

# Minutes



To: All Members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services  
Ask for: Stephanie Tarrant  
Ext: 25481

---

## ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT CABINET PANEL, 30 JUNE 2017

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

D A Ashley (Chairman), D J Barnard, S J Boulton, R C Deering, S J Featherstone, N A Hollinghurst, A K Khan, G McAndrew, N A Quinton (substituting for A S B Walkington), A Stevenson (Vice-Chairman), J A West

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel meeting on 30 June 2017 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

*Note: No Declarations of interest were made.*

### PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP AND REMIT OF THE PANEL

The membership and remit of the Environment, Planning and Transport Cabinet Panel were noted.

#### 2. MINUTES

2.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 29 March 2017 were agreed.

#### 3. PUBLIC PETITIONS

3.1 There were no public petitions.

#### 4. ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT PERFORMANCE MONITOR

[Officer Contact: Simon Aries, Assistant Director Transport, Waste & Environmental Management, Tel: 01992 555255 / Jan Hayes-Griffin, Assistant Director Planning & Economy, Tel: 01992 555203]

4.1 The Panel considered a report which detailed the performance of Environment, Planning and Transport Services for the fourth quarter,

### ACTION

January - March 2017, against the Environment Department Service Plan 2016-2020 including key performance indicators, major projects, contracts and identified risks. Members noted that the indicators used in the performance monitor were currently under review to improve their relevance and usefulness.

- 4.2 Members heard that the indicators relating to bus stops and health walks were all meeting the agreed targets. Hertfordshire's Heath Walks scheme was the biggest in the country and Members were encouraged to attend a local walk. It was noted that the Countryside Management Service (CMS) delivered a third of all volunteer hours across the County Council with CMS coordinating volunteers who lead 60 health walks per week and deliver improvements to rights of way and environmental conservation on greenspace.
- 4.3 Paragraph 4.7 of the report was discussed. It was noted that in most cases planning applications were decided within the allocated 13 weeks' timescale and where this had not been possible, due to the complexity of an application, an extension of time has been agreed with the applicants.

**Conclusions:**

- 4.4 The Cabinet Panel noted the report and commented, as above, on the performance monitor for Quarter 4 2016-17.

**5. NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT, "SLOW THE FLOW" IN HERTFORDSHIRE 2017/18 TO 2020/21**

[Officer Contact: John Rumble, Head of Environmental Resource Planning, Tel: 01992 556296]

- 5.1 Members received a report detailing a new flood risk management project being undertaken by the County Council to address surface water flooding using natural flood management techniques, for which funding has been secured over a two year period.
- 5.2 Two pilot studies had been considered in areas that had faced several flooding issues and the aim was to test techniques to see if they could prevent flooding by diverting water out of direct conflict with homes. Members noted that the success of the project would be reported back both during and towards the end of project.
- 5.3 Members welcomed the initiative and discussed whether the district and borough councils had any responsibilities to provide funding to continue these programmes. It was advised that the County Council was in talks with St Albans and Dacorum Borough Councils with regards to the project and that it was noted that cooperation in terms of development and future opportunities was being sought.

**5.4 Conclusion:**

The Cabinet Panel noted the content of the report.

## **6. HERTFORDSHIRE BUILDING FUTURES – UPDATE REPORT**

[Officer Contact: Rachael Donovan, Natural, Historic and Built Environment Advisory Team Leader, Tel: 01992 556294]

- 6.1 The Panel reviewed a report on the Hertfordshire Building Futures initiative, set up in 2007 to help secure high quality, sustainable development in the county. Originally all 11 Hertfordshire Local Authorities were involved, however, three years ago Stevenage and Broxbourne Borough Councils withdrew from the partnership. The county council project manages/ leads the initiative.
- 6.2 Members heard that partners have re-confirmed their commitment to the initiative, including financial. Partners have identified a need for masterplanning/ design support for site allocations/ large schemes. The Hertfordshire Design Review Panel offers this support and is increasingly used in this way. Examples include Bishop's Stortford North and the redevelopment of Bircherley Green, Hertford.
- 6.3 Members heard that a biennial Building Futures Awards scheme was established in 2009, with the next awards due to take place in 2018. It was advised that sponsors were currently being sought for the awards to ensure costs are covered albeit officer time.
- 6.4 Members discussed the overall cost of the service to the County Council and heard that the biggest cost had been the development of the toolkit, now complete. The ongoing costs were related to hosting the website and keeping the technical information up-to-date. Members heard that there was a £2500 annual subscription fee from each district and the Design Review Panel was a chargeable service costing between £2000 and £7000 depending on the size and complexity of the scheme, this fee also covered officer time at £90 per hour.

### **Conclusion:**

- 6.5 The Cabinet Panel noted the report and reaffirmed the county council's support for the initiative.

