

Minutes



To: All Members of the Education,
Libraries 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 5 JUNE 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

J Billing, A P Brewster, L A Chesterman, C Clapper, T L F Douris (Chairman),
T R Hutchings (Vice Chairman), M S Hearn, J R Jones, A Plancey, N A Quinton,
A F Rowlands, M A Watkin, J F Wyllie

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews, D Hart, A Stevenson

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel meeting 5 June 2018 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. MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF THE PANEL

- 1.1 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel noted the Membership and Remit of the Panel.

2. MINUTES

- 2.1 The minutes (Part I and Part II) of the previous meeting held on 17 April 2018 were agreed.

ACTION

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3. PUBLIC PETITION

3A. TO RECEIVE A PETITION FOR COUNCIL - TO SAVE HERTFORDSHIRE PUBLIC ART COLLECTION

[Officer Contact: Taryn Pearson-Rose, Assistant Director, Customer Engagement & Libraries, Tel: 01992 556651]

3.1 The petitioner presented the below petition:

“Save Hertfordshire’s Public Art Collection”

3.2 The online petition attracted over 1,500 signatories by the date of receipt with over 250 signatories verified as living or working in Hertfordshire, the required amount to present to Cabinet Panel.

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

“Save Hertfordshire’s Public Art Collection”

<https://www.change.org/p/save-hertfordshire-s-public-art-collection>

3.4 The Panel reviewed the officer report and received supplementary text from the petitioner, which can be viewed using the following link: [Petition Documents](#)¹. In addition, two responses to the consultation were tabled and can be viewed using the preceding link.

3.5 Members noted from the petitioner that the petition had gained 1575 responses with 593 respondents based in Hertfordshire and in addition 188 comments were received of which 86 were from Hertfordshire residents.

3.6 The Panel noted that whilst the public understood that the Schools Loan Collection may no longer be viable, the public were supportive of further clarification of the significance of the works within the collection and them being available to residents of Hertfordshire.

3.7 Officers reiterated that whilst the County Council had a responsibility to manage the art works it did not have a statutory duty to hold the art work. It was noted that the County Council did not have the resources to manage the collection appropriately. Members noted that a whole range of organisations within Hertfordshire were interested in the art works and would be better placed to manage and display the works within Hertfordshire.

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<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/777/Committee/105/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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Members noted section 9 of the report which set out the next steps proposed by Officers.

- 3.8 Members found the tabled documents encouraging and noted that liaising with partners as a direction of travel was the best course of action. It was noted that as many sources of knowledge as possible should be used to conserve and retain Hertfordshire works of art in the future.
- 3.9 Members noted that the art works had been ‘traded down’ over time as stated in the consultant’s report. They also recognised that the County Council was not best placed to look after, display and conserve these works moving forward.
- 3.10 Any income generated from disposing of art works would initially be used to restore items in the art collection that were being retained e.g. the prestigious Henry Moore and Hepworth sculptures.
- 3.11 Members noted that a clear strategy was required for the art works and Members advised of a new museum opening in St Albans and a new Art Centre in Welwyn Garden. Members acknowledged the plan to conserve, display and make works that are retained by the County Council, more accessible.
- 3.12 The Local Member, in support of the petitioner, noted that more time was required to consult with local galleries.
- 3.13 The Chairman proposed the following recommendation which was seconded by the Vice Chairman and voted upon:
- 3.14 That the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel acknowledged the petition and recognised the next steps as identified in the officer’s report.
- 3.15 It was noted that the Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group abstained from voting on the recommendation.

Conclusion

- 3.16 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel acknowledged the petition and recognised the next steps as identified in the officer’s report.

4. OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL TO RECONFIGURE EXISTING SERVICES TO SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT THEM TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PRIMARY-AGED CHILDREN WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (SpLD) BY 31 MARCH 2019

[Officer Contact: David Canning; County Lead SEND Specialist Advice and Support, Tel – 01992 588556 /Phil Brunt, Planning Officer, School Planning Team, Tel – 01992 555811]

