

**EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LEADER OF THE 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 four Cabinet meetings (12 December 2016, 23 January 2017, 20 February 2017 and 13 March 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 15 November 2016. The only items of business specifically attributed to me were:-

- County Council Corporate Plan 2017-2021
- Changes to the County Council's Constitution

**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:-

- Additional salting routes to those identified subsequent to the agreement of the Highways Winter Service Operational Plan 2016/17

- 2.3 The Key Decision Record is on the Council's website and can be viewed here:-  
<https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/ForwardPlanofKeyDecisions/tabid/68/FolderID/15/Key-Officer-Decision-Records-2016.aspx>

**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. Devolution : Local Collaboration**

- 4.1 I continue to be involved in a number of conversations which seek to identify the best way forward for Hertfordshire particularly with the lack of clarity at national level regarding formal devolution on two-tier, shire areas. Nonetheless, there seems to be sustained local interest in working better together.
- 4.2 As part of this work, I chaired a meeting of the Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group which took place on Tuesday 17 January. Membership of this group includes representatives from the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and myself. Discussion took place regarding the Hertfordshire Narrative and Action Plan and, in conjunction with this, presentations were given regarding the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), the economy (including an update on the Apprenticeship Levy) and Integration of Offender Management. Further discussion took place regarding the forthcoming Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Partnership event scheduled to take place on Thursday 23 March 2017.

#### **5. Special Meeting of the Employment Committee**

- 5.1 On Monday 6 February I chaired a special meeting of the Employment Committee to appoint an Acting Director of Community Protection. Following an assessment process, Darryl Keen was appointed to this post, effective from 1 April 2017. This role will also include taking on the responsibility of Acting Chief Fire Officer.

#### **6. Local / Internal events**

- 6.1 On Thursday 17 November 2016, I addressed the Leadership Forum, comprising of senior managers from across the organisation giving an overview of the key issues facing the Council and local government generally with particular emphasis on demand management initiatives.
- 6.2 On Thursday 1 December I gave a talk and took part in a Q&A session at a senior staff political management training session to help them better understand the interrelation of their roles and those of elected members.
- 6.3 On Thursday 12 January the Chief Executive and I attended a meeting with the Leaders of Essex County Council and East Herts District Council, along with others regarding Gilston Garden Town proposal and associated issues.
- 6.4 On Thursday 16 February the Chief Executive and I met with Simon Edwards, Director of the County Councils Network (CCN) for an update on issues relating specifically to the County Council sector.
- 6.5 On Wednesday 22 February I attended the Public Health Conference which took place at the Hertfordshire Development Centre in Stevenage.

## **7. Hertfordshire Forward**

- 7.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group on Tuesday 17 January. The key items for discussion involved hearing from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) regarding Growth Deal 3 and talking about the Public Health Prevention agenda, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 7.2 The Hertfordshire Forward Assembly took place on Tuesday 28 February and was chaired by the Deputy Leader in my absence. The key items for discussion were the Drug and Alcohol Strategy for Hertfordshire and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

## **8. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)**

- 8.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday 26 January. The key item was a presentation by Hertfordshire Infrastructure Planning Partnership (HIPP) on members emerging thoughts concerning longer-term strategic and infrastructure planning in Hertfordshire. Their direction of travel was blessed and HIPP was asked to bring forward more considered proposals later in the year. Otherwise Key discussion included feedback from the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group meeting on 17 January; Business Rates retention; One Public Estate; the Homelessness Reduction Bill, along with the usual strategic updates.
- 8.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on either Thursday 13 or Thursday 20 April 2017.

## **9. Forward Plan – March 2017**

- 9.1 I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 7 March 2017.

## **10. Cabinet**

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

[12 December 2016](#)

[23 January 2017](#)

[20 February 2017](#)

[13 March 2017](#)

**Robert Gordon, CBE  
Leader of the Council  
March 2017**