

Minutes



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

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Elaine Shell
Ext: 25565

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday, 26 November 2019

You can watch the webcast of this meeting here [Webcast of Council Meetings](#)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews	S Gordon (Vice-Chairman)	R G Parker
D J Barnard	J M Graham	A Plancey
S Bedford	L Greensmyth	S Quilty
N Bell	F Guest	N A Quinton
J Bennett Lovell	J S Hale	R M Roberts
P Bibby	D Hart	A F Rowlands
J Billing	K M Hastrick	R Sangster
S N Bloxham	T C Heritage	R H Smith
S J Boulton	D J Hewitt	A Stevenson
A P Brewster	F R G Hill	S J Taylor
M Bright	N A Hollinghurst	R A C Thake
S Brown	T W Hone	R G Tindall
E H Buckmaster	T Howard	A S B Walkington
F Button	T R Hutchings	M A Watkin
L A Chesterman	S K Jarvis	J A West
C Clapper	J R Jones	C J White
H K Crofton	J S Kaye	A D Williams
R C Deering	A K Khan	J D Williams
T L F Douris	J G L King	P T Williams
D S Drury	G McAndrew	C B Woodward
M A Eames-Petersen	R Mills	C B Wyatt-Lowe (Chairman)
S J Featherstone	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
B A Gibson	A J S Mitchell	J F Wyllie
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	M D M Muir	P M Zukowskyj
E M Gordon		

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Meeting of the County Council held on 26 November 2019, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

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Note: Interests declared by Members of the Council in relation to the matters on which decisions were reached at this meeting are recorded at items 6B(i) and 6B(iv) below.

1. MINUTES

- 1.1** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) WEBCASTING

Webcasting: The Chairman advised that this meeting of the Council would be webcast live on the internet; that it would also be recorded and published on the Council's website and may also be published in other formats.

Any members of the press and public present were asked to note that if they were in the Council Chamber at any time during the meeting they acknowledged that they would be included in the webcast and recording; that all parts of the room can be seen or heard by the camera or microphones so any members of the press or public in attendance that did not wish to be recorded should leave the Chamber.

Electronic Voting: The Chairman advised that electronic voting would be used during the Council meeting where appropriate.

(b) HR MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL AWARDS - MOST INFLUENTIAL HR PRACTITIONER IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR 2019 AWARD

Council congratulated Assistant Human Resources Director, Sally Hopper, who received the award for the Most Influential HR Practitioner in the Public Sector 2019 at the prestigious HR Magazine's Annual Awards.

(c) FOYLE'S YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The Chairman was delighted to announce that Hertfordshire had done very well at the recent Foyle's Young Poet of the Year awards held at the Royal Festival Hall. The competition was open to young people between 11 -17 years and is a global event spanning 76 countries. Out of 12,000

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entries, 3 of the award winners were from Hertfordshire schools; Council congratulated Anjali Mulcock from Haberdashers School, Emilia Brooks from Parmiters School and the overall winner, Nadia Lines from The Broxbourne School.

(d) ARMED FORCES COVENANT EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME GOLD AWARD

The Chairman was also delighted to announce that Hertfordshire County Council had been selected to receive the prestigious Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant Employer Recognition Scheme for its commitment to supporting those in the Armed Forces community. The awards reception was held on 12 November at the National Army Museum where Councillor Terry Douris, Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism, David Williams, Leader of the Council, and Owen Mapley, Chief Executive, received the award from the Chief of Defence Staff General Sir Nicholas Carter.

(e) UNICEF BABY FRIENDLY INITIATIVE – HERTFORDSHIRE RECOGNITION FOR BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Council congratulated Hertfordshire's Family Centre Service and Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust's (HCT) Health Visiting services which had been recognised by UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative for breastfeeding support. This reaccreditation by UNICEF demonstrated the high level of commitment from health visitors and other Family Centre Service staff to support breastfeeding mothers and to all parents whatever their choice of infant feeding might be.

