

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE - 28 JULY 2010

REPORT BY HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL

6. DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS - SCHOOLS RELOCATION PROPOSALS, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

WARD(S) AFFECTED: None by these arrangements, the development proposals clearly have the potential to impact across Bishop's Stortford and surrounding wards.

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To enable the Committee to consider and agree public speaking arrangements for the meeting where the relocation of schools and associated proposals are considered.

<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> that	
(A)	The public speaking arrangements set out in this report for the special meeting of Development Control Committee to determine the planning applications for the relocation of the Herts and Essex and the Bishop's Stortford High Schools, Bishop's Stortford and associated applications, be approved.

1.0 Background

1.1 Proposals for the relocation of the Herts and Essex and Bishop's Stortford High School are under consideration. A date has been identified for a special meeting of this committee to consider the proposals. That date is 30 September 2010. Normal public speaking arrangements are to be suspended for that meeting and this report sets out the proposals replacement arrangements for the purpose of that meeting.

2.0 Proposed Arrangements

2.1 Members are also aware of the normal rules relating to the Councils public speaking scheme for Development Control

Committee. Three minutes are allowed for those in support and those who object to a proposal. Where there is more than one speaker taking a particular view they are asked either to combine their address, or, unusually, if more than one wishes to speak, they still have to confine their combined time to 3 minutes. No material is permitted to be distributed to Members at the meeting and no visual presentations (for example using projection equipment) can be made.

2.2 On this occasion, because of the significance of the proposals, it is proposed that normal rules are suspended. In consultation with the Chairman it is proposed that the following apply:

- **parties in objection** to the proposals will be permitted to speak for a maximum of 10 minutes each. This will be seen as a maximum and parties will be urged to combine presentations, if they have common issues, or to speak for less time if they feel their issues are adequately covered in a shorter period.
- **Registration** – requests to speak at the meeting (in objection or in favour) will need to be made one week prior to the meeting at the latest, by 5.00 pm on Thursday 23 September 2010.
- **Summary of points** - all those who register to speak will need to provide a summary of their points by that same deadline (i.e. by 5.00 pm on Thursday 23 September 2010). This need not be an extensive submission but give sufficient detail to enable Council Officers to identify common issues and to request parties to combine their presentations where that is the case. They should also provide an estimate of time for which they would like to speak.
- **Schedule of speakers** – following consideration of the possible combination of cases and in discussion with the Chairman of the committee, Officers will produce a schedule of speakers and agreed speaking time by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 28 September 2010 (two days prior to the meeting).
- **parties in support** will be permitted to speak for the same combined time as allotted to objectors (as set out in the schedule referred to above). This time would accommodate both the applicant parties (if they wish to speak) and any other supporting parties. In the very unlikely situation that no objecting parties wish to speak, supporting parties would be

restricted to one time slot of 10 minutes if they do wish to speak.

- **Circulation material and presentations.** Presentations (other than oral – e.g. using projection aids) will not be permitted at the meeting. However, where sufficient copies (22 copies) of material that any party wishes to distribute to members of the committee is received by the registration deadline, this will be circulated by Officers.
- **Order** – the objecting parties will speak first, followed by any parties in support.
- **Disputes** – any disputes would be subject to resolution by the Chairman of the Committee in consultation with the Head of Democratic and Legal Services.

2.3 Speaking would be available once only at the meeting. During that time speakers would need to address any issues related to the whole package of proposals. Therefore Members would hear all speakers who want to raise any issue related to the proposals before any of the applications are considered by them.

2.4 Given that all meetings of the Council now commence at 7.00 pm, it is proposed that this time be adopted also for the special meeting.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None.

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ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	<p>Fit for purpose, services fit for you <i>Deliver customer focused services by maintaining and developing a well managed and publicly accountable organisation.</i></p> <p>Caring about what's built and where <i>Care for and improve our natural and built environment.</i></p> <p>Shaping now, shaping the future <i>Safeguard and enhance our unique mix of rural and urban communities, ensuring sustainable, economic and social opportunities including the continuation of effective development control and other measures.</i></p> <p>Leading the way, working together <i>Deliver responsible community leadership that engages with our partners and the public.</i></p>
Consultation:	With the Chairman of the Committee
Legal:	It is considered that the proposals represent a fair and equitable approach to the speaking arrangements for all parties.
Financial:	None.
Human Resource:	None.
Risk Management:	The arrangements apply to all parties who are interested in speaking at the meeting, are fair and equitable and enable reasonable opportunity to express views.