

# 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 11 DECEMBER 2019

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

T L F Douris (*Chairman*), M S Hearn, T Howard (*substituted for C Clapper*), J R Jones, A K Khan, M B J Mills-Bishop (*Vice Chairman*), A Plancey, A F Rowlands, R A C Thake, M A Watkin

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel meeting 11 December 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

*Note: T Howard declared an interest as recorded at item 3.  
M A Watkin declared an interest as recorded at item 4.*

### PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

#### 1. MINUTES

1.1 The minutes (Part I) of the previous meeting held on 23 October 2019 were agreed subject to grammatical amendments.

#### 2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

2.1 There were no public petitions.

#### 3. HERTFORDSHIRE ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE (HAFLS) ACADEMIC YEAR 2018/2019

[Officer Contact: Chantal Lommel, HAFLS Head of Service]

3.1 T Howard declared an interest as a trustee of Community Action Dacorum and the Chair of the Training and Equality Group which works with HAFLS. T Howard remained in the room and

### ACTION

### CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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participated in the discussion.

- 3.2 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report which provided an update on the impact of the education provision delivered by Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service (HAFLS) for the 2018/19 academic year. Members received a presentation which can be viewed using the following link: [HAFLS presentation](#).
- 3.3 Members welcomed the presentation, however noted that the support being provided to 30-40 young people was only a thin spread compared the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) population and queried if it was viable to do more. Officers advised that funding was an issue when trying to grow the provision. However, it was noted that provision was being extended with the support of adult care funding.
- 3.4 In response to a Member question, officers advised that HAFLS would accept referrals from any other service e.g. charities, other County Council Services/Local Districts. It was noted that HAFLS worked alongside the virtual school service and that they were trying to promote the service to other schools/colleges to support mainstream children that were likely to drop out of education. It was noted that if a young person was to drop out in October/November then HAFLS would look to support them instead of them having to wait until the next academic year.
- 3.5 Members commented on the cross over with Youth Connections. Officers advised that whilst HAFLS worked alongside Youth Connections, they provided a different service as they delivered accredited education. It was noted that Youth Connections had been involved in the Building Better Opportunities project and that work was undertaken to ensure that the two services complemented each other rather than duplicated work.
- 3.6 In response to a Member question, officers advised that the £550k allocated to the MILE project (Appendix 3, page2) had been recovered as the project had been terminated as it was deemed to not provide good value for money.
- 3.7 The Panel noted that breaking down silo working was important to the success of HAFLS. The Chairman agreed to write to all Hertfordshire Schools and Colleges to make them aware of the work and support that HAFLS could provide.
- 3.8 The Panel requested an update on the HAFLS be presented annually to the Panel, with the report focusing on young people.
- 3.9 Members discussed the recommendations and it was proposed and seconded to amend the third recommendation to highlight that the term adult included young people (post-16 years).

Terry Douris

Chantal Lommel

**CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS**

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## Conclusion

- 3.10 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel agreed to:
- support HAFLS's remit to deliver adult education to disadvantaged groups in Hertfordshire.
  - provide ongoing support to further develop collaborative work with the public and voluntary sector.
  - provide ongoing support to HAFLS's objective in recognising adult (post-16 years) education as being part of wider agendas such as social prescribing, tackling loneliness.

## **4. HERTFORDSHIRE LIFESTYLE AND LEGACY PARTNERSHIP (HLLP) – UPDATE REPORT**

[Officer Contact: Nathalie Calonnec, Senior Policy Officer, Tel: 01992 555071]

- 4.1 M A Watkin declared an interest as a Member of the Management Committee for Herts Music Service. M A Watkin remained in the room and participated in the discussion.
- 4.2 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report which provided Members of the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel with an update on the progress of the Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP).
- 4.3 Members noted that HLLP was established in 2014 to continue the Olympic and Paralympic legacy for Hertfordshire citizens and that plans were in place for Herefordshire's 2020 Year of Culture. All Local Boroughs and Districts had been provided with a Year of Culture flag and the Chairman agreed to write to all the Local Boroughs and Districts to ensure the flags were raised on the 1 January 2020.
- 4.4 In response to a Member question regarding whether the Council's Volunteer Awards were to continue, officers confirmed that this event was run every two years and that the next event was due to take place in 2020.
- 4.5 Members discussed the Year of Physical Activity and queried how many schools were now taking part in the Daily Mile. Officers advised that they would provide a written response confirming the exact number, although it was thought to now be in excess 170 schools.

Cllr Terry  
Douris

Alex James

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## Conclusion

4.6 The Panel noted and commented upon the report, as detailed above.

### **5. CAPITAL WORKS TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS - BREAKSPEARE COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL, ABBOTTS LANGLEY, FALCONER COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL, BUSHEY, THE COLLETT FOUNDATION SPECIAL SCHOOL, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD**

[Officer Contact: Sally Glossop, County Lead for SEND, Integrated Services for Learning; Tel - 01992 588556 / Samantha Young, Senior Planning Officer, School Planning Team; Tel – 01992 555811]

5.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which detailed proposals to provide funding for identified works at three special schools. Members noted the detail of the proposed schemes as set out within the report.

5.2 It was noted that the Local Member for Breakspeare Community Special School, Abbots Langley was in full support of the expansion.

5.3 In response to a Member question regarding the proposals for The Collett Foundation Special School Hemel Hempstead, officers confirmed that two temporary classrooms were to be fully replaced and would meet the needs of more children, with new changing facilities and accessibility needs taken into account.