(f) NATIONAL MODESHIFT AWARD FOR THE BEST PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman announced that Hertfordshire County Council had received a National Modeshift Award for the Best Partnership for a project in Stevenage encouraging residents to walk regularly, leave the car at home and stay healthy. Working in collaboration with Stevenage Borough Council, the police and fire and rescue service, the award-winning project included an Active Challenge Week, a focused 'Be Bright, Be Safe, Be Seen' campaign, and a well-attended Walking Festival family trail. The County Council's Active and Safer Travel Team was also runner-up in the Best Project under £1,000 and in the Excellence in Walking Awards categories. Council congratulated all involved.

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(g) HIGHWAYS UK AWARDS – AWARD FOR THE BEST USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE HIGHWAYS INDUSTRY

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Council's Highways Team had won the Best Use of New Technology in the Highways Industry Award at the prestigious Highways UK Awards Ceremony. The award was presented jointly to Hertfordshire County Council, its highways contractors Ringway, Essex County Council, and their contractors Ringway Jacobs. Together with its partners, the Council had been working to develop and implement a software application which allowed real-time road closure information from across the two counties to be sent directly from works on the ground to drivers' sat nav devices. Council congratulated the team delivering the project.

(h) LEWIS HAMILTON – SIXTH FORMULA 1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

Council congratulated former Stevenage resident, Lewis Hamilton, on his recent sixth formula 1 world championship title at the United States Grand Prix; winning the title made him the second most successful Formula 1 driver of all time.

(i) PURDAH

The Chairman reminded Council that it was operating within the Purdah period ahead of the General Election on 12 December 2019.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 8 (10)

3A. 3.1 Mr P Devonald, a resident of Hertfordshire, asked J D Williams, Leader of the Council, the following question: -

“Can the Leader please set out the actions which Hertfordshire County Council has taken following the declaration of a climate emergency back in July and what further plans in this regard does his administration have?”

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3.2 J D Williams, Leader of the Council, replied: -

“Mr Devonald, thank you for your question this morning.

The question does suggest that prior to the Council declaring a climate emergency in July, nothing had been done to respond to the climate challenges that we face. This is very far from the reality as a range of actions have been taken, some of which were referred to in July’s Climate Change Motion. Importantly, our latest transport plan has clear aims to reduce environmental damage and improve Public Health; we also have strategies for air quality and carbon reduction as well as proposals for a pollinator strategy.

Following the declaration, we have been reviewing all that we are doing, ensuring we have a baseline of our current position, recording all relevant activity and developing our Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy, which will include the approach to climate change resilient communities. This work is being led by our Deputy Leader, Teresa Heritage, reflecting the importance of the issue and the cross organisational nature of the climate challenges we are facing and their potential solutions. We are currently consulting with all our Cabinet Panels to help shape the strategy and reports have been published and are available on line.

The Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy will focus on three broad areas:

- First: To lead – to identify what Hertfordshire County Council is doing and what it can do directly.*
- Second: To enable – to identify how Hertfordshire County Council can influence policies and decisions.*
- Third: To inspire – to highlight and signpost other organisations and individuals to take action.*

Whilst the primary focus of the strategy will be on the County Council itself and the areas that it has direct influence over, the strategy will also create a foundation upon which to work with the communities of Hertfordshire and explore, in the medium/longer term, the wider sustainability issues impacting the county. This will involve working more broadly with the Council’s public sector, private and third sector partners across the county and further afield to respond to this challenge.

Work is already underway. A recent meeting of the Herts Leaders Group identified the activities underway or planned across all 11 local authorities and the Local Enterprise Partnership. It was agreed that the local authorities would work with the Herts Sustainability Forum (hertssustainability.org.uk) to share best practice and consider how the

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respective strategies and action plans could be structured most effectively and developed to reduce the risk of duplication and to make best use of available resources. Furthermore, the Hertfordshire Growth Board is also focused on the delivery of 'good growth' across the county and sustainability is high on that agenda.

Wider engagement will take place once the strategy has been drafted with the development of service specific implementation and action plans that will follow.

The strategy itself will be presented to all Cabinet Panels early next year for their further consideration. It is anticipated that wider public and interested party engagement will elicit similar comments, suggestions and ideas when the strategy is published."

