

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 21 JULY AT 10.00 A.M.**



EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This report is made by the Leader of the Council and, together with separate reports from each Member of Cabinet, comprises the report under Standing Order 7.

1. Cabinet decisions since the last Report from the Executive to the County Council

1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings (20 April, 18 May, 15 June and 13 July) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 31 March 2015. Items of business specifically attributed to me were:-

- Cabinet Panels – Revisions which was considered by Cabinet on 18 May and Council at its meeting on 19 May.

2. Employment Committee

2.1 On Monday 20 April and Monday 15 June, I chaired the Employment Committee and key agenda items were:

- Children’s Services management structure
- market pay review for Chief Officer roles
- changes to officer employment procedure rules

3. Committee of the Regions

3.1 I have participated in Plenary and Commission meetings of the Committee of the Regions. No matters particularly relevant to Hertfordshire have arisen but an e-newsletter on recent activities is available at <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/enewsletter.aspx>

4. National commentary

4.1 The annual Local Government Association (LGA) Conference was held in Harrogate on 30 June - 2 July, beginning with an opening speech by the Chairman of the Local Government Association, Gary Porter.

5. Local / Internal events

5.1 On Friday 8 May, I attended the celebrations to commemorate VE day that took place at Hertford Castle.

5.2 The annual County Show took place over the weekend of 23/24 May. The event was well attended and a resounding success. I would like to thank colleagues, members of staff, partners, volunteers and performers, all of whom helped to ensure our marquee was lively, interesting and full of energy all weekend.

6. The Electoral Review

6.1 The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for the County Council on 12 May 2015. The proposed new arrangements must now be implemented by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force the recommendations – will be laid in Parliament in the coming months. The draft Order provides for the new electoral arrangements to come into force at the county council elections in 2017.

6.2 The recommendations propose that Hertfordshire should be represented by 78 county councillors in the future; one more than the current arrangement. The recommendations also propose that those councillors should represent 78 single-member electoral divisions across the county.

7. Hertfordshire Forward

7.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Tuesday 16 June. The key items for discussion were the Hertfordshire COMPACT, the forthcoming annual Conference, collaborative working and the new Government, along with the usual strategic updates.

7.2 The annual Hertfordshire Forward Conference will take place on Tuesday 14 July 2015. Around 100 people are expected to attend with representation from the County Council, Districts and Town and Parish Councils, along with several voluntary sector organisations. Key items on the agenda include the new Government's agenda; changes in population structure/diversity of communities; smart growth; environmental challenges and the transport vision for 2050.

8. Forward Plan – [July 2015]

I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 3 July 2015.

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