

RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE 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 Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

21 September 2015

1.2 Onslow St Audrey School, Hatfield – To Consider the Future of Part of the School Site [Forward Plan Ref: A043/15]

Onslow St Audrey School converted to Academy status in 2012 and occupies its site under the terms of a 125 year lease from the County Council. For a number of years the School has been working on a proposal to develop enhanced educational facilities at the School, funded through the release of two parcels of land from its lease for residential development. As the School has a leasehold interest, the land cannot be sold without the County Council's consent as Freeholders. Equally, as the land is subject to an Academy lease and is restricted to educational and ancillary uses only, the County Council would not be able to sell the land for development. Consent from the Secretary of State for Education has been obtained for the disposal of the land and to the surrender of part of the lease to facilitate this disposal. Cabinet approved the surrender of part of the land held within the school lease and the subsequent disposal and approved the allocation of the capital receipt (net of Council's cost) to the Academy for the construction of the new agreed educational facilities. Cabinet's decision will enable the School to progress its project for a new 2 storey block, including a science block, a sports hall and a multi-purpose all weather sports pitch, to the next stage.

1.3 Land at Harpenden Road, St Albans – Arrangements for St Albans Judo Club Accommodation [Forward Plan Ref: A044/15]

In November 2011, Cabinet agreed to dispose of its land interest at Harpenden Road subject to the re-provision of facilities for the existing statutory public services remaining on the site. The County Council is seeking to secure outline planning permission for housing and community facilities development of the site in advance of marketing the site for disposal. Any such consent is expected to require a planning obligation on the County Council to provide replacement facilities for the community uses currently on site, including those used by the St Albans Judo Club, either on or off site. Cabinet allocated budget from the Invest to Transform Capital Reserve for the cost of a Scheme for providing alternative accommodation for the St Albans Judo Club (SAJC) to replace that which it currently occupies on a part of the Land at Harpenden Road, St Albans. Cabinet authorised arrangements for surrender or termination of the SAJC tenancy, subject to suitable alternative accommodation having been secured. Cabinet also agreed that, in the event that negotiations between the County Council, St Albans City and District Council, and SAJC fail to reach a satisfactory conclusion for all parties, officers should seek to procure suitable replacement accommodation for SAJC on another part of the site or in the open market.

12 October 2015

1.4 Finance Monitor 2015/16 – Quarter 1

Cabinet agreed that the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Network Resilience scheme be removed from the 2015/16 capital programme, due to funding being re-directed to the Croxley Rail Link; that the funding of £1.59m for the Integrated Transport Programme and Rail Improvements Projects Programme be provided from reserves, to ensure that these programmes can go ahead in 2015/16, with this funding being replenished by the use of Integrated Transport grant in place of county funding in 2016/17 and 2017/18; and that the Academy Conversation Reserve, released into the General Fund in 2014/15, be re-established to cover the likely increase in rate of Academy conversions resulting from the Chancellor's announcement in July on the Education and Adoption Bill (The consequences of Cabinet section final monitor Quarter 4 2014/15 refers).

2 November 2015

1.5 Invest to transform investment in e-invoicing [A046/15]

This meeting will not have taken place by the time this report is produced. The paper considers an Invest to transform business case for improvements in supplier payment processes as well as delivering savings to the organisation. This will enable suppliers to track the progress of their payments from the Council, increasing visibility of processes.

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

2.1 Final monitor Quarter 4 2014/15 (Forward Plan ref: A008/15) -15 June 2015 Cabinet).

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. 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. Since the June Cabinet meeting, the Chancellor announced in July the likely increase in academy conversions, which has meant we needed to reinstate the reserve released into the general fund at the end of 2014/15. In September, the Audit Committee approved the final accounts of the Authority for 2014/15. Members were pleased to hear that this had been the best set of accounts audited to date at the County Council and a continued improvement on previous years, putting it in a good position. The Committee welcomed the positive feedback from the external auditors on the Audit Results Report and thanked officers for the high quality of their work.

2.2 Little Furze School site, South Oxhey (Forward Plan Ref: A007/15 – 13 July 2015 Cabinet).

At the July meeting Cabinet agreed that the residential care home places at The Fairway, Oxhey and Pinewood Lodge, South Oxhey be re-provided, subject to appropriate consultation by Quantum Care Limited, at a new purpose built facility on the former Little Furze School site, Gosforth Lane, South Oxhey. Part of the site of former Little Furze School will be allocated for the provision of a new residential care home for older people. Subject to planning permission being granted, the site will be leased to Quantum Care Limited on terms to be approved and in consultation with myself as Executive Member for

Resources and Performance. The remainder of the site, subject to planning permission, will be sold for housing development. On completion and registration of the new care home, and subject to appropriate consultation by Quantum Care Limited, The Fairway and Pinewood Lodge will then be decommissioned and the sites sold. Cabinet noted that the reduction in care home places resulting from decisions above will be addressed as part of the future development of care home provision in the area together with the implementation of the Council's strategy for flexi-care provision.

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 None.

6. Cabinet Panels

6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel has met on 17 September 2015 and 23 October 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel
17 September 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/419/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel
23 October 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/420/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

Chris Hayward
Executive Member for Resources and Performance
November 2015