

PORTFOLIO: RESOURCES, PROPERTY AND THE ECONOMY

1. Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council

- 1.1 There will have been 4 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 following items of business were specifically attributed to this portfolio:-

Cabinet - 18 December 2017

A052/17 - Hertfordshire County Council Finance Report – Quarter 2, 2017/18: Cabinet agreed that capital budgets of £63.866m be reprogrammed to 2018/19 or future years; and capital budgets of £1.279m, be reprogrammed from 2018/19 to 2017/18, to meet spend in that year as set out in the report.

A057/17- Sale of the Authority's Share of Hertfordshire Schools Building Partnership: Cabinet agreed and authorised the sale of the County Council's minority interest of 20 shares in Hertfordshire Schools Building Partnership Limited and 180 shares in Hertfordshire Schools Building Partnership Phase 1 Holdings Limited.

A076/17 - Joint Promotion of Land Owned by Hertfordshire County Council and Borough of Broxbourne at Brookfield Riverside: Cabinet agreed that a joint marketing and procurement exercise between the County Council and Broxbourne Council be carried out as soon as possible.

A040/17 - procurement of the Property Development Partner: Cabinet considered the matters set out in Part 1 & Part 2 reports, and authorised the selection of the Preferred Bidder (as agreed in the Part II business).

Cabinet - 22 January 2018

A062/17 – Public Engagement on the 2018/19 – 2021/22 Integrated Plan: Cabinet noted the results of the public engagement activity undertaken and agreed to take this into account when considering the proposed Integrated Plan for 2018/19 – 2021/22.

A061/17 - INTEGRATED PLAN 2018/19 - 2021/22 (incorporating the Strategic Direction and Financial Consequences and the Treasury Management Strategy): Cabinet agreed that the proposed Integrated Plan including the revenue budget and capital programmes for 2018/19 – 2021/22 be presented for review by Service Cabinet Panels, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and Resources and Performance Cabinet Panel, prior to the next Cabinet meeting on 19 February 2018; and approved the release of schools budget data/information to the Department for Education (DfE).

A084/17 - Harpenden Secondary School – Authority to enter into the Development Agreement and lease: Cabinet agreed that the County Council enters into a Development Agreement for a new Secondary School in Harpenden with the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Cabinet further agreed to enter into a lease of the new school with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

A085/17 - Croxley Green Secondary School – Authority to enter into the Development Agreement and Occupation Lease: Cabinet agreed that the County Council enters into a Development Agreement for a new Secondary School in Croxley Green with the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Cabinet also agreed to enter into a lease of the new school with the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

A060/17 - Hertfordshire Skills Strategy to 2020: Cabinet agreed the Hertfordshire Skills Strategy.

Cabinet - 19th February 2018

A063/17 - Comments and Conclusions of the Council's Cabinet Panels on the Integrated Plan Proposals 2018/19 – 2021/22: Cabinet noted the comments and conclusions of the Cabinet Panels on the draft Integrated Plan.

A067/17 - Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals 2018/19 – 2021/22: Report of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Cabinet agreed the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

A065/17 - INTEGRATED PLAN 2018/19 - 2021/22 (incorporating the Strategic Direction and Financial Consequences and the Treasury Management Strategy: Cabinet approved proposed changes to the draft IP to reflect a deferral of the implementation of a price increase to bus Saver Cards and to propose a change to the structure of the Adult Social Care charging arrangements approved by Cabinet in January 2018, and with these changes, and the proposed treatment of additional funding confirmed since the draft Plan was published, approved the revised Integrated Plan for debate and approval at the County Council meeting on 20 February 2018.

A005/18 - St Albans City and District Council Local Plan Call For Sites Consultation (Jan/Feb 2018): Cabinet approved the proposed response to the call for sites and approved a change to the Council's previous policy with regards to land at the former Radlett Aerodrome. Cabinet approved the site's inclusion in this response to allow the City and District Council to consider it for inclusion in their Local Plan for housing rather than a strategic rail freight interchange.

A009/18 - To consider the future of rural estate land at Baldock: Cabinet agreed that this land be declared surplus to County Council requirements and approved its future disposal.

