

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 17 JULY 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 five Cabinet meetings (23 April 2018, 14 May 2018, 25 May 2018, 18 June 2018 and 9 July 2018) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 27 March 2018. The only item of business specifically attributed to me in my capacity as Leader of the Council was:-

Cabinet – 25 May 2018

- Cabinet Panels – Revisions

2. Employment Committee

2.1 On Thursday 7 June I chaired two meetings of the Employment Committee. Agenda items were Recruitment of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and Appointment of a Director of Environment & Infrastructure.

2.2 On Monday 18 June 2018, I chaired the Employment Committee. Items on the agenda were:-

- Pensions Schemes – annual update report on the Local Government Pension Scheme and Fire Fighter Pension Schemes Employer Discretions Usage
- Revisions to the Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Discretions Policy

3. Devolution: Local Collaboration

3.1 I have previously mentioned that 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, the fourth Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Partnership event took place on Thursday 19 April 2018 bringing together 26 organisations and approximately 100 attendees.

- 3.3 Attendees at the Partnership event gave a mandate to the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group to engage with Hertfordshire's MPs to raise awareness of the collaborative work that is being carried out in Hertfordshire. It is anticipated that a meeting with the MPs will take place in the early autumn.
- 3.4 On Wednesday 23 May 2018, I chaired a meeting of the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Steering Group. Membership of this group includes representatives from the Hertfordshire Leaders' Group, Hertfordshire 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 Hertfordshire's response to the Apprenticeship Levy, Local Transport Plan 4 and next steps following the event mentioned at 3.3.

4. National / Regional Events

- 4.1 On Wednesday 28 March 2018, I attended a meeting of the County Councils Network Council which was addressed by Rishi Sunak, MP, the Minister for Local Government.
- 4.2 On Thursday 5 April 2018, I attended the Local Government Association (LGA) Resources Board.
- 4.3 On Friday 6 April 2018 and Friday 18 May 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. It was agreed at Cabinet on 18 June 2018 that the County Council would become full members of this body.
- 4.4 On Tuesday 24 April 2018 and Tuesday 26 June 2018, I gave evidence at Westminster to the East of England All-Party Parliamentary Group sessions addressing infrastructure, investment and housing and the Local Industrial Strategy respectively.
- 4.5 On Wednesday 25 April 2018, I attended a London Stanstead Cambridge Corridor (LSCC) Board meeting and on Wednesday 27 June 2018, I attended the LSCC Conference.
- 4.6 On Thursday 24 May 2018 and Tuesday 10 July 2018, I attended meetings of the County Councils Network Executive.
- 4.7 On Monday 4 June 2018, I attended the inaugural Chamberlain Lecture being given by The Rt Hon Lord Heseltine.
- 4.8 On Friday 15 June 2018, I attended meetings of the South East Strategic Leaders (SESL), including the Annual General Meeting. 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.

- 4.9 On Wednesday 20 June 2018, the Chief Executive and I, along with Derrick Ashley (Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy) attended a County Councils Network conference – Building for the Future.
- 4.10 On Thursday 28 June 2018, I attended the LGA Resources Board and, along with other colleagues, I attended the annual LGA Conference held in Birmingham on 3-5 July 2018.
- 4.11 On Wednesday 11 July 2018, I attended a roundtable discussion involving Hertfordshire, Essex and Crossrail 2.

5. Local / Internal events

- 5.1 On Wednesday 28 March 2018, I attended the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service long service and good conduct medal presentation.
- 5.2 On Thursday 29 March 2018, I attended the launch of the Hertfordshire Science Partnership at the University of Hertfordshire, which was officially launched by Richard Harrington MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).
- 5.3 Following the launch event mentioned in paragraph 5.2, I attended the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Annual Conference at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield, which was opened by Richard Harrington, MP and where plans to develop a Local Industrial Strategy for Hertfordshire were set out.
- 5.4 On Monday 9 April 2018, I had the opportunity to meet with Sandra Matthews-Marsh of Visit Herts.
- 5.5 On Monday 16 April 2018, I, along with other colleagues and officers, attended the signing of the Strategic Joint Venture between the Council's wholly owned property company, Herts Living Ltd, and Morgan Sindall Group.
- 5.6 On Wednesday 18 April, I attended the farewell event for the Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill. Since then, I have had the opportunity to meet with the newly elected Mayor, Peter Taylor, who visited to County Hall on Thursday 14 June 2018.
- 5.7 On Monday 23 April 2018, I attended the opening of the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult manufacturing centre in Stevenage.
- 5.8 On Thursday 10 May 2018, I visited the Council's Integrated Discharge Team at Watford General Hospital.
- 5.9 On Wednesday 16 May 2018, I participated in the scrutiny of the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

