

COUNCIL 16 JULY 2026

PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following motion has been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

To be moved by Councillor Ralph Muncer and seconded by Councillor Martin Prescott.

Future of Land Holdings South of the A505, Royston

On 17 June, the Cabinet at Hertfordshire County Council declared land holding to the South of the A505, Royston to be “surplus to operational requirements” and took the decision to dispose of the land.

The Land North of Roysia School was acquired in the 1980s using statutory compulsory purchase powers for education purposes and whilst the land in question has been allocated for residential development within the North Herts Local Plan, the decision of the County Council to dispose of this land has not adequately addressed the cumulative impact of significant additional housing on the existing highway network, particularly the single point of access that already serves over 1,000 homes in the surrounding area.

Additionally, there is no evidence that any public consultation has been undertaken with local residents, community groups or stakeholders in Royston regarding the proposed disposal and the residential development it will facilitate, particularly in light of existing pressures on local infrastructure.

Whilst the County Council has concluded there is “no current or future need” for the land for County Council service delivery, it does not appear to have fully considered whether retention of all or part of the land could deliver alternative public or community benefits, for example sports facilities of which there are a significant shortage within the town, and whether the proposed joint disposal strategy with the Highfield Land Trust represents the option that best serves the wider public interest.

Therefore, Council Resolves:

- 1. To instruct the Leader of the Council to write to the Leader of Hertfordshire County Council requesting that the Cabinet examines, again, its decision to dispose of the land in question and fully considers if the proposed joint disposal strategy with the Highfield Land Trust best serves the wider public interest or whether retention of the land could deliver alternative public/community benefits, for example, the health and wellbeing benefits from additional sports/recreational facilities, of which there are a significant shortage within the town.**
- 2. To instruct the Officers at North Hertfordshire District Council to work with Hertfordshire County Council in order to identify the best possible future community use of this land.**