

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. There were no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio.

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

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed to progress with the project to co-locate three libraries with retained fire stations on 14 March 2016. At that meeting Cabinet also agreed, in respect of the proposals relating to the co-location of Buntingford Library:-
- i. the Library Service be requested to consider 'Buntingford in Transition's' submission to keep the library in its current site, prior to making a recommendation on its re-location to Members;
 - ii. that Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Library service share with the local Buntingford community the details of the proposal to locate the library with the retained fire station; exhibiting the co-location proposals alongside Buntingford in Transition's plans; and
 - iii. that a further report be presented to Members in the summer 2016 with the final recommendation including information on the Buntingford in Transition's Business Case on re-providing or re-locating Buntingford Library.

Since that decision I have attended public engagement events in Buntingford to hear from residents their views on the proposals (see paragraph 5.4 below).

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 A report on a refreshed countywide Hertfordshire Compact Agreement between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to work in partnership to achieve common aims and objectives was considered by the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel on 24 June 2016 and will be considered by Cabinet on 11 July 2016. Cabinet will be invited to approve and adopt the updated Compact prior to its publication and launch.

4. Key Partnerships**4.1 Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP)**

We are also currently working on the development of HLLP's new webpage, which should be completed by 1 July 2016. The next HLLP meeting takes place on 13 July at Stanborough Park, where we will have a tour of the Herts Disability Sports Hub and be discussing the refresh of the Partnership's action plan.

4.2 Hertfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Board

The Covenant Board met in May 2016 and approved the expansion of the theme looking at encouraging engagement between Hertfordshire communities and the armed forces in order to involve more primary and secondary schools this autumn.

The work of reservists from 254 Medical Regiment and members of the Covenant Board in Hitchin was showcased with an exhibition stand at the County Show in May which was well received by the public.

Last week an Armed Forces Covenant business breakfast was hosted at the Northwood Joint Strategic NATO HQ with Lady Verulam in attendance, where a significant number of Hertfordshire-based businesses were invited to pledge their support for employing reservists and those leaving military service and their families.

Alongside its partners on the Board, the County Council continues to review its policies wherever possible to ensure that the Covenant's commitments are strengthened.

5. **Other comments**

5.1 Public Health

Hertfordshire Public Health won a national prize at the annual Faculty of Public Health Conference on 15 June 2016 for its poster presentation illustrating the integration of Children's Centres and Health Visiting.

The Hertfordshire Year of Mental Health comes to a close in July. This initiative was co-funded by Public Health and the two County Council Champions are Colette Wyatt-Lowe and myself. During the year Public Health completed a population needs assessment, working with commissioners on prioritisation, delivering training on mental health to a range of agencies and we have now recruited and trained 650 mental health advocates across private, voluntary and public sector workplaces.

Hertfordshire is the only county in England where every local authority has an elected member Mental Health Champion; the national event for councillors on mental health is being hosted by Hertfordshire later this year.

5.2 Localism

As mentioned above, the Hertfordshire Compact Agreement will be considered by Cabinet in July. Organisations, both statutory and voluntary, will be invited to be a signatory to the undertakings and principles contained within it at the formal launch on 20 July 2016.

As part of the wider review of all the contracts Health and Community Services hold with the voluntary and community sector two new services to provide infrastructure, representation and volunteering support to charities and

community based organisations across Hertfordshire have been commissioned. The new services, launched in April 2016, are called Connect Hertfordshire - the Community hub and #TeamHerts.

5.3 Hertfordshire Year of Volunteering

The Hertfordshire Year of Volunteering was launched at the County Show on 28 and 29 May. This is a year-long campaign to promote the benefits of volunteering and to celebrate the contribution of those who already volunteer.

A vast number of partners have offered to support the campaign, including the CVSs, #TeamHerts, district and borough councils, Herts Sports Partnership and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The launch was closely followed by Volunteers Week (1-12 June), where inspirational case studies and advocate quotes were shared via partner newsletters, social media and the local press. The year is to be structured around monthly 'themes', with the focus being around volunteering in sports and outdoors this upcoming summer.

5.4 Libraries and Heritage Services

- On Wednesday 18 May and Saturday 21 May, I attended public engagement events in Buntingford to listen to the views of residents on a proposal to provide a new library in the town, co-located with the retained fire station.
- In May, Fiona Hill (Deputy Cabinet Member) attended a workshop in Cambridge, organised by the national Leadership for Libraries Task Force, to contribute views on the draft policy document *Libraries Deliver: Ambition for Public Libraries in England 2016-21*. The final paper will be published later in the summer.

5.5 Customer Services

- Our Customer Service Centre has continued to meet the wait time indicator with wait times being an average of 20 seconds or less every month (March 19 secs, April 18 secs, May 20 seconds and June 20 seconds to date).
- The website has changed address in June from www.hertsdirect.org to www.hertfordshire.gov.uk. This change provides even more assurance around security for the County Council and its service users under the trusted 'gov.uk' service. The project team have transferred most online services over to the new website, so you and your customers should see no difference.
- I am pleased to say the beta (test) website is now live at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk, and content for [Blue Badge](#), [free school meals](#), [volunteering](#), [libraries](#) and [archives](#) has gone live. Feedback from residents, staff and the Customer Service Centre has been positive on these changes. Further services including adult social care, childcare, highways and admissions are being developed now.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 28 April 2016 and 24 June 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

28 April 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/432/Committee/50/Default.aspx>

24 June 2016

<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/433/Committee/50/Default.aspx>

Teresa Heritage

Executive Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries

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