

## **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 (18 July 2017, 25 September 2017, 23 October 2017, and 13 November 2017) since the last Executive Report to County Council. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### Cabinet - 25 September 2017

Cabinet approved the Sites for inclusion in the Draft Minerals Local Plan

#### Cabinet - 23 October 2017

Cabinet approved the Draft Local Transport Plan 4 for public consultation.

### **2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 18 July 2017**

- 2.1 There are no consequences of Cabinet decisions taken before 18 July 2017 to report.

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

#### 3.1 Cabinet – 13 November 2017

Forward Plan ref: A037/17 - Approval to undertake a public consultation on the Draft Minerals Local Plan (2016-2031) including policies and proposed specific sites, preferred and/or areas of search for mineral extraction. Cabinet will be invited to recommend that County Council approves the Draft Minerals Local Plan for public consultation.

Forward Plan ref: A038/17 - Approval to undertake an initial consultation on the review of the Waste Local Plan (including broad issues and options). Cabinet will be invited to recommend that County Council approves consultation on the Review of the Waste Local Plan.

Forward Plan ref: A049/17 – Adoption of the new Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Cabinet will be invited to approve adoption of the new Plan.

#### Cabinet – 18 December 2017

Forward Plan ref: A077/17 – Review of current financial arrangements with Groundwork East and the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. Cabinet will be invited to consider current and future financial arrangements with the Groundwork East and the Trust.

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

- 4.1 On 25 July I attended a Conference on Viability and the Funding of Infrastructure held at the Fielder Centre, Hatfield, which brought together work which had been jointly commissioned with the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP).
- 4.2 On the 26 July the Environment Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel had a Member Tour of potential development locations and major transport proposals, in the A414 Corridor.
- 4.3 Since the last County Council meeting I have attended a number of meetings of the Harlow Co-op Board, which have discussed progress on the various developments in an around Harlow, together with the local plans. In addition, on the 16 October I attended a workshop of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town Board, which was focussed on examining sustainable transport solutions for the developments in and around Harlow. As part of this group I have visited a number of strategic housing sites across the south and east to learn lessons about the delivery of high quality new development.
- 4.4 On 1 August there was a meeting of the A414 Member Group, which focussed on the Transport Strategy work currently being progressed. On 6 October the A414 Group also met for an update on the work being carried out and also for a tour of the Corridor to visit the key locations where transport interventions are likely to be needed.
- 4.5 On the 12 September I chaired a meeting of the Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership. Work is continuing to explore service improvements and the possibilities of a new passing loop on the line.
- 4.6 On 13 September I attended a meeting which had been called to explore interest in a Sub National Transport Board for the East of England.
- 4.7 On 13 September I also attended the first meeting of HIPP since the Election. The main item on the Agenda was a presentation by the consultants appointed to carry out work on options for the Future of Planning in Hertfordshire Project. Further work is to be undertaken on this Project, with a view to reporting back to the County Leaders Group in the New Year.
- 4.8 On 20 September I attended a meeting with Members from Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough and North Hertfordshire District Council to discuss passenger transport issues to the east of Luton, including the possible extension of the Luton Busway.
- 4.9 On 27 September I attended a meeting of the Essex, Enfield and Hertfordshire Border Liaison Group. The meeting received presentations on proposals for Junction 25 of the M25; work on the Enfield Northern Gateway Access project; and the Broxbourne Transport Study..
- 4.10 On 3 October I attended a meeting of the East Coast Mainline Authorities Group in York.

- 4.11 On the 10 October I attended a meeting of the A1 Consortium, where updates were given on the Local Transport Plan, East – West Rail, and the Growth and Transport Plans that will cover this corridor.

## **5. Other comments**

### Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 5.1 The consultation draft of the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be presented to the meeting of Environment Planning and Transportation Cabinet Panel on 5 February 2018 before going out for consultation with key stakeholders and the public. Following the consultation it will be finalised and reviewed by the Panel before being presented to Cabinet for adoption later in the year.
- 5.2 It is a statutory document which the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority is required to produce. It sets a framework for how local flood risk in Hertfordshire will be managed by the County Council and other bodies such as district councils, the Environment agency and the Water and Sewerage companies. This is a revision of the first strategy and will cover the period 2018 – 2028.

### Passenger Transport

- 5.3 Education Bus Tickets (local bus only) have now been launched as “smart tickets”. We will now be able to collect data on the usage of the individual child using that local bus and how often they are using that bus to go to school. This is expected to assist with driving costs down.
- 5.4 A second Intalink operator workshop has recently taken place which has collated the views and issues from operators. The results will be incorporated into a revised Bus and Intalink Strategy.

### Access & Rights of Way

- 5.5 The revised draft of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) went to the Cabinet Panel on the 1 November and is due to go to Cabinet on 13 November for adoption; the new plan covers a 10 year period.
- 5.6 The Access and Rights of Way (RoW) Service is currently engaging existing and new suppliers and stakeholders, including town and parish councils, on the procurement of the new annual path clearance contracts (mowing, strimming and siding-up). Approximately 1670 paths are cut twice a year, at a current value of £133k; a significant proportion of the overall RoW operating budget. The re-procurement aims to build-in quality, responsiveness from contractors, and value for money and will be awarded in time for the 1 April 2018.

### Countryside Management Service

- 5.7 In February, this year I announced that Countryside Management Service (CMS) had secured £251k in the form of a Parks for People Lottery Phase 1 grant to prepare for work at “Castle Park” in Bishop’s Stortford. If successful, the full award of more than £2million will be released to the partnership between East Herts Council and Bishop’s Stortford Town Council. This will enable the delivery of improvements that bring together Castle Gardens and Sworders Field and further engagement of the local community.

### Lee Valley Regional Park

- 5.8 This year is the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Lee Valley Regional Park (LVRP). Discussions are ongoing to further improve the facilities offered in Hertfordshire including more investment in the White Water Centre and opening up land at Spitalbrook for public access.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel has met on 7 September 2017, 5 October 2017 and 1 November 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel - 7 September 2017](#)

[Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel - 5 October 2017](#)

[Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel - 1 November 2017](#)

**Derrick Ashley**  
**Executive Member for Environment, Planning and Transport**  
**November 2017**