

Minutes



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

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

CABINET 20 JANUARY 2020

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

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

Other Members in Attendance

M B J Mills-Bishops

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Cabinet meeting on 20 January 2020 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 4 below.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

1.1 The Minutes (Parts I & II) of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 December 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

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

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3. PUBLIC PETITIONS

3.1 There were no public petitions.

4. INTEGRATED PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24

Disclosable Interests

- 4.1 It was noted that All Members who had a disclosable pecuniary interest arising from an allowance from the County Council, another local authority in Hertfordshire, or a body to whom they had been appointed by the County Council, had received a dispensation to allow them to participate in debate and vote on the Integrated Plan.
- 4.2 All Members had been granted a dispensation to participate in debate and vote in any business of the County Council relating to setting the council tax or precept when they would otherwise be prevented from doing so in consequence of having a beneficial interest in land which is within the administrative area of Hertfordshire or a licence (alone or jointly) to occupy such land.
- 4.3 D A Ashley has declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in item 4 as he receives an allowance from the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority; the dispensation referred to in the first paragraph above applies to this interest.
- 4.4 The following Members have declared Declarable Interests under the County Council's Code of Conduct for Members:-
- 4.5 D A Ashley – as he is Chairman of Hitchin Educational Foundation, a charity which derives part of its income from leasing a property to the County Council.
- 4.6 T L F Douris – as he is a trustee of the Hertfordshire Community Foundation which contracts with the County Council for the delivery of training and also for the distribution of the Hertfordshire Community Funds scheme. His grand-daughter is employed by the County Council as a teaching Assistant at Belswains Primary School.
- 4.7 Richard Roberts – as he is trustee of Community Action Dacorum which receives grants from the County Council.

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4(i) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ON THE 2020/21 – 2023/24 INTEGRATED PLAN
[Forward Plan Ref: A085/19]

Decision

4.8 Cabinet noted the results of the public engagement activity undertaken and took this into account when considering the proposed Integrated Plan for 2020/21 and beyond.

Reasons for the decision

4.9 The Integrated Plan engagement process has primarily been focused on informing and raising awareness with residents about the financial pressures faced by the County Council. Ongoing dialogue concerning the financial issues the Council faces continues to be promoted through channels such as the Council website, and through stakeholder and user groups.

4.10 Specific service-related proposals which affect the integrated plan are each subject to their own individual consultations, the outcomes of which are reported to Cabinet separately at the appropriate time. Alongside this consultation activity, the Council has engaged widely with service users and partners to help shape its future spending and service plans.

4.11 Cabinet Panels will be invited to consider these results when reviewing the Integrated Plan proposals at their forthcoming meetings.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

4(ii) INTEGRATED PLAN 2020/21 - 2023/24
[Forward Plan Ref: A103/19]

Decision

4.12 Cabinet:

a) agreed the draft Integrated Plan as the basis to seek feedback from Service Cabinet Panels, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel, prior to the next Cabinet meeting on 24 February 2020.

b) approved the release of schools budget data/information to the Department for Education (DfE), and delegates authority to the Director of Resources to make any final amendments to comply with and ensure submission by the deadline (21 January 2020).

Reasons for the decision

- 4.13 As set out above.
- 4.14 Cabinet considered the Integrated Plan which brings together the Council's plans for service delivery within available funding. It brings together services' key priorities and plans for delivering these, alongside the strategies that shape how the Council manages its resources. These plans have been set in the context of the difficult challenges that the Council faces which include the increasing demand for services from our growing and ageing population, including increasing complexity of needs of existing service users, for example within social care related services; and significant savings already delivered.
- 4.15 Prudent financial management has helped the Council tackle some of the challenges outlined with the Integrated Plan. This, coupled with an increase in funding for the first time in many years, means that it is possible to consider investing in key services. The summary IP position shows a balanced position for 2020/21, but, with significant and rising budget gaps in later years (£13.6m rising to £36.2m). This is essentially due to the demand and cost of services increasing faster than our funding levels. At the same time, after 10 years of identifying and delivering savings, it is proving harder and harder to identify new efficiencies.
- 4.16 Service Cabinet Panels, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel will consider and provide feedback on the Integrated Plan proposals to Cabinet on 24 February 2020 prior to final recommendation being made, for determination by the County Council on 25 February 2020.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

- 5. PROPOSAL TO 'AMALGAMATE' ST ALBAN ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL AND ST ALBAN ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL**
[Forward Plan Ref: A102/19]

Decision

- 5.1 Cabinet approved the proposal of the federated governing body of St Alban St Stephen Catholic Schools to amalgamate St Alban St Stephen Catholic Infant and Nursery and St Alban St Stephen Catholic Junior Schools, as from 1 September 2020.

Reasons for the decision

- 5.2 Governing bodies of Voluntary Aided schools may make proposals to amalgamate or change age range by following the statutory process as set

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out in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2018 and its associated Guidance. The Local Authority is the final decision maker.

5.3 Cabinet noted the School sent the consultation letter to all stakeholders listed in Appendix 1 and to approximately 400 parents and carers of pupils at both schools. The majority of respondents were in favour of the proposals, with 77% of respondents supporting the amalgamation. Both the federated governing body of the St Alban St Stephen Catholic schools and the Diocese of Westminster are in favour of the amalgamation of the schools, with the judgement that one school will provide a consistent approach to each child's primary education under the leadership and management of one head teacher and one staffing structure.

5.4 In reaching its decision, Cabinet considered the above, together with the financial implications; the equalities implications; and the recommendations of the Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel.

Any alternative options considered and rejected

5.5 None.

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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