

Minutes



To: All Members of the Education,
Library and Localism Cabinet
Panel, Chief Executive, Chief
Officers, All officers named for
'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Stephanie Tarrant
Ext: 25481

EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL 14 SEPTEMBER 2017

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

L A Chesterman (*substituting for J Billing*), C Clapper, T L F Douris (*Chairman*), C K Hogg,
T R Hutchings (*Vice Chairman*), S K Jarvis, J R Jones, A Plancey, J F Wyllie, M A Watkin

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet
Panel meeting 14 September 2017 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were
reached and are recorded below.

Note: No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 June 2017 were agreed.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

3. HERTFORDSHIRE ARMED FORCES COVENANT – UPDATE REPORT

[Officer Contact: Sukhvinder Rai, Policy Officer, Corporate Policy Team, Tel: 01992 588479]

- 3.1 Members reviewed a report which provided an update on the progress of Hertfordshire's Armed Forces Covenant. The Panel were subsequently shown a presentation which can be viewed here: [Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant Presentation](#).

ACTION

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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- 3.2 Members noted that the Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant was launched in July 2012. The aim of the Covenant was to remove disadvantage, ensuring that those who have served, reservists and their families were treated fairly. The Covenant also aimed to join communities through honouring and remembering.
- 3.3 It was advised that there were currently 231 children of military personnel attending schools within Hertfordshire and that the schools they attend were eligible to receive a pupil premium. This was extra funding to support the children of military families.
- 3.4 Members noted the County Council's observing of Armed Forces Day 2017 and the service that commemorated the centenary of the Battle of St. Julien in July 2017 in Hertford. It was also advised that there was a competition within schools at Christmas to produce pictures which featured a theme supporting the Armed Forces, with the winning school last year receiving £400 in vouchers.
- 3.5 In response to a Member question on paragraph 6.7 of the report, Members were advised that there had been feedback around the amount of delays and inconsistency in applying for and receiving the Disabled Facilities Grant. It was advised that St Albans District Council joint with Serco and Hertfordshire County Council were to take the lead on coordinating a streamlined application process for the whole of the County.
- 3.6 Members commented on how Covenant initiatives were funded and queried how schools could apply for additional funding. It was advised that the National Covenant Fund was used to support projects and that potential projects could obtain more information on additional funding available via the Hertfordshire Hero's website. Members recognised the importance of the additional funding for schools to enable them to support the children of service personnel to achieve the best education possible.
- 3.7 In response to a Member question regarding what the Covenant Board was doing to address mental health issues; Members heard that there were both statutory and non-statutory services available. It was advised that the veteran's gateway was an initial point of contact with a trained adviser available to recognise the problem and direct the user to the correct service. It was added that there had been GP campaigns for patients to declare whether they were ex-service personnel and that the NHS had recently launched a specialist support service to help veteran's transition into civilian life. It was noted that the Samaritans now had a Freephone number and it was to be updated on communications.
- 3.8 Members commented on the silver award accredited to the County Council from the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme and it was advised that the award had just been

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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reaccredited to the Council for a further three years. Members discussed what was required to obtain a gold award and it was advised that there was a criterion to meet, which included various Human Resources policies that needed to be in place. Members heard that given the resources available to the County Council, the silver award was deemed the correct level, however this could be reviewed.

Conclusion

3.9 The Panel noted the content of the report.

4. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES

[Officer Contact: Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning, Tel: 01992 555865]

4.1 Members reviewed a report which detailed the proposed request for funding for schemes at The Leys Primary School, Stevenage and St Michael's C of E School in St. Albans and the application of S.106 funding for High Leigh in Hoddesdon.

4.2 The Panel noted that the additional school spaces at St Michael's C of E School, St Albans, would help alleviate the increased pressure on City centre school places. It was noted that the Local Member was very supportive of the schools planned expansion.

4.3 It was noted that the Leys Primary School, Stevenage there was an intention to increase the accommodation in order to make it 3f.e. in line with planned new housing in the area as and when that materialised and that the one additional classroom currently proposed was part of a coherent longer term plan for the school.

4.4 Members commented that the Equality Impact Assessments included at Appendix A to the report were of a first class standard.

4.5 Members discussed primary forecasts and were advised that there was some variability across areas of the County and that secondary school numbers continue to rise.

Conclusion

4.6 The Panel recommended that Cabinet approved the contribution of the capital costs of the individual schemes and the application of S106 funds as set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report.

5. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS

5.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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