

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
16 JULY 2019**

**ANTICIPATED ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Prayers** – Please note that prayers will be at 9.50 a.m. – led by Rev Canon Terence Phipps – Parish Priest Of the church of The Immaculate Conception and St Joseph in Hertford

**AGENDA**

**APOLOGIES**

**1. MINUTES**

- 1.1** To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held at 10.00am on 21 May 2019 as a correct record.

**2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 8 (10)**

**3A. 3.1 S Czarnawski-Iliev to ask T L F Douris, the Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Localism, the following question:-**

*“Would the Councillor lend his support in principle to the provision of a safe pedestrian/cycle route to enable Royston teenagers to have safe, cheap and independent transport for accessing education, leisure, part-time employment, friends, family and all the things that make up normal life, but might happen to be a mile or two over the county border?”*

**3.2 T L F Douris to reply**

**3.3 S Czarnawski-Iliev to be invited by the Chairman to ask one supplementary question**

**3.4 If a supplementary question is asked, T L F Douris to reply (the reply may be made orally at the meeting or provided in writing within 5 working days of the meeting)**

- 3B. 3.5 R Nash** to ask **D A Ashley, the Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Environment**, the following question:-

*“Could Councillor Ashley please give us an update on work within the Council on the planned pedestrian and cycle bridge over the A505 north of Royston - particularly with reference to a) the Council’s recent application to the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership for funding for the bridge and b) engagement with officers from Cambridgeshire County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership on their Melbourn Greenways proposal.”*

- 3.6 D A Ashley** to reply

- 3.7 R Nash** to be invited by the **Chairman** to ask one supplementary question.

- 3.8** If a supplementary question is asked, **D A Ashley** to reply (the reply may be made orally at the meeting or provided in writing within 5 working days of the meeting)

**4. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 15**

- 4.1** None

**5. OFFICER REPORTS RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS**

**5A. COUNTY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2019 – 2025**

- 5.1 J D Williams** to move (seconder: **T C Heritage**):-

*“That Council notes the County Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2025 appended to the report.”*

## **6A. EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **6.1 Leader of the Council** to move (no seconder required):-

*“That the report of the Executive (being the report under Standing Order 7) be received and that the position of Key Decisions in the decision-making process shown in the current edition of the Forward Plan referred to in the report be noted