

**ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT****1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council**

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (14 December 2015, 18 January 2016, 22 February 2016 and 14 March 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SITE SELECTION METHODOLOGY AND APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE THE CALL FOR SITES FOR THE MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – On 22 February 2016 Cabinet approved the proposed site selection methodology and agreed to undertake the call for sites for the minerals local plan review.

**2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 22 February 2016**

- 2.1 None

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

- 3.1 Adoption of the County Council Rail Strategy – due to be considered by Panel on 10 May 2016 and by Cabinet on 16 May 2016.

**4. Key Partnerships**

- 4.1 Nothing relevant for this period.

**5. Other comments**

- 5.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council I have attended two meetings of the West Anglia Main Line Taskforce; on 13 November 2015 and 14 January 2016. The Taskforce is preparing the revised business case for improvements to the line from London to Cambridge for submission to Government in the summer.

Also since the last Executive Report to Council there have been two meetings of the newly constituted A414 Group; on the 30 November 2015 and the 18 February 2016. This Group has now agreed a Memorandum of Understanding in terms of the scope of joint work in the corridor. At the next meeting we will be inviting Essex County Council and Harlow District Council to attend.

On 2 December 2015 I attended a special meeting of the London Stansted Cambridge Consortium on strategic planning. The LSCC are seeking to develop a vision for the Corridor to underpin bids for investment in infrastructure such as West Anglian Main Line, Crossrail 2 and improvements to the M11.

On the 11 December 2015 I attended the Wider South East Summit, which was called by the Greater London Authority (GLA) to establish a way forward for discussing strategic planning issues arising out of the next version of the

Mayor's Plan for London. It has been agreed that for the old south east region and the old east of England region, there will be five representatives each, who will meet twice yearly with the GLA.

There have been two meetings of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership since my last report. The first meeting on 8 December 2015 focussed on design issues in the County, with presentations on the South East Design Service and the Hertfordshire Design Review Panel. The meeting on the 26 January 2016 considered proposals for joint research on viability and the funding of infrastructure; an update on the Transport Vision work and various rail projects; and an update from the LEP on their recent activities.

I have written to the Secretary of State, Liz Truss, at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) raising concerns about our ability to mitigate and manage flood risk in Hertfordshire. In particular I have raised the lack of powers we, as Lead Local Flood Authority, have and the need to review current national funding schemes so that surface water flooding and the flooding of small numbers of properties is properly addressed.

I have also again raised concerns about regarding Govia Thameslink's level of service and poor reliability in terms of cancellations, late running and delays. This is not the first time I have called the company to account and I will continue to press for improvements.

On the 14 January 2016 I attended a meeting of the Local Transport Body (LTB). This meeting focussed on the future role of this group. It was agreed that the LTB remained a valuable way of meeting with the major national transport providers such as Network Rail and Highways England.

On 15 March 2016 I will be attending the Building Futures Awards at Hatfield House. This biannual event celebrates the quality and sustainability of new development in the County and this year has a record number of submissions.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel has met on 8 December 2015, 2 February 2016 and 8 March 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[8 December 2015](#)

[2 February 2016](#)

[8 March 2016](#)

**Derrick Ashley**  
**Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport**  
**March 2016**