## Conclusion

5.4 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel:

- noted and commented on the report; and
- recommended to Cabinet that it approves funding for improvements and/or additional accommodation, as detailed section 6 of the report for the following Special schools:-  
Breakspeare Community Special School, Abbots Langley  
Falconer Community Special School, Bushey  
The Collett Foundation Special School, Hemel Hempstead

### **6. ASTLEY COOPER SCHOOL BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT**

[Officer Contact: Simon Newland, Operations Director, Education]

6.1 The Cabinet Panel considered a report which proposed the County Council contributing to the costs of the replacement of the Astley Cooper school swimming pool as part of building refurbishment

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and replacement works at the school being funded and undertaken by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE).

- 6.2 Officers advised that whilst the County Council did not normally replace pools, the proposal offered good value for money and would support a facility that was extremely well used locally. It was noted that this was the only school pool in Hemel Hempstead and that should the pool not be replaced it would leave another 10 schools without a pool to use.
- 6.3 Apprehension was expressed regarding the scheme, noting that other schools across the county were in need of money for fundamental facilities. In response to a Member question, officers advised that they were not aware if Dacorum Borough Council were contributing towards the scheme, however, it was noted that the ESFA/DfE had put forward a one-off opportunity to have the pool replaced without the full replacement cost to the County Council. It was acknowledged that the pool was a school educational facility and noted that if the ESFA/DfE proposal was declined it would cost a great deal more to replace the pool at a later date.
- 6.4 In response to a Member question regarding the management of the pool usage, Members heard that school had a very good record of managing the pool arrangements and would continue to do so. It was noted that the DfE and ESFA would require planning permission, at which point the Local Planning Authority could make a planning condition to have a Community Use Agreement.
- 6.5 Members recognised the benefit to local children and the local community and the investment for the future. Members acknowledged that the County Council had previously decided to invest in similar opportunities at schools e.g. additional land for sports at Katherine Warrington School, Harpenden.
- 6.6 The Panel voted on the recommendation.

**Conclusion**

- 6.7 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet that it agrees to make a contribution of £860,000 towards the costs of replacement of the Astley Cooper school swimming pool as part of building refurbishment and replacement works at the school to be undertaken by the ESFA.

It was noted that A F Rowlands and M A Watkin abstained from voting on the recommendation.

**7. PROPOSAL TO ‘AMALGAMATE’ ST ALBAN AND ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL, ST ALBANS AND ST ALBAN AND ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL, ST ALBANS FROM SEPTEMBER 2020**

[Officer Contact: Michael Dunnage, Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 555621]

7.1 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report which informed Members that the federated governing body of St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Junior School, St Albans and St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Infant and Nursery School, St Albans had undertaken a statutory process to ‘amalgamate’ by:-

- closing St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Infant and Nursery School, St Albans on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020; and
- increasing the age range of St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Junior School, St Albans from 7-11 years old to 3 – 11 years old from 1st September 2020.

7.2 Members heard that the proposal was due to go to Cabinet in January 2020 and that the Local Member was in support of the proposal. It was noted that one objection had been received to the proposal, however the objector had been based on a misunderstanding of the facts, as explained in the report. Officers updated that there had not been any further comments or objections and that the statutory notice period had now finished.

7.3 In response to a Member question regarding how many consultation letters were sent out, officers advised that they did not have this information as it had been completed by the Governing Body, however the information would be obtained and added to the report for Cabinet.

Pauline Davis

**Conclusion**

7.4 The Panel recommended to Cabinet that it agrees to the federated governing body of St Alban and St Stephen Catholic School’s amalgamation proposals to:-

- close St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Infant and Nursery School, St Albans on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020; and
- increase the age range of St Alban and St Stephen Catholic Junior School, St Albans from 7-11 years old to 3 – 11 years old from 1st September 2020.

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**8. TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF LAND AT LONDON ROAD, BISHOPS STORTFORD**  
[Officer Contact: Dick Bowler, Special Projects Officer, Tel: 01992 556223 / Kate Ma, Senior School Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 555858]

8.1 The Cabinet Panel reviewed a report that enabled Members to consider the proposals for the acquisition and disposal of land and the updated financial implications for the scheme relating to the relocation and expansion of Bishop’s Stortford High School.

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

8.2 The Panel agreed to move into Part II (‘closed’ session’).

8.3 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.

8.4 Following discussion on the Part II Report, the Panel moved back into Part I (open session) to agree the Part I recommendations.

**Conclusion**

8.5 The Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel recommended to Cabinet:

1. That Cabinet authorises that land at The Bishop’s Stortford High School, shown marked by red hatch and cross hatch on the plan at appendix 1 be acquired and that the land shown by blue hatch at Thorley Hill Primary School on that plan be sold, both transactions on terms to be approved by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources and Performance;

2. That Cabinet agrees the revised estimates for the scheme, as contained within the Part II report;

and

3. That Cabinet recommend the County Council include in the Integrated Plan capital provision to enable construction and use of the off-site infrastructure within the Bishop’s Stortford South development area to enable relocation and operation of The Bishop’s Stortford High School.

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INITIALS**

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**9. OTHER URGENT PART I BUSINESS**

9.1 There was no other urgent Part I Business.



**QUENTIN BAKER  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

**CHAIRMAN'S  
INITIALS**

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