3.3 Mr P Devonald asked J D Williams, Leader of the Council, the following supplementary question: -

"The question was asked on behalf of the North Hertfordshire Climate Action Group, which is an umbrella group, right across North and East Hertfordshire, right across several organisations. We are keen to be involved with the County Council, as are many other groups of course, in developing the Sustainable Herts Strategy and all the actions and policies that will flow from it. We are grateful for the process that you have set up and I'm grateful for the reply from the Council Leader. The question is, can we be involved? Can we be actively and realistically listened to in developing the strategy and all the policies that come from it? This should not, in our view, be a top down strategy. It won't work, it won't be effective unless the people of Hertfordshire, including us and all the other groups, are involved. And the question is what are the plans to involve those groups in 2020 and going forward?"

3.4 J D Williams, Leader of the Council, replied: -

"The first thing I'd highlight is that all of the proposals, those that have been considered by Cabinet Panels at the moment and those that will be considered early in the New Year as we work up this strategy, will be published and will be in the public domain and then, as I've already outlined, there is a very clear intent then as we go into the early months of next year, having considered the potential approach at our Cabinet Panels that we engage then with groups in the public sector, in our communities and that includes of course, and I've alluded to the fact that we're working very closely here and collaboratively with the District and Borough Councils across Hertfordshire. So, either directly, under the auspices of the County Council or potentially through North Herts

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District Council, I see a very real opportunity to engage with groups such as Mr Devonald's group, in order to shape this agenda going forward. This is all about our communities and we must get very clear input from our communities and the residents of our communities to this strategy which is going to be so important for us over the medium term and the long term."

3B. 3.5 The public question shown at item 3B of the agenda was not asked.

4. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 15

4.1 None.

5. OFFICER REPORTS RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS

5A. REVISION TO CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGIES TO ALLOW HERTS LIVING LIMITED TO INVEST IN A BROADER PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

5.1 The following motion proposed by **R Sangster** and duly seconded by **B Deering** was CARRIED: -

"That Council approves the revised Capital and Investment Strategies at Appendix A to the report in order to facilitate the investment in property set out in the Property Investment Strategy at Section 6 of the report and the new scheme for Children's Services set out at Section 7 of the report."

6. THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

6A. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – EXECUTIVE REPORT

6.1 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** was CARRIED: -

"That the report of the Executive (being the report under Standing Order 7) be received and that the position of Key Decisions in the decision-making process shown in the current edition of the Forward Plan referred to in the report be noted."

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6B. MOTIONS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

6B(i) 6.2 The following interests were declared in relation to this item of business: -

A Brewster declared a declarable interest as she is Vice-Chairman of the Luton Airport Consultative Forum; she remained in the room and participated in the debate and vote.

F Guest declared a declarable interest as she is a member of the London Gliding Club. She remained in the room and participated in the vote.

J S Hale declared a declarable interest as he is the Chairman of the St Albans Quieter Skies Group; he remained in the room and participated in the debate and vote.

6.3 The following motion was proposed by **J S Hale** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**: -

“That the Council notes that: -

- 1. On 24 September 2019, the chair of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), Lord Deben, wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport about net-zero and the approach to international aviation and shipping (IAS) emissions. The letter responded to the Government’s request on how to bring IAS emissions formally within the UK’s net-zero target, setting out the rationale and the implications for the UK’s climate strategy.*
- 2. In that letter the CCC stated that “Aviation emissions could be reduced by around 20% from today to 2050 through improvements to fuel efficiency, some use of sustainable biofuels, and by limiting demand growth to at most 25% above current levels. This is likely to be cost-saving. There is potential to reduce emissions further with lower levels of demand.”*
- 3. That the Council has already expressed its serious concerns about the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of London Luton Airport from 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 32 mppa.*
- 4. As per Appendix E paragraph 5.3 of the Executive Report to County Council, a full draft response to the proposal to expand London Luton Airport will be considered by the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy Cabinet Panel on 4 December.*

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Given the CCC's call for demand growth to be limited to at most 25% above current levels it is proposed that in responding to the current consultation for the expansion of London Luton Airport that the Council: -

- 1. Objects to the proposed expansion plans on the grounds that expansion of London Luton Airport to 32 mppa would result in unacceptable harm to the environment; and*
- 2. That given the letter from the CCC any plans to expand the airport should be deferred until the Government's response to the CCC's letter is published."*

6.4 In accordance with Standing Order 13 (4) **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** requested a recorded vote to demonstrate the Council's unanimous support for the motion at 6.3. The **Chairman** declined but agreed to a request from **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** that Council's unanimous support for the motion be recorded in the Minutes.

