

THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This report is made by the Leader of the Council and includes reports from each member of Cabinet, attached as Appendices 1 - 8.

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

1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings (15 December, 19 January, 23 February and 23 March) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 25 November 2014. Items of business specifically attributed to the Leader were:-

- Public Engagement on the 2015/16 – 2017/18 Integrated Plan Proposals and an update report, which were considered by Cabinet on 19 January and 23 February respectively, followed by Full Council on 24 February.
- Council Meeting – Executive Report, which was considered by Cabinet on 23 February, and Full Council on 24 February; and which deferred the report of the Executive to the March Council meeting.

2. Executive key decisions made under special urgency provisions

2.1 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require the Leader of the Council to report to Council any executive key decisions taken in circumstances of special urgency, under the provisions of Regulation 11, with the agreement of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2.1 One such decision was taken as follows:

- Award of county wide preventative carers break contract. The Key Decision Record is on the Hertsdirect website and can be viewed here:
<http://www.hertsdirect.org/docs/pdf/b/b00015carersbreak20150313>

3. Employment Committee

3.1 Employment Committee, chaired by the Leader, met on Monday, 19 January and will meet on Monday 23 March. Key agenda items follow:

- Partial performance during periods of industrial action (Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service).
- Salary reviews for the Chief Executive, Chief Officers and Senior Managers.

- Publication of the Senior Manager pay policy and open data as required by regulations.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme update and Annual Report on the discretions policy.

4. Committee of the Regions

- 4.1 The Leader has been appointed a Full Member of the Committee of the Regions for its 2015-2020 'mandate' and attended the plenary session of the Committee on 11 and 12 February and a meeting of its COTER Commission on 2 March. Inevitably, these early meetings have been fairly procedural; agreeing appointments and the future work programme.

5. Local / Internal events

- 5.1 On Wednesday 26 November 2014, the Leader addressed the Leadership Forum, comprising of senior managers from across the organisation giving an overview of the key issues facing the Council and local government generally.

6. The Electoral Review

- 6.1 The announcement of the final recommendations of the Electoral Review of County Council divisions has been postponed until May.

7. Hertfordshire Forward

- 7.1 The Leader chaired meetings of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Monday 8 December and Monday 9 March. The key items for discussion were Thriving Families, the Hertfordshire Skills Strategy, the Adults with Complex Needs project, blue light collaboration and integration, and an update on the exploratory work being carried out around a Hertfordshire Civil Service, along with the usual strategic updates.

- 7.2 At the December meeting, a decision was taken to postpone the Hertfordshire Forward Conference due to take place in February until after the General Election. It will now take place on Tuesday 14 July.

8. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 8.1 Meetings of HLG took place on Thursday 4 December and Thursday 5 February; a further meeting will be held on Thursday 26 March. Key items on the agenda for discussion follow:
- New legislation around Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards
 - A presentation from members of the Youth Parliament relating to their Manifesto
 - An update from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) regarding the Strategic Economic Plan

- An approach to the recently published London Plan, including to possibility of establishing a Local Authority Forum for the Home Counties
- A preliminary consideration of options such as a 'combined authority' for Hertfordshire which could give greater devolved powers for local government
- The Hertfordshire Prevent Strategy

9. Forward Plan – 1 April 2015 – 31 July 2015

The Leader will invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 5 March 2015 (circulated under separate cover).

Robert Gordon, CBE, DL
Leader of the Council
March 2015