- 5.10 On the afternoon of Wednesday 16 May 2018, I attended the opening of De Ramsey and Fisher Court at Rothamsted Research.
- 5.11 The annual County Show took place over the weekend of 27/28 May 2018. The event was well attended and a resounding success. I would like to thank colleagues, members of staff, partners, volunteers and performers, all of whom helped to ensure our marquee was lively, interesting and full of energy all weekend.
- 5.12 On Saturday 2 June 2018, I attended the High Sheriff's Garden Party.
- 5.13 On Tuesday 5 June 2018, I attended the Brookfield Garden Village exhibition.
- 5.14 On the evening of Thursday 7 June 2018, I attended the Inspiring Hertfordshire Awards at St Albans Cathedral.
- 5.15 On Friday 8 June 2018, I met with David Lloyd, Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner to discuss the Addendum to his business case in respect of the possible change of governance of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 5.16 On Monday 11 June 2018, I attended the Local Enterprise Partnership's Apprenticeship Work conference at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield.
- 5.17 On the afternoon of Monday 11 June 2018, I attended the Council's 40 year Long Service Awards event, which was hosted by the Chairman of the County Council.
- 5.18 On Thursday 14 June 2018, I met with Charles Walker, MP to discuss issues around the provision of adult social care.
- 5.19 On the evening of Thursday 14 June 2018, I attended the University of Hertfordshire Annual Court meeting, which focussed on the Local Industrial Strategy.
- 5.20 On Thursday 21 June 2018, I attended the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board Conference.
- 5.21 On Monday 25 June 2018, I met with Stephen McPartland, MP for a general discussion.
- 5.22 On Tuesday 26 June 2018, I attended a Royal Visit at the University of Hertfordshire in Hatfield.
- 5.23 On Friday 6 July 2018, I attended the 70th Anniversary of the NHS East and North Herts NHS Trust at Lister Hospital in Stevenage.
- 5.24 On Saturday 14 July 2018, I attended the Chairman's Garden Party.

6. Hertfordshire Forward

- 6.1 Partnership working across Hertfordshire has developed considerably in the last few years and we now have much stronger and more active partnership working across all sectors. Therefore, to avoid potential duplication of effort, meetings, and events, I have decided the Hertfordshire Forward Strategy Group and Hertfordshire Assembly will cease to meet.
- 6.2 As a Council we remain strongly committed to partnership engagement and recognise the importance of bringing all partners from across the county together to collectively discuss the key issues facing us all. Therefore, the annual Hertfordshire Forward conference will continue and this year's conference will be held on the morning of Wednesday 19 September 2018 at Rothamsted Conference Centre with the theme of Growth and the Local Industrial Strategy.

7. Hertfordshire Leaders' Group (HLG)

- 7.1 A meeting of the HLG took place on Thursday 24 May 2018. Key items on the agenda included a presentation on Health and Social Care from a Local Authority perspective; long term strategic planning in Hertfordshire and feedback following the Hertfordshire Public Sector Leaders' Partnership Event (see 3.2 above). Leaders agreed to a series of facilitated workshops in relation to long term strategic planning and the first of these took place on Thursday 28 June 2018.
- 7.2 The next meeting will take place in July 2018 – date to be confirmed.

8. Forward Plan – July 2018

- 8.1 I invite the County Council to receive the updated Forward Plan dated 6 July 2018.

[Cabinet - 23 April 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 14 May 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 25 May 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 18 June 2018](#)

[Cabinet - 9 July 2018](#)

David Williams
Leader of the Council
July 2018