

**EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & LOCALISM****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

Additional school places. Cabinet considered a report which included proposals for a contribution to be made to a school based project to expand St. Michael's CoE Primary school in St. Albans; an additional classroom for The Leys Primary school in Stevenage; and the application of S106 funds in connection with school provision to serve the High Leigh housing development in Hoddesdon. Cabinet approved the contribution of the capital costs of these individual schemes and to the application of S106 funds set out in paragraph 5.3 of the report. Cabinet's decision will enable an additional 8 primary school places at St. Michael's to be made available on a permanent basis as close as possible to an area of demand in the city centre; for The Leys to be able continue to fill its Published Admission Number; and ensure that feasibility work for primary school provision for the High Leigh development can commence as and when required.

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

- 2.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2017 Cabinet agreed that the County Council should conclude an agreement with Goffs Generation Multi-Academy Trust around the sponsorship of Cheshunt school. I am pleased to report that the terms for such an agreement have been reached with the Trust and that the Regional Schools Commissioner has also approved the inclusion of Cheshunt School in the Academy Trust. The legal documentation to formalise all of this is nearing completion.

**3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet****3.1 Cabinet – 13 November 2017**

Forward Plan ref: A035/17 – Future management of the County Council's Art Collection

Forward Plan ref: A036/17 Proposed consultation on the County Council's Admission Arrangements

Forward Plan ref: A044/17 – To consider whether to publish a statutory notice in respect of a proposal to change the age range of Widford School, Ware to allow nursery-aged children to be admitted from the age of 2

Forward Plan ref: A045/17 – To consider whether to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal to increase the number of places by 8 at both Haywood Grove Social, Emotional and Mental Health Special School and Woodfield Severe Learning Difficulties Special School

Forward Plan ref: A046/17 – Inspiring Libraries Strategy Phase Two Implementation 2018 – 2021

Forward Plan ref: A047/17 – Alternative delivery model for Library Service

Forward Plan ref: A053/17 - Whether to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal for the closure of Redbourn Junior school and the increase of age range at Redbourn Infants & Nursery school from 3-7 years old to 3-11 years old

Forward Plan ref: A054/17 - Whether or not to publish statutory notices on the increase of number of places at Meadow Wood Moderate Learning Difficulties (special) school by 8.

#### Cabinet – 18 December 2017

Forward Plan ref: A056/17 – To consider the future of Hertfordshire Music Service

#### 2018

I expect to seek Cabinet approval to further primary and secondary school expansion programmes and funding approvals, where necessary, in the first part of 2018.

## **4. Key Partnerships**

### Armed Forces Covenant

- 4.1 Since my last report, the Covenant Board met on 26 July and again on 1 November. It continues to support the Ministry of Defence's national priorities around health, education, housing and communicating the Covenant; the latter is the partnership's current key focus. The communications aspect of the Covenant is delivered through training public facing staff, the annual Christmas Schools Art competition and community engagement initiatives.
- 4.2 I am proud to confirm that the Hertfordshire County Council has had its Silver Award for the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme successfully revalidated, continuing to recognising the council as a *Forces Friendly* employer.
- 4.3 The Board continues to support centenary activities relating to World War One including commemorative stone-laying ceremonies in the home towns of Victoria

Cross recipients on the one hundredth anniversary of their award. Last month in Watford, Major George Pearkes was honoured and the next of these will take place in September 2018 in Hitchin to honour VC recipient Frank Young.

#### Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership

- 4.4 The Partnership last met on 5 October, at which progress on the development of the Hertfordshire Year of Physical Activity was reported. Partners were also informed of preparations underway to run a Hertfordshire Year of Culture in 2020.

#### Relationship with the voluntary and community sector

- 4.5 Since my previous report, I am pleased to announce a further five organisations have signed up to the Hertfordshire Compact; bringing the total to 39. The first annual survey, to gauge the success of the Compact and determine the future work programme of the partnership group took place from July to September. The results so far have been positive with nearly 80% of respondents regarding the Hertfordshire Compact as important; there were also a number of positive suggestions of how this could be progressed further.

### **5. Other comments**

#### Local Democracy Week

- 5.1 Local Democracy Week ran from the 9-15 October this year. To commemorate this, the Chairman hosted a schools' debate at which pupils had the opportunity to debate a project to expand a local school. Involving pupils from Broxbourne School, Hertfordshire & Essex High School, Thomas Alleyne Academy and Watford Grammar School for Girls; the event was well received.
- 5.2 Alongside this, some of our young commissioners shared their experiences of getting involved in decision making at the County Council through our social media channels and an interview with BoB FM.

#### Libraries & Heritage

- 5.3 On Saturday 15 July, I attended the countywide launch of the 2017 Summer Reading Challenge (Animal Agents). This year's Summer Reading Challenge was the most successful ever in Hertfordshire Libraries, with 21,681 children participating across the County.
- 5.4 On 27 July, I hosted a visit to Hertfordshire Libraries by Kathy Settle (Chief Executive of the National Libraries Taskforce) and Simon Richardson (Head of Libraries Policy for the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)). Our visitors learned about Hertfordshire's 'Inspiring Libraries' Strategy, toured the new Hemel Hempstead Library and CreatorSpace, and visited the Community Library at Redbourn, where they met representatives of the volunteer steering group.

- 5.5 On 2 October, I attended an event at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies to celebrate its achievement of Accredited Archive status (the national quality mark for archive services). I was presented with the certificate of accreditation by Isobel Hunter, Head of Archive Service Development at The National Archives.
- 5.6 On 9 October, I was pleased to perform the official opening ceremony for the new library at Berkhamsted, which opened its doors to the public in May. The new library provides a state-of-the-art library facility, complete with a community meeting room on the ground floor, as part of a new residential development in the centre of Berkhamsted High Street.
- 5.7 During Libraries Week (a national celebration of public libraries from 9-15 October), I set myself the goal of visiting all 46 Hertfordshire Libraries in a week. I achieved this by Saturday lunchtime, having travelled the length and breadth of the County.
- 5.8 I am pleased to report that again children in Hertfordshire have achieved above the national average in 2017 in all the key attainment indicators for GCSEs – the Attainment 8 score, proportion achieving grades 4+ and 5+ in both English and Maths, and proportions entering and achieving the full range of English Baccalaureate subjects. For most indicators Hertfordshire remains in the top quintile of local authorities. For Attainment 8 – the summary measure of children’s attainment at GCSE – Hertfordshire was ranked 20<sup>th</sup> amongst local authorities nationally and improved our performance relative both to England as a whole, the East of England and our statistical neighbours.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel has met on 14 September 2017 and 7 November 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:-

[Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel - 14 September 2017](#)

[Education, Libraries and Localism Cabinet Panel - 7 November 2017](#)

**Terry Douris**  
**Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism**  
**November 2017**