

## RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO

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

There will have been four Cabinet meetings (20 April 2015, 18 May 2015, 15 June 2015 and 13 July 2015) since the last Executive Report to the County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### 1.1 15 June

**Final monitor Quarter 4 2014/15** [Forward Plan ref A008/15] – Cabinet agreed a number of proposed budget transfers and carry forwards to be made as part of the final position for the 2014/15 financial year, ensuring that the Council can make best use of its finances to support the Council's transformation programme and to provide capital financing in order to minimise future borrowing costs. This included an increase in the General Fund Reserve to 4% of the revenue budget to mitigate future risks, an allocation of £10m to the Invest to Transform Fund and £3.2m to the Capital Financing Reserve.

#### 1.2 13 July

**Little Furze School site, South Oxhey** [Forward Plan Ref: A007/15] - The July meeting will not have taken place before this report is completed. Cabinet will consider the future of the former Little Furze School site as the preferred site for the proposed re-provision of the residential care places in The Fairway, Oxhey and Pinewood Lodge, South Oxhey into a single new build residential care home for older people, subject to consultation.

**Hertfordshire County Council's Annual Report 2014-15** [Forward Plan Ref: A022/15]. Cabinet will consider this report which summarises the progress made against the Council's Corporate Plan in 2014-15. Following this, it will be sent to Full Council for information.

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

#### 2.1 **Proposed Participation In and Establishment of a Shared Anti-Fraud Service** [Forward Plan Ref: A085/14]

In December 2014 Cabinet approved the proposal that Hertfordshire County Council becomes a partner in the Hertfordshire Shared Anti-Fraud Service for non-benefit and corporate fraud. The new Shared Anti-Fraud Service (SAFS) launched on the 1 April 2015 and recruitment to the team is complete with all vacancies filled. SAFS has its own webpage, which has an online reporting tool as well as a hotline and a shared secure email account for reporting fraud. A campaign to raise public awareness of how to report fraud against councils is planned for the autumn 2015. The SAFs team will provide a robust and resilient fraud prevention, detection and investigation service to partners in non-benefit and corporate fraud.

#### 2.2 **Proposed membership of a Hertfordshire business rate pool**

The Herts Business Rates Pool was established in January 2015 following approval from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The pool has been established in order to achieve higher retention of business rates income within Hertfordshire, to benefit economic growth. The pool consists of five district and borough authorities – Broxbourne, North Herts, Stevenage, Three Rivers and Welwyn and Hatfield – together with the County Council. Administration arrangements have been agreed with Districts and cash flows set up alongside proposed monitoring arrangements. The membership of the pool will be reviewed in the Autumn 2015 to determine whether any change of membership would be required for 2016/17.

### **2.3 Integrated Plan**

The Integrated Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 was agreed by County Council in February 2015. This included an increase in Council Tax of 1.99% in order to achieve a balanced and sustainable position for 2015/16. Given continuing increases in pressures and likely reductions in available resource, the budget gap is estimated to grow to £56m by 2017/18. In the light of the requirement for further savings in future years, Chief Officers are working with Executive Members and their Cabinet Panels to identify options at the earliest possible opportunity for the delivery of substantial additional savings.

### **2.4 Final Funding Submission to the DfT for Croxley Rail Link**

The final funding package for the Croxley Rail link has now been agreed. The Department for Transport (DfT) £109.8m funding sign-off was received following a decision by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to provide an additional £37.35m for Croxley Rail Link from its Growth Deal, on top of the £50.5m it has already allocated to the project. Along with £46.5m from London Underground, Hertfordshire County Council's funding of £30.5m, £9.6m from Watford Borough Council, and £109.8m from DfT, this completes the funding package for the £284.4m project.

### **2.5 Proposed Provision of primary schools within Bishop Stortford North (BSN)**

In February 2015 Cabinet authorised acquisition of additional land immediately adjacent to the s106 agreement 1 form of entry (FE) western primary school site at the Bishops Stortford North development area, to enable the development of 2FE primary school premises at that location. Detailed work is underway to determine the optimum configuration of primary provision on the wider BSN development.

## **3. Anticipated / future decisions to be made by Cabinet**

3.1 None.

## **4. Key Partnerships**

4.1 None to report.

## **5. Other comments**

5.1 I will continue to pursue the long term stable financial policies established by my predecessor to ensure that Hertfordshire residents continue to receive excellent value for money services.

### Coroner for Hertfordshire

Edward Thomas, HM Coroner for Hertfordshire, is retiring in October 2015 after many years in the role. The recruitment process to find a successor has been underway for some months and Geoffrey Sullivan has been appointed as Senior Coroner for Hertfordshire as from 1 November 2015. The role is as an independent judicial officer and as such is not an employee of Hertfordshire County Council, 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. Consent to the appointment of Geoffrey Sullivan has been given by the Chief Coroner and the Lord Chancellor.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Policy, Resources and Transformation Cabinet Panel has met on 9 April 2015 and 14 May 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

9 April 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/252/Committee/17/Default.aspx>

14 May 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/260/Committee/17/Default.aspx>

- 6.2 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel has met on 10 June 2015 and 8 July 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

10 June 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/417/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

In particular the County Council referred a motion on fly grazing at its 31 March 2015 meeting to the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel for consideration. At the June meeting the Panel discussed the report and agreed an approach that provides options for the County Council to use powers available through the new Control of Horses Act (2015) as part of the existing Estates Management policy.

8 July 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/418/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

**Chris Hayward**  
**Executive Member for Resources and Performance**  
**July 2015**