

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER AT 10.00 A.M.**

Agenda Item No.

6

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

This report is made by the Leader of the Council and, together with separate reports from each member of Cabinet, comprises the report under Standing Order 7.

1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council

1.1 There will have been two Cabinet meetings (19 September and 9 November) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 19 July 2016. There were no items of business specifically attributed to me.

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:-

- Highwood School – Procurement strategy for the reinstatement works and temporary accommodation

2.3 The Key Decision Record is on the Council's website and can be viewed here:- [Decision Record](#)

3. Committee of the Regions

3.1 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>

4. The Devolution debate

4.1 I continue to be involved in a number of conversations where the key focus has been on the Hertfordshire 'devolution' debate.

4.2 As part of this, I chaired the second meeting of the Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group which took place on Tuesday 18 October. Membership of this group includes representatives from the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and myself. Discussion took place regarding

the draft Hertfordshire Narrative and Action Plan; One Public Estate; and a presentation was given regarding the Apprenticeship Levy.

5. Local / Internal events

- 5.1 On Wednesday 19 October, I gave a welcome speech at the Hertfordshire Rural Conference, which was appropriately held at Church Farm, Ardeley. This event was hosted by the Hertfordshire Community Development Agency (CDA), with input from the County Council. It was well attended and the programme covered a wide range of rural topics, including the national perspective on the rural economy; growth in the rural economy and assistance to businesses and rural communities; rural community safety and managing growth whilst protecting the countryside.
- 5.2 On Wednesday 26 October I gave a brief talk and took part in a Q&A session with the latest graduate intake.
- 5.3 On Monday 31 October, I attended and spoke at the annual British Virgin Islands (BVI) Reception in London. This year we are celebrating the fifth anniversary of our partnership with the BVI, which has proven successful for both parties over the years.

6. Hertfordshire Forward

- 6.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Tuesday 18 October. The key items for discussion were feedback from the annual Hertfordshire Forward Conference which took place on Thursday 30 June; NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan; Hertfordshire Police and Crime Plan; the proposed agenda for the Hertfordshire Assembly on 3 November, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 6.2 The Hertfordshire Forward Assembly took place on Thursday 3 November, at which we had the pleasure of welcoming the BVI Premier, Orlando Smith. The key items for discussion were town centre regeneration in Hertfordshire and the draft Police and Crime Plan from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

7. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 7.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday 27 October. Key items on the agenda for discussion included feedback from the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group meeting on 18 October; Business Rates retention; One Public Estate; the Homelessness Reduction Bill, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 7.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26 January 2017.

8. Forward Plan – [November 2016]

8.1 I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated [1 November 2016].

9. Cabinet

9.1 The matters discussed at the Cabinet meetings held since the last Executive Report to Council can be found at the following locations:

[Cabinet - 19 September 2016](#)

[Cabinet - 9 November 2016](#)

**Robert Gordon, CBE
Leader of the Council
November 2016**