- 4.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which detailed the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to reconfigure existing outreach services to schools to support them to meet the needs of primary aged pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties. It was noted that as Special Educational Needs now sat within the Children, Young People and Families portfolio that Members of the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel had been invited to attend for this item to express their views. Feedback was to be provided to the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families who would report the recommendation to Cabinet.
- 4.2 Members were advised that following initial consultation and in light of concerns raised, the initial proposals had been reconfigured. Members were assured that those children who received face to face support (tier two and tier 3) would continue to do so. The 10 current resource centres would be replaced with 4-6 centres spread across the county to help improve and standardise the provision. It was noted that the needs of tier one students was proposed to be met by schools.
- 4.3 Members noted that 93.9% of respondents of the consultation disagreed and queried why the public were not consulted again on the new proposals. It was advised that the original proposals stood with the emphasis changed to address specific concerns raised. Respondents had expressed concerns around affordable training and therefore the proposal now included around £50,000 to assist schools. It was noted that the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was ring-fenced for schools to use.
- 4.4 In response to a Member concern around the financial constraints highlighted by head teacher's responses, Members heard that schools were best placed to manage students with tier 1 needs and that it was generally the expectation nationally for schools to fund this level of need.
- 4.5 Officers advised that nationally around a quarter of a million children have Education, Health and Care Plan's (EHCP's) but less than 5% have dyslexia. Within Hertfordshire over 3000 students are supported within mainstream schools, of which there were 120 students with SpLD needs. It was noted that statistical neighbors practice had been reviewed and none of them had specific primary

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SpLD provisions. This approach was also a reflection on the majority of national provision.

- 4.6 Members heard that the proposal aimed to bring the teachers from the ten current bases to co-locate across the 4 Integrated Services for Learning (ISL) areas across the county to gain efficiency and cross expertise. Members heard that of the ten current bases, five had come forward who wished to host a resource centre and five do not want the provision. The five available would provide a spread across the county.
- 4.7 In response to further Member questions on the communication of the revised proposals to the public, it was advised that a copy of the report would be sent to affected school for cascading to staff. Officers would also feedback to respondents as widely as possible on the revised proposals to share the changes that were made in response to the initial consultation feedback. In addition, it was noted that people also had the opportunity to object to the new proposals during the statutory notice period.

Conclusion

- 4.8 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet that it accepts the amended proposals as detailed within this report and agrees to publish a statutory notice to close the 10 primary SpLD bases.
- 4.9 It was noted that two Liberal Democrat Group Members and the Labour Group Members abstained from voting on the recommendation.
- 5. RELOCATION OF THE PRIMARY SUPPORT BASE AT SPRINGMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, WELWYN GARDEN CITY**
[Officer contact: Richard Woodard, Area Manager – Professional Lead for Access and Inclusion, Integrated Services for Learning
Tel: 01442 453224 / Samantha Young, Senior Planning Officer, School Planning, Tel: 01992 555754]
- 5.1 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report which detailed the outcome of public consultation on the proposal to relocate the Primary Support Base (PSB) at Springmead Primary School in Welwyn Garden City to Swallow Dell Primary and Nursery School in Welwyn Garden City from 1 September 2018. It was noted that as Special Educational Needs now sat within the Children, Young People and Families portfolio that Members of the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel had been invited to attend for this item to express their views. Feedback was to be provided to the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families who would report the recommendation to Cabinet.

- 5.2 Members were advised that over 80% of respondents to the consultation agreed with the proposal. It was noted that as the base was being moved within a two mile radius the publication of a statutory notice was not required and the process could be moved on if agreed.
- 5.3 The Local Member noted that the proposal was a good move with Swallow Dell Primary and Nursey School being a really good choice of school to relocate at.

Conclusions

- 5.4 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet that it approves the relocation of the PSB from Springmead Primary School, Welwyn Garden City to Swallow Dell Primary and Nursery School, Welwyn Garden City with effect from 1 September 2018.

6. HERTFORDSHIRE'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2018-21

[Officer contact: Karen Noble, Performance Improvement Manager; Tel: (01992) 588394]

- 6.1 Members received and reviewed the proposed Hertfordshire's Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2018-21.
- 6.2 It was noted that the plan would also be considered by the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel before being considered by Cabinet and Full Council.
- 6.3 The Panel acknowledged the vision and key themes within the plan and the new Outcomes Framework, known as the six 'Outcome Bee's'.
- 6.4 Members welcomed the plan and officers were thanked for the work undertaken compiling the plan.
- 6.5 In response to a Member question around Looked After Children being included in the plan, it was advised that there was a paragraph included on corporate parenting in addition reference to unaccompanied asylum seekers. It was noted that Looked After Children were included under of most of the 'Outcome Bees'.
- 6.6 Members noted that there had been two recent Local Government Association and Parliament developments around prevention and placement stability and queried if Officers were confident that both were sufficiently reflected in the plan. Members were advised that prevention was fully covered and that placement stability could easily be included as it was a real focus within Hertfordshire.

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Conclusions

- 6.7 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel noted and commented, as above, upon the plan and recommended to Cabinet that it recommends to Council that the Hertfordshire's Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2018-21, as appended to the report, be adopted.

