

## **PUBLIC HEALTH, LOCALISM AND LIBRARIES PORTFOLIO**

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

1.1 There will have been 3 meetings of Cabinet (21 September 2015, 12 October 2015 and 2 November 2015) since the last Executive Report to Council.

#### 1.2 12 October 2015

Following announcements by Government that the Public Health Budgets in England will receive a 6.2% in-year cut, Cabinet requested officers to proceed with a strategy designed to achieve these if Government goes ahead; Cabinet also agreed that further reports should be presented to Members for consideration and decision as necessary.

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

#### 2.1 Public Health

On 1 October 2015 the Council became responsible for Health Visitors, as the final part of the transfer of public health services from the NHS to local government. Our service is high performing.

#### 2.2 Localism

A consultation on a draft, refreshed Hertfordshire Compact is now underway. The Hertfordshire Compact is a written understanding between the voluntary and community sector and statutory organisations about how they will co-operate and continue to develop positive working relationships for the benefit of Hertfordshire's communities.

Commencing in early 2015 a steering group, including representatives from both sectors, has worked to develop a draft document for consultation. The consultation on this draft began on 14 October 2015 and will continue into the New Year. We will be encouraging representatives from both sectors to adopt the Compact principles to ensure that strong, effective partnerships are at the heart of all relationships between the voluntary and public sector.

#### 2.3 Libraries and Heritage Services

Hertfordshire's first two Community Libraries will be launched at Chorleywood and Redbourn on 9 November 2015. These libraries, run as a partnership between the County Council and local community groups, will serve as 'early adopters' of the Community Library model, which will be rolled out to a further 14 Libraries over the next 18 months.

The current mobile library service will be withdrawn from 31 October 2015. It will be replaced by an expanded Home Library Service for people with disabilities and mobility difficulties and their carers, and support for the establishment of community organised book swaps.

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

#### **3.1 Public Health**

We will be asking Cabinet to make a decision on the future direction of the School Nursing Service, following consultation with Stakeholders.

#### **3.2 Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service**

We will be asking Cabinet to approve a new governance model for Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service, to ensure we meet updated Ofsted expectations.

### **4. Key Partnerships**

#### **4.1 Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB)**

As part of the Year of Mental Health, an initial seminar with commissioners was led by Public Health to deliver the results of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on Mental Health needs for Hertfordshire. A working party of HWB partners is taking this forward.

Officers organised a seminar with key stakeholders including universities, the LEP, science networks and the NHS, on how Hertfordshire can access European funding for health programmes.

#### **4.2 Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP)**

The Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership met on 15 October 2015. Amongst other things, the partnership received an update on the excellent work being undertaken by the Hertfordshire Disability Sports Hub.

This meeting was held before 'The Art of Wellbeing' - Creative Hertfordshire's first Culture and Wellbeing Conference. Supported by Public Health, the event focused on how participation in culture and creativity can have significant health benefits and increase wellbeing. The conference had an excellent turnout with an audience drawn from across Hertfordshire's Public Health, GPs, social care providers, private sector, commissioners of services, housing providers, local authorities, education, artistic practitioners, and cultural sector.

The HLLP's work with Sport England continues and Hertfordshire now has funding, between the County Council, NHS, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Districts and Boroughs, of over £2m for sport and physical activity. Public Health's District Offer funding to the Districts and Boroughs has provided the match funding to leverage these monies.

#### 4.3 Hertfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Board

The Community Covenant Board will meet on 27 October 2015, at which I will be delighted to welcome the new Commanding Officer at Northwood Joint HQ, Captain Kevin Shaw, and our new tri-service representative, Lt Col Dylan Read.

It is proposed that a key focus for the Board will be Veterans' Mental Health as part of the Year of Mental Health work underway. Work continues around the "Celebrating and Honouring" theme with recent events including the service to commemorate the disbanding of the Hertfordshire Regiment Association on 11 October 2015 and the laying of a commemorative stone to mark the centenary of the awarding of the Victoria Cross to Corporal Alfred Burt. Under the "Community Engagement" theme we are awaiting the outcome of a bid to the MOD small grants fund for some further work at Hartsbourne Primary School in Bushey.

### 5. **Other comments**

#### 5.1 Public Health

The Minister for Public Health, Jane Ellison, visited Hertfordshire on 29 September 2015, which usefully followed a request made by the Cabinet Panel to make representations to her on the Public Health cuts. She visited Health Visitors delivering a baby clinic in Oaktree Children's Centre, Welwyn Garden City and later discussed with me alternatives to the cuts and our suggestions on how Government could make savings whilst still ensuring vital services are delivered.

New NHS England vaccination programmes for meningitis and flu for children – from babies to new students – were rolled out as part of the national programme from 1 September 2015, and Hertfordshire is already delivering its part of this.

#### 5.2 Localism

Our next Parish and Town Council conference will take place on 5 November 2015. The main theme of this conference will be the ongoing implementation of the recently developed Shared Statement of Partnership Principles between Parish and Town Councils and the County Council. Key areas of focus will include progress on Highways Together, Libraries, and Public Health.

12–18 October 2015 was Local Democracy Week, during which the County Council encouraged residents to take an active role in discussing and shaping local issues. A number of interactive events took place alongside a social media campaign. This included a schools debate hosted by the Chairman of the Council and a Citizens' Panel event hosted by the Deputy Leader.

I was pleased to speak at Hertfordshire's annual Voluntary Sector Conference this October, organised by the County Council's Community Wellbeing Team. The theme of the conference was 'Working Together' and developing collaborative working. It was vibrant conference with over 70 organisations

represented and engaging in how partnership working within the sector can be developed further.

Along with my fellow Executive Members with responsibility for Environment, Planning & Transport and Enterprise, Education & Skills, I have been looking into the possibility of holding a conference to discuss the opportunities and issues faced by our County's rural areas. The provisional date for this event is 11 March 2016.

### 5.3 Libraries and Heritage Services

In July 2015, I attended the launch of the Record Breakers Summer Reading Challenge for children at Welwyn Garden City Library. (Hertfordshire Libraries enjoyed an excellent summer with 18,675 children participating).

On 1 September 2015, I visited Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies for my induction into Heritage Services.

On 2 September 2015, I visited Buntingford at the invitation of the 'Buntingford in Transition' group to explore opportunities for the development of library services in the town.

### 5.4 Customer Service

I am pleased to report the performance at the Customer Service Centre has been consistent over recent months, with average wait times of 19 seconds for both July 2015 and August 2015, and 23 seconds for September 2015.

The new 'beta' version of the Hertsdirect website will be launched in November 2015 and customers will be given the chance to test the new version of our Homepage and initial Health and Community Services content. Following successful customer testing, each area of the website will be made live – this will run through until December 2016.

## 6. **Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 24 September 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

24 September 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/451/Committee/50/Default.aspx>

**Teresa Heritage**  
**Executive Member for Public Health, Localism & Libraries**  
**November 2015**