

# 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

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## EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL 6 FEBRUARY 2018

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

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

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel meeting 6 February 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

*Note: A conflict of interest was declared in relation to The Future of Hertfordshire Music Service and is recorded at 5.1 below.*

### PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

#### 1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes (Part I and Part II) of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2017 were agreed.

#### 2. PUBLIC PETITION

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

[Officer Contact: Dan Hardy - Senior Planning Officer (West)  
Tel: 01992 588923 / Pauline Davis - Head of School Planning Tel: 01992 555865]

- 2.1 John Wallace presented the below petition:

*"Urgent solutions required for primary school provision in St Albans"*

### ACTION

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2.2 The online petition attracted 279 signatories by the date of receipt verified as living or working in Hertfordshire.

2.3 Prior to the petitioner's presentation, it was noted that the subject of school places in St. Albans would also be considered at item 7 of the agenda.

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

*"Urgent solutions required for primary school provision in St Albans"*

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Petitions/tabid/140/ID/172/Urgent-solutions-required-for-primary-school-provision-in-St-Albans.aspx>

2.5 The Panel reviewed the officer report and received a presentation from the petitioner, which can be viewed using the following link: [Petition Presentation](#)<sup>1</sup>.

2.6 Members acknowledged that pupils living within St Albans City Centre were allocated schools some distance from their homes, which impacted on their ability to walk to school and required additional car journeys in rush hour, which went against modal shift.

2.7 Members noted that over the past 5-6 years, the pupils who were able to obtain a place at St. Peters Primary School, St Albans lived within a radius of 300-400 meters and therefore the school was unable to serve many local children. Officers advised that since the report had been written, consultation had begun on expanding St. Peters Primary School by 1f.e.

2.8 The Panel acknowledged the upcoming residential developments within St Albans City Centre and noted that further school sites should continue to be sought in the area.

2.9 Members queried why the expansion of St. Peters Primary School had not taken place sooner. It was advised that due to town planning constraints e.g. green belt, highways etc., it had been necessary to expand other schools first.

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<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/775/Committee/105/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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- 2.10 In response to a Member question on how long the additional 30 spaces would be sufficient for, it was noted that forecasting was available until 2021 but was more difficult to predict after this period. It was noted that in total St Albans would have a surplus of school places, however spaces in the City Centre would remain limited.
- 2.11 Officers advised that the school planning team were continually looking into options to meet the school places demands with the City Centre, including seeking new school sites via St. Albans City and District's Local Plan process.
- 2.12 Members commented on the economic impact of adding to traffic around the City Centre, with additional car journeys required for children who were not able to gain a space at a school within walking distance.

**Conclusions**

- 2.13 The Panel recognised the pressures on primary school places within St. Albans City Centre and noted the proposals underway to ease the pressure.
- 2.14 The Panel recommended that officers should respond to the petition and provide regular updates to the petitioner.

**3A. INTEGRATED PLAN 2018/19 - 2021/22 (EDUCATION, LIBRARIES LOCALISM - SCHOOLS)**

[Officer Contact: Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education  
Tel: 01992 555738] / Lindsey McLeod, Head of Corporate Finance  
Tel: 01992 556431]

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which highlighted the areas of the Integrated Plan which related to Education, Libraries and Localism (Schools) in order for Members to provide comment.
- 3.2 Members noted that the schools budget remained challenging although additional funding of around 1.4% from the Dedicated Schools Grant was welcomed.
- 3.3 In response to a Member question in relation to the figures on inflation detailed at 4.4 of the report, it was advised that just over an additional £21 million was required to meet inflation costs however £10.3 million would be available after taking account of other budget pressures and savings, leaving approximately £10.9 million of inflation costs unfunded, which was equal to around a 1.1% reduction in schools budgets per pupil in inflation-adjusted terms.

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## **Conclusion**

3.4 The Cabinet Panel recommended the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Education, Libraries and Localism (Schools) to Cabinet.

### **3B. INTEGRATED PLAN 2018/19 - 2021/22 (EDUCATION, LIBRARIES LOCALISM – NON SCHOOLS)**

[Officer Contact: Taryn Pearson-Rose, Assistant Director of Customer Engagement and Libraries, Tel: 01992 556651/ Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education Tel: 01992 555738] / Lindsey McLeod, Head of Corporate Finance Tel: 01992 556431]

3.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a further report which highlighted the areas of the Integrated Plan that related to Education, Libraries and Localism (Non Schools) in order for Members to provide comment.