7. ENLARGEMENT AND RELOCATION OF WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, HODDESDON, OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

[Officer contact: Brenda Dennett, School Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 555813]

- 7.1 Members reviewed a report which detailed the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to relocate and enlarge the 1 form of entry (f.e.), Westfield Community Primary School ("the School") which currently has 210 places to a new 2 f.e., 420 place School located within a new housing development at High Leigh, Hoddesdon. The report also updated on the progress of the background work regarding the financial viability of the proposal.
- 7.2 Members noted the response to the consultation, including the support from the Head Teachers and Governing Body's.
- 7.3 The Panel were informed that the developers housing programme had been delayed and therefore implementation was now due for September 2022. It was noted that the statutory notice should be published with the revised implementation date and that s.106 implications would be reported back to Cabinet at the end of the notice period with updated financial implications.

Conclusions

- 7.4 Panel recommended to Cabinet that it authorises the Director of Children's Services to publish a statutory notice to enlarge Westfield Community Primary School, Hoddesdon by relocating it to a school building located within the housing development at High Leigh, Hoddesdon from 01 September 2022.

8. DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEW SCHOOLS

[Officer contact: Kate Leahy, Senior School Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 555864 / Trevor Mose, Head of Building Management, Tel: 01992 556658]

- 8.1 The Panel received a report which detailed the proposed change in approach to seeking developers' financial contributions to school buildings. It was noted that the report would also be presented the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel on 6 June 2018.

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- 8.2 Members noted that the report highlighted the financial constraints faced when seeking developer contributions to build or expand a school to the current level required by the County Council. It was noted that other Local Authorities and other areas, along with the Department for Education (DfE) set their requirements at a lower level and therefore it was harder for the County Council to demand more contributions than necessary.
- 8.3 Whilst it was noted that the County Council's school site policy was not to be changed, Members expressed concerns that by seeking smaller contributions from developers it would compromise on school space. In response, it was noted that the County Council was not looking to reduce classroom sizes. Feedback from newly built schools was that they were very pleased with the space and facilities available with building being created suitable for 21st century learning.
- 8.4 Members noted that the building bulletin (currently BB103) provided parameters for the total meterage of a school and guidance on how these may be dispersed. The current policy used by the County Council was set at the top end of BB103 which was most similar to the middle range of the previous BB98. It was noted that the DfE and many other Local Authorities use the bottom end of the BB103 range when building new school, which makes seeking contributions above this difficult to justify.
- 8.5 In response to a Member question it was advised that under the new proposals it would be expected that the site provided by the developer be within the County Council's policy standards e.g. appropriate size and with groundworks complete. It was noted that within the build cost element there was a degree of contingency funding which would be available if unknown ground factors were found.
- 8.6 Members expressed concerns around seeking low contributions from developers and noted that it was difficult to justify given the profit margins for developers.
- 8.7 Members were advised that Local Planning Authorities had competing demands in terms of infrastructure and that in order to ensure that new developments provided all required amenities, including affordable housing; it was a sensible approach to request the necessary contributions for a school rather than not achieving the higher contribution level.

Conclusions

- 8.8 Panel recommended to Cabinet that Cabinet agrees a change in approach to developer sought contributions to the cost of school buildings as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

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8.9 It was noted that the Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group voted against the recommendation.

9. 'SHARED HERITAGE' STRATEGY: INFORMATION UPDATE
[Officer contact: Andrew Bignell – Head of Libraries and Heritage Services, Tel: 01707 281559 / Julie Gregson – Head of Heritage Services (Tel: 01992 555100)]

9.1 Members reviewed a report which provided an update to the Heritage Services Strategy paper presented to the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Panel in March 2016.

9.2 Members noted that the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) achieved Archive Accreditation in July 2017 and that there had been huge technological improvements, including a new online shop and catalogue search facility, and new digital microfilm scanners which enabled images to be saved digitally at a much high quality than the increasingly obsolete microfilm readers.

9.3 Plans to find new premises for Heritage Services were acknowledged and it was noted that the service had met its savings requirement to date.

9.4 In response to a Member question on whether the County Council had a statutory duty to keep archives and how it was determined which items were kept it was advised that there were statutory elements under Section 224 of the Local Government Act 1972. For non-statutory items, a clear collections policy is in place to ensure the historical significance of items collected.

9.5 Gratitude was expressed to the staff and volunteers that manage Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies.

9.6 A visit to the archives was to be organised for Members.

Conclusion

9.7 Panel noted and commented, as above, upon the progress made in implementing the Shared Heritage strategy.

10. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS

10.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.

Julie Gregson,
Head of
Heritage
Services

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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