



Minutes
of the
Meeting of the
Cabinet
on
Monday, 8 July 2019

- 1. Public Notice 1**
- 2. Public Notice 2**
- 3. Agenda**
- 4. 190708 12a Draft Financial Strategy 2020/21 - 2022/23 Appendix A**
- 5. Minutes**

Minutes



To: All Members of the Cabinet,
Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Deborah Jeffery
Ext: 25563

CABINET 8 JULY 2019

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

D A Ashley, P Bibby, T L F Douris, T C Heritage, T W Hone, T R Hutchings, R Sangster,
J D Williams (Leader of the Council)

Deputy Executive Members attending on behalf of an Executive Member

F R G Hill (Deputy Executive Member for Adult Care and Health) attending on behalf of
R M Roberts

Other Members in Attendance

N Bell, M B J Mills-Bishops

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 8 July 2019 as circulated,
copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: Interests declared by Members of the Cabinet in relation to the matters on
which conclusions were reached at this meeting are recorded at item 5 below.*

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting (Parts I and II) held on 10 June 2019 were
confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

2.1 There were no questions from Members of the Council to Executive Members.

3. PUBLIC PETITIONS

3.1 There were no public petitions.

4. PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE PARK EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE, POTTERS BAR, TO THE FORMER SOUTHFIELD SCHOOL SITE, TRAVELLERS LANE, HATFIELD

[Forward Plan Ref: A035/19]

Decision

4.1 Cabinet:

- a) approved the relocation of The Park Education Support Centre (ESC) to the former Southfield School site, Travellers Lane, Hatfield, as proposed in the report;
- b) agreed to grant a standard DfE Academy Lease at a peppercorn rent to the new provider for the former Southfield School site in Travellers Lane, Hatfield; the proposed area of the former Southfield School site which is to be reallocated to The Park ESC to be as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and the remaining land on the former Southfield School site to be managed by the County Council; and
- c) approved a capital budget of £0.5million to complete the required works to make the former Southfield School site fit for use as an Education Support Centre as set out in the report.

Reasons for the decision

4.2 The Park ESC is currently a local authority maintained pupil referral unit but was issued with a Directive Academy Order following an inadequate Ofsted judgement. Ofsted considered that, among other things, the current locations of the ESC (two premises in Potters Bar) provide poor accessibility for referring schools and students, and that this is having a negative impact on school performance. As a result of the inadequate Ofsted judgement of the Park ESC, the Secretary of State for Education has required it to become a sponsored academy. The academy sponsor identified by the Department for Education (Links Academy Trust) will not adopt the ESC in its present location because of the issues identified above; its relocation is, therefore, required to enable academisation.

- 4.3 Consultation with Head Teachers from referring schools indicated that a location in the Welwyn and Hatfield area would be preferred as the majority of pupils attending the ESC in recent years come from that area. Analysis of travel times from the most frequently referring schools also indicated that a new location for the school in the Welwyn and Hatfield district would help improve accessibility and attendance and thus improve the educational achievement of its pupils. A site search in the Welwyn Hatfield area was conducted with the former Southfield School site in Travellers lane, Hatfield being identified as the only site in the search area with the potential for redeployment as an ESC.
- 4.4 In arriving at its decision to approve the relocation of The Park Education Support Centre (ESC) to the former Southfield School site Cabinet considered the above, together with the outcome of the consultation on the proposal, which was unanimous in its support for it, the support of the interim management committee at the Park ESC for the proposal, the financial implications of the proposal and the outcome of the equalities impact assessment. Cabinet also considered the recommendation of the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel.
- 4.5 Cabinet’s decisions will enable the re-provision of the ESC onto a single location and its academisation by September 2019.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

4.6 None.

5. PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE THE PRIMARY SUPPORT BASE (PSB) AT THE LEYS PRIMARY SCHOOL, STEVENAGE, TO THE LODGE ANNEXE, CHELLS WAY, STEVENAGE
 [Forward Plan Ref: A039/19]

5.1 **P Bibby** declared a declarable personal interest in this item of business as he is Chairman of the Governing Body of The Leys Primary School. He left the room and did not participate in the debate or vote.

Decision

5.2 Cabinet:-

- (a) approved the relocation of the Primary Support Base at The Leys Primary School, Stevenage to The Lodge, Chells Way, Stevenage as proposed in the report; and
- (b) approved the revenue and capital funding costs of the relocation in (a) above, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.

