

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 19 JULY 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 Executive Report under Standing Order 7.

1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council

- 1.1 There will have been five Cabinet meetings (29 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June and 11 July) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 22 March 2016. Items of business specifically attributed to me were:-

- Proposed Revisions to Standing Orders for County Council Meetings on 17 May 2016
- Proposed Revisions to the County Council's Petitions Scheme

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:-

- Further deed of variation to the contract dated 27 July 2011 with Veolia ES Hertfordshire Limited to extend the period for acceptance of the Revised Project Plan to 15 July 2016

- 2.3 The Key Decision Record is on the Council's website and can be viewed here:-

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/ForwardPlanofKeyDecisions/tabid/68/FolderID/15/Key-Officer-Decision-Records-2016.aspx>

3. Employment Committee

- 3.1 On Monday 20 June, I chaired the Employment Committee and key agenda items were:

- Chief Officer secondment
- Pension schemes – annual update report on LGPS Employer Discretions usage

4. Committee of the Regions

- 4.1 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>

5. The Devolution debate

- 5.1 I continue to be involved in a number of conversations where the key focus has been on the Hertfordshire 'devolution' debate. As part of this, I chaired the first meeting of the Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group which took place on Tuesday 7 June. Membership of this Group includes representatives from the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group, Hertfordshire LEP, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and myself.
- 5.2 The Hertfordshire Leaders' Group agreed that this Group will oversee the developing Hertfordshire Public Sector Action Plan in relation to the Hertfordshire devolution debate.

6. National Commentary

- 6.1 Along with other colleagues, I attended the annual LGA Conference held in Bournemouth on 5 -7 July.

7. Local / Internal events

- 7.1 On Wednesday 23 March, I attended the annual Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service Awards which were held in the County Suite.
- 7.2 On Saturday 2 April, I attended the Installation of the High Sheriff, Stelio Stefanou, which was held in the Council Chamber.
- 7.3 On Tuesday 19 April, I met with the Regional Schools Commissioner, Martin Post, to discuss the Academisation programme.
- 7.4 On Thursday 21 April, I attended the Beacon lighting ceremony to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday that took place at Hertford Castle.
- 7.5 On Tuesday 26 April, I attended the launch of [Hertfordshire Matters](#) – a comprehensive needs analysis published by the Hertfordshire Community Foundation and produced in collaboration with the University of Hertfordshire and the County Council.
- 7.6 On Thursday 19 May I gave a talk and took part in a Q&A session at a senior staff political management training session to help them better understand the interrelation of their roles and those of elected members.

- 7.7 The Chief Executive and I had an introductory meeting with Mark Bretton, the new Chairman of the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership on Thursday 26 May.
- 7.8 The annual County Show took place over the weekend of 28/29 May. The event was well attended and a resounding success. I would like to thank colleagues, members of staff, partners, volunteers and performers, all of whom helped to ensure our marquee was lively, interesting and full of energy all weekend.

8. Hertfordshire Forward

- 8.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Tuesday 7 June. The key items for discussion were devolution in Hertfordshire; Connecting Communities contracts/Year of Volunteering/Compact; Hertfordshire Strategic Economic Plan; the forthcoming annual Conference; NHS Sustainability Transformation Plans and the Education White Paper, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 8.2 The annual Hertfordshire Forward Conference took place on Thursday 30 June. Around 80 people attended on the day with representation from the County Council, Districts and Town and Parish Councils, along with several voluntary sector organisations. The key focus of the agenda was on the opportunities and challenges facing the health and social care sector; the Health and Wellbeing Board and the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

9. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 9.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday 16 June. Key items on the agenda for discussion included an update on the LEP SEP Review and appointments to Outside Bodies along with the usual strategic updates. This was followed by a politicians' only meeting to discuss Hertfordshire's response to the devolution agenda.
- 9.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place in October (date to be confirmed).

10. Forward Plan – July 2016

- 10.1 I invite the County Council to receive the Forward Plan dated 4 July 2016 (circulated under separate cover).

Robert Gordon, CBE
Leader of the Council
July 2016