## **7. BUS SERVICES ACT 2017**

[Officer Contact: Matt Dale, Passenger Transport Manager, Tel: 019920 588633]

- 7.1 Members reviewed a report updating the Panel on the Bus Services Act 2017, which received Royal Assent on the 27 April 2017. Members heard that from April 2017 there had been a commitment from Government to widen powers for combined authority areas with or without directly elected Mayors to be in control of running their local bus services, with the aim to improve the quality of service. The three main elements of the Act included; franchising, partnership and open data and ticketing.
- 7.2 Members acknowledged that there was already a good Intalink partnership within Hertfordshire with all the local bus services signed

up and was a good start towards working to an 'Advanced' or 'Enhanced Partnership'.

7.3 It was noted that under s.18 of the Act the Secretary of State could make regulations regarding the release of open data, which would legislate commercial bus companies.

7.4 Members acknowledged that bus operators were not in favour of the franchise option but it was discussed that some outcomes of the Act were still achievable via one of the Partnership options that may include powers currently wrestling with which the Traffic Commissioner .

7.5 It was noted that a further report with proposals for Hertfordshire would be brought back to the Panel in the autumn for consideration.

Passenger  
Transport  
Manager

7.6 In response to a Members concern on what enforcement rights the County Council would have to improve bus service quality under a 'Enhanced Partnership', Members heard that the County Council only support 6% of bus services in Hertfordshire and that that the vast majority were of services were provided by unregulated commercial companies. It was advised that the County Council could elect to obtain licencing powers from the Traffic Commissioner, which would help give control over services as providers could be asked to improve or not have their licence renewed.

7.7 Members noted that bus usage was at an all-time high since 1988 and discussed the requirement to look seriously at the franchise option.

#### **Conclusion:**

7.8 The Cabinet Panel noted the report.

### **8. PLANNING AND GROWTH IN HERTFORDSHIRE**

[Officer Contact: Paul Donovan, Team Leader Strategic Land Use, Tel: 01992 556289]

8.1 Members received a report detailing the scale of future growth in Hertfordshire.

8.2 Members considered the cumulative impact of growth across the County on Education Services and the Highways Network. It was important for the County Council to maintain good relationships with the Local Planning Authorities to ensure the County Council's needs were taken into account.

8.3 It was noted that the cost of infrastructure for growth in Hertfordshire was expected to be £4-5 billion up to 2031 and there was a need to consider new approaches to funding going forward, including s.106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

8.4 Members noted that a new model for joint working was being

Team Leader

considered about how Hertfordshire's authorities could work better together and Members views were welcomed to feed into those discussions.

- 8.5 The Chairman of the Panel advised that he had written a letter to the Department for Transport and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on funding for infrastructure and that a copy would be shared with Panel Members.

8.6 **Conclusion:**

The Cabinet Panel noted the report.

9. **TRANSPORT VISION 2016 PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT AND LTP4 PROJECT UPDATE**

[Officer Contact: James Povey, Team Leader Transport Policy and Growth, Tel: 01992 556798]

- 9.1 Members received a report which provided details of the feedback received from the 2016 Transport Vision Public Consultation (Appendix A) exercise and an update on the Transport Vision project which would generate the new Local Transport Plan (LTP4) for the county. The report was accompanied by a presentation which can be viewed here: [Transport Vision 2016 Consultation and LTP4 Update Presentation](#)
- 9.2 Members' attention was drawn to broad issues raised in the report and it was noted that the next step would be for the draft LTP4 to be brought to an additional Panel in October 2017, before reaching Cabinet on 23 October 2017. The consultation would then take place approximately November 2017-January 2018 with the view to full council adopting the new policy in spring 2018.
- 9.3 Members noted that a briefing was taking place on 27 July 2017 to provide further background for Members in advance of the next Panel.
- 9.4 Members noted the need for electric vehicles to be supported in the updated policy and discussed the future of driverless cars. Members acknowledged that driverless cars could be on sale within five years and a feature on the roads within the next fifteen years. It was acknowledged that it was very unclear if these vehicles would be able to share the road with a normal vehicle and that it was best to have an adaptable strategy that could accommodate more or less vehicles on the road in the future.
- 9.5 In response to a Member question on the negative feedback on the Abbey Line, Members heard that in the short-medium term plan for the Abbey Line would remain as per the current Rail Strategy but that in the long-term other options may be considered e.g bus transit.
- 9.6 Members expressed their concern that there had not been any

movement from the Mayor of London or Transport for London on the Metropolitan Line Extension.

**Conclusion:**

9.7 The Cabinet Panel endorsed the Transport Vision 2050 Autumn 2016 Consultation Report which would form part of the evidence base to the LTP4.