Reasons for the decision

5.3 The Primary Support Base in Stevenage is part of the overall Special

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Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy. PSBs ensure that children experiencing difficulties accessing mainstream primary education and those at risk of exclusions and those that have been permanently excluded are supported. The PSB in Stevenage is currently situated at and managed by The Leys Primary School. The School is no longer willing to host this provision and, consequently, it has been necessary to identify an alternative host for the PSB. Vacant accommodation at The Lodge, Chells Way, Stevenage has been identified as a suitable site and, with the support of the Head Teacher and Governing Body, Peartree Spring School has agreed to manage the PSB from that location as lead school for the Stevenage Delivering Special Provision Locally Partnership. No other options have been identified. Public consultation regarding the relocation of the PSB was undertaken with 5 out of 6 respondents supporting the proposed relocation.

- 5.4 Cabinet considered the above together with the financial implications of the proposal, the outcome of the equalities implications of the proposal and the recommendation of the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel in reaching its decision to approve the relocation of the PSB.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.5 None.

6. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY
[Forward Plan Ref: A027/19]

Decision

- 6.1 Cabinet
- (i) adopted the revised 'Reducing the harm from Tobacco in Hertfordshire' policy statement attached as Appendix A to the report;
 - (ii) asked the Pensions' Committee to review its portfolio of investment with the principles and intentions in the 'Reducing the harm from Tobacco in Hertfordshire' policy statement if legally and financially appropriate; and
 - (iii) agreed that the County Council's policy on allowing smoking by employees, visitors and contractors within its grounds be reviewed and further agreed that the Council works towards adopting a 'Smokefree' policy which prohibits smoking on any employment premises owned or leased by the County Council.

Reasons for the decision

- 6.2 (i) The County Council's public health vision is to improve and protect Hertfordshire's health and wellbeing. Included within this is reducing smoking prevalence and the harm from tobacco, which remain Health and Wellbeing Board and Sustainability and Transformation Plan

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prevention priorities.

6.3 The Council's original policy statement was approved by Cabinet in November 2013. The revised policy statement has been modelled on the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control, the World Health Organisation's tobacco control framework and UK CLear guidance. Developed with members of Hertfordshire's Tobacco Control Alliance the revised policy supports the delivery of the County's Tobacco Control Strategic Plan 2019 – 2022 and reflects the Council's statutory responsibilities for public health, changes in tobacco legislation and changing tobacco trends. Cabinet considered the above and the recommendation of the Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel in reaching its decision to approve the revised policy statement.

6.4 (ii) As set out above.

6.5 (iii) As set out above.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

6.6 None.

7. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2019 – 2024

[Forward Plan Ref: A024/19]

Decision

7.1 Cabinet approved the Hertfordshire County Council Sexual Health Strategy 2019 -2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons for the decision

7.2 The previous Sexual Health Strategy 2014 – 2019 expired on 31 March 2019.

7.3 Cabinet considered the proposed new Strategy for 2019 – 2024 which outlines the Council's ambition over the next five years in having comprehensive sexual health provision across the County, builds on previous evidence and experience, and incorporates new technologies and cost effective, new delivery models. Cabinet also considered the positive outcome of the consultation undertaken on the draft Strategy, the financial implications of implementing the new Strategy, the equalities implications of the Strategy, and the recommendation of the Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel.

7.4 The Sexual Health Strategy for 2019 – 2024 approved by Cabinet at this meeting will adopt and promote a self-management approach enabling the County's residents to gain the confidence, skills and knowledge to manage their own sexual health, will enable specialist services to focus on those with more complex needs, ensure that best use is made of the clinical skill mix and

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services available, and achieve improved value for money.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

7.5 None.

8. INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

[Forward Plan Ref: A012/19]

Decision

8.1 Cabinet approved the revised draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019 – 2023 attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Reasons for the decision

8.2 Public consultation on the County Council’s draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) was undertaken between 12 December 2018 and 6 March 2019.

8.3 Cabinet considered the outcome of that public consultation and revisions made to the IRMP as a result of feedback received. Cabinet also considered the financial implications of the proposed IRMP, noting that the quantum of any savings or costs could not be assessed at this juncture, the outcome of the equalities impact assessment undertaken on the IRMP which indicated that no impacts on those with protected characteristics had been identified, and the recommendation of the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel in deciding to approve the IRMP 2019 - 2023.

8.4 Production and approval of the IRMP meets the Council’s obligations under the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2018.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

8.5 None.

9. REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

[Forward Plan Ref: A030/19]

Decision

9.1 1. Cabinet noted the following amendments to Appendices A and B to the report:-

Appendix A paragraph 2.3: Replace ‘Deputy Director of Community Protection’ with ‘Assistant Director of Community Protection’.

