

## ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

### 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 2016

Cabinet agreed the Transport Vision – draft Local Transport Plan consultation document, and agreed that public consultation should commence for a three month period [Cabinet - 19 September 2016](#).

#### Cabinet – 9 November 2016

Cabinet will consider the revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and will be invited to recommend that the document be referred to County Council for formal approval [Cabinet - 9 November 2016](#)

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

- 2.1 None

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

- 3.1 See paragraph 1.1 above for decisions due to be made by Cabinet on 9 November.

### 4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 On 25 July I took part in a Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) tour of developments in the County which had been received Building Futures Awards earlier in the year for their innovative and sustainable design.
- 4.2 On 12 September I attended the Harlow Co-op Board which is co-ordinating growth and infrastructure provision in and around Harlow.
- 4.3 On the 29 September my Deputy attended the meeting of HIPP. Main items on the agenda were a discussion on possible cross county collaboration on planning matters and a presentation on the Transport Vision consultation.
- 4.4 On the 7 October I chaired the A1 Consortium meeting at which Highways England gave an update on their Smart Motorway proposals for the A1 in Hertfordshire.
- 4.5 On 13 October I chaired the Hertfordshire Local Transport Body, which considered updates on bids to Funding through Growth Deal 3 and the progress on major transport schemes in the County.

- 4.6 On the 18 October I attended a meeting of the A414 Member group, which for the first time, also included representatives from Harlow and Essex County Council.

## **5. Other comments**

### Transport – Rail Services

- 5.1 I have written to support TfL's business case to take over further suburban rail services, which was submitted on 14 October. I have used this opportunity to raise the idea of a capital region transport authority which would give more say to Hertfordshire in how services are run.
- 5.2 GTR's plans to curtail rail services at Watton at Stone for an indefinite period and force passengers to use replacement buses is completely unacceptable to the County Council. We will be making our views clearly known in the consultation response, and with other local authorities and the MPs we will be lobbying the Transport Minister to ensure that these proposals are quashed.
- 5.3 I arranged for Network Rail to brief members on the next round of public consultation on Crossrail 2 in advance of the consultation launch on 27 October.

### Transport - Bus Services

- 5.4 Members may be interested to know that bus passenger journeys are increasing across the County with the commercial sector delivering approximately 93% of all journeys made. During 2015/16 37.87 million passenger journeys were made in the County up 10% on the year before and the highest number of journeys since 1988/9. This means that the County Council is supporting through subsidies approximately 6% of all passenger journeys made. The trend in overall numbers of bus passenger journeys in the County is rising at the same time the volume of County Council supported services has been reducing since 2010-11.
- 5.5 Officers have been working with schools to deal with a small number of capacity issues on some school routes. All entitled children have been provided with transport. There has been an increase in the number of applications for the SaverCard child concessionary scheme with 95% of applications made online.
- 5.6 We have been successful in securing £405k from the Department for Transport (DfT) through the Sustainable Travel Transition Year fund which will enable a raft of projects that will improve sustainable access (walking, cycling and use of passenger transport) to employment, training and education locations. The largest component of the bid is for a bespoke environmentally friendly bus shuttle service in St Albans which is out to tender and will be launched in November 2016.

### Countryside Management Service (CMS)

- 5.7 There have been a number of fly-tipping / pollution incidents on rights of way (RoW) which we have had to deal with which present an unforeseen cost to the

Council to deal with. Officers are working with the Environment Agency to deal effectively with these incidents and to keep local residents and users informed.

- 5.8 The Countryside Management Service works with more than 360 volunteers who, between them, contribute more than 30,000 hours of activity annually with an estimated value of more than £365,000. Volunteer roles with the CMS include Health Walk Leader, Conservation Volunteer, Friends group Leader, Wood Warden and Footpath Friend. Further volunteering opportunities are being explored to make a contribution to improving the 3,000km of Hertfordshire's RoW through undertaking surveys or as a member of a small team clearing vegetation, installing kissing gates and repairing small bridges.
- 5.9 The spread of Ash Dieback into Hertfordshire has continued with confirmed cases now across the County. Oak Processionary Moth, which has been largely confined to areas of London, has now been confirmed in Watford Borough. Presence of past nests suggests it has extended its range into Hertfordshire undetected for up to two years. It is likely to become more commonplace in the County over the next few years with implications for the public purse and public health. A report to Panel in December will be able to provide more details.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel has met on 14 September 2016 and 2 November 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel - 14 September 2016](#)

[Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel - 2 November 2016](#)

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