9.8 Members noted that a member briefing on the proposed LTP4 was to be held at County Hall on 27 July 2017.

**10. NATIONAL AIR QUALITY PLAN**

[Officer Contact: Trevor Mason, Team Leader – Rail Strategy and Liaison Environment, Tel: 01992 556117]

10.1 Members reviewed a report on the local transport-related air quality issues in light of the Government's draft National Air Quality Plan and noted that the plan had implications on clear air zones. It was advised that the final plan was expected to be published by 31 July 2017.

10.2 It was noted that Hertfordshire has 31 Air Quality Management Area's, this being where the air pollution exceeds statutory limits in the proximity of residential properties.

10.3 Members noted that Appendix 3 outlined some of the actions that the County Council were engaging with to tackle air quality.

10.4 It was noted that there was a gap in the knowledge of what national figures meant for Hertfordshire and further work was to be undertaken with a report back to Panel for a more informed debate on the next steps to take.

10.5 In response to a Member question about people being encouraged to switch of vehicles when parked up (including buses and delivery vehicles), Members heard that a paper had been issued regarding anti-idling zones and that work has commenced with East Herts District Council to encourage people to turn of vehicles particularly when waiting outside a school. Members heard that there were regulations in relation to noise pollution but not clear legislation on turning engines off to reduce air pollution.

10.6 Members noted that the measurement of air pollution exceeding statutory limits was only in relation to residence and discussed if there was the scope for districts to go beyond the remit and measure around schools. It was advised that this could be done if the resources were available without imposing additional costs but that it only residential areas were required to be declared. Members acknowledged that the wider picture needed to be considered and how districts would work in partnership.

10.7 The Panel heard that the service were looking into using solar

Rail Strategy  
and Liaison  
Environment

powered air pollution sensors on top of bus stops and running real time displays that could be used to promote campaigns.

- 10.8 Members discussed the link between tree health and air quality. It was noted that more trees had been dying or were threatened by a growing number of tree health issues and that colleagues in highways and at district level were being encouraged to replace those that had been lost.
- 10.9 It was noted that Stevenage and Welwyn and Hatfield did not have any Air Quality Management Areas and it was discussed that this could be due to the distance between the flow of traffic/road network and residential areas, as this had a big impact on whether or not areas had to be declared.
- 10.10 Members discussed what they could do in terms of reducing Air Quality Management Areas in their divisions and it was discussed that modal shift was required with more use of walking, cycling and public transport. It was noted that there was not a short term solution and that a long-term plan was required.

**Conclusion:**

- 10.11 The Cabinet Panel agreed the next steps set out in section 12.1 of the report.

**11. DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT CONSULTATION - UK AIRSPACE POLICY: A FRAMEWORK FOR BALANCED DECISIONS ON THE DESIGN AND USE OF AIRSPACE**

[Officer Contact: Paul Donovan, Team Leader Strategic Land Use, Tel: 01992 556289]

- 11.1 Members received a report detailing the County Council's response to the recent consultation by the Department for Transport 'UK Airspace Policy: A framework for balanced decisions on the design and use of airspace'.
- 11.2 It was acknowledged that there would be big changes over the coming years to flight paths in line with the London airspace management programme and plans for Luton and Stansted being reviewed. Members noted that the proposals included making the system more transparent and improvements for local communities.
- 11.3 Members heard that the Government recognised the uncertainty over the changes to the use of airspace and who was responsible when the decisions were made. It was noted that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) were still the regulatory body and that changes would be subject to the establishment of an Independent Commission on Civil Aviation Noise (ICCAN).
- 11.4 Members noted the overall message should be encouraging for Hertfordshire with positive environmental benefits and better outcomes for communities.

**Conclusion:**

11.5 The Panel noted the report and the County Council's response.

**12. WASTE LOCAL PLAN – WAY AHEAD PAPER**

[Officer Contact: Trish Carter-Lyons, Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 556254 / Gemma Nicholson, Planning Officer, Tel: 01992 556732]

12.1 Members reviewed a report on the proposed way ahead for reviewing the Hertfordshire's Waste Local Plan and were given a presentation which provided a summary of the report. The presentation can be viewed here: [Waste Local Plan Presentation](#)

12.2 The Panel noted the issues relating to waste at 5.4 of the report and acknowledged that the report was an introduction to the journey of reviewing the plan. It was noted that there would be Member involvement at each stage of plan preparation, with the proposed timescale set out at 8.2 of the report.

12.3 Members acknowledged the detail at 5.2 of the report and noted that the adopted Waste Local Plan committed to a review every five years.

**Conclusion:**

12.4 The Cabinet Panel noted the Proposed Way forward for the Waste Local Plan review, as detailed in the report.

**13. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

There was no other part I business.

**KATHRYN PETTITT  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_