6.5 The motion at 6.3 was then voted upon and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY as follows: -

"That the Council notes that: -

- 5. On 24 September 2019, the chair of the Committee on Climate Change (CCC), Lord Deben, wrote to the Secretary of State for Transport about net-zero and the approach to international aviation and shipping (IAS) emissions. The letter responded to the Government's request on how to bring IAS emissions formally within the UK's net-zero target, setting out the rationale and the implications for the UK's climate strategy.*
- 6. In that letter the CCC stated that "Aviation emissions could be reduced by around 20% from today to 2050 through improvements to fuel efficiency, some use of sustainable biofuels, and by limiting demand growth to at most 25% above current levels. This is likely to be cost-saving. There is potential to reduce emissions further with lower levels of demand."*
- 7. That the Council has already expressed its serious concerns about the environmental impacts of the proposed expansion of London Luton Airport from 18 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 32 mppa.*
- 8. As per Appendix E paragraph 5.3 of the Executive Report to County Council, a full draft response to the proposal to expand*

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London Luton Airport will be considered by the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy Cabinet Panel on 4 December.

Given the CCC's call for demand growth to be limited to at most 25% above current levels it is proposed that in responding to the current consultation for the expansion of London Luton Airport that the Council: -

- 3. Objects to the proposed expansion plans on the grounds that expansion of London Luton Airport to 32 mppa would result in unacceptable harm to the environment; and*
- 4. That given the letter from the CCC any plans to expand the airport should be deferred until the Government's response to the CCC's letter is published."*

6B(ii) 6.6 In moving the motion at 6.7, **A K Khan** advised Council that in accordance with Standing Order 11(5) he would accept the amendment at 6.4 of the Order Paper to the motion in his name on the Order Paper at 6B(ii).

6.7 The following motion was proposed by **A K Khan** and duly seconded by **N Bell**: -

"Hertfordshire County Council has declared a climate emergency and fully recognises that its policies will need to be aligned to address this emergency.

The current national target for achieving zero carbon is 2050. The emerging proposal in the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy will suggest a more ambitious target for HCC and its operations. The draft strategy is due to be brought to all Cabinet Panels early in the New Year for consultation and comment leading to clear policy commitments.

The Council will also establish clear energy efficiency aspirations for new buildings and developments, including those of Herts Living Ltd, that 'decarbonise' and are consistent with its zero-carbon ambition.

The Council will look at best practice such as the award-winning Goldsmith Street council housing development in Norwich, which won the 2019 Royal Institute of British Architects' Stirling Prize. While not carbon zero, it is an exemplar development meeting rigorous 'Passivhaus' standards.

The Council will continue to work with district and borough councils in Hertfordshire to ensure consistent energy efficiency aspirations for new

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builds.

Hertfordshire County Council will take a lead in introducing these high standards which will improve the lives of residents in this County.”

- 6.8** In response to a request for clarification from the **Chairman, A K Khan** confirmed that he had accepted the amendment at 6.4 of the Order Paper (reflected in the motion at 6.7 above).
- 6.9** On advice from the **Chief Legal Officer**, the **Chairman** requested that the seconder of the motion at 6.7 refrain from straying into commentary on political matters prohibited during the Purdah period. **J Billing** requested clarification of the Purdah rules being applied to the meeting and to the apparent inequity of its application to the different political groups in the Chamber; this request for clarification was supported by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst**. The **Chief Legal Officer** provided advice to Council.
- 6.10** In response to a query from **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst**, the **Chairman** confirmed that she would allow the **R Sangster** as seconder of the amendment at 6.4 of the Order Paper to speak in the debate before moving to the vote and before the mover of the motion exercised his right of reply.
- 6.11** **J S Hale** and **C J White** sought further clarification of the advice provided by the **Chief Legal Officer** at 6.9 above. The **Chairman** advised Council that she would not permit further contributions on this matter and that consideration of the motion at 6.7 above would proceed as indicated at 6.10.
- 6.12** The motion at 6.7 was then voted upon and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY as follows: -

