

Minutes



To: All Members of the Resources,
Property & The Economy
Cabinet Panel, Chief
Executive, Chief Officers, All
officers named for 'actions'

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

RESOURCES, PROPERTY AND THE ECONOMY CABINET PANEL 18 APRIL 2018

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

M Bright (Vice-Chairman), R C Deering (substituted for F Button), M D M Muir (substituted for C M Hayward), R G Tindall (substituted for S B A F H Giles-Medhurst), P V Mason, A J S Mitchell, R H Smith, S J Taylor, A S B Walkington, J D Williams (Chairman), P M Zukowskyj

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel meeting on 18 April 2018 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

	ACTION
1. MINUTES	
1.1 The Minutes (Part I and Part II) of the last meeting held on 15 March 2018 were agreed.	
2. PUBLIC PETITIONS	
2.1 There were no public petitions.	
3. LEP UPDATE [Officer Contact: Neil Hayes, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Partnership]	
3.1 As LEP Board Members, the Chairman, M Bright and S J Taylor declared an interest in this item.	
3.2 Members received a presentation from Neil Hayes, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) which provided an update on current issues in relation to the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and current Government economic	

development related initiatives. The presentation can be viewed here: [LEP Update Presentation](#).

- 3.3 The Panel were provided with an update from the LEP annual conference and on the Local Industrial Strategy. Members noted the change in the gap in GVA per filled job in Hertfordshire against the national average and discussed the work being undertaken to ensure Hertfordshire became more resilient and planned for future growth. The Panel noted the four “grand challenges” that the Hertfordshire LEP were looking to address through the Local Industrial Strategy were Ageing Society, the Future of Mobility, Clean Growth and Artificial Intelligence & Data Economy. It was advised that four groups were to be set up to consider these challenges over Spring/Summer 2018 with feedback to be provided in Autumn 2018. In addition, a session would be held on how the Panel could support the development of the Local Industrial Strategy.
- 3.4 Members discussed the need for more businesses to be located in Hertfordshire and queried if businesses were having difficulty finding suitable sites locally. It was noted that during the most recent developments of Local Plans, housing numbers dominated the debate over commercial development. Members were advised that public sector services were continuing to work together to make best use of publically owned assets. In addition, it was noted that the LEP had commissioned Lambert Smith Hampton to consider business needs across the county. Members noted that a lot of office space was being developed into housing, which in turn put pressure on local services and may impact on companies’ ability to expand locally.
- 3.5 The Panel discussed housing needs across the county and noted that more affordable housing and supported living was required to address the future needs of the county. It was noted that whilst focussing on housing needs was required, having land available for the development of businesses was also essential to ensure a mixed economy. It was noted that a joined up approach was required to consider the needs of the population and the effect on the economy and infrastructure. The importance of science partnerships was also acknowledged for innovation across the county.
- 3.6 Members commented on the amount of under-occupancy in larger homes across the county and it was noted that appropriate sized properties needed to be made available for residents looking to downsize. Members were advised that the Council’s Adult Care Team had undertaken some work in relation to housing for an ageing population and that it would be requested that a briefing note was shared with the Panel. The Panel heard about a housing buy back scheme in Stevenage, where the District Council would buy back properties and assist the tenants with a move to sheltered housing.

David Williams,
Chairman

**CHAIRMAN’S
INITIALS**

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- 3.7 Members noted that employment land sites had been realised for housing and suggested that the LEP could relay to government the need to retain industrial sites and recognise its potentially varied uses. Members noted that potential requests for support from government were being considered by the LEP and included issues such as broadband.
- 3.8 The Panel noted the updates given on the LEP's call for projects with £73 million worth of potential schemes submitted for consideration by the LEP. Two projects were approved with a further two projects being approved subject to further clarification. Four additional projects were also under review for potential future support.
- 3.9 Members noted the re-procurement of the Growth Hub in May 2018 and the focus areas of the LEP for June/July 2018.
- 3.10 The Panel were informed that the LEP were recruiting for an additional Business Board Member and for any recommendations to be put forward, with the candidate requiring the commitment and time to engage with the LEP.
- 3.11 Members queried whether there had been any update on governance in relation to the regeneration of Stevenage Town Centre. It was advised that whilst the first round of funding was still going ahead, clarity was still being sought from Government around the governance structure required.

Conclusion

- 3.12 The Cabinet Panel noted the content of the presentation.

4. FUTURE OF TOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARE

[Officer contact: Juliet Whitehead, Education Leadership Team, Tel: 01438 844880]

- 4.1 Members reviewed a report which considered the future arrangements and finances required for managing Tower Primary School, Ware.
- 4.2 Following an inadequate Ofsted rating in March 2017, Tower Primary School was obliged by government rules to either become a sponsored academy or face closure. The Ivy Learning Trust based in Enfield had been approached by the Department for Education to sponsor Tower Primary School. Closure of the school was not deemed feasible for a number of reasons including the subsequent need to accommodate the current pupils at schools a significant distance away and future demand in the area. Members noted that

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the planned sponsor would still require agreement from the Regional Schools Commissioner.

- 4.3 Members were notified of a minor change to the wording at recommendation (v).

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

- 4.4 The Panel agreed to move into Part II ('closed' session').

- 4.5 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.

- 4.6 Following discussion on the Part II Report and recommendation, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session) and agreed the recommendations.

Conclusion

- 4.7 Panel recommended to Cabinet that it agrees:

- (i) that the County Council conclude an agreement with the Ivy Learning Trust Board around the sponsorship of Tower Primary School, Ware as set out in the Part II report.
- (ii) to delegate to the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism, to agree the required terms and conditions required for the agreement between the County Council and Ivy Learning Trust Board with regards the sponsorship of Tower Primary School, Ware.
- (iii) that the County Council provide Tower Primary School, Ware with £37,000 of additional capital funding to deal with outstanding building condition and ICT issues.
- (iv) that an application for an in-year variation to the school's Published Admission Number to reduce it to 15 in September 2019 will be made to the Office of the School Adjudicator.
- (v) that the revenue funding required as set out in the part II report be agreed by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Members for Resources, Property and the Economy and for Education, Libraries and Localism.

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Panel noted that there was a target conversion date of September 2018.

5. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS

5.1 There was no other urgent Part I business.

PART II ('CLOSED') AGENDA

1. FUTURE OF TOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARE

Conclusion

1.1 The recommendations on this item of business are recorded at 4.7 above and in the separate Part II minutes.

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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