

## EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, LIBRARIES AND LOCALISM

### 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. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### 10 April 2017 Cabinet

Cabinet authorised the Director of Children's Services to publish statutory notices:

- to lower the admission age of Tenterfield Nursery School, London Road, Welwyn, AL6 9JF, to enable the school to offer nursery provision to 2-year-old children from 1 September 2017; and
- to enlarge the premises of Millfields First School, Buntingford; St. Catherine's Primary School, Hoddesdon; and St. Joseph's Primary School, Bishop's Stortford, each by 0.5 form of entry from September 2018. Cabinet also authorised the capital costs of those schemes.

#### 26 June 2017 Cabinet

Cabinet resolved that the County Council conclude an agreement with the Goffs 'Generations' Multi-Academy Trust around the sponsorship of Cheshunt School, with the final details of the financial contributions required to be agreed by the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Executive Members for Resources, Property and the Economy and Education, Libraries and Localism, within the parameters set out in the Part II report.

#### 10 July 2017 Cabinet

see paragraph 3 below.

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

- 2.1 None.

### 3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

#### 3.1 10 July 2017 Cabinet

Cabinet will be notified that there have been no objections to the statutory proposals it agreed in April to enlarge the premises of three primary phase schools and that the Director of Children's Services has determined the proposals using her delegated powers. (It is worth noting too that there were no

objections to the proposal approved at the same time to lower the age range of Tenterfield Nursery School which has also been determined by the Director).

Cabinet will also be asked to agree to:

- the application of S106 funds to various school expansion projects; and
- the acquisition of Land in Buntingford for a 2 f.e. first school site.

#### **4. Key Partnerships**

##### **4.1 Schools Forum**

I attended a meeting of Schools Forum on 28 June 2017.

##### **4.2 Hertfordshire Armed Forces Covenant**

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Chairman of the Covenant Board and am looking forward to my first meeting with this important partnership on 26 July 2017.

In the past month we have supported the Armed Forces Day flag raising ceremony at County Hall, Reserves Day, and the promotion of the Covenant at the Herts County Show. Over the next year we will again be running the Christmas schools' competition (this year celebrating the RAF's centenary).

The Board will also continue to support WW1/WW2 commemorations, most notably the forthcoming Battle of St Julien centenary, where the Hertfordshire Regiment lost over 450 men. A memorial for the Hertfordshire Regiment will be unveiled in Belgium on 31 July 2017 to mark the anniversary of this battle at Ypres. There will also be a Special Evensong at All Saints Church, Hertford on 30 July and on 31 July a short service will take place at the Hertford Town Memorial for the last post and wreath laying.

#### **5. Other comments**

##### **5.1 Bishop's Hatfield Girls School**

On 19 June, I attended the opening of the newly re-built Bishop's Hatfield Girls School by Lady Salisbury. The school is one of 7 schools in Hertfordshire to be re-built under the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme.

##### **5.2 Volunteering**

The Year of Volunteering came to a close during Volunteers Week (1-7 June 2017). The week was marked by sharing some fresh new case studies via our social media channels and blog, as well as circulating a final monthly newsletter to over 500 partners summarising the achievements of the campaign.

Most service areas that work with volunteers have recorded an increase in their volunteer numbers from 2015/16 to 2016/17, in conjunction with the campaign. For example, the number of library volunteers increased from 1,007 to 1,164 and

the number of Countryside Management Service volunteers rose from 403 to 443.

#### **5.4 Local Partnerships**

We hosted our annual partnership meeting with Parish and Town Councils on 3 July at Hertfordshire Development Centre, Stevenage. Organised in conjunction with the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils, the event offered the opportunity for the County Council to meet with Parish and Town Councils to discuss how we can work better together in relation to the following key themes: planning, community resilience and managing flood risk.

I have also begun to attend district Local Strategic Partnership meetings, at which my Deputy and I act as the County Council's representatives. So far, I have attended meetings of St Albans on 9 June, Hertsmere on 13 June and Three Rivers on 14 June.

#### **5.5 Hertfordshire Compact**

Since the previous report, I am pleased to announce a further seven organisations have signed up to the Hertfordshire Compact; a total of 34. The refreshed Compact was launched one year ago this month and the first annual survey to gauge its success is due to be 'live' from July to September.

The Community Wellbeing team continue to work closely with the voluntary and community sector to increase the role it has in working in partnership with statutory agencies to support the most vulnerable in our society. Examples of work currently being undertaken is the development of a 'Social Prescribing' approach with Health colleagues, upskilling of voluntary organisations to work more effectively with personal budgets and effective partnership work with the Fire Service in the countywide roll out of Safe and Well visits.

#### **5.6 Libraries**

On 16 March, the previous Executive Member with responsibilities for Libraries, Teresa Heritage, welcomed Rob Wilson MP, Minister for Civil Society, to officially open the new state-of-the-art Hemel Hempstead Library, and Hertfordshire's first CreatorSpace facility in the newly refurbished Watford Central Library.

On 6 June, I responded to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Topic Group on Inspiring Libraries held on 20 March 2017.

I have begun to visit our libraries across the county and in the week beginning 19 June, I visited three public planning exhibitions to meet residents in Sawbridgeworth, Redbourn and Wheathampstead and discuss plans to co-locate libraries with retained fire stations in these towns.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Education, Enterprise & Skills Cabinet Panel has met on 6 April 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Education, Enterprise & Skills Cabinet Panel - 6 April 2017](#)

- 6.2 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel has met on 20 June 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Education, Libraries & Localism Cabinet Panel - 20 June 2017](#)

**Terry Douris**  
**Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Localism**  
**July 2017**