to the report” add “Further and in consideration of future pay policy from 2016, the Employment Committee should place before the Council recommendations to raise the Lower pay scale from “just a little over the minimum wage” to the lower scale Living Wage of £7.85 per hour at April 2016.” ”*

8.3 The amendment at 8.2 was then voted upon and LOST.

8.4 A recorded vote was requested by **L F Reeve** under SO 13(3) and supported by 8 Members of the Council.

8.5 The substantive motion was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

*“That County Council adopts the Pay Policy for 2015/16, including a revised pay ratio as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.”*

The recorded votes being as follows:-

Those in favour of the substantive motion (26):-

S Bedford	E M Gordon	R G Parker
N Bell	K M Hastrick	R G Prowse
J Billing	R J Henry	L F Reeve
L A Chesterman	N A Hollinghurst	D T F Scudder
G R Churchard	A Joynes	R G Tindall
M J Cook	L R Kercher	A S B Walkington
M Cowan	A King	M A Watkin
D S Drury	J Lloyd	C J White
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	R Mills	

Those against the substantive motion (37):-

D Andrews	F R G Hill	P A Ruffles
D A Ashley	T W Hone	R Sangster
J R Barfoot	T Hunter	A M R Searing
R H Beeching	T R Hutchings	R H Smith
F Button	S L C Johnston	A Stevenson
M S Crawley	P F J Knell	R A C Thake
H K Crofton	D E Lloyd	A D Williams
T L F Douris	G McAndrew	J D Williams
R I N Gordon	M D M Muir	C B Woodward
D Hart	A Plancey	C B Wyatt-Lowe
C M Hayward	S Quilty	W J Wyatt-Lowe
T C Heritage	I M Reay	
D J Hewitt	R M Roberts	

There were no abstentions.

## **9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME – CREATION OF LOCAL PENSION BOARDS**

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

*“That County Council agrees the following:*

- a) *The Constitution of the Local Pension Board for the Hertfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) as set out in Appendix A to the report, subject to any final changes agreed by the Deputy Chief executive in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Pension Committee;*
- b) *that the operation of the Board and its membership be reviewed after the first year of operation;*
- c) *that the Investment Sub-Committee ceases to operate after its meeting in June 2015; and*

- d) *that the Constitution of the Pension Board form part of the Council's Constitution and that the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Council's Constitution to reflect this and the decisions mentioned at c) and d) above."*

**10. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS: SEPTEMBER 2015 TO JULY 2016**

- 10.1** The following motion proposed by **R I N Gordon** and duly seconded, was CARRIED:-

*"That Council agrees:-*

- (a) *the Council and Cabinet meetings for September 2015 to July 2016; and*
- (b) *the indicative programme for Committees and Cabinet Panels for September programme of meetings for September 2015 to July 2016."*

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 9(6)**

- 11.1** The following motion proposed by **E M Gordon** and duly seconded was referred to the Policy, Resources and Transformation Cabinet Panel for consideration:-

*"We call upon Hertfordshire County Council to adopt the following procedure\* for fly-grazing, loose and abandoned horses in Hertfordshire."*

\*the procedure is attached to the agenda papers.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**