

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

- 1.1 There will have been 5 Cabinet meetings (29 March 2016, 18 April 2016, 16 May 2016, 20 June 2016 and 11 July 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

29 March 2016

Proposed Acquisition of Land in Carpenders Park, Watford

[Forward Plan Ref: A011/16]

Cabinet agreed the acquisition of the freehold title of Lot 2, Carpenders Park Farm, Watford. This presents an opportunity to acquire a land holding which is strategically placed to the south east of Watford and could provide secondary school provision in the future for South West Hertfordshire. Members acknowledged that as the site is in the Green Belt, “very exceptional circumstances” would need to be demonstrated for it to be developed but agreed that the County Council should acquire the land on the open market given the rising and sustained demand for secondary school places across South West Hertfordshire and the challenges in acquiring sites for future education uses, including the time and costs associated with acquiring land by way of Compulsory Purchase Order.

18 April 2016

Invest To Transform Fund – Electronic Income Collection (E-Commerce)

[Forward Plan ref: A008/16]

Cabinet approved the proposed investment of £225K from the ‘Invest to Transform’ fund for an electronic income collection system. The investment will enable the Council to purchase a new e-commerce solution to improve the Council’s income collection capabilities and address current issues as well as delivering internal savings of approximately £70K from year 2 via streamlined, improved internal processes (with opportunities to accelerate benefits and reduce the payback period (of 3.5 years) as more services are migrated to the new system).

Proposed New Hertfordshire County Council Fraud Sanction & Prosecution Policy [Forward Plan ref: A014/16]

Cabinet adopted the Fraud Sanction and Prosecution Policy. The policy sets out how the Council will deal with fraud, to act as a deterrent and to ensure compliance with both civil and criminal legislation. The policy also complies with CIPFA’s ‘Code of Practice on managing risk of fraud and corruption’, the National Audit Office best practice guidance on Managing External Fraud, and the Department for Communities and Local Government ‘Counter Fraud and Corruption Strategy’.

16 May 2016

School Premises Space Standards Proposed Policy Revision

[Forward Plan ref: A019/16]

Cabinet approved a change in the current County Council policy concerning school space standards to retain compliance with the internal and external ranges as set

down in Building Bulletin 103 (BB103) issued by the Department for Education. County Council standards are generally aligned with Building Bulletins, therefore Cabinet considered and agreed that the upper end of the ranges of the new building bulletin be adopted in order to minimise the impact on the quality of education and provide clear and consistent guidance to third parties.

Registration and Citizenship Discretionary Fees and Charges

[Forward Plan ref: A015/16]

The majority of fees charged by the Registration & Citizenship Service are statutory fees set nationally by the General Register Office and Home Office. Cabinet agreed an updated methodology for the setting of the non-statutory ceremonial and appointment fees by the Registration & Citizenship Service to ensure the fees charged by the Council were compliant with the relevant cost recovery guidelines and provided greater transparency over how these fees are calculated.

20 June 2016

County Council Finance Monitor – 2015/16 Quarter 4

[Forward Plan ref: A010/16]

Cabinet approved carry forward requests totaling £3.243m, which all relate either to ring-fenced funding or to specific projects that have been delayed. Following these reserve movements approved by Cabinet, the final net underspend for the year was £4.247m (0.53% of the annual budget). Cabinet approved the request to transfer this balance to the Council's Invest to Transform Fund to support investment in future savings programmes.

Land at Chaulden Lane, Hemel Hempstead – to consider the future of the land

[Forward Plan ref: A048/15]

Cabinet agreed the proposal for the Council to enter into a conditional contract to dispose of the land in which it has a freehold interest at Chaulden Lane, Hemel Hempstead subject to satisfactory planning permission being obtained for the site identified in Dacorum Borough Council's Core Strategy as Land Allocation 3 (LA3), which would include the provision of a two form of entry primary school site, the transfer of that site to the County Council and a contribution towards the construction of the primary school via a S106 planning obligation.

July 2016

This report was submitted ahead of the July meeting at which the following items will be considered:-

County Council's Annual Report [Forward Plan Ref: A024/16]

Former Radlett Airfield - to receive the 'expressions of interest' that have been made and to consider the next steps regarding the submissions

[Forward Plan Ref: A030/16]

The Broxbourne School - To consider the release of restrictions contained in Green Belt Deed [Forward Plan Ref: A031/16]

Hoddesdon - Proposed development at High Leigh – provision of primary school
[Forward Plan Ref: A032/16]

Hitchin Boys' School - Grant of lease to Academy Trust Additional School Places
[Forward Plan Ref: A033/16]

Proposed Acquisition of Land – to enable the expansion of schools in Bishops
Stortford [Forward Plan Ref: A040/16]

Land in Stevenage - to consider whether to obtain land in Stevenage for strategic
purposes [Forward Plan Ref: A035/16]

**2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County
Council on 17 May 2016**

- 2.1 **Land at Chaulden Lane, Hemel Hempstead** – In line with the Cabinet decision
heads of terms for a conditional contract are currently being drafted on behalf of the
County Council with the developer through the County Council's appointed property
consultant.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- Lower Green Farm, Arlesey Road, Ickleford [Forward Plan ref: A069/15] – to
consider the future of the farmstead and immediately surrounding land, and a
scheme for replacement equestrian facilities.
- Hertfordshire Enviro-Tech Enterprise Zone Partnership Agreement
[Forward Plan ref: A036/16] - The Enterprise Zone decision is to agree the
County Council's commitment to enter into a partnership with Dacorum
Borough, St Albans District and the Local Enterprise Partnership to develop
and support business growth within the Enterprise Zone area and using
business rate growth and other resources generated from the development to
support the delivery of the necessary infrastructure.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 None.

5. Other comments

- 5.1 None.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Resources and Performance
Cabinet Panel has met on 12 May 2016, 16 June 2016 and 4 July 2016. The
matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

12 May 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/424/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

16 June 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/c/tl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/425/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

4 July 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/c/tl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/426/Committee/51/Default.aspx>

Chris Hayward

Executive Member for Resources and Performance

July 2016