

PUBLIC HEALTH, LOCALISM AND LIBRARIES**1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council**

- 1.1 There will have been 2 Cabinet meetings (19 September and 9 November) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

Cabinet – 19 September

Update on the libraries to be co-located with retained fire stations, including recommendations on the co-location proposal at Buntingford [Forward Plan ref: A046/16]: Cabinet noted the progress with the three libraries to be co-located with retained fire stations and agreed not to proceed with the proposed relocation of Buntingford Library with the retained Fire Station at this time but to review the position in 18 months' time. [Cabinet - 19 September 2016](#)

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 19 July 2016

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the refreshed Hertfordshire Compact on 11 July 2016. I attended and spoke at the public launch event of this partnership agreement, between statutory organisations and the voluntary and community sector, on 20 July 2016. 22 organisations, both statutory and voluntary, have opted to be signatories to the undertakings and principles contained within it.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 The following reports will be considered by the Public Health, Localism & Libraries Cabinet Panel on 24 November 2016 and will be considered by Cabinet on 12 December 2016:

- Hertfordshire e-Cigarette Policy [Forward Plan ref: A050/16]
- Hertfordshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy [Forward Plan ref: A051/16]

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP)

The Partnership met on 28 September 2016 and discussed how to respond to Government's new sport and culture strategies in order to maximise the benefits for Hertfordshire. A small sub group has been formed to coordinate potential bids for Sports England grant funding. Consideration of a bid for grant funding through the Arts Council's Great Place Scheme is also being discussed by the Partnership.

4.2 Hertfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Board

The Covenant Board met on 12 October 2016. I was pleased to provide an update on our annual schools Christmas poster competition where we invite members of the Armed Forces serving abroad over Christmas to judge the entries. This year we are delighted to be working with the Royal Navy and those serving on HMS St Albans.

We have been working closely with our colleagues at Royal British Legion to ensure that Hertfordshire meet (and in some cases exceed) their top five policy commitments.

5. **Other comments**

5.1 Public Health

Hertfordshire County Council's #GetChecked campaign won the 'Best use of evaluation of research' award at the UK Public Sector Communications Awards 2016. The campaign used a range of eye-catching online materials through websites, social media advertising and mobile phone advertising to encourage men to think about their sexual health, resulting in over 13,000 people visiting the webpage for more information.

5.2 Volunteering

- On Wednesday 19 October, County Hall welcomed a number of the County Council's outstanding army of volunteers to celebrate their achievements in a Volunteer Awards event hosted by the Chairman of the Council. Winner and runners up for six different categories were presented with trophies and certificates to thank them for their contribution to communities in Hertfordshire. We'd like to extend our thanks to the vast amount of people who were nominated for an award, all of whom deserve recognition for their work.
- #TeamHerts, the new Hertfordshire wide volunteering service launched in April 2016, is successfully recruiting people to volunteering roles through a website where you can search by geographical area or interest. They have also launched a Time-bank type app called Hourworld where a more flexible approach can be used, allowing ad hoc requests for help to be matched with people who have an hour or two to spare. Both platforms are being promoted to voluntary organisations and possible volunteers via a number of network and training events around the County.
- Connect Hertfordshire, the support service for all voluntary organisations in Hertfordshire, is also about to launch a website; they are networking effectively to achieve a consistent pathway of support for voluntary organisations and they are taking forward some work on measuring and recognising social value effectively.

5.3 Local Democracy Week

Local Democracy Week took place from 10-16 October. Events and activities were held throughout the week to celebrate, inform and encourage residents to get more involved in the work that we do as an organisation. This included councillor visits to local schools to talk about the importance of local democracy; a series of short films about local democracy posted on social media featuring the Youth Parliament and care leavers; a schools debate hosted by the Chairman; and the launch of the Hertfordshire Young People's Manifesto.

5.4 Libraries and Heritage Services

- On Saturday 16 July, I attended the launch of the 2016 Summer Reading Challenge ('The Big Friendly Read') at Stevenage Library. This year was the most successful ever for the Summer Reading Challenge in Hertfordshire Libraries, with 20,022 children participating and 445 volunteers supporting the challenge, including 330 young volunteers (14-24). During September, I attended Summer Reading Challenge presentation events at St Albans, Welwyn Garden City and Harpenden libraries.
- On Saturday 24 September, I attended an event at County Hall jointly organised by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies and Hertfordshire Constabulary to celebrate 175 years of policing in the County.
- On 30 September, I attended an event to mark the 80th birthday of Bushey Library, - the first library to be built by the County Council when it took over responsibility for public libraries in the 1930s.

5.5 Customer Services

- Performance at the Customer Service Centre has been positive over the quarter. Average wait times were 20 seconds for July, 18 seconds for August and 24 seconds for September. Taking into account issues with the telephony system in September the average wait time would have been 21 seconds.
- Further content is now live at our own website including [school admissions](#) and [adult social care](#).

6. **Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 13 September 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel - 13 September](#)

Teresa Heritage
Executive Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries
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