

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNTY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER AT 10.00 A.M.**

**EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Agenda Item No.

**6**

This report is made by the Leader of the Council and, together with separate reports from each member of Cabinet, comprises the report under Standing Order 7.

**1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council**

1.1 There will have been three Cabinet meetings (21 September 2015, 12 October 2015 and 2 November 2015) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 21 July 2015. There were no items of business specifically attributed to me.

**2. Executive key decisions made under special urgency provisions**

2.1 The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require the Leader of the Council to report to Council any executive key decisions taken in circumstances of special urgency, under the provisions of Regulation 11, with the agreement of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 One such decision was taken as follows:-

- Award of a contract for the supply of four pumping appliances for Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2.3 The Key Decision Record is on the Hertsdirect website and can be viewed here:- [Decision Record - Supply of 4 Pumping Appliances for HFRS](#).

2.4 Notice of a further decision to be taken (by the Chief Executive) in circumstances of special urgency was given regarding the transfer arrangements from the County Council to London Underground Limited. This decision was subsequently referred to Cabinet under general exceptions provisions and considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 12 October. The relevant Cabinet minutes can be viewed here:-

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/337/Committee/8/Default.aspx>

**3. Committee of the Regions**

3.1 I have participated in Plenary and Commission meetings of the Committee of the Regions. No matters particularly relevant to Hertfordshire have arisen but an e-newsletter on recent activities is available at <http://cor.europa.eu/en/news/Pages/enewsletter.aspx>.

#### **4. The Devolution debate**

- 4.1 I have been involved in a number of local, regional and national events and conversations recently where the key focus has been on the so-called devolution debate. These included a meeting of the East of England LGA Assembly (25 September 2015), an event run jointly by the County Council's Network (CCN) and District Council's Network (DCN) regarding devolution in two-tier areas (8 October 2015) and a Hertfordshire Public Sector devolution workshop (15 October 2015) instigated by the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group.
- 4.2 The devolution workshop enabled a wide range of senior figures from local public services to discuss the benefits of greater collaboration and the potential benefits (or otherwise) of a changed relationship between central and local government. Those who were represented included both tiers of local government, health service commissioners and providers, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Further Education colleges, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). There was general enthusiasm for enhanced collaborative working and a pragmatic interest in seeking the transfer of further functions and resources to local level. It was agreed that further events would be convened to take matters further but only should we choose to make a bid to Government will we give detailed consideration to the issue of governance.

#### **5. Local / Internal events**

- 5.1 On 21 August 2015, I attended the Hertfordshire County Youth Orchestra (CYO) celebrations of its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Watford Colosseum with an outstanding performance of Symphony No 5 by Mahler. They were joined by the Hertfordshire Schools' Symphony Orchestra who performed a Romeo & Juliet programme of both Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev. As well as being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CYO, this concert also marked the 21<sup>st</sup> year of Peter Stark's tenure as its conductor, and who has consistently delivered high quality performances in the County over this long period of time.

#### **6. Hertfordshire Forward**

- 6.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Wednesday 23 September 2015. The key items for discussion were devolution in Hertfordshire, a review of the annual Conference (which took place on Tuesday 14 July 2015), and health and social care integration, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 6.2 I will chair the next meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Assembly on Thursday, 12 November 2015. Key items on the agenda include a presentation about the Hertfordshire Young People's Manifesto, feedback and outcomes from the annual Conference, and the Hertfordshire COMPACT.

**7. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)**

- 7.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday, 23 July 2015. Key items on the agenda for discussion included Hertfordshire's response to the devolution agenda and appointments to Outside Bodies, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 7.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 19 November 2015.

**8. Forward Plan – [November 2015]**

- 8.1 I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 3 November 2015.

**Robert Gordon, CBE  
Leader of the Council  
November 2015**