

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LOCAL JOINT PANEL – 10 OCTOBER 2007

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE STAFF SIDE

6(C) CHRISTMAS EVE 2007

WARD(S) AFFECTED: None

RECOMMENDATION - that (A) the decision not to close the Council Offices on Monday 24 December 2007 be reconsidered in light of Herts County Council's plans to close their offices; and

(B) an additional day's leave be granted to all staff.

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1.0 Purpose/Summary of Report

1.1 To provide an opportunity for further debate, following confirmation that Herts County are closing on this day and granting their staff an extra day's leave.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives

2.1 Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.

3.0 Background

3.1 The Staff Side requested the closure of the Council offices on 24 December at the last Local Joint Panel and the matter was referred to the Human Resources Committee. The latter decided that they could not support closure since there would be an expectation from the public that services should be provided and so recommended that the offices should remain open.

4.0 Report

4.1 Since the Council ratified the decision that the offices should remain open, confirmation has been received from Herts County Council that they are in fact closing their offices on that day and granting

their staff an extra day's leave. All their emergency services will be available as is normal practice over any bank holiday period.

- 4.2 In light of this information, the Staff Side requests that further consideration is given to the Council's previous decision, since it is evident that throughout the County the public will not be able to access services provided by Herts County Council and therefore will not expect East Herts services to be available. All the arguments presented at the last meeting still apply and it is largely accepted that the public generally will be making last minute Christmas preparations and will not be interested in contacting East Herts Council other than in an emergency.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 None

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Human Resource Implications

8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 None

Background Papers

None

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