

ENTERPRISE, EDUCATION AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO

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

- 1.1 There will have been 3 Cabinet meetings (21 September 2015, 12 October 2015 and 2 November 2015) since the last Executive Report to County Council. There were no items of business that were specifically attributed to this portfolio.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 21 July 2015

- 2.1 Nothing to report.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

Nothing to report at this point.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

I have attended two LEP Board meetings – the first on the 23 July 2015 at the head office of Imagination Technology in Kings Langley where the focus was on our Information Technology sector and Warner Brothers Studios Master Plan. The second, on 24 September 2015 at Rothamsted Research in Harpenden focussed on the development of an Innovation Strategy to support our key sectors in Hertfordshire, and the development of a Stevenage Science and Engineering Campus.

The recruitment of a new LEP Chairman and new Board members is underway and should be completed in mid-November 2015.

We are awaiting the Government decision on the Dacorum/St Albans Enterprise Zone bid.

The LEP has invited bids for Round 3 of the Single Local Growth Fund (SLGF) process. So far 23 bids have been received and will be considered by the LEP board in November 2015.

4.2 London Stanstead Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)

I attended the LSCC Board in London on 30 September 2015, and I have been asked to lead on their Key Sectors sub group.

On the 8 October 2015 the LSCC launched their Growth Commission for the corridor. This will look into the economic potential of the corridor and develop a strong rationale for future investment in the corridor. The Commission will report in spring 2016.

I attended the first meeting of the West Anglia Task Force on 8 September 2015 for my colleague Derrick Ashley. Set up by LSFC and with the support of the Mayor's office, this will look at the business case for four lane tracking on the Liverpool – Broxbourne section of the West Anglia railway line.

4.3 Higher and Further Education

I have met with Julie Newlan the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Hertfordshire to discuss the University's business facing ambitions and its support for local economic growth.

I am in the process of meeting all the Principals of the Colleges of Further Education in the County. My meeting with Gill Worgan the Principal of West Herts College focussed on the college's strategies in terms of vocational training and support for apprenticeships.

The Government has recently announced a major review of 16 – 18 learning provision with a particular focus on further education institutions. The County Council is working closely with the LEP and the four colleges in taking this Review forward

4.4 Tourism

'Visit Herts', the new Destination Management Service for Hertfordshire, went live in September 2015. They are currently engaging with stakeholders and tourism related businesses to build support, plan campaigns and a new brand which will be launched in spring 2016. In partnership with English Tourism Week, the first Hertfordshire "Big Weekend" will take place on 12 and 13 March 2016.

A Tourism Partnership board is in the process of being established and my deputy Morris Bright will be the County Council's representative on the Board.

'Visit Herts' will be presenting their plans for the future to the next meeting of the Enterprise, Education and Skills Panel in December 2015.

5. Other comments

5.1 School Visits

I have attended 3 school expansion openings – South Hill in Hemel Hempstead, Roebuck in Stevenage and the "all through school" 2 forms of entry primary phase at Simon Balle in Hertford. These projects represent over £8m of investment in some stunning facilities and have been the subject of very positive feedback. In addition, Cllr Hutchings and I also visited John Warner School in Hoddesden to learn about its distinctive STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) focus.

5.2 Cheshunt School Sixth Form

The governors at Cheshunt School have decided to consult on closing the school's 6th form, on the basis that in future it will work in partnership with Goff's School sixth form arrangements. This is potentially a significant change in the landscape, as currently all mainstream secondary schools have their own sixth form; this may influence other schools with small 6th Forms to adopt a similar approach.

5.3 Meeting the Rising Demand for School Places

Following the positive feedback from the briefing session in autumn 2014, a further workshop for Members on school place planning and school admission arrangements has been arranged for 1pm on 30th November 2015.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 11 September 2015 and 22 October 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel
11 September 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/316/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel
22 October 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/317/Committee/10/Default.aspx>

David Williams
Executive Member for Enterprise, Education and Skills
November 2015