

ENTERPRISE, EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Member report to the County Council**

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (15 December 2014, 19 January 2015, 23 February 2015 and 23 March 2015) since my last report to the County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

15 December 2014Hertfordshire Growth Deal Governance arrangements

- 1.2 The Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Board (LEP) has been awarded a 'Growth Deal' from the Government, comprising £199.2m between April 2015 and March 2021, for the delivery of projects in Hertfordshire to support economic growth and prosperity.
- 1.3 The County Council will perform a range of roles in delivering the Growth Deal, most notably through acting as Accountable Body for the proper use of the funds and as the delivery body for £170m of transport projects.
- 1.4 Cabinet noted the proposed LEP Assurance Framework and authorised our agreement to it. The Framework will formally underpin the governance arrangements between the LEP, the Accountable Body and the project sponsors, including the roles and responsibilities of the main parties and the process by which decisions on projects and programmes will be made.

19 January 2015

- 1.5 No matters discussed were specifically relevant to this portfolio.

23 February 2015School Expansions

- 1.6 Cabinet approved the proposed permanent school expansions relating to 2016 and endorsed the intention to consult on them. In addition, it approved £1.8m additional funds for temporary expansions for September 2015, where required and the allocation of £0.286m to provide additional accommodation at Ardeley St. Lawrence Primary School, Stevenage.

Proposed Provision of Primary Schools within Bishops Stortford North Development Area

- 1.7 Cabinet authorised acquisition of additional land immediately adjacent to the 1form of entry (FE) western primary school site at the Bishops Stortford North development area, Bishops Stortford, to enable the development of 2FE primary school premises at that location. This will enable the Council to provide better

sited, more efficient and sustainable additional primary school places to serve the Bishops Stortford North housing development area.

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

2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 Nothing to report at this point.

4. Key Partnerships

Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

4.1 The Hertfordshire LEP was awarded a further £23m by Government as part of the Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) extension announced in January. This is being allocated as follows:

- £12m for a revolving Evergreen Fund to support unlocking sites for development
- £2.5m University of Hertfordshire Scientific knowledge and Innovation Hub
- £0.4m for North Herts College Stevenage Design and Innovation Centre
- £0.8 for Oaklands College Welwyn Garden City STEM Centre
- £6m for Hatfield Town Centre Regeneration

Skills Strategy

4.2 The joint County Council (HCC)/LEP/Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Skills Strategy for Hertfordshire was reported to Education, Enterprise and Skills Panel on 9 February. It is an excellent platform to shape the direction of Skills in the County to support economic growth, young people and to ensure fuller employment and better life chances of those most vulnerable. It has been very well received by all partners and will be taken forward by the LEP's Skills and Employment Programme Board. There will be regular reports back to our Panel.

Tourism Strategy

4.3 The first part of the process to procure a new Destination Management Service for Hertfordshire has been completed and is moving to the next stage of formal submissions and presentations to the Tourism Task and Finish Group. This comprises representatives from the LEP, HCC, Districts and private sector attractions. The aim is to get the new service up and running by May 2015. It is an initial two year contract to raise the profile of Hertfordshire as a tourist destination and increase the value of tourism to the Hertfordshire economy. The LEP and the County Council are pledging up to £200k over the next 2 years to support the creation of the service with the expectation that after that the service will be self-sustaining.

5. Other comments

Capital funding for additional school places and building condition

- 5.1 I am pleased to report that the Department for Education (DfE) has recently announced additional capital grant allocations for new school places in Hertfordshire. The County Council has been allocated an additional £33.8m for 15/16 and 16/17 (on top of the £34m previously announced) and a new £27m for 17/18. All in all £61m of new funding will be provided to help secure adequate primary and secondary school places through to 2017/18.
- 5.2 This new funding will put us in a strong position to continue to meet demand for new school places – in particular, growing needs in the secondary sector – and at the same time to continue to offer almost all parents a ranked school place at both primary admission and secondary transfer stages. By September 2015 we will have provided over 50 new Forms of Entry of primary school places – a total of over 10,000 places in all year groups.
- 5.3 Capital grant of £18.75m has also been announced for the maintenance of community and foundation schools in 2015/16. In addition, the DfE has announced that ten Hertfordshire schools have been included within the next Priority Schools Building programme, which will offer replacement buildings and/or major refurbishment.

Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate

- 5.4 The 16 – 18 NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) rate published by the Government is 3.5% for Hertfordshire, as measured by school year group or 'academic age'. This compares to the national figure of 4.7%. Prior to 2011, measurement was based on actual age and, on this basis, the level for the past year in Hertfordshire is 3.25%, the lowest since records began 12 years ago.
- 5.5 Our Youth Connexions staff work with a range of partners including schools, colleges and employers to deliver guidance, support and work related learning. The team also provides an employment service for 16-19 year olds sourcing vacancies, identifying apprenticeships and developing the skills of young people to be work ready. Advisers contact young people to track their progress and ensure that support is given when it is needed. Currently the service has contact with 97% of 16-19 year olds in the County. I know that the reasons for the past year's successes include the leading edge work being developed and new services that are constantly being introduced.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Member report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 9 February 2015, 13 February 2015 and 13 March 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:-

9 February 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/enterpriseedskills/18680764/

13 February 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/enterpriseedskills/18319888/

13 March 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/enterpriseedskills/18519746/

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