

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

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 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council in November 2016. There have been no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio.

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

- 2.1 At the September Cabinet Meeting, it was agreed to carry out consultation on the Transport Vision document. This took place in the period up to the middle of December, and included presentations to a variety of different bodies, including sessions that I attended with St Albans City and District Council Members; Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Members; and East Herts District Council Members. Officers are now considering the responses received and working up the draft Local Transport Plan for consultation later this year.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 I anticipate that the draft Local Transport Plan will be presented to Cabinet In September 2017, to be agreed for public consultation.
- 3.2 I also anticipate that an Options consultation document on the Minerals Plan Review will also be presented to the September Cabinet.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 I have attended four meetings of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) since the last Executive Report to County Council , in November, December, January and March.
- 4.2 There was a special HIPP meeting in January to agree a proposition to be put to the County Leaders Group, to carry out work to investigate the scope for closer joint working on strategic planning and infrastructure issues. The Leaders Group subsequently agreed to the proposal, and will receive a further report in September setting out a set of recommendations.
- 4.3 I have also attended meetings of the Harlow Co-op Board in December 2016, January 2017 and February 2017.

5. Other comments

- 5.1 I attended the UK Bus Conference in February to hear an update on the emerging Buses Bill which offers the scope to make bus travel more attractive. The Bill is out to consultation on its likely impacts and opportunities. It was also interesting to listen to a presentation from Devon County Council on total transport. In particular it was useful to hear about their experiences with the

extent and limitations of community transport replacing bus services as well as the importance of engaging all local stakeholders.

- 5.2 I also attended UK Bus Summit where the main areas of discussion were on the Buses Bill, how local authority powers can be used to tackle congestion, and reducing emissions to improve air quality.
- 5.3 I was pleased to attend the launch of the St Albans Bus Shuttle pilot on 3 February at St Albans Abbey Station. In attendance was the Mayor of St Albans, Sandy Walkington, London Midland and local businesses. The launch consisted of a trip on the bus through St Albans, St Peters Street and St Albans Station. A marketing campaign for the St Albans Shuttle is now under way and usage is being monitored.
- 5.4 The Government has just published its Housing White Paper 'Fixing our broken housing market'. As part of the White Paper there are a number of proposals to further reform the planning system, which are to be subject of a consultation exercise until May 2017. Most of these reforms will impact upon District Councils in terms of seeking to speed up the delivery of new housing. The Government has also indicated that it intends to bring forward proposals for amending the current Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 system in the autumn.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel has met on 7 December 2016 and 1 February 2017. . The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[7 December 2016](#)

[1 February 2017](#)

Derrick Ashley
Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport
March 2017