

**HIGHWAYS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO****1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council**

- 1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings (15 December 2014, 19 January 2015, 23 February 2015 and 23 March 2015) since the last Executive Report to the County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

Bus policy Consultation

Cabinet agreed:-

1. That the Chief Executive & Director of Environment be instructed to conduct a new consultation exercise on the following Options:
  - 1B – withdraw funding from contracted services after 7.30pm Monday to Saturdays;
  - 2 - withdraw funding from contracted services that operate on a Sunday except for routes that directly serve hospitals up to 7.30pm; and
  - 3(iii) on the principles (including the cost per passenger journey) that it will apply in assessing value for money and need in determining route and service patterns within the budget available for supporting local bus services. This will include consultation on proposed amendments to the County Council's published Bus Strategy (2011).
2. That the County Council will include in its formal consultation all commercial bus operators, NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Hertfordshire and that commercial operators be requested to carry details of the consultation on all commercial bus routes in the County.
3. That the Chief Executive & Director of Environment be authorised to finalise the consultation documentation in consultation with the Executive Member for Highways & Waste Management.

This consultation is under way and will close on 10 April 2015. The results will be considered by Cabinet in May 2015.

Integrated Plan – A120 Little Hadham Bypass

Cabinet 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.

## Funding for Croxley Rail Link

Cabinet:

- a) noted that the Department for Transport (DfT) has indicated that it would prefer London Underground Limited (LUL) to take responsibility for the delivery of the entire Croxley Rail Link project rather than proceed with the proposed delivery model as set out in Annex 1 to the report;
- b) acknowledged that there is a funding gap in the forecasted estimates of the outturn cost of the project and requires that the County Council's contribution to the project, once agreed, will be fixed;
- c) authorised the Chief Executive and Director of Environment to communicate the County Council's position to the DfT
- d) delegated to the Chief Executive and Director of Environment and the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Members for Highways & Waste Management and Resources & Transformation, subject to b) above, authority to finalise the arrangements to secure the delivery of an affordable and operational Croxley Rail Link scheme within a mutually satisfactory timescale and to agree any agreements and other documents necessary to give effect to these arrangements.

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

2.1 These are as follows:-

### Household Waste Recycling Centres

The agreed new service has been introduced from 5 January 2015.

### Residual Waste Treatment Programme

Veolia ES have been required to produce a Revised Project Plan. The Plan is to be produced by 7 July 2015. The County Council will then have 6 months to consider the Plan.

## **3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet**

3.1 Bus Consultation

The outcome of the bus consultation, which is open until 10 April 2015, will be considered by Cabinet in May 2015.

## **4. Key Partnerships**

4.1 The Hertfordshire Waste Partnership continues to provide a valuable forum for collaboration between the District and Borough Councils as the Waste Collection

Authorities and the County Council as the Disposal Authority, and seeks to provide mutual benefits, not least in the recycling revenues.

- 4.2 Hertfordshire is playing an increasingly important role in the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC), both in the County's participation and also the number of flood alleviation schemes which the TRFCC is considering in its 6-year funding submission to Government.

## **5. Other comments**

### **5.1 Highways Street lighting**

As I reported at the February Council meeting, Ringway have been taken to task about the quality of the street lighting service and they have produced an action plan to address the various elements of the short comings.

The action plan is focused on improving the actual service levels (i.e. number and speed of repairs) as well as the quality, accuracy and timeliness of feedback to members and customers, and reviewing pre-scripted messages within the fault reporting system. It also is aimed at improving the management of stumped columns

An independent lighting professional has been placed within the street lighting service to undertake a root and branch investigation into this contractor directed service, the reasons for the performance issues and to assist in developing systemic improvement proposals for both the short and medium term. The roll out of the LED lighting projects will provide more reliable street lighting assets and change the maintenance regime, so this will also be planned for.

I am pleased to report that the A Road LED project is on programme, having been substantially completed in Stevenage, Watford East, North Herts, St Albans and East Herts (6,035 lanterns in total). Work is currently in progress in Dacorum and Broxbourne. Works are programmed to be undertaken in Welwyn Hatfield, Three Rivers and Watford West during April to May 2015 and in Hertsmere during May 2015. Any anomalies or those with engineering difficulties will be mopped up during Summer 2015.

I am also pleased to confirm that Phase 2, which involves the conversion of all those lights on B, C and U roads that are in full night lighting, is being funded to the tune of £7.5m and will follow straight on from Phase 1 in the summer of this year. Lessons learnt from Phase 1, such as the consideration of glare adjacent to residential properties and the need for collateral illumination of parallel footpaths and cycleways, are being incorporated into the Phase 2 design.

### **5.2 Transport vision for Hertfordshire**

Members will be aware that the County Council has commenced work on a new transport vision for the County. This will identify the transport challenges that need to be addressed up to 2015, and will identify the policies and proposals that the County Council will pursue to deal with them.

On 22 January there was a well-attended, all Member workshop which considered the wider challenges which the County faces and which started to examine the background work which has been carried out so far. Following the Joint Highways and Waste and Community Safety and Planning Cabinet Panel on the 29 January, we are now in a period where this initial work will be shared with key stakeholders to get their views. At the same time, a series of topic based seminars are taking place and we have, so far, had events looking at the transport infrastructure pressures of London; population and transportation forecasts and trends; transport and health; and electric vehicles. This seminar series will continue to run over the coming months and the outputs will be used to feed into a consultation document to be more widely published in late summer.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the November 2014 meeting of the Council, the Highways and Waste Management Cabinet Panel has met on 9 February 2015 and 17 March. The Joint Cabinet Panel met on 29 January 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

9 February 2015 - [http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic\\_calendar/highwayswastecp/18311975/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/highwayswastecp/18311975/)

17 March 2015 - [http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic\\_calendar/highwayswastecp/18311982/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/highwayswastecp/18311982/)

Joint Highways and Waste and Community Safety & Planning Cabinet Panel

29 January 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ReportManager/mid/397/Meeting/135/Default.aspx>

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**Executive Member for Highways and Waste Management**  
**March 2015**