“Hertfordshire County Council has declared a climate emergency and fully recognises that its policies will need to be aligned to address this emergency.

The current national target for achieving zero carbon is 2050. The emerging proposal in the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy will suggest a more ambitious target for HCC and its operations. The draft strategy is due to be brought to all Cabinet Panels early in the New Year for consultation and comment leading to clear policy commitments.

The Council will also establish clear energy efficiency aspirations for new

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buildings and developments, including those of Herts Living Ltd, that 'decarbonise' and are consistent with its zero-carbon ambition.

The Council will look at best practice such as the award-winning Goldsmith Street council housing development in Norwich, which won the 2019 Royal Institute of British Architects' Stirling Prize. While not carbon zero, it is an exemplar development meeting rigorous 'Passivhaus' standards.

The Council will continue to work with district and borough councils in Hertfordshire to ensure consistent energy efficiency aspirations for new builds.

Hertfordshire County Council will take a lead in introducing these high standards which will improve the lives of residents in this County."

6B(iii) 6.13 R G Tindall advised Council that in accordance with Standing Order 11(5) he would accept the amendment at 6.6 of the Order Paper to the motion in his name on the Order Paper at 6B(iii).

6.14 The following motion proposed by **R G Tindall** and duly seconded by **N A Quinton** was CARRIED: -

"1. This Council notes:

- (i) The CAMHS Provision Update report was considered at the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel on 12th November 2019;*
- (ii) That the CAMHS Transformation Plan programme has been in place since 2015 and in some performance areas has had difficulty meeting its targets;*
- (iii) That in 2018/19, CAMHS Specialist Services accepted only 4147 out of 9365 referrals and the current wait to assessment is 7 weeks compared to a target of 4 weeks. Ratios for other children's mental health services, Step 2 and PALMS, were equally challenged; That in 2017/18 and 2018/19, Hertfordshire met the NHS targets for access to all NHS funded provision, 30% and 32% respectively;*
- (iv) That NHS targets remain low so that only 34% of children who would benefit from help will get access, and that Hertfordshire will meet this, but not exceed it. The NHS Long Term Plan sets out to provide support to 100% of those who need it;*
- (v) That schools are increasingly concerned about the strain that*

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the poor mental health of students is placing on their resources;

- (vi) That the delivery of emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Hertfordshire is undertaken by several NHS bodies, the County Council and third sector providers; and*
- (vii) That the delivery of emotional wellbeing and mental health services follows a Thrive Model, looking across the whole system from early intervention and prevention to the top tier of specialist CAMHS service by HPFT.*

2. This Council is concerned that children and young people with mental health needs are currently having to wait many weeks for treatment and in many cases often not receiving treatment at all.

3. Therefore, this Council

- (i) Calls for Health Scrutiny Committee to include how mental health services are commissioned and organised in its work programme. A scrutiny could include consideration of approaches used by other council and NHS clinical commissioning group areas, for example the Lambeth Living Well Collaborative and Cornwall Children's Services' HeadStart Kernow partnership;*
- (ii) Acknowledges that Hertfordshire schools are under increasing financial and workload pressures and calls for greater NHS support to schools in respect of CAMHS;*
- (iii) Recognises that the challenges of addressing children, young people and family emotional wellbeing and mental health services, including early intervention and prevention, requires appropriate resourcing; and*
- (iv) Will continue to work with the Local Government Association to ensure that the importance of the wellbeing of children and young people is recognised by the incoming government."*

6B(iv) 6.15 The following interest was declared in relation to this item of business: -
S J Taylor as she is a member of the Local Government Association negotiating team on local government pay; she left Chamber and did not participate in the debate or vote.

