

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

1.1 None.

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

2.1 None.

3. Anticipated/future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 None.

4. Other Comments (non Cabinet)**4.1 Community Protection**

4.1.1 The Fire Brigades Union took further strike action for a 24 hour period between 07.00hrs on 25 February 2015 to 07.00hrs on 26 February. No serious incidents occurred during that period and all incidents were covered by non-striking staff.

4.1.2 Domestic Abuse – SafeLives (CAADA) Review

In Autumn 2014, the charity CAADA (now renamed to SafeLives) was invited by the County Community Safety Unit and the Police and Crime Commissioner to review the response of specialist domestic abuse services, and the referral pathway into and out of services from the main statutory agencies. The review was published in January 2009 and contained a number of recommendations. The full report is available at;

http://www.hertscommissioner.org/pdf/caada_review_06015_hertfordshire.pdf

4.1.3 Since the review, strategic capacity has been strengthened with an Assistant Director in the Community Protection Directorate now dedicated to overseeing the programme of change required. Specialist resources are being provided by SafeLives, and funding for a new senior domestic abuse commissioning manager has been agreed and recruitment is underway in the Council's Health and Community Services Wellbeing Team.

4.1.4 Early efforts have been concentrated on improving governance and leadership arrangements, and a successful workshop for the existing Domestic Abuse Strategic Programme Board was held on the 24 February 2015. It was agreed that a new Domestic Abuse Executive

Board is needed and terms of reference are in the process of being drafted, together with a multi-agency domestic abuse improvement plan.

- 4.1.5 Various other initiatives are supporting improvements in domestic abuse services including the Hertfordshire Constabulary safeguarding restructure, the children's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, the Adults with Complex Needs project, Thriving Families, the new Alcohol and Drugs Board, and, not least, the establishment of Family Safeguarding Teams which will see an additional 22 domestic abuse specialist workers in place across Hertfordshire.
- 4.1.6 Baldock and Letchworth Fire Station became the 3rd Day Crewing Plus Fire Station in Hertfordshire and went live on 1 March 2015. This arrangement maintains 24hr coverage, whilst at the same time generating savings for the County Council.
- 4.1.7 **Crucial Crew:** Aimed at pupils aged 10-11 (Key Stage 2) has so far been delivered to over 11,000 children across the County.
Firesetters: A programme aimed at young people from as young as 3 where there is either an early fascination with fire identified or for young people identified as being arsonists/potential arsonists. Each year approximately 70 new cases are passed to the team.
LiFE: A week long programme, the target group for this programme is offenders or young people on the brink of offending and suffering from discipline issues, including school exclusions. The Service is now receiving regular referrals from both Thriving Families and the Extended School System. At least 10 one week programmes are delivered across the County each year with nearly 200 young people participating.
Learn2Live: An educational event aimed at Year 12 pupils and delivered by the Hertfordshire Road Safety Partnership (HCC Safe and Sustainable Journeys Team, Fire Service and Police) as well as the air ambulance and the parents of young people killed in Road Traffic Collisions. Young and new drivers aged 17-24 are the biggest percentage of people killed or seriously injured on Hertfordshire's roads. This event reached over 4000 young people last year and continues to grow.
Work Experience: The Fire Service currently offers 120 one week work placements to school children across Hertfordshire.
Volunteer Scheme (Job Club and VIST): Volunteer Incident Support Team: The Community Protection Directorate currently has around 120 active volunteers split between Fire and Trading Standards. Young people coming into any of the intervention/education programmes run by the Service are actively encouraged to join the volunteer scheme. The Volunteer Scheme delivered over 15,000 hours of support in 2014.
Home Safety visits: in the last 12 months exceeded 6000 individual homes across Hertfordshire.
Learn To Live: driver safety events were attended by more than 4000 young people and new drivers.

Fire Retardant Bedding: was supplied to 250 vulnerable people who live alone but who are also suspected at being at risk. Trading Standards prosecuted 13 businesses in the last 12 months and answered more than 2500 individual enquiries from the public.

4.2 Planning

4.2.1 Since my last report there have been three meetings of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership. The focus of the group in these meetings has been how to take forward work to jointly fulfil the Duty to Cooperate, with the aim of getting a full set of adopted Local Plans in the County. This has included making progress of a strategic planning framework for the County and also jointly commissioning work on water infrastructure in the County, with the water suppliers; foul water drainage authorities and the Environment Agency.

4.2.2 On the 19 March I attended the Mayor's Summit on how to achieve wider south east engagement in the next review of the London Plan.

4.3 Registrars and Coroners

4.3.1 Senior Coroner retirement - Edward Thomas (HM Coroner for Hertfordshire) has formally informed the County Council of his intention to retire from his role from 31 October 2015 after many years of service.

The process to recruit a new Senior Coroner for the County has begun to ensure that there is a seamless transition. The role is as an independent judicial officer and as such is not an employee of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). However, as the relevant authority under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009, the County Council is responsible for the recruitment and remuneration of the role, as well as the provision of investigative and administrative support to the service through our Coroner Service team.

4.3.2 Immigration Act 2014 - Phase 2 of the implementation of the Immigration Act 2014 came into effect from 2 March 2015. The measures are to assist in addressing 'sham' civil marriages and civil partnerships. Phase 1 was introduced on 14 July 2014 and enabled the sharing of data between the registration services and other government departments to address suspected sham marriages and fraud.

4.3.3 The Marriage of Same Sex Couples (Conversion of Civil Partnership) Regulations 2014: From 10 December 2014, couples who have registered their Civil Partnership in England and Wales have been able to convert their civil partnership into a civil marriage. The conversion can take place in at any register office nationally. In Hertfordshire, couples wishing to celebrate their new marital status, are

able to book a ceremony which can take place at any Hertfordshire Registration Office or licensed venue in Hertfordshire and is officiated by Hertfordshire Registration Officers.

5. Cabinet Panels

- 5.1 Since the last Executive Member report to Council, the Community Safety and Planning Cabinet Panel has met on 3 February 2015 and 12 March 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

3 February 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/commsafplancp/18313599/

12 March 2015 - http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/commsafplancp/18313603/

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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March 2015