

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT 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 None.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 Residual Waste Treatment Programme (RWTP)

The October Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel received a report detailing progress on the RWTP. This outlined that, if necessary, a further short extension to the contractual Deed of Variation would be required to ensure that a thorough evaluation of the Revised Project Plan (RPP) could be concluded. If this is required, a decision will need to be made by Cabinet in December. Thereafter, the Panel would expect to receive a report in early 2016, and a recommendation from the Panel to Cabinet will be required to either (a) accept or proceed with the Revised Project Plan (RPP) as proposed or, (b) to reject the RPP and trigger termination of the contract with Veolia.

As part of the County Council, the Fire Service already has a completely shared back office and works alongside social care and public health. The close working relationships between Fire, other County Council departments and Police in Hertfordshire means there is already extensive collaboration and room for this to grow and improve in future without the need for the PCC to have direct responsibility for Fire and Rescue.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 Nothing to report.

5. Other comments

5.1 Residual Waste Treatment Programme (RWTP)

On 17 July 2015 the Council received notification from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that the Secretary of State (SoS) had refused the planning application for the proposed Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility at New Barnfield, Hatfield. It was concluded that the considerations in favour of the proposal do not clearly outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and, therefore, are not sufficient to justify the development. No legal

challenge was made to the Secretary of State's re-determination by the deadline of 27 August 2015.

A draft Revised Project Plan (RPP) was submitted by the Council's contractor, Veolia Environmental Services, on 7 July 2015. Detailed evaluation of the draft RPP is ongoing and careful consideration is being given to whether the draft RPP would be capable of acceptance as a lawful variation to the RWTP contract.

5.2 Household Waste Recycling Service (HWRS)

Following a successful procurement process and mobilisation of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract our contracted operator, Amey, implemented a number of operational changes on 5 January 2015. These included reduced opening hours and the closure of the centres for two days a week on two of the least used weekdays, in order to deliver the required £750,000 per annum efficiency savings target.

The contractor has been required to manage significant additional queries from residents with over 12,000 more call enquiries being made about the service than the same period last year; they have issued over 15,000 commercial vehicle permits indicating that misuse of the centres has and remains a significant issue; and 600 more complaints have been responded to than prior to the introduction of the service changes.

Planned improvements are scheduled to improve the pressures currently being experienced at the Letchworth and Hemel Hempstead centres.

5.3 Consultation: Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services

The October Community Safety & Waste Management Cabinet Panel received a report detailing a response to a Government consultation on enabling greater collaboration between emergency services. This provided a joint response from Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire. The consultation deadline was 23 October 2015 and Cabinet Panel was asked to endorse the joint response to the consultation.

In due course Government will consider the consultation responses and, as detailed within the joint response, Hertfordshire welcomes the consultation and also welcomes the proposal to enable Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to have responsibility for the Fire and Rescue Service, where a local case is made. This possibility could be suitable in some areas but not in others, such as Hertfordshire, where the Fire and Rescue Service is embedded within the County Council as part of the County Council's Community Protection Directorate alongside Trading Standards, Resilience and the County Community Safety Unit. The Chief Fire Officer is the County Council's Director of Community Protection and, uniquely, is the Chief Executive for the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5.4 Community Safety - Resilience

In recent months a number of incidents have required the involvement of the Resilience Team but the highest profile incident has been the recent sinkhole in St Albans. The Resilience Team and Fire and Rescue crews were heavily involved in supporting the multi-agency response to this incident; the head of the Resilience Team has also undertaken a number of interviews with media and arrangements have been put in place to provide support to the community.

5.5 Community Safety – SafeLives (CAADA) Review

A new multi-agency Domestic Executive Board has been established (chaired by the Director of Children's Services) with five supporting multi-agency sub-groups to assist in the delivery of action plans. The Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) steering group membership was reviewed during quarter 2 and the group have made progress in relation to agreeing new objectives, plans and principles. New MARAC operating and information sharing protocols have been drafted.

5.6 Community Safety – Joint Protective Services

July was 'Scams Awareness Month' with the theme "Don't be Rushed, Don't be Hushed". Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards investigate scams and works to protect scam victims and vulnerable individuals from scams. In the last 18 months Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards experts have made over 1,000 home visits, advising over 700 people and identifying more than 60 victims of scams. Trading Standards and the Directorate had a hugely successful Scams Awareness Month in terms of publicity; receiving nationwide coverage for its work, including television coverage on The BBC One Show and Regional TV news, local radio coverage, and national newspaper coverage in the Times, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail and Daily Mirror.

5.7 Community Safety – Fire & Rescue

The Technical Services Team has recently delivered four new fire engines to Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) stations along with a new Rescue Support Unit (RSU). The latter was the subject of an official launch at County Hall alongside other road safety initiatives. The RSU is based at St Albans and has been extremely well received by the crews who were heavily involved in the development of the specification.

Over recent weeks the Fire Service's operational response has been particularly busy. Unfortunately there have been two incidents resulting in fire fatalities in recent months. A fatal fire in Potters Bar required a full multi-agency investigation to determine the exact cause and origin of the fire; and significant community engagement was undertaken to assure the local communities. A further fire in a commercial building in Hoddesdon resulted in two fire fatalities; a multi-agency investigation was conducted involving the Police and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). As a result of the incident, prohibition notices were also served on adjoining properties by Joint Protective Services and a police

investigation continues. Coroner's hearings for both incidents will take place shortly.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel met on 21 October 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

Community Safety and Waste Management

21 October 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/411/Committee/53/Default.aspx>

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