6.16 The following motion proposed by **J Billing** and seconded by **M A Eames-Petersen** was LOST: -

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“This Council notes that: -

It is clear from the paper “spending round update” Agenda Item 6 presented to Resources and Performance in September that little further clarity has been established beyond the wide gap in budget need reported to Cabinet Panels in July 2019 ahead of this winter’s IP Process.

In that context Council notes that despite the funding cuts to local government of nearly 50% since 2010 and the reduction of public sector staff wages in real terms throughout that time our workers have continued to give exceptional service to our communities.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- *Support the pay claim submitted by GMB, Unison and Unite on behalf of Council and school workers for a £10 minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21;*
- *Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to Central Government to fund the NJC pay claim;*
- *Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Local Government to call for the pay increase for Local Government Workers to be funded with new money from central government;*
- *Request the Chief Executive to meet with local NJC Union Representatives to convey support for the pay claim; and*
- *Recommend that all local government workers join a union.”*

6B(v) 6.17 The **Chairman** advised Council that in accordance with Standing Order 11 (16) (e) and (f) motion 6B(v) at 6.8 of the Order Paper would FALL.

7. QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

7.1 During the period for questions to Executive Members under SO 8 (7)(c) the following Members asked questions (and, where indicated, supplementary questions) of the Executive Member or their Deputy as stated. [Questions and responses are listed by portfolio and can be viewed on the webcast of this meeting here [Webcast Council Meetings](#)

[Questions are listed by portfolio (in alphabetical order)].

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Executive Member	Questioner	Subject
Leader of the Council	S Bedford	Rumour of pressure under a new Government for further local government reorganisation and seeking the Leader's view on potential alternative options for Hertfordshire, including implications for the future of the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership ¹
	J Billing	Funding for Adult Social Care and action being taken by Leader through the County Council's Network to achieve a sustainable solution for the future funding for adult care services, including any disappointment he might have that the national debate has not yet resulted in the publication of promised new policies reforming social care ¹
Adult Care & Health	C J White	Current review of respite care facilities and seeking assurance that Members with residents using existing facilities will be involved in the consultation process ¹
	E M Gordon	Current review of respite care facilities - requesting that feedback from current and potential service users be sought and used to establish the reasons for underusage prior to any decisions being taken on unit closures ¹
	T R Hutchings	Seeking confirmation of the need to review current respite care centres given level of underusage
Children, Young People & Families	M A Watkin	Concern that the Council's referral rate for child protection (of 18.4 children per 10,000) may have been achieved in part by 'raising the bar' at which cases are taken on by safeguarding teams resulting in an increased risk to children and requesting evidence that this is not the case comparing the criteria from 5 years ago with that used now ^{1 2}
	N Bell	The purpose of the Young Peoples' Survey mentioned in the Executive Report (paragraph 6.4), what action will be taken on the outcome, and whether the resources and funding will be available to achieve and implement that action ¹

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	A J S Mitchell	Whether the model of partnership working used by special needs schools (where teachers and nurses work together) can be applied to partnership working arrangements to help young people with mental health issues ²
Community Safety & Waste Management	P M Zukowskyj	Whether the Executive Member considers the end of the Veolia contract to have enabled the Council to avoid paying Veolia for energy from waste services which are not required and for a contract which should not have been entered into ¹
	J Bennett-Lovell	Requesting assurance that student and other temporary accommodation in Hertfordshire had been inspected and safety checked recently to ensure that a fire, such as that in the student accommodation at Bolton University, will not happen in Hertfordshire ¹
Education, Libraries and Localism	M A Watkin	Requesting that the Executive Member review school play space standards to ensure they are relevant to urban and town centre school developments to ensure that the building of new schools providing much needed school places is not delayed ¹
	J Billing	The delay of the transfer of the library service to a public service mutual, Libraries for Life, until 1 April 2020; requesting reassurance that the new transfer date will be met ¹
	F Guest	Requesting confirmation that the County Council works with local planning authorities and developers to ensure schools in new housing developments are opened at the right time enabling children living in those developments to attend a local school and that those schools are viable
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & the Economy (Responses provided by the Deputy Executive Member)	S K Jarvis	Effectiveness of the public consultation process undertaken on the A414 strategy ¹
	A K Khan	An innovative scheme run by Hackney Council transforming road use outside schools at school arrival and end times to reduce congestion, improve air quality