3.2 Members acknowledged that there was around a £2 million reduction in budget due to the cessation of the Education Services Grant. It was proposed that this reduction was met by seeking de-delegated funding from maintained schools to assist with school improvement. In addition, proposals were underway to consider funding options for Hertfordshire Music Service. It was noted that Hertfordshire Music Service had a budget of £400,000 for 2017/18, which was proposed to reduce to £200,000 for 2018/19.

3.3 The implications of the Integrated Plan for Libraries were discussed. Members acknowledged the options being considered for the service to save £500,000. It was noted that the recommendations for an Alternative Library Model, were due to be presented to the Cabinet Panel in April 2018. Members acknowledged the New Capital Bid for the replacement of Library self-service Kiosks. It was noted that some Kiosks were 9-10 years old and required replacing.

3.4 Members noted that Special Education Needs Home to School Transport remained an ongoing pressure for this budget, with a current overspend acknowledged. It was noted that services were at a statutory level and the importance of the service was recognised.

## **Conclusion**

3.5 The Cabinet Panel recommended the proposals relating to the Integrated Plan in respect of Education, Libraries and Localism (Schools) to Cabinet.

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**4. STANDARDS AND QUALITY IN HERTFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS**

[Officer contact: Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education  
Tel: 01992 588755]

- 4.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which provided an overview of the Standards and Quality in Hertfordshire Schools. Members received a presentation which can be viewed here: [Standards and Quality in Hertfordshire Schools.](#)<sup>2</sup>The presentation covered data from academic year 2016/2017 and summarised attainment and standards across Hertfordshire Schools.
- 4.2 Members were given an overview of the outcomes of results for Hertfordshire schools from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 4. Members noted that the attainment grading for Attainment 8 and Progress 8 had been changed for 2017 and therefore could not be compared with 2016 results. On most measures Hertfordshire remained in the top quintile of local authorities, but there were issues in relation to the progress and attainment of disadvantaged children.
- 4.3 Members noted that at Key Stage 2, Hertfordshire was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quintile for reading and writing progress and the 4<sup>th</sup> quintile for mathematics progress, ranking behind Southend in the Eastern region of local authorities. It was advised that the score measured progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and it was noted that Hertfordshire had a number of junior schools which tended to have stronger attainment but weaker progress. Members heard that Ofsted were now acknowledging that progress was different between junior schools and primary schools.
- 4.4 The Panel discussed schools which had been rated inadequate by Ofsted that were expected to become sponsored academies and commented on what could be done to assist these schools in removing the stigma attached to the inadequate rating. Members also queried whether University Technical Colleges should be judged on the same academic criteria as schools when they were designed to provide a vocational route for students. It was noted that Attainment 8 and Progress 8 were geared towards students obtaining good GCSE grades so disadvantaged different institutions.
- 4.5 The Panel discussed safeguarding and it was noted that Herts for Learning offered a safeguarding check for schools and that schools and governing bodies were encouraged to engage with them.

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<sup>2</sup>

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/775/Committee/105/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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4.6 It was noted that Hertfordshire saw a bigger attainment gap in results for disadvantaged children, as despite disadvantaged children performing reasonably well compared to others across the country, non-disadvantaged children were achieving a lot higher than their peers elsewhere. Members were informed that a Peer Review had been commissioned for the attainment of disadvantaged children which was scheduled to take place in March 2018. In that context, it was noted that performance at Key Stage 4 was to be the subject of a scrutiny, with feedback from the peer review being taken into account. A briefing note prepared by the Operations Director, Education was to be shared with Panel Members.

4.7 Members commented on the Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measures weighing academic qualification relatively heavily; it was noted that schools which has higher prior attainment levels tended to have stronger Progress 8 scores.