A007/18 - Wheatsheaf Farm, High Canons, Borehamwood – To consider the future of the Farmhouse And Farm Buildings: Cabinet agreed that this site be declared surplus to County Council requirements and approved its future disposal.

A008/18 - Land At Foxgrove Path, South Oxhey – To consider the future of the land: Cabinet agreed that this site be declared surplus to County Council requirements and approved its future disposal.

2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 21 November 2017

2.1 The Potential Transfer of Governance of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service from Hertfordshire County Council to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Cabinet agreed that the County Council should respond to the Police and Crime Commissioner's consultation, opposing the Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to become the Fire & Rescue Authority for Hertfordshire.

Subsequent to this decision, the Home Secretary appointed the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) to perform an independent assessment of the Hertfordshire PCC's local business case. This review concluded in early January and CIPFA submitted a private report to the Home Secretary. At the time of writing, we do not have any indication of when the Home Secretary may make a decision about the future governance of Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service.

2.2 Business Rates Retention Pilot and Business Rates Pool

Cabinet approved the submission of an application to form a Hertfordshire 100% Business Rate Retention Pilot and a Hertfordshire Business Rates Pool.

Whilst the Business Rates Pool application was successful, we were very disappointed that Hertfordshire's application for the Business Rate Retention Pilot was not approved. The principal reason why it was unsuccessful appears to be affordability and government not being able to support all of the high-quality applications they received. We await details of the proposed extension of the pilot arrangements with new bids expected to be welcomed later this year for new pilots in 2019/20.

3. Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet

Cabinet - 19 March 2018

A014/18 - Hertfordshire County Council - Appointment of joint venture property development partner: Cabinet will be asked to approve appointment of a joint venture property development partner.

A015/18] - Proposed acquisition of land to the south of Bygrave Road, Baldock; Cabinet will be invited to consider whether to acquire the land subject of the report.

4. Key Partnerships

4.1 Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The most recent meeting of the LEP Board took place on 14 December at Airbus in Stevenage. The Board received an update on the Enterprise Zone; agreed that an offer be made to the Secretary of State at BEIS for the Herts LEP Local Industrial Strategy to be a strategy development pathfinder; considered a programmes and project approvals update; and received feedback on the Annual Conversation with BEIS.

The LEP's Assurance Framework has been updated to reflect recommendations from the BEIS Best Practice Guidance and the Shared Internal Audit Service audit.

On 9 January, an Overview and Scrutiny seminar was held for Members covering the role and remit of the LEP and how it is addressing the needs of the local economy. A scrutiny of the LEP is proposed for May 2018.

4.2 London Stansted Cambridge Consortium (LSCC)

The LSCC Board met in Peterborough on 18 January. The Board agreed to support the development of Transport East – a Sub-national Transport Body for the East of England; work with BEIS and the Corridor's LEPs to ensure that Local Industrial Strategies are coordinated to reflect the Corridor's positive economic narrative and agreed to formulate a response to the Mayor of London's draft London Plan.

The Consortium agreed to receive a formal proposal asking the Consortium to contribute £30,000 for the West Anglia Taskforce (or an amount consistent with contributions from LEPs, GLA/TfL, Abellio Greater Anglia and Stansted Airport).

The Consortium was shown the developing Innovation Corridor branding and new website.

4.3 Visit Herts

The Visit Herts Partnership Group met on 5 February at Warner Bros.

The 2018 Herts Big Weekend will take place on 24 & 25 March when residents will have the opportunity to secure free entry tickets made available by the county's tourist attractions, venues and destinations. The aim is to give Hertfordshire residents the chance to discover – or rediscover – the things to see and do on their doorstep, and encourage them to spread the word about their county.

Go To Places, that provides the Visit Herts destination management service, has secured £1m from the Discover England Fund for its Gourmet Garden Trails of England project.

5. Other comments

5.1 None.

6. Cabinet Panels

6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel has met on 15 December, 14 February and 15 March. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:

[Resources, Property and the Economy - 15 December 2017](#)

[Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel - 14 February 2018](#)

[Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel - 15 March 2018](#)

David Williams
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March 2018