

# 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

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## EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM CABINET PANEL 10 MAY 2019

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

A P Brewster, J Billing, T L F Douris (*Chairman*), M S Hearn, J R Jones, A K Khan, A J S Mitchell (*Vice Chairman*), A Plancey, S K Jarvis (*substituted for A F Rowlands*), J F Wyllie

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel meeting 10 May 2019 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. MINUTES

- 1.1 The minutes (Part I) of the previous meeting held on 4 April 2019 were agreed.

#### 2. PUBLIC PETITION

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

#### 3. TO APPROVE PROPOSALS FOR THE PROVISION OF A NEW 60 PLACE SECONDARY SPECIAL SCHOOL AT THE WOODSIDE CENTRE, WELWYN GARDEN CITY, INCLUDING FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

[Officer Contact: Emily White, Head of Strategic Asset  
Management & Estates, Tel: 01992 588159 / Pauline Davis  
Head of School Planning, Tel: 01992 555865]

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report which sought Members views

### ACTION

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on the appropriation of the Woodside Centre site to Children's Services, to meet the need identified by officers, for a new secondary special school of 60 places for complex need pupils.

- 3.2 Members heard that the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Review had identified a need for additional school places for vulnerable children and that the service had taken the opportunity to commence the bidding process for a new government special and alternative provision free school programme, for which the service had been successful to date. Members heard that the inclusion of a scheme within the programme provided both capital and revenue benefits for the County Council, which would not be received if the County Council tried to open the school itself.
- 3.3 In response to a Member question about County Council funding required, officers advised that in common with some other government schemes some funding would be required. It was noted that Government required funding for offsite highways works and should the DfE decide that a new school be built on the site provided, the County Council would be liable for demolition and clearing of the site. Members heard that the plan for the site was not yet known, however funding was being sought to cover clearance if required.
- 3.4 The Panel was informed that whilst the Local Member had no concerns surrounding the scheme, they had concerns with regards to the siting of the new school and the displacement of charities currently based at the Woodside Centre. Officers advised that there was currently three voluntary organisations using the site alongside Childrens Services colleagues and that property officers were ensuring the correct process was being followed with regards to any need for relocation. Members heard that report was also to be considered by the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel prior to a Cabinet decision in order for property implications to be fully considered.
- 3.5 In response to Member questions regarding the need for this type of school, officers advised that there were a growing number of children with complex needs whose needs currently could not be met within the county. It was noted that that this new school would provide a balance of such provision across the county.

### **Conclusion**

- 3.6 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet that it:
- (i) Notes the need for an additional Special School to meet

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growing needs of pupils with Complex Needs, as set out in Appendix A

- (ii) Agrees in light of the indicated need to take forward provision of a new school through the Free Schools route, taking advantage of the DfE's approval to the county's bid for a new free school.
- (iii) Under s122(1) Local Government Act 1972 the Woodside Centre, Welwyn Garden City is appropriated from use as a Central and Shared site to education purposes to allow for the provision of a new secondary special school (free school) to allow the County Council to progress a bid from DfE for capital and revenue funding.
- (iv) Agrees the provision of capital funding of up to £0.5m to cover s278 Highways Act 1980 costs and any site clearance work if required, approval of the final sum to be delegated to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance and the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism.
- (v) Notes and agrees that, following a competition to establish who will operate the school, the site will need to be transferred to the new school under a 125 year peppercorn lease and that approval of the final terms of this lease are delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance.

**4. WHETHER TO PUBLISH A STATUTORY NOTICE IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE THE PREMISES OF CODICOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE OUTCOME OF A PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

[Officer Contact: Alice Bearton, School Planning Officer /Pauline Davis, Head of School Planning, Tel: 01992 555865]

- 4.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which updated Members on the outcome of the public consultation on proposals for the permanent expansion of the premises of Codicote Church of England Primary School in Codicote from September 2020.
- 4.2 The Panel heard that the County Council had been planning in response to the Local Planning Authority's housing proposals to develop and enlarge Codicote Church of England Primary School to meet the demand for school places in the village.
- 4.3 In response to a Member concern regarding the independent highways assessment, officers assured Members that this had

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been commissioned by the County Council and had not been undertaken by the developer.

- 4.4 Members commented on the local objection with regards to the public footpath that separated the school and playing field and increased traffic and parking. Officers informed Members that highways issues were for the Local Planning Authority to determine and that any requirements of the County Council would transpire through the town planning process. It was noted that if the school did not increase in size then children from new developments would be placed at schools further away and therefore increase travel.

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

- 4.5 The Panel agreed to move into Part II ('closed' session').
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 Following discussion on the Part II Report, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session) to agree the Part I recommendations.

**4.8 Conclusion**

Panel is asked to recommend to Cabinet that it:

- (i) authorises the Director of Children's Services to publish statutory notices to enlarge the premises at Codicote Church of England Primary School, by the size and date below:

School name	Area	Date of expansion	Expansion by form of entry (FE)	Increase in admission number
Codicote	Codicote	01.09.2020	1.0 f.e (to 2 f.e.)	30

- (ii) agrees to the capital costs of enlarging Codicote Church of England Primary School as detailed in part II of this report; with the final budget for the scheme to be delegated to the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources and Performance and Education, Libraries and Localism.

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- (iii) approves the application of S106 funds, as identified in Appendix 4 subject to the completion of relevant school expansion and town planning statutory processes.

**5. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

5.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

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