4.8 Members noted that whilst at the end of the academic year 2016/17, the percentage of all Hertfordshire schools judged good or outstanding by Ofsted was 91.7% (higher than the national figure of 89.2%), at the end of August 2017 Hertfordshire was ranked 48<sup>th</sup> in comparison to other Local Authorities and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quintile and noted that Hertfordshire schools should aim to be in the top quintile. Members discussed outstanding rated schools, which were no longer subjected to routine inspections and noted that without routine checks standards could fall. It was advised that Ofsted were changing their approach to outstanding schools and that whilst outstanding schools would still be exempt, there would be a desktop analysis which would note where any dips were identified.

### **Conclusions**

4.9 The Panel noted and commented upon the report, as detailed above.

## **5. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF HERTFORDSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE**

[Officer contact: Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education  
Tel: 01992 588755]

5.1 M A Watkin declared that he had a declarable interest in this item as a Member of the Management Committee and his wife being employed as a part-time teacher in the Music Service. M A Watkin did not participate in the discussion or decision in relation to this item.

5.2 Members considered a report which detailed the position of the Hertfordshire Music Service following the withdrawal of Education

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Services Grant (ESG).

- 5.3 The Panel heard that the Music Service was facing a year on year reduction in funding with alternative models being considered to secure the future of the service, including acquiring a charitable status or other appropriate status to allow it to operate outside the direct control of the Council.
- 5.4 Members were supportive of the proposals to explore options for the service, with it noted that the County Council would be in full support of a plan which protected the service.
- 5.5 In response to a Member question, it was noted that a business plan was in preparation for the Music Service for 2018-2020, as a condition of grant funding received from the Arts Council, and that any change in governance would be subject to further discussions with the Arts Council. .
- 5.6 Members commented on tuition costs as detailed at 5.2 of the report and noted that £40 per hour was unaffordable for a number of families and discussed whether the Music Service having a charitable status would help keep tuition costs down. Members were advised that there was already a County Council scheme in place which provided financial support for children who were entitled to free school meals or other benefits. It was noted that the financial support was means tested and that there were other local charities that offered support to those children making progress but struggling to afford the tuition.
- 5.7 It was noted that page 3/12 of the Equalities Impact Assessment stated that 49% of students did not have English as their first language and queried if this figure was correct, with amendments to be corrected if necessary.

James  
Dickinson,  
Head of  
Music  
Service

### **Conclusions**

- 5.8 The Panel recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet:
- (i) confirms the Council's commitment to supporting the purpose of the Music Service – namely the opportunities it can provide to young people to learn to sing and to play instruments, develop their skills and participate in and enjoy music, and its wider contribution to the cultural and social life of the county;
  - (ii) supports the principle that Hertfordshire Music Service acquires a charitable or other appropriate status to allow it to operate outside the direct control of the Council;
  - (iii) requests that the Director of Children's Services produces

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a detailed analysis of appropriate business structures, financial plan and business case in support of (ii) together with any appropriate transition plan to be presented to Cabinet for consideration in 2018.

**6. DETERMINATION OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2019/20**

[Officer contact: Jayne Abery, Strategy and Policy Manager, Admissions & Transport, Tel No: 01992 588785/ Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning]

- 6.1 Members reviewed a report which detailed the outcome on the consultation for Hertfordshire County Council's admission arrangements for 2019/20.
- 6.2 It was advised that 74 responses had been received in total. The negatives responses received were in relation to school planning rather than admissions.
- 6.3 There were only two respondents that disagreed with the reduced published admission number at Watton-at-Stone Primary and Nursery School and it was noted that the reduction was to ensure the future viability and financial stability of the school.
- 6.4 Members acknowledged responses to the proposed changes to the definition of "nearest school" for primary schools. There were 47 responses in favour of the proposal, 16 against and 11 with no opinion. It was noted that the proposed change would make the admission process clearer and assist with the pressures on school place planning.
- 6.5 Members noted that there were 57 responses in favour of the changes proposed to include the Shared Anti-Fraud Service in the definitions section in cases of fraudulent address verification. It was noted that where a fraudulent application had been made, schools places could be withdrawn if a child had not yet started or if a child had been in a school too long to withdraw a place, then a sibling place would not be guaranteed for any future applications. Fraudulent applications were reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Conclusions**

- 6.6 Panel noted the report and recommend to Cabinet that:-
  - the definition of "nearest school" for use in rule 5 of the county council's primary oversubscription criteria is amended;
  - reference to the Shared Anti-Fraud Service is added to the definitions section in the cases of fraudulent address verification;
  - the published admission number at Watton-at-Stone Primary

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- and Nursery School is reduced to 30;
- the County Council's admission arrangements and schemes of coordination are unchanged for 2019/20.

