

## ENTERPRISE, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

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

- 1.1 There will have been 2 Cabinet meetings (19 September 2016 and 9 November 2016) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### Cabinet to be held on 9 November 2016

Cabinet will be invited to agree to consult on reducing the Planned Admission Number (PAN) at one primary school by two places [Cabinet - 9 November 2016](#)

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

- 2.1 The relevant notice has been served to secure an option to acquire additional land adjacent to a new 1 form entry (f.e.) school site to facilitate a 2f.e. school on the High Leigh development in Hoddesdon.
- 2.2 The Department for Education has now approved the capital funding for the new secondary school in Harpenden, also agreeing to the school Trust's application to defer its opening to 2018. Arrangements are in place to ensure that there will be sufficient places for 2017.
- 2.3 Agreement in principle has been reached with Transport for London to acquire land in Croxley Green for the new Croxley Danes secondary school. These two items represent major steps towards the provision of these much needed new schools.
- 2.4 The revised policy round removal of passenger assistants for home to school transport of infant-aged pupils was implemented from the start of the Summer Term, with consequential financial savings.

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

- 3.1 Changes are being planned for the way in which some education-related services are funded and delivered, as a result of the Government's decision to end the provision of Education Services Grant. For example, we are seeking additional financial contributions from Maintained Schools towards the cost of the Council discharging its responsibilities towards them. These may presently require further consideration by Cabinet.

### 4. Key Partnerships

#### 4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

There has been one meeting of the LEP Board since my last report. This was held in September in Bishops Stortford. Items discussed included an update on the Growth Deal 3 Challenge session and the regeneration plans for Hatfield

Town Centre. At the meeting Linda Haysey of East Herts District Council outlined the strategic housing locations in the Council's Draft Local Plan, and the emerging vision for Bishop's Stortford.

I also attended the LEP Programme Management Committee on 8 September, held at West Herts College in Hemel Hempstead which is currently being rebuilt, part funded by the LEP.

The LEP are currently awaiting the decision on their Growth Deal 3 bid to Government, following the Department for Communities and Local Government challenge session in July. The announcement is expected in the Autumn Statement on 23 November. Information about the LEP Board agenda and minutes are available at [www.hertfordshirelep.com](http://www.hertfordshirelep.com). The LEP's newsletter is circulated to all County Councillors.

I substituted for Derrick Ashley at a meeting of the Stevenage First Board on 22 September and heard the latest progress on the regeneration plans for Central Stevenage.

#### **4.2 London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)**

On 8 September I met Alex Jones the new Chairman on the LSCC in Harlow to discuss the vision for the London Stanstead Cambridge Corridor. On 12 September I attended the LSCC Annual Conference in London which discussed the results of the independent Growth Commission. The County Council has responded to the Commission.



Jones A LSCC  
response to Growth Co

#### **4.3 Visit Herts**

The new Brand and website for Visit Herts was launched in the Summer. Over 30 investors are now signed up to Visit Herts. Visit Herts has also secured external funding from Visit England for a 'Gardens and Gourmet' campaign next year.

A report on the first 18 months of Visit Herts activity was considered at Panel on 3 November, and it has been agreed to re-procure the service for a further 3 years with joint County Council and LEP funding.

### **5. Other comments**

5.1 We have reached the milestone that over 90% of our schools have been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. Early indications from the summer 2016 Key Stage assessments and examinations are of continuing high levels of educational attainment across Hertfordshire schools.

5.2 #HertsGreatSchools Week took place in October to celebrate the schools, pupils and teachers in Hertfordshire.

- 5.3 I attended the opening by Department for Education Minister Lord Nash of the rebuild of Kings Langley School. This is part of the first phase of the Education Funding Agency's Priority School Building Programme to address the needs of schools most in need of urgent repair.
- 5.4 The Government has issued a Green Paper 'Schools that Work for Everyone'. The Paper focusses on expanding the number of good school places available through independent schools assisting state schools, universities playing a direct role in school improvement, and selective and faith schools delivering more good school places. Its consultation closes on 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- 5.5 As part of a national programme, an Area Review of Post-16 Education and Training Institutions in Hertfordshire will be conducted between November 2016 and March 2017 under the direction of the Department for Education and the Skills Funding Agency. The County Council and the LEP are key stakeholders and are expected to contribute views on the fit of current post-16 provision with local educational and economic needs and provide the data and analysis to support these views.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 3 November 2016. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel - 3 November 2016](#)

**David Williams**  
**Executive Member for Enterprise, Education and Skills**  
**November 2016**