

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 22 MARCH AT 10.00 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

6

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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 Executive Report to County Council

1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings (14 December 2015, 18 January 2016, 22 February 2016 and 14 March 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 10 November 2015. Items of business specifically attributed to me were:-

- Changes to the County Council's Petition Scheme (Although discussed at Cabinet on 22 February, at the County Council meeting on 23 February, I did not move the motion on this item and advised Members that further revisions would be made to the Petitions Scheme prior to consideration by Cabinet at its April meeting).
- Council Meeting – Executive Report – this was a procedural item concerning deferring the Executive Report that would otherwise have been presented to the February Council to this meeting.

2. Employment Committee

2.1 On Wednesday 11 November 2015 and Monday 15 February 2016, I chaired the Employment Committee and key agenda items were:

- Appointment of a Director of Resources
- Salary Review April 2016 – Chief Officers, Deputy and Assistant Directors and Heads of Service
- Chief Officer Benchmarking
- Salary Review April 2016 – Chief Executive and Director of Environment

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/eneewsletter.aspx>

4. The Devolution debate

- 4.1 I have been involved in a number of events and conversations recently where the key focus has been on the 'devolution' debate. As part of this, the second Hertfordshire Public Sector devolution workshop took place on 14 January 2016. It was attended by almost 100 people representing over 26 organisations from across the Public Sector in Hertfordshire.
- 4.2 The devolution workshop re-stated a general enthusiasm for enhanced collaborative working amongst local public services and a pragmatic interest in seeking the transfer of further functions and resources to local level, subject to clarification on the government's expectations on further growth; geographic scale and governance. The outcome of these events is being drawn together into a shared statement of the Hertfordshire approach which will help determine if this becomes the basis of a formal 'bid' to government.

5. Local / Internal events

- 5.1 On Thursday 26 November 2015, I addressed the Leadership Forum, comprising of senior managers from across the organisation giving an overview of the key issues facing the Council and local government generally.
- 5.2 I am delighted that the County Council has been shortlisted for the prestigious Local Government Chronicle Award for 'Council of the Last 20 Years' recognising continuous innovation, sector leadership and high performance over two decades. Being shortlisted (and the only County Council on that list) is a considerable accolade in itself. The winner will be announced on 16 March.

6. Hertfordshire Forward

- 6.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Tuesday 12 January. The key items for discussion were the Herts Inter Faith Forum, the Syrian refugee relocation scheme, devolution in Hertfordshire and the forthcoming annual Conference, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 6.2 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Assembly on Tuesday 9 February. Key items on the agenda included an update on the devolution debate in Hertfordshire, the Hertfordshire Skills Strategy and the Year of Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

7. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 7.1 Meetings of the HLG took place on Thursday 10 December 2015 and Thursday 18 February 2016. Key items on the agendas for discussion included Hertfordshire's response to the devolution agenda, Health and Social Care Integration, an update on Hertfordshire's response to the Syrian refugee relocation scheme and a presentation from Visit Herts along with the usual strategic updates.

7.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 April.

8. Forward Plan – March 2016

I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 8 March 2016.

**Robert Gordon, CBE
Leader of the Council
March 2016**