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		and make journeys safer and easier for parents and children, and whether a pilot of the scheme could be run in Hertfordshire ¹
	C B Woodward	The School Streets Programme and involvement of Hertfordshire schools
Highways & Environment	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Whether the Executive Member considered the application of purdah restrictions appropriate in the examples cited by the Member, where meetings between residents, officers and members of the Council had been declined/refused, and where county council officers had not attended meetings such as a recent traffic summit on the basis of purdah ^{1 2}
	M A Eames-Petersen	Requesting the support of the Executive Member to Anne Maine's (MP for St Albans) call for an independent investigation into the bromate and bromide pollution affecting Hertfordshire
	A Stevenson	Requesting an update on progress being made to achieve a resolution to the ongoing traffic congestion on the Rush Green roundabout in Hertford
Public Health and Prevention	N A Quinton	Whether the Executive Member would agree that the increasing prevalence of knife crime requires a public health response and what steps he is taking to promote a public health approach to violent crime in the County ¹
	L A Chesterman	Requesting an update on the recruitment issues being experienced by Family Centres (as reported to the Cabinet Panel recently) and requesting that consideration be given to increasing salaries for staff who are currently attracted to higher paying authorities ^{1 2}
Resources and Performance	P M Zukowskyj	Whether the Executive Member considers the non-utilisation of the Watton at Stone Highways depot for the past 25 years as an acceptable use of the Council's assets and whether he is confident in the Council's management of its property portfolio
	J Billing	Costs incurred by the Council due to the very high charges applied by providers of external placements for children, particularly those with multiple needs,

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		and action being taken by the Executive Member to reduce those charges ¹
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Notes: 1 - denotes that a supplementary question was also asked
2 – denotes that a written reply will be given

7.2 Written questions to Executive Members – Standing Order 8(9)

7.2.1 Written questions to Executive Members and responses are set out in the attached Annex.

8. REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

8.1 The following motion proposed by **D Andrews** and duly seconded by **K M Hastrick** was CARRIED: -

“That the report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.”

9. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9.1 The following motion proposed by **S Quilty** and duly seconded by **C J White** was CARRIED: -

“That the report from the Health Scrutiny Committee be received.”

10. THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE: REVIEW OF ETHICAL STANDARDS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICE – PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE COUNCIL’S COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COUNCIL’S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10.1 The following motion proposed by **D J Hewitt** and duly seconded by **W J Wyatt-Lowe** was CARRIED: -

“1. That Council adopts the proposed amendments to the current

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Hertfordshire County Council procedures for handling complaints relating to alleged breaches of the Councillor Code of Conduct set out in the report and in Appendix B to the report.

2. *That Stephanie Caplan be appointed as an Independent Person for the County Council for a four-year term with an option to extend the term for a further two years."*

11. NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 9(6)

11A. 11.1 The following motion was proposed by **S K Jarvis** and duly seconded by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst:-**

"Council believes that, as part of the response to its declaration of a climate emergency:

- a) *Any highway tree which is removed should be replaced with another tree in the nearest suitable location;*
- b) *That steps should be taken in conjunction with Borough, District, Town and Parish Councils to identify locations where additional trees can be planted on urban and rural highway verges and on other highway land."*

11.2 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN.....

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – STANDING ORDER 8

1. **Written question from R Mills to T L F Douris, Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism**

“I have been extremely concerned by reports of parents – particularly those for whom English is a second language or those who have learning disabilities – being encouraged by schools to sign a statement confirming that they wish to take their children off roll without anyone explaining what that would mean. One parent support group has told me of a case of a learning disabled parent who was told she should de-register her child or she would be fined for the child being late. This parent only realised that she had agreed to home educate her child when she contacted the group to ask what “Elective Home Education” meant.

