

# 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: Michelle Diprose  
Ext: 25481

## EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL 14 DECEMBER 2017

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

J Billing, F Button (substituted for C Clapper), T L F Douris (*Chairman*), T R Hutchings (*Vice Chairman*), S K Jarvis, J R Jones, A Plancey, J F Wyllie, T J Williams (substitute for M A Watkin), A S B Walkington (substitute for C K Hogg)

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel meeting 14 December 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 (Part I) of the previous meeting held on 7 November 2017 were agreed.

#### 2. PUBLIC PETITION

#### 2A REPORT ON THE PETITION FOR COUNCIL ACTION TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO BUILD A NEW HARPENDEN SCHOOL ON THE SITE EAST OF COMMON LANE

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

- 2.1 Hillary Taylor presented the petition below on behalf of John Hansen:

*"Reconsider the decision to build a new Harpenden School on the*

### ACTION

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

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*Site East of Common Lane.*

2.2 The online petition attracted 279 signatories by the date of receipt verified as living or working in Hertfordshire. The petitioner also presented the chairman with further hard copy signatures.

2.3 The petitioner addressed the Panel on the subject of the petition, the text of which can be viewed at the link below:

The petitioner addressed the Panel on the subject of the petition, the text of which can be viewed at the link below:

*“Reconsider the decision to build a new Harpenden School on the Site East of Common Lane”.*

<https://www.change.org/p/hertfordshire-county-council-reconsider-the-decision-to-build-a-new-harpenden-school-on-the-site-east-of-common-lane>

The Chairman received the petition.

2.4 Members considered an officer report in relation to a request to Reconsider the decision to build a new Harpenden School on the Site East of Common Lane.

2.5 Members noted that the site at East of Common Lane was identified from a number of options. The original site selection process had been refreshed and confirmed by the Education, Skills Funding Agency which was developing the school. Members were informed that in order for a school to be built on this site special circumstances for development in the Green Belt needed to be demonstrated.

2.6 Members were informed that a town planning application had been made and the need for a new school would be considered as part of that planning process.. It was also noted that the planning application was subject to a full consultation by the planning authority and anyone could make a representation. Members sought clarification that there was no alternative site for the school to be built and this site did offer the least harm to the Green Belt, Following Member discussion there was a sense from the Panel that any site would present challenges and would attract opponents and asked that their concerns in relation to the comparative site assessment and the South Beds ambitions to develop housing on the Harpenden Northern Boarder be referred to the spatial planning team to ensure these are reviewed when determining planning permission.

2.7 The Panel were informed the application would be a joint

**CHAIRMAN’S  
INITIALS**

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application between the Education, Skills and Funding Agency and the County Council.

- 2.8 The Chairman proposed an alternative recommendation, as detailed below; this was duly seconded by the Vice Chairman and unanimously agreed by the Panel.

*'This Panel request that our deliberations and comments are delivered to the spatial planning team so this may inform the Development Control Committee accordingly'*

### **Conclusions**

- 2.9 The Panel agreed unanimously the alternative recommendation and requested::

that the Panels deliberations and comments were delivered to the spatial planning team so this may inform the Development Control Committee accordingly'

### **3. SCHOOL TO SERVE HIGH LEIGH HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND POTENTIAL RELOCATION OF WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, HODDESDON**

[Officer Contact: Brenda Dennett, School Planning Officer (Tel: 01992 555813), Peter Oddy, Senior Estates Officer (Tel: 01992 555221)]

- 3.1 The Panel received a report providing an update on the viability of pursuing an option to deliver a 2 form entry (f.e.) primary school at High Leigh, Hoddesdon rather than a new 1 f.e. school necessary to meet demand from the High Leigh housing development. The Panel noted the provision of a 2f.e. school building would facilitate the potential relocation of the nearby 1f.e. Westfield Community Primary School, rather than having two 1f.e. schools within 0.5 mile proximity.
- 3.2 Members were informed that if the delivery of a 2f.e. school remained the preferred option conditions would need to be met as set out in the High Leigh s106 agreement, these were detailed at 2.3 of the report. It was also noted the relocation and enlargement of Westfield Community Primary School to a newer site would also be subject to the outcome of public consultation.
- 3.3 The local Member welcomed the news of the proposed new 2f.e school. It was also noted that the Governing Body of Westfield Primary was supportive of the proposal to relocate as a 2f.e. school. If this option was agreed the earliest anticipated timing for

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

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completion of the school would be September 2020.

- 3.4 Officers informed Members that an update would be reported to Panel in April 2018.

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

- 3.5 The Panel then decided to move into Part II ('closed' session').
- 3.6 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
- 3.7 Following discussion on the Part II Report, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session).

**Conclusion**

- 3.8 That Panel recommends to Cabinet that it:
- a) Agrees the proposal to pursue the option to deliver a 2 f.e. school to meet demand from the High Leigh housing development, Hoddesdon through the relocation and enlargement of Westfield Community Primary School, subject to the outcome of a statutory consultation.
  - b) Gives approval, with final terms to be agreed by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council (as responsible for the Resources, Property and the Economy portfolio) and the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism, for:
    - the acquisition of additional land at High Leigh, Hoddesdon
    - the application of indexed s106 funds as detailed in the formal s106 agreement relating to the High Leigh housing development, Hoddesdon
    - use of County Council funding equivalent to the value of the eventual disposal receipt to part-fund the acquisition of additional land at High Leigh, Hoddesdon and additional building costs
    - use of schools Repairs and Maintenance budget and Basic Need funding to bridge the funding gap

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

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- submission of a planning application for housing on the Westfield School site and completion of any planning agreement
  - submission of a planning application for the proposed new school
  - procurement of the new school premises, and
  - subsequent disposal of the Westfield School site.
- c) agrees that the Director of Children’s Services is authorised to proceed with a statutory consultation, commencing in January 2018, on the proposed enlargement of Westfield Community Primary School and non-statutory consultation on its relocation to High Leigh, Hoddesdon (in line with the developer’s programme, when available, and related s106 agreement stages).
- d) Receives an update on the financial viability of the proposal when it receives the outcome of the public consultation on the relocation and expansion of the school in April 2018.

**4. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

4.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

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INITIALS**

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