

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 (10 April 2017, 23 May 2017, 26 June 2017 and 10 July 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council. There were no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 23 May 2017

- 2.1 There have been no additional consequences for this Portfolio, regarding Cabinet decisions taken before May 2017.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

- 3.1 The September meeting of Cabinet will be considering a Draft Local Transport Plan, which will be subject to public consultation later this year.
- 3.2 The September Cabinet will also be considering a report on the Approval of sites to be identified within the forthcoming Draft Minerals Local Plan, which will also be subject to public consultation later this year.

4. Key Partnerships

- 4.1 On 22 March I attended a meeting of the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership. The meeting received a presentation on the Hertfordshire Water Study and also a presentation on Rail issues in the County. The meeting also agreed to proposals for taking forward work on examining the potential for joint planning in Hertfordshire.
- 4.2 On 13 April I attended a meeting of the West Essex Economy and Infrastructure Board.
- 4.3 On 2 June I attended the Abbey Line Community Rail Fund Day.

5. Other comments

- 5.1 The Lead Local Flood Authority's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy remains on programme to be presented to the September Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel. This will be accompanied by an update on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Hertfordshire which has been developed in consultation with the Environment Agency and, further to consideration by Panel, will be submitted to Government
- 5.2 The Bus Services Act 2017 was given Royal Assent in April 2017. The Act has three key elements concerning Franchising, Partnership and Open Data. Announcements on the secondary legislation and guidance for franchising are expected shortly. A paper on the potential opportunities presented by the Act

was presented to Members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Panel in June; a more detailed paper to be presented later in the year outlining options for Members to consider on how Hertfordshire can maximise the full potential for Hertfordshire

- 5.3 Rights of Way Improvement Plan – all stakeholder engagement has been completed with officers assessing and incorporating the feedback before bringing a final paper to a future Environment, Planning & Transport Panel in the autumn.
- 5.4 Transport Review - a comprehensive review of the Council's passenger transport operations is being conducted to explore opportunities to identify ways to sustainably reduce underlying revenue costs whilst preserving or improving service levels and quality standards. Working with consultants the objective is to identify a program of change that will deliver efficiency options, cost reductions, income generation and service improvements. An initial report is expected in late July.
- 5.5 I have written to the Secretary of State for Transport following a meeting I had with senior civil servants in April, setting out our emerging proposals for the A414 Corridor and the need to give support to Local Authorities to deliver innovative approaches to the funding of infrastructure to support growth.
- 5.6 I remain extremely concerned about the revised timetable for the Govia Thameslink Services in the County, which will lead to the cessation of trains between Watton at Stone and Stevenage. I will continue to work with partners to lobby for the proposal to be revised.
- 5.7 Given the enormous development pressures emerging from the local planning process, I have continued to emphasise to Local Planning Authorities the importance of effective partnership working in order to deliver essential supporting infrastructure. The County Council will be working with the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership to investigate how to fund future investment in infrastructure provision and a workshop on this topic, with councillors and officers from the 11 planning authorities in the county, will be taking place on 25 July.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel has met on 29 March 2017 and 30 June 2017. . The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel - 29 March 2017](#)
[Environment, Planning & Transport Cabinet Panel - 30 June 2017](#)

Derrick Ashley
Executive Member for Environment, Planning & Transport
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