

**1. Cabinet decisions since the Report of the Executive to the County Council**

1.1 There have been 3 Cabinet meetings (20 April 2015, 18 May 2015 and 15 June 2015) since the last Executive Report to the County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

20 April 2015

1.2 No matters discussed were specifically relevant to this portfolio.

18 May 2015

1.3 Primary School Expansions (PEP 5)

Cabinet approved the publication of statutory notices to enlarge the schools listed in the table below. If there are no objections to the statutory notices, the Director of Children’s Services was given authority to decide whether to proceed with enlarging these schools.

School name	Area	Date of expansion	Expansion by form of entry (FE)	Increase in admission number
Forres	Hoddesdon	01.09.2016	0.5 f.e. (to 2 f.e.)	15
Prae Wood	St. Albans	01.09.2016	1.0 f.e. (to 2 f.e.)	30
Roman Way First	Royston	01.09.2016	0.5 f.e. (to 2 f.e.)	15
Tannery Drift First	Royston	01.09.2016	0.5 f.e. (to 2 f.e.)	15
William Ransom	Hitchin	01.09.2016	0.7 f.e. (to 2 f.e.)	22

15 June 2015

1.4 No matters discussed were specifically relevant to this portfolio.

**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 School Expansions**

On 13 July 2015 Cabinet will consider a paper updating Cabinet on progress with new secondary school proposals, the Primary School Expansion Programme (PEP5) and the relocation of the Stevenage ESC. Cabinet will be asked to make a decision on the enlargement of the premises of William Ransom School, Hitchin and for approval for the updated cost of schemes and the use of S106 funds for PEP5 projects.

### **4. Key Partnerships**

#### **Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)**

- 4.1. I attended my first LEP Board on 21 May, held at Warner Brothers Studios at Leavesden. The key items on the agenda were the development of an Innovation Strategy to support the key sectors in Hertfordshire and a presentation by David Lock Associates on their emerging regeneration strategy for Central Stevenage. The Board approved funding for four projects following scrutiny by the Programme Management Committee – Daniel Hall Innovation Centre at Rothamsted, Broxbourne Enterprise Centre, Stevenage Bio Science Catalyst and West Herts College. John Gourd, in line with the LEP's Terms of Reference, announced he would be standing down as Chair of the LEP at the end of his term. A recruitment process will take place over the summer to replace him and other Members of the Board whose places are also coming up for renewal.

#### **Growth Area Forums**

- 4.2 The first of the LEP's three Growth Area Forums took place in Ware on 26 June 2015. The focus was on the A10/M11 corridor and was attended by local businesses, local authorities and other stakeholders in the area. The second Growth Area Forum for the M1/M25 area took place on 10 July 2015 at the Rothamsted Centre for Research and Enterprise.

#### **London – Stanstead – Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)**

- 4.3 I attended the LSCC Annual Conference in London on 16 June. The day discussed the corridor's huge economic and productivity advantages and how collaboration will support further success. The corridor is a loosely defined area that is shaped by three motorways (A1, A10, M11) and two railway lines (the East Coast and the West Anglia main line routes). The Conference heard about the opportunities for creating an Innovation Corridor building in particular on the bio science assets at the Crick Institute at Kings Cross, GSK at Stevenage and at sites in and around Cambridge; the need for a Skills Strategy to ensure the labour force meets the needs of business; the need for more housing and new infrastructure in the corridor and the potential to regenerate Harlow. The LSCC has submitted its business case for Investment in the West Anglia (WA) rail line to Network Rail. Transport for London's Managing Director for Crossrail 2 Michelle Dix addressing the conference said 4-tracking of the WA line needs to

be delivered quickly, as a precursor to the development of Crossrail 2. A outline business case for the proposals (including Crossrail 2 running potentially from Hertford East to Tottenham and then underground through the West End to Wimbledon) has been submitted to Government resulting in the possibility of an early announcement and initial consultation in the autumn. The County Council has been invited to sit on the WA Task Force set up by the Chancellor and the Mayor of London.

## **5. Other comments**

### Government policy on Schools and Academies

- 5.1 The Government has announced its intention to extend its academy programme to include those schools that are considered to be 'coasting'. The Department of Education published guidance on the definition of 'coasting' schools on 29 June 2015.
- 5.2 This indicates that, for secondary schools, a school will be 'coasting' if in 2014 and 2015 fewer than 60% of children achieve 5 A\* to C including English and mathematics and they are below the median level of expected progress and in 2016 they fall below a level set against the new Progress 8 measure. This level will be set after 2016 results are available to ensure it is set at a suitable level. A school will have to be below those levels in all 3 years to be defined as 'coasting'. By 2018 the definition of 'coasting' will be based entirely on Progress 8 and will not have an attainment element.
- 5.3 At primary level the definition will apply to those schools who, for the first 2 years, have seen fewer than 85% of children achieving level 4, the secondary-ready standard, in reading, writing and maths and which have also seen below-average proportions of pupils making expected progress between age 7 and age 11, followed by a year below a 'coasting' level set against the new accountability regime which will see children being expected to achieve a new higher expected standard and schools being measured against a new measure of progress.
- 5.4 The 'coasting' definition will capture performance in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Therefore, we will not know until 2016 how many schools will be captured within the definition. More broadly, Hertfordshire Schools continue to perform well in terms of Ofsted inspection outcomes. Just below 85% of all schools are currently rated 'good' or 'outstanding', above both national and statistical neighbour comparators.

### Schools Funding

- 5.5 A number of Secondary School Head Teachers lobbied their local MPs at Parliament on the 1 July 2015. Head Teachers were raising their concerns about the impact of Government policy on school budgets. It is estimated that the impact will be a reduction in real terms of around 6% by 2018. The Council is working closely with schools to develop 'value for money' options that help mitigate this challenge.

### Tourism Partnership

5.6 Following the appointment of Visit Kent to become the new Destination Management organisation for Hertfordshire, a dedicated Tourism Project Manager for Hertfordshire is in the process of being recruited. A Shadow Tourism Board is being created and stakeholder engagement will be taking place over the summer to refresh the Vision, agree key priorities and brand for the new service. In parallel with this, Visit Kent and the LEP have already made bids to the Government's Challenge Fund and European Funding to secure extra funding for the Hertfordshire DMO. A formal launch of the new service is expected in October this year.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 18 May 2015 and 3 July 2015, The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:-

18 May 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/85/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

3 July 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/86/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

**David Williams**  
**Executive Member for Enterprise, Education & Skills**  
**July 2015**