

Agenda



AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON THURSDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2017 AT 10:00AM

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL (12) (Quorum 3)

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

Meetings of the Panel are open to the public (this includes the press) and attendance is welcomed. However, there may be occasions when the public are excluded from the meeting for particular items of business. Any such items are taken at the end of the public part of the meeting and are listed under "Part II ('closed') agenda".

The Council Chamber is fitted with an audio system to assist those with hearing impairment. Anyone who wishes to use this should contact main (front) reception.

Members are reminded that all equalities implications and equalities impact assessments undertaken in relation to any matter on this agenda must be rigorously considered prior to any decision being reached on that matter.

Members are reminded that:

- (1) if they consider that they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting they must declare that interest and must not participate in or vote on that matter unless a dispensation has been granted by the Standards Committee;**
- (2) if they consider that they have a Declarable Interest (as defined in paragraph 5.3 of the Code of Conduct for Members) in any matter to be considered at the meeting they must declare the existence and nature of that interest but they can speak and vote on the matter**

PART I (PUBLIC) AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To agree the minutes (Part 1) of the last meeting of the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel held on 7 November 2017.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

The opportunity for any member of the public, being resident in Hertfordshire, to present a petition relating to a matter with which the Council is concerned, which is relevant to the remit of this Cabinet Panel and which contains signatories who are either resident in or who work in Hertfordshire.

Members of the public who are considering raising an issue of concern via a petition are advised to contact their [local member of the Council](#). The Council's criterion and arrangements for the receipt of petitions are set out in [Annex 22 - Petitions Scheme](#) of the Constitution.

If you have any queries about the petitions procedure for this meeting please contact Stephanie Tarrant, Democratic Services Officer, by telephone on (01992) 555481 or email stephanie.tarrant@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Notification of intent to present a petition has been received for the following petitions:-

1. John Hansen, details provided under 2A below.
2. John Wallace, details provided under 2B below.

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

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Local Members: David Williams (Harpenden North East)
Teresa Heritage (Hapenden South West)
Annie Brewster (Harpenden Rural)
Richard Thake (Knebworth and Codicote)
Terry Douris (Bridgewater)
David Barnard (Hitchin Rural)
Richard H Smith (Welwyn)

Notice has been received that John Hansen wishes to present a petition in the following terms:

"We the undersigned, as residents of the Harpenden School Planning Area, petition Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), in conjunction with Education Funding Agency (EFA), to rerun the site evaluation and selection process, including scoring that led to the Site East of Common Lane (Site F) being chosen as a potential new school site, before any further work is carried out on the Harpenden School project due to

significant changes in the factors considered in the previous exercise.

In the original scoring used to justify site selection no account was taken of the following (in no particular order):

1) Site F's owners ambitions to develop part of the site for housing, and the consequent effects on school building;

2) The ambition of South Beds to develop housing on the Harpenden Northern border.

3) The rising levels of traffic caused by housing development on the Lower Luton Rd and North Harpenden and the continuing expansion of Luton Airport.

4) Two separate Archaeological investigations by the University of Bristol on only one corner of the site using Magnetometry and Ground Penetrating Radar have revealed a significant variety of constructions on the site which merit a thorough investigation of the entire site,

5) The original decision (as stated in minutes of HCC Cabinet meeting 23 September 2013) was based on a permanent increase in demand of 5 Forms of Entry over current school place provision, while the latest HCC forecasts, produced just 3 years later, show a fall to a demand for 0 Forms of Entry by the end of the forecast period, i.e. no shortfall. We believe this evidence that was not available at the time the search and evaluation processes were undertaken and has a material bearing on the nature and location of an appropriate site for needs of the area.

As this evidence was not available at the time the search and evaluation processes were undertaken and has a material bearing on the nature and potential location of an appropriate site for the needs of the area.

Any one of the above is enough to mean the circumstances for releasing this site from green belt cannot be justified”.

A report on the subject of the petition is attached (2A).

2B. TO RECEIVE A PETITION FOR COUNCIL ACTION TO ADDRESS SOLUTIONS TO PRIMARY PROVISION IN CENTRAL ST ALBANS

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Local Members: Chris White - St Albans Central,
Anthony Rowlands - St Albans East,
Sandy Walkington - St Albans South

Notice has been received that John Wallace wishes to present a petition in the following terms:

“We petition Hertfordshire County Council to address the inadequate provision of primary school places in the central area of St Albans (St Peter's Ward and the station area) by expanding a local existing school and/or building a new school.

In the interim, to provide immediate relief by providing a bulge class to a City Centre school.

School allocation data for September 2017 showed that 70 children in Central St Albans did not get one of their four ranked choices and have instead been offered a school that is miles from their home.

In addition, some parents felt the need to include a school far from their home in their choices in order to safeguard 'choosing' good schools. This has skewed the Council's data, as it implies that parents have been given one of their preferred schools. The reality is that these parents would have preferred a local school and felt forced to choose larger schools a distance away to safeguard the quality of the schools that they chose.

Particularly, there is a 'black hole' around the station where children had no hope of getting into their nearest school, St Peter's.

Under-provision in the central area is currently:

- Pulling communities apart by sending a large number of children outside their local area for schooling*
- Making St Albans a less attractive location for families to raise children*
- Adding to the already congested rush hour traffic with associated environmental effects*
- Making living in prime commuter territory untenable for those with young families*
- Limiting the career and work options for parents forced into travelling greater distances at the start and end of the day*

This inadequate provision is exacerbated by the continuing building development in the area. For example, 80 dwellings on London Road (Gabriel Square) are being marketed to those with families. However, there is already insufficient provision for local primary schooling and without doubt these families will be in the same position in 2018/19

In the short term, we propose an additional bulge class in central St Albans for September 2017 to fulfil the specific demand for schools in this area. We understand that schools close to the City Centre have this capacity.

In the long term our proposals are:

- 1. Permanent expansion of an existing local school to accommodate the children (both now and in the future) who are currently not served by any school.*
- 2. Building a new school to support the growing local community.*

We urge the council to re-evaluate the allocation of extra places for the long-term benefit of all central and all St Albans residents."

A report on the subject of the petition is attached (2B).

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

Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of

Resources

4. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

Such other Part I Business which, if the Chairman agrees, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Part II business has been notified. The Chairman will move:-

“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/s of business on the grounds that it/they involve/s the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph/s 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 AGENDA

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

Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Resources

If you require further information about this agenda please contact Stephanie Tarrant, Democratic Services, on telephone no (01992) 555481 number or email stephanie.tarrant@hertfordshire.gov.uk.

Agenda documents are also available on the internet at <https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings.aspx>

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**