

1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Member report to the County Council

There will have been four Cabinet meetings (15 December 2014, 15 January, 23 February 2015, and 23 March 2015) since the Executive Member report to the County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

10 December 2014**1.2 Proposed Participation In and Establishment of a Shared Anti-Fraud Service**
[Forward Plan Ref: A085/14]

Cabinet approved the proposal that Hertfordshire County Council becomes a partner in the Hertfordshire Shared Anti-Fraud Service for non-benefit and corporate fraud. The new Shared Anti-Fraud Service for Hertfordshire, to be located within the shared internal audit service, will provide a robust and resilient fraud prevention, detection and investigation service to partners in non-benefit and corporate fraud.

1.3 Hertfordshire County Council Achievement Against the Carbon Reduction Target for 2013/14. [Forward Plan Ref: A095/14]

Cabinet agreed the revised, increased target of 15% in carbon reduction across the Council's four main sites over the period 2013/14-2017/18 and requested officers in Property and Environment departments to continue to deliver programmes of work to reduce carbon consumption under current funding arrangements.

1.4 Proposed Membership of a Hertfordshire Business Rate Pool

[Forward Plan Ref: A086/14]

Cabinet agreed that the County Council forms a Business Rates Pool with 5 of the County's district/borough councils, with the County Council acting as lead authority, managing cashflow and payments, and liaising with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It is estimated that a pool of these authorities, together with the County Council, could result in a gain of £2.65m for 2015/16; with the County Council receiving 20% (£0.53m) under the proposed sharing mechanism.

1.5 Integrated Plan [Forward Plan A076/14]

The Cabinet considered the draft Integrated Plan (IP) for 2015/16-2017/18 including the options to balance the budget in 2015/16. It was agreed that the draft IP should be released for consideration by cabinet panels and the overview and scrutiny committee.

11 February 2015**1.6 A120 Little Hadham Bypass Project** [Forward Plan ref: A006/15]

It was agreed that the A120 Little Hadham Bypass project be taken out of the capital programme that is to be considered as part of the Integrated Plan for

2015/16-2017/18; and that the Integrated Plan be adjusted to reflect this. This amendment was made for procedural reasons with the intention that the project would be proposed for addition to the capital programme at a future meeting of the county council

1.7 Integrated Plan [Forward Plan A078/14]

The Cabinet considered the response to engagement and consultation on the IP, the comments from cabinet panels and overview and scrutiny and recommended the final IP and proposed budget to County Council for approval. The agreed budget will meet inflationary, demographic and other pressures, minimise borrowing and the consequent revenue costs and deliver £33million savings. A council tax increase of 1.99% after 5 years of freeze contributes to building a sustainable financial position as we plan to meet future pressures in the context of a continued decline in revenue support grant.

1.8 Final Funding Submission to the Department for Transport for the Croxley Rail Link [A096/14]

Cabinet noted the funding gap between the estimated outturn cost of the project and funds currently available and delegated authority for the arrangements be finalised to secure the delivery of an affordable and operational Croxley Rail Link scheme within a mutually satisfactory timescale subject to the contribution of the county council , once finalised , being fixed.

1.9 Proposed Provision of Primary Schools within Bishops Stortford North Development Area [Forward Plan Ref: A001/15]

Cabinet authorised acquisition of additional land immediately adjacent to the s106 agreement 1FE western primary school site at the Bishops Stortford North development area to enable the development of 2FE primary school premises at that location.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council

None

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 Finance Monitor 2014/15 Q3 [Forward Plan Ref: A004/15]:

The Policy, Resources and Transformation Cabinet Panel agreed to recommend that Cabinet approves the underspend of £2,000k from the PEP4 mobile classrooms funded from the Basic Need Grant to be used to deliver the necessary temporary accommodation for September 2015 (PEP5) to ensure sufficient school places. Cabinet will consider this at its March meeting.

3.2 Joint re-development of Knebworth Library to provide library and GP services [Forward Plan Ref: A005/15]

The Panel has recommended Cabinet agreement to the provision of improved centralised local services in Knebworth, through authorising the disposal of the existing Library site with the view redevelopment the site to provide a new library, together with a Doctors surgery and pharmacy in a single new building. Cabinet will consider this recommendation at its March meeting.

3.3 A120 Little Hadham Bypass – [Forward Plan Ref: A006/15]

In March Cabinet will be asked to consider a proposal to consider this project for addition to the capital programme.

4. Key Partnerships

None to report.

5. Other comments

None

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Member report to Council, the Policy, Resources and Transformation Cabinet Panel has met on 10 December 2014, 11 February 2015 and 18 March 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

10 December 2014 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/polrestranscp/18323657/

11 February 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/polrestranscp/18323667/

18 March 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/polrestranscp/18323679/

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March 2015