## **7. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES**

[Officer contact: Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning, Tel: 01992 555865 / Simon Newland, Director of Operations (Education), Tel: 01992 588755 / Dick Bowler, Estates Manager, Tel: 01992 556223]

- 7.1 Members reviewed a report which detailed a number of proposals in relation to additional primary and secondary school places.
- 7.2 It was noted that consultation had begun on expanding Belswains, Hemel Hempstead and St. Peter's, St Albans primary schools. Members also noted the recommendation in relation to the expansion of four secondary schools.
- 7.3 Members acknowledged the need for additional secondary school places in Stevenage in the future and the need to proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order in order to acquire the land required with a sufficient lease period.
- 7.4 The report also updated Members on the developments around Bishop's Stortford and detailed a request for additional funding to support the Herts and Essex High School expansion.
- 7.5 Concern was expressed around the relocation of The Bishop's Stortford High School. It was noted that aeroplanes regularly fly over the site being considered and pollution levels were potentially of concern. Officers advised that a detailed planning application would be made in due course, which would assess the noise and environmental consequences of building a school on the proposed site. Members heard that the relocation of the school would enable the school to move from 6f.e to 8f.e, which would benefit school planning and allow for a well-regarded school to be expanded. It was also noted that the current building for The Bishop's Stortford High School had been identified as being in a poor state with facilities not being comparable to the offerings of a new building. Members acknowledged that the Panel was not the Planning Committee and therefore these issues would be considered at the relevant Committee.

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

- 7.6 The Panel then decided to move into Part II ('closed' session').
- 7.7 That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following

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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

7.8 Following discussion on the Part II Report, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session).

### **Conclusions**

7.9 Panel noted:

- (i) that the Director of Children's Services is consulting on the proposed permanent school expansion by 1.0 f.e. of Belswains, Hemel Hempsted from September 2019 and St. Peter's, St. Albans, from September 2020;
- (ii) the overall scale of the current estimated cost of that primary expansion programme;
- (iii) the latest position on developments in Bishop's Stortford;

and

recommended to Cabinet that it approves:

- (iv) the Council entering into funding agreements with the secondary schools identified in paragraph 5.3 of the report and the accompanying Part II report; the terms of such funding agreements to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism;
- (v) the Council entering into a funding agreement with Samuel Ryder Academy, St Albans for additional accommodation as identified in the accompanying Part II report; the terms of such funding agreement to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism.
- (vi) the Council entering into a funding agreement with Tewin Cowper Primary school, Tewin for a contribution of £0.31m towards its additional accommodation scheme; the terms of such funding agreement to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism.
- (vii) the use of £2.0m additional funds for temporary

expansions for September 2019, where required.

- (viii) the application of S106 funds identified in Appendix E subject to town planning approvals where appropriate.
- (ix) the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of the freehold interest in all of the land demised under the 1564 lease, and now comprising the former East site of Barnwell School, Stevenage and the site of Ashtree Primary School, Stevenage and the costs outlined in the Part II report, and delegates to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council (as responsible for Resources, Property and the Economy) and the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism authority to agree the detail of and to issue the Compulsory Purchase Order.
- (x) the revision to the agreed capital budget for the Bishops Stortford North schools schemes as mentioned in the report;
- (xi) the addition of the scheme for relocation and expansion of The Bishops Stortford High School within the terms set out in Part II of this report.
- (xii) a further contribution of £1.4m to The Herts & Essex High School towards its expansion.

It was noted that J F Wyllie voted against recommendation (xi).

## **8. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

8.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.

## **PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA**

### **1. ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES**

[Officer contact: Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning, Tel: 01992 555865 / Simon Newland, Director of Operations (Education), Tel: 01992 588755 / Dick Bowler, Estates Manager, Tel: 01992 556223]

1.1 The decision reached on this item of business is recorded at item 7.9 above.

**KATHRYN PETTITT**  
**CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

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