Would the Executive Member therefore confirm:

- 1. How many children are currently classified as Elective Home Educated?*
- 2. How many of those children have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care Plan?*
- 3. How many HCC staff are currently working to support those children and families with their education?*
- 4. How are we safeguarding them?*
- 5. What are the reasons given for Elective Home Educated?*

It would also be helpful to know:

- 1. How many children (and children with SEND) in Hertfordshire are not currently attending school full time, including those whose attendance is affected by anxiety, ill health, exclusion, lack of appropriate placement etc?*
- 2. What support is available to them?*
- 3. How many currently are supported by the Educational Support Team for Medical Absence (ESTMA)?”*

T L F Douris has replied: -

- “
- 1. How many children are currently classified as Elective Home Educated?
1406*
 - 2. How many of those children have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and how many have an Education, Health and Care Plan?*

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140 identified with SEN
80 with EHCP
35 EHC Plan Assessments
15 Exceptional Needs

3. *How many HCC staff are currently working to support those children and families with their education? 4*
Parents have a legal duty under the terms of the Education Act 1996 to ensure their children receive a suitable education and they may fulfil this duty either by sending their children to school or choosing to educate them at home – Elective Home Education (EHE).

Local authorities do not have the power to routinely monitor the home education being provided by families. Their duty is to establish instances where a suitable education is not in place. Local authorities may make ‘informal’ enquiries of home educating parents to confirm that education is in place, but families are not under an obligation to work with the local authority. In Hertfordshire we make informal enquiries of all families known to us as home educating by sending a questionnaire asking about the education they are providing.

If parents do not respond or do not provide sufficient information, the DfE makes clear that such children may be in scope of the Children Missing from Education framework and the local authority will make ‘formal’ enquiries of parents who must then provide information about the educational arrangements they are making for their child. If appropriate the local authority may serve a School Attendance Order requiring the parent to register the child at a named school.

4. *How are we safeguarding them?*
Taken from HCC Elective Home Education Policy (July, 2019)
Safeguarding:

Hertfordshire County Council has a duty under The Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Any safeguarding concerns raised will be referred to Children’s Services Safeguarding Teams.

‘Where necessary – because it is evident that a child is simply not receiving suitable education at home and the use of school attendance powers is not achieving a change in that situation – the local authority should be ready to use its safeguarding powers The overriding objective in these cases is to ensure that the child’s development is protected from significant harm’. These cases will be referred to Children’s Services safeguarding teams for consideration.

In relation to home educated children, the local authority will, where reasonably practicable, take into account the child’s wishes and feelings with regard to the provision of services.

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5. *What are the reasons given for Elective Home Educated?*
Attendance Difficulties 23
Bullying 84
Did not get school preference 21
Dispute with school 49
Dissatisfaction with school system 143
Educational Philosophy 63
Health Issues 64
Mental Health 63
Not recorded 361
Other 255
Religious reasons 1
Risk of exclusion 9
Traveller culture 66

It would also be helpful to know:

1. *How many children (and children with SEND) in Hertfordshire are not currently attending school full time, including those whose attendance is affected by anxiety, ill health, exclusion, lack of appropriate placement etc?*
148 children with SEND have been placed on a reduced timetable since September 2019. 27 children are on reduced timetables because of anxiety, ill health; 66 because of challenging behaviour/exclusion.
2. *What support is available to them?*
Education Support Centre / Primary Behaviour Service provision from 6th day of exclusion, schools are responsible for providing education for the first 5 days.
1:1 tuition face to face, online provision English, maths and science in the first instance.

Children also receive support from the Attendance Team, Specialist Advisory Service, behaviour outreach services depending on individual need.

If children meet the criteria for Education Support for Medical Absence Team 1:1 tuition, online provision, RV1 Robot (this robot is placed in a classroom so the child can see their classroom and participate in learning. The robot can be switched to sound only or so the patient can see the class but they cannot be seen if they are in hospital) or small group teaching takes place depending on the child's needs.
3. *How many currently are supported by the Educational Support Team for Medical Absence (ESTMA)? 139”*

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