

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION AND SKILLS**1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council**

1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (12 December 2016, 23 January 2017, 20 February 2017 and 13 March) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

- Additional school places: in February, Cabinet approved a variety of proposals including: the proposed programme of primary school expansions for 2018, funding for additional accommodation at two primary schools; funding for some secondary expansion proposals; and in relation to Bishop's Stortford, a revised pattern of schooling to serve the Bishop's Stortford North development and the use of capital receipts from the disposal of the Phase 2 Hadham Road site towards school provision to serve the new community.
- The Visual Impairment Base at Barnwell School: the same Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory proposal to close the base following public consultation.
- Admission arrangements: Cabinet recommended to Council approval of the arrangements for 2018/19 and minor alterations to the PANs of two primary schools.
- The Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Hertfordshire 2017-2022: In February Cabinet approved the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Hertfordshire 2017-2022. This syllabus comes into force on the 1st of September 2017 and must be followed in maintained schools without a designated denomination.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 15 November 2016

2.1 None specific other than implementation of previous decisions is proceeding.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- It is anticipated that Cabinet on 13 March 2017 will consider a proposal to support the sponsorship of Cheshunt School by the Goffs Generations Multi-Academy Trust.
- The outcome of public consultation on the primary expansion proposals for 2018 will be reported back to Cabinet on 10 April 2017 for it to decide whether or not to authorise the publication of statutory proposals, and to allocate funding for those projects. If that is approved and subsequently objections are received to any of the statutory proposals, Cabinet will be asked in July to take a final decision.
- Cabinet in April will be asked also whether or not to authorise the publication of a statutory proposal to lower the age range of Tenterfield Nursery School following public consultation.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

- There have been two meetings of the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership since my last report. In December the Board met at Warner Bros Studios in Leavesden and received a presentation by Visit Herts on the progress made in their first 18 months of operation. In March the LEP Board met at Ashridge Business School and considered the outcome of the LEPs GD3 bid to Government, consultation responses to the refresh of the Hertfordshire Strategic Economic Plan, and the Government's Green Paper on UK's Future Industrial Strategy.
- On 8 March the LEP held its Annual Conference
- The key achievement has been the award of a further £43.95m of Government Growth Funding to the LEP announced on 2 February, bringing the total to date of £265.45m for the County.
http://www.hertfordshirelep.com/news/Growth_Deal_3.aspx
I am sure you will join with me to congratulate the LEP on this splendid result which will support a number of key projects across the County.
- The latest LEP newsletter and Annual Reports have been circulated to all Members (<http://www.hertfordshirelep.com/news/Annual-Report-2015-16-Summary.aspx>)
- Other economic successes in January / February included:
 - The opening of the Airbus STEM Centre in Stevenage by Tim Peake
 - The opening of the Ambition Broxbourne Business Centre
 - The launch of the county wide specialist support service for business start-ups – a joint venture by Dacorum, Wenta and funded by the LEP and EU ERDF
 - The significant increase in take up by both business and homes of super-fast broadband across the County – now 41% compared to 20% 18 months ago – following the roll out of the Connected Counties initiative.

4.2 London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)

- In December 2016 the LSCC published its review of 2016 <http://lsc.co/> at a reception at House of Commons.
- I was unable to attend the LSCC Board held on 21 February in Cambourne, at which the Board considered the Government's proposed Industrial Strategy and Housing White Paper, and their impact on the work of the LSCC. In addition the Board considered strengthening engagement with business, and new branding for the corridor.

4.3 Visit Hertfordshire

- Visit Herts published the results of the significance of tourism to the Hertfordshire Economy in January; this showed £2.13bn value, over 37,000 tourism related jobs, and over 25m visitor trips per year.
- At the Partnership Group on 16 February, Visit Herts provided details of the Big Weekend due to take place on 1 - 2 April this year – over 50 attractions are participating with 2800 tickets offered so far.

- Three new investor partners have been secured, and Dacorum Borough Council has entered into a 3 year contract with Visit Herts to provide their local tourism and visitor information services.
- Both the County Council and the Hertfordshire LEP have confirmed their continued financial support for the Destination Management Service and the retendering process is underway.

5. Other comments

- The proposed Herts for Learning Multi-Academy Trust was formally approved by the Department for Education
- Despite an increase of 3.5% in the number of Secondary Transfer applications from Hertfordshire residents satisfaction rates have remained almost the same with over 94% of children offered a ranked school, 79% of which allocated their first preference.
- Herts for Learning, the UK's largest not-for-profit Schools' Company in which the County Council holds a 20% interest, has appointed Andrew de Csilléry as Managing Director, with effect from April 2017. Andrew will be replacing Jan Paine who has successfully led the business since its launch in September 2013 and will be retiring at Easter.
- I visited Goffs School to mark the opening by Charles Walker MP of its new buildings delivered by the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme.
- I visited Elstree Studios to mark the launch of its Schools Film Festival for Hertsmere schools.
- I visited Cheshunt School to mark the opening of its new teaching block and Westfield Academy in Watford on the opening of its new buildings delivered by the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme.
- Robert Gordon, Leader of the Council, and I met with the representatives of Secondary School Heads to discuss school funding and the consultation on the National Funding Formula.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Enterprise, Education and Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 25 January 2017 and 10 March 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[25 January 2017](#)

[10 March 2017](#)

David Williams
Executive Member for Enterprise, Education and Skills
March 2017