

EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: RESOURCES, PROPERTY AND THE ECONOMY

1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council

- 1.1 There will have been four meetings of Cabinet (on 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 related to this portfolio at the April and May Cabinet meetings. At the June Cabinet meeting, the items of business attributed to this portfolio were:

Cabinet - 26 June 2017

2016/17 Finance Report Q4 and Carry Forward Reprogramming Requests

[Forward plan reference: A011/17]

Cabinet noted the Quarter 4 (January – March) budget monitor report, summarising the final outturn position against revenue and capital budgets for 2016/17. For revenue, the forecast outturn position (subject to any adjustments as a result of the external audit of the 2016/17 accounts) is an under-spend against budget after proposed carry forwards of £3.265m. Cabinet approved the proposed carry forwards items and agreed to transfer the net underspend to the Invest to Transform Reserve, to fund initiatives that will help deliver savings required in the Integrated Plan.

Revised 2017/18 Adult Care Services Budget following additional Social Care Funding [Forward plan reference: A013/17]

Cabinet approved the revised Adult Care Services budget proposals for 2017/18. County Council agreed the Integrated Plan for the period 2017/18 to 2019/20 at its meeting on 21 February 2017. In agreeing the Integrated Plan, County Council was advised by the Director of Resources that proposals were contingent on receiving £8.5m funding from Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG). Following the budget setting meeting a number of changes occurred; HVCCG confirmed on the 9 March 2017 the withdrawal of its funding of £8.5m to Hertfordshire County Council with a one-off transitional amount of £4.5m to be made available for the 2017/18 financial year. East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group (ENH CCG) indicated their intention to remove £4.25m of funding from 2017/18.

In addition, at the March Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced additional funding for Social Care services, which have since been referred to as the new improved Better Care Fund (iBCF). For Hertfordshire, the additional funding in 2017/18 was £13.2m.

Given the significance of all of these changes it was determined that a revised budget should be brought forward for agreement at June Cabinet.

- 1.2 Items of business attributed to this portfolio at the July Cabinet are set out at paragraph 3 below:

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

2.1 Integrated Plan (IP): the 2017/18 IP has been approved and work continues on refreshing the IP for the period 2018/19 – 2021/22, including developing proposals to meet the forecast funding gap over this period. The 2017/18 budget has been adjusted for £13m additional government funding for social care, announced after the IP was approved. As noted above, the amended budget was approved at the meeting of Cabinet in June.

2.2 To Consider Whether to Obtain Land in Stevenage for Strategic Purposes [Forward Plan ref: A067/16]: Further to Cabinet agreement at its December meeting, the freehold title land at Q3 building, Caxton way, Stevenage has been acquired. Strategic options for potential short and longer term uses of this site are being developed.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 Cabinet - 10 July 2017

Acquisition of Land in Buntingford for a 2 Form Entry (FE) first school site [Forward plan reference: A031/17]

Cabinet will be invited to approve the acquisition of land at London Road, Buntingford for the purposes of securing a new 2fe first school site to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet future demand in the area, on terms to be approved by the Director of Resources in consultation with the Executive Members for Resources, Property & the Economy and Education, Libraries and Localism.

Hertfordshire County Council Property Development Programme – Property Company [Forward plan reference: A033/17]

In March 2017 Cabinet agreed that the Director of Resources should commence a formal procurement process (known as an OJEU – based on placing a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union) to seek a preferred partner for a joint venture property development vehicle by December 2017. This process has commenced and is on schedule. Cabinet also agreed the Director of Resources should bring a Business Case and associated papers back to Cabinet to approve the setting up of a wholly County Council owned subsidiary company that will work directly with a joint venture partner and other providers to develop land and building assets that are surplus to operational need.

At its meeting on 10 July, Cabinet will be asked to approve the establishment of the wholly owned subsidiary, including authorising the appointment of directors of the company, providing indemnities to Officers appointed as directors of the company and to delegate authority to the Director of Resources to exercise the rights of the County Council as shareholder and authorise the Chief Legal Officer, in consultation with the Director of Resources, to take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to finalise the documentation required to establish the company.

3.2 Cabinet – 25 September 2017

Review of Financial Regulations [Forward plan reference: A010/17]: Finance Regulations are reviewed regularly and any changes brought to full Council for approval. The regulations are currently being reviewed and although no significant changes have been identified, the proposed draft will include some clarifications and improvements to make the Regulations easier to navigate.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP):

The LEP has been working to appoint four new business leaders to join the LEP Board. Details of appointees will be shared as soon as they are confirmed.

The LEP Board on 29 June took place at East Herts District Council's Wallfields offices. The Board reviewed the new Herts LEP website which went live on 4 July <http://www.hertfordshirelep.com/>, approved the revised Strategic Economic Plan, and approved a number of funding bids including the BRE Open Innovation Hub and projects to support the regeneration of Stevenage.

4.2 London Stansted Cambridge Consortium:

Following the appointment of LSCC Chair Alexandra Jones to the role of Director of Industrial Strategy at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the recruitment of a new chair has commenced.

The Annual LSCC Conference took place on 20 June with sessions on Space to Grow – the challenge for Cambridge; Promoting the Global hi-tech cluster in the corridor; Improving Connectivity and Infrastructure; Future priorities for growth – the Jobs, Homes or Greenbelt tension; Skills – meeting the needs of the hi-tech economy.

The LSCC board will next meet on 12 July [papers not yet received at the time of drafting this report].

4.3 Visit Hertfordshire:

The Visit Herts Partnership Group met on 11 May and reviewed the Herts Big Weekend event held in the Spring and the recent UKinbound Destination Workshop where 20 Hertfordshire tourism businesses had one to one meetings with key international tour operators to put Hertfordshire firmly on the map. The Group also agreed to hold a Workshop on developing apprenticeships and careers in the Tourism and Hospitality business in response to emerging staff and skills shortages in the sector. The Partnership is also in the process of bidding for Discover England Funding to take forward two new projects/campaigns.

Since then, I have been delighted to confirm that Go to Places (Visit Kent) have been awarded a three year contract to continue to deliver Hertfordshire's Destination Management organisation Visit Herts. The new contract begins on 1 August and was awarded following a rigorous OJEU (Official Journal of the

European Union) procurement process by Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the County Council. <http://visitherts.co.uk/>

5. Other comments

- 5.1 The County Council and the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership have both responded to the consultation framed by the Government's Green Paper, *Building our Industrial Strategy*.

6. Cabinet Panels

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel has met on 23 June 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Resources, Property & the Economy - 23 June 2017](#)

David Williams

Executive Member for Resources, Property and the Economy
July 2017