

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 27 MARCH AT 10.00 A.M.**

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Agenda Item No.

6

This report is made by the Leader of the Council and, together with separate reports from each member of Cabinet, comprises the report under Standing Order 7.

1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council

- 1.1 There will have been four Cabinet meetings (18 December 2017, 22 January 2018, 19 February 2018 and 19 March 2018) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 21 November 2017. The items specifically attributed to me in my capacity as Leader of the Council will be:-

Cabinet – 19 March 2018

- Changes to the Constitution – Annex 6: Cabinet will be invited to recommend to Council changes to Annex 6 of the Constitution which sets out arrangements for meetings of full Council.

2. Employment Committee

- 2.1 On Monday, 5 February the Deputy Leader, Teresa Heritage, chaired the Employment Committee. Agenda items were:

- Salary Review April 2018:
 - Chief Officers, Deputy and Assistant Directors and Heads of Service
 - Chief Executive and Director of Environment
- Pay Policy 2018/19 (an item regarding this is on the agenda at this Council meeting)
- Chief Officer Secondment – update and request to extend backfill arrangement
- Creation of Director of Environment and Infrastructure post (an item regarding this is on the agenda at this Council meeting)

3. Devolution: Local Collaboration

- 3.1 I am involved in a number of conversations which seek to identify the best way forward for Hertfordshire particularly with the lack of clarity at national level regarding formal devolution for two-tier, shire areas. There continues to be sustained local interest in working better together and I am keen to identify and pursue options that might be available to us, other local authorities and public sector organisations in Hertfordshire moving forward.

- 3.2 As part of this work, on Tuesday, 12 December 2017 and Monday 19 February 2018, I chaired meetings of the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group. Membership of this group includes representatives from the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group, Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust, Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and myself. Presentations were given and discussion took place regarding long term strategic planning; housing; community safety; developing a Local Industrial Strategy for Hertfordshire and health.
- 3.3 The fourth Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Partnership event is scheduled to take place on Thursday 19 April 2018 and discussion took place regarding the content and format of the evening.

4. National / Regional Events

- 4.1 On Friday 1 December 2017 and Friday 23 March 2018, I attended meetings of the South East Strategic Leaders (SESL). This is a partnership of county and unitary authorities committed to nurturing the engine room of the UK economy and promoting public service excellence. The Council has become a member of the partnership.
- 4.2 On Thursday 21 December 2017, I attended the East of England Transport summit in Cambridgeshire. The summit agreed to establish a non-statutory sub-national transport forum for the East of England, to be known as Transport East. The meeting of the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group on 15 February 2018 agreed that Derrick Ashley, Executive Member for Transport, and Linda Haysey, Leader of East Herts District Council, should be the County's representatives on the Forum.
- 4.3 On Friday 19 January 2018, I attended meetings of England's Economic Heartland. This is a partnership of councils and local enterprise partnerships which includes the growth corridor from Oxford through Milton Keynes and across to Cambridge and is providing a single, joined-up voice to Government on infrastructure needs. Its Transport Board is the emerging Sub-National Transport Body for the region. Hertfordshire's growth and our radial corridors from London are key components of this distinct regional economic market with which we share important interdependencies.
- 4.4 On Friday 26 January 2018, the Chief Executive and I attended the East of England Assembly of Council Leaders and Wider South East Joint Summit where the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan and Deputy Mayor, Jules Pipe, outlined the draft London Plan – the Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London.
- 4.5 On Wednesday 31 January 2018, I attended a meeting of the County Councils' Network Executive which considered the Fair Funding Review Consultation, the Government's Industrial Strategy and the LEP Review.

- 4.6 On Wednesday 21 February 2018, I attended a meeting of the National Planning Forum, at which the key topic was: Delivering Growth – progress in sub-regional strategies in England.
- 4.7 On Friday 23 February 2018, I was a judge at Richard Harrington MP's schools' debating competition at Westminster. I took two members of the Council's graduate scheme along to provide them with a better understanding of the work of a local Member of Parliament.
- 4.8 On Wednesday 28 February, I gave evidence at Westminster to an East of England All Party Parliamentary Group session addressing transport and growth. Later that day, the Chief Executive and I attended an East of England Parliamentary Reception
- 4.8 I have had a series of meetings with regional political leaders: Martin Tett of Buckinghamshire County Council, James Jamieson of Central Bedfordshire Council and James Palmer, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

5. Local/Internal events

- 5.1 I have had the opportunity to meet with five of the Chairs of the local NHS bodies and the newly appointed Director of the Hertfordshire and West Essex Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.
- 5.2 On Tuesday 5 December 2017, I met with the latest cohort of the Council's graduate scheme.
- 5.3 On Wednesday 6 December 2017, I addressed the Leadership Forum, comprising senior managers from across the organisation. This provided an opportunity to set out my perspectives on the Council's strengths and the challenges it faces.
- 5.4 On Thursday 15 February 2018, the Chief Executive and I met with representatives of the Local Government Association to consider the Corporate Peer Review that we are aiming to conduct later this year.
- 5.5 On Tuesday 27 February 2018, with the Council being a member of the Stevenage First partnership that has developed the framework for the regeneration of Stevenage town centre, I represented the Council at the launch of the successful procurement by Stevenage Borough Council of development partner Mace who will deliver the first phase of the town centre regeneration known as SG1.
- 5.6 On Monday 5 March 2018, as part of National Apprenticeship Week, I met with some of the Council's Apprentices.
- 5.7 On the evening of Thursday 8 March 2018, I attended the High Sheriff Awards in Sarratt.
- 5.8 On Friday 9 March 2018, I had separate catch up meetings with MPs Oliver Dowden and Mark Prisk.

- 5.9 On Sunday 11 March 2018, I, along with other colleagues, attended the annual Hertfordshire Schools' Gala at the Royal Albert Hall.
- 5.10 On Wednesday 21 March 2018, the Deputy Chairman and I will attend an event held by the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust at its North Weald airbase.

6. Hertfordshire Forward

- 6.1 I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Forward Assembly on Tuesday 13 February 2018 where we considered how the new homes that the county needs can be delivered in a way that is viable, sustainable and with the necessary infrastructure whilst supporting positive social outcomes and providing enhanced quality of life for new and existing residents.

7. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 7.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday 15 February 2018. The key item was a presentation by the Hertfordshire Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) on members' emerging thoughts concerning longer-term strategic and infrastructure planning in Hertfordshire. The Leaders agreed to consider a business plan to take this work forward at their next meeting.
- 7.2 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on either Thursday 12 or Thursday 26 April 2018.

8. Forward Plan – [March 2018]

- 8.1 I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 2 March 2018.

[Cabinet - 18 December 2017](#)

[Cabinet - 22 January 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 19 February 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 19 March 2018](#)

David Williams
Leader of the Council
March 2018