

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LOCAL JOINT PANEL – 16 JANUARY 2006

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE STAFF SIDE

8(B) FUTURE SITE OF COUNCIL OFFICES

RECOMMENDATION – that (A) the Local joint Panel be informed of progress to date on the review of the feasibility of reducing from two main office sites to one.

(B) this information be communicated to all staff and the consultant's report when completed be made available to all staff.

---

1.0 Background

1.1 The question of the future site of East Herts Council offices has been raised a number of times in the past and more recently has been mentioned at a number of Team Brief meetings in connection with the refurbishment of the boiler room at the Bishop's Stortford offices.

1.2 It is understood that an estates strategy report is due from consultants on the potential to relocate all the council offices on to one site, before any decision is made to commit any further expenditure on improving existing buildings.

2.0 Report

2.1 Workplace relocation is an issue, which affects every member of staff and one, which raises a great deal of anxiety in respect of travel, childcare arrangements and other personal circumstances.

2.2 It is also recognized that in a large geographical area such as East Herts, it is difficult to find a central location, which is easily accessible, particularly by public transport by not only staff but also members of the public visiting the council offices.

### 3.0 Consultation

3.1 Details of any proposed consultation with the public and with staff need to be provided at an early stage if the report concludes that relocation is feasible in terms of cost and accessibility.

### 4.0 Conclusions

4.1 The Staff side would request that in the interests of openness and transparency, any information is shared with staff at the earliest possible opportunity. If no information is yet available, staff need to be informed of future plans and timescales and kept informed about developments as and when they occur.

### Background Papers

None

Contact Officer: Jane Sharp – Staff Side Secretary Ext 2120