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Appendix B paragraph 2.5: Replace 'Deputy Director of Community Protection' with 'Assistant Director of Community Protection'.

2. Cabinet approved the policies on:
 - (a) Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources (Appendix A) as amended by 1 above;
 - (b) Acquisition and Disclosure of Communications Data from communication service providers (Appendix B) as amended by 1 above; and
 - (c) Use of Social Media in Investigations attached as Appendix C to the report.

Reasons for the decision

- 9.2 The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) regulates Directed Surveillance and Covert Human Intelligence Sources. The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (IPA) regulates the acquisition and disclosure of communications data from communication service providers by a number of bodies, including local authorities. They were introduced to ensure that individuals' rights are protected, while also ensuring that law enforcement and security agencies have the powers they need to do their job effectively.
- 9.3 The County Council has separate policies on covert investigations, the acquisition and disclosure of communications data, and on the use of social media in investigations. These each require Councillors to consider reports on their use on at least an annual basis to ensure that they are being used consistently and in accordance with the Council's policies, and that the policies remain fit for purpose. Cabinet has, therefore, received its Annual Report on their use and has approved updated policies for 2019/20.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 9.4 None.

10. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019
[Forward Plan Ref: A025/19]

Decision

- 10.1 Cabinet approved the contents of the Annual Report 2018/19 attached as Appendix A to the report and authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments as necessary to the Annual Report prior to its publication.

Reasons for the decision

- 10.2 Although there is no longer a statutory obligation to produce an Annual Report the County Council has chosen to continue to do so. The Annual Report provides a summary of developments over the previous financial year, highlights the Council's achievements, sets out the challenges it faces, where its money has been spent, and how it is working to deliver its services.
- 10.3 A small number of hard copies of the final Report will be published for circulation in libraries and other public buildings. It will also be published on the Council's website.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 10.4 None.

11. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2019 - 2025
[Forward Plan Ref: A026/19]

Decision

- 11.1 Cabinet approved the Council's refreshed Corporate Plan 2019 – 2025 as appended to the report and authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to make any minor amendments as necessary to the Plan prior to its publication.

Reasons for the decision

- 11.2 The Council's existing Corporate Plan covers the period 2017 – 2021. The Local Government Association Peer Review of the County Council in October 2018 recommended a refresh of the Plan to enable the Council's leadership to demonstrate and assert its aspirations and priorities for the Council and the county it serves. The refreshed Corporate Plan, approved by Cabinet at this meeting, achieves this objective; is short, strategic, high level and outward facing, with an emphasis on outcome focussed objectives.
- 11.3 The County Council will be asked to note the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2025 at its meeting on 16 July 2019.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 11.4 None.

12. DRAFT FINANCIAL STRATEGY FOR PERIOD 2020/21 – 2023/24
[Forward Plan Ref: A034/19]

- 12.1 The Executive Members for Resources and Performance and for Education,

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Libraries and Localism each provided an oral update on the consideration of a report on this item of business at their respective Cabinet Panel meetings on 5 and 8 July 2019. A brief summary of each oral report is set out below:-

Resources and Performance – 5 July 2019

- 12.2 As part of its considerations, the Panel had discussed the adequacy of the Council’s reserves and the reasons for holding them. Members had agreed that the timing of the decision on funding provision by central government was a complicating factor in the Council’s ability to properly prepare for next year’s Integrated Plan; mixed views had been expressed on the prudence of utilising monies from general reserves to meet cost pressures versus increasing it given the current uncertainty on funding levels. Discussion also focussed on opportunities to maximise revenue by raising charges on services where legislation permitted and looking again at commercial enterprises to raise additional revenue.
- 12.3 It was clear from the feedback received from service cabinet panels that all Members recognised the serious and difficult financial situation the Council was in and that difficult choices may need to be taken in order to bridge the remaining £45 million funding deficit projected over the medium-term financial period.
- 12.4 The Panel had agreed to recommend to Cabinet that it request officers to collate and develop opportunities for service level efficiencies, transformations and adjustments to meet that £45 million deficit over the summer months with the intention that proposals arising from that work would then be presented to service cabinet panels in autumn 2019 for consideration; recommendations arising from those considerations would then be presented to Cabinet before the end of the year, thereby ensuring that any consultations on proposals could take place in good time before the Council agrees its budget in February 2020.

Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel – 8 July 2019

- 12.5 The Panel’s position was broadly comparable to that of the other service cabinet panels. Consideration had been given to the Council’s financial situation, the uncertainties of future funding levels, the national context, the role of schools and the Dedicated Schools Grant in relation to general funds, and the cost and delivery of Home to School transport.
- 12.6 Members had recognised that much of the Education funding had to be directed to Maintained Schools; they also noted the savings being achieved in the delivery of Library Services.
- 12.7 Members had further noted the significant representations made to Ministers regarding the level of County Council funding at the recent Local Government Association conference.

Decision

- 12.8 Cabinet requested Chief Officers to urgently progress work on new savings proposals as part of the Integrated Plan process, and to consider the extent of lobbying already under way and any further opportunities that may arise.

Reasons for the decision

- 12.9 In May 2019 Cabinet considered a report setting out the financial outlook for the Council, including the background to the current position, and national and local developments defining the current operating context. Given the nature of the financial challenges facing the Council, Cabinet requested all service cabinet panels to consider the report and their respective portfolio budgets at their meetings in June and July. Cabinet considered the outcome of those cabinet panel deliberations at this meeting alongside the continuing, significant uncertainty about the future level of resources available to the Council and the savings to be delivered. Cabinet has, therefore, requested that Chief Officers urgently work on new savings proposals as part of the budget planning process alongside exploring lobbying and other opportunities for addressing the Council's financial position. As set out in 12.4 above, it is anticipated that proposals arising from that work will be presented to service cabinet panels in autumn 2019 and that recommendations arising from those considerations will be presented to Cabinet before the end of the year in order to ensure that any consultations on saving proposals can be undertaken and the outcomes considered prior to the Council agreeing its budget for 2020/21 and beyond.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 12.10 None.

13. COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT: SMALL SITE DEVELOPMENT [Forward Plan Ref: A037/19]

- 13.1 Discussion took place on this item in Part I.

14. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF LAND AT LONDON ROAD BISHOP'S STORTFORD: RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL [Forward Plan Ref: A007/19]

- 14.1 Discussion took place on this item in Part I.

15. OUTCOME OF THE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

[Forward Plan Ref: A038/19]

15.1 Discussion took place on this item in Part I.

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

Decision

16.1 Cabinet agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

16.2 Following discussions on the Part II Reports on the items referred to at 13, 14 and 15 above and Recommendations, Cabinet moved back into Part I (open session) and considered the Part I Recommendations and reached the decisions set out at 17, 18 and 19 below.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

17. COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT: SMALL SITE DEVELOPMENT

[Forward Plan Ref: A037/19]

Decision

17.1 Cabinet:

- (i) approved the proposed strategy set out in the report for disposal of small surplus sites directly to Herts Living Limited for development and sale on the open market;
- (ii) approved the establishment of a loan facility to Herts Living Limited, in order to undertake the strategy referred to in (i) above, from within the Capital Investments budget set in the 2019/20 Integrated Plan to support Herts Living Limited activity; such facility to be subject to a rolling limit of £5 million;
- (iii) subject to (iv) below, approved the issue of a loan to Herts Living Limited to finance the purchase and development of land at Shephall Green, Stevenage

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- (iv) delegated to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance, authority to finalise the terms and sum of the loan referred to in (iii) above, subject to the £5 million limit set out in (ii) above;
- (v) delegated to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance, authority to take future investment decisions for subsequent commercial investments to Herts Living Limited under the strategy referred to in (i) above, including authority to finalise the terms and sum of any future loan, subject to the £5 million limit set out in (ii) above.

Reasons for the decision

17.2 Herts Living Limited (HLL) was incorporated on 2 September 2017 with a target of maximising value from capital receipts from the Council’s surplus land portfolio via innovative approaches to property development. To date, much activity has been undertaken by the Council and HLL in relation to the establishment of a Joint Venture to deliver developments on substantial sites. The early proposals and original business case always included the expectation that this would only be one element of HLL’s activities. The adoption of the Strategy for the disposal of small sites for development via HLL and the associated authorisations around the commercial investments required in order to finance these have, therefore, been approved by Cabinet. Cabinet’s decision will enable this aspect of HLL’s activities to progress, including the first such project at Shephall Green, Stevenage.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

17.3 None.

18. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF LAND AT LONDON ROAD BISHOP’S STORTFORD: RELOCATION AND EXPANSION OF THE BISHOP’S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL
 [Forward Plan Ref: A007/19]

Decision

18.1 Cabinet authorised:

- a) A capital budget for the scheme for relocation and expansion of The Bishops Stortford High School as set out in the report, to include feasibility expenditure to date and which covers the cost of the standard County Council specification for premises having a capacity of 6 forms of entry with 8 forms of entry core facilities and the costs of the associated minor projects, in the sum of £45.31m;
- b) the capital funding sources that are to be relied upon, being the Priority

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Schools Building Programme 2 grant from the Department for Education, the capital receipts from the sale of the existing Bishops Stortford High School site and s106 planning obligations, and the gap capital funding of £7.8m to be met from basic need;

- c) the capital receipts from the sale of the existing Bishops Stortford High School be protected by the County Council requiring that the sale be joint with the School, that a caution be placed on the titles and that no sale be agreed until the Secretary of State for Education has given consent in writing to the sale and to the sale proceeds being remitted to the Council; and
- d) the Director of Resources, as S151 officer, to provide a Capital Contributions Letter to the Department for Education in respect of all capital funding for a relocation and expansion scheme beyond the Priority School Building Programme 2 grant.

Reasons for the decision

- 18.2 In February 2018 Cabinet approved the scheme for relocation and expansion of The Bishop’s Stortford High School (TBSHS) and in February 2019 the County Council approved its Integrated Plan which included provision for capital funding support for the scheme. The Department for Education (DfE) has since determined that the County Council is better placed to enable the development of the new premises as the School is a Foundation category of maintained school and there are complex land arrangements at both the existing and new school sites. The DfE has, therefore, agreed Local Delivery by the County Council and to remit the Priority Schools Building Programme 2 (PSBP2) grant to the County Council. A reporting and monitoring agreement with the Council has also been put in place; fundamental to that agreement is the DfE’s requirement that the PSBP2 grant is committed and wholly spent by 31 March 2021.
- 18.3 In arriving at its decision above, Cabinet also considered the town planning implications of the proposals, the financial implications of the proposals, the forecast need for additional school places in the area, a risk assessment if the Council did not act swiftly to support the opportunities to secure additional school land, premises and places, the Council’s statutory duty to provide sufficient school places to meet the demand for them, the positive outcome of the equalities impact assessment, and the recommendation of the Resources and Performance and the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panels.
- 18.4 Cabinet’s decision will ensure expenditure of the DfE grant by the 31 March 2021 deadline and the opening of the relocated Bishop’s Stortford High School by the target date of September 2021. Cabinet’s decision will also facilitate an expansion in places of 0.8fe immediately and will enable a further 2fe of expansion potential to be secured for the future, thereby providing equity in the single sex offer across the area and contributing towards meeting the rising demand for places anticipated in the longer term.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

18.5 None.

19. OUTCOME OF THE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE AND AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE FUTURE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN HERTFORDSHIRE

[Forward Plan Ref: A038/19]

Decision

19.1 Cabinet:

- (i) authorised the award of contract for the future delivery of Hertfordshire's Library Service to the organisation that provided the most economically advantageous tender in accordance with the procurement process (as detailed in the Part II report), for five years with the potential extension of an additional five years;
- (ii) in conjunction with entering into the contract for the future delivery of Hertfordshire's Library Services, further to (i) above approved the Council entering into an associated Support Services Agreement; and
- (iii) authorised the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism to finalise all arrangements, to make any other decisions as are necessary and agree other documents necessary for the County Council to conclude the arrangements approved in (i) and (ii) above.

19.2 The separate Part II decision in relation to this item of business is set out in the Part II Minutes.

Reasons for the decision

19.3 'Inspiring Libraries: A new Strategy for Hertfordshire Library Service 2014 - 2024' was adopted by Cabinet in July 2014, following extensive public consultation, to set the vision and direction for the service of the next ten years and to provide a framework for future decisions about service priorities. Phased implementation of that Strategy has achieved a reduction in the Library Service revenue budget of £2.7m. Further savings of £500,000 are required to help support the Council's overall financial position.

19.4 In October 2018, Cabinet agreed to undertake a procurement exercise for the future delivery of library services in the County to see whether an independent external provider could deliver Hertfordshire Library Service on a reduced budget, achieving savings without compromising the quality of services. In April 2018 Cabinet also approved the creation of a Public Sector Mutual in shadow form so that it could participate in the procurement process. A rigorous

procurement process was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“PCR”) and in accordance with the evaluation methodology and processes set out in the procurement documents. As a result of consideration of that process, including the price and quality criteria against which each bidder was considered and the use of an external library specialist on the assessment panel for the tender stage, the financial and legal implications of the proposal set out in the Part II Report, and the recommendation of the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel, Cabinet reached the decisions set out above.

- 19.5 Cabinet’s decision will enable Hertfordshire Library Services to continue to be delivered to the County’s residents within the savings envelope required and without compromising the quality of services provided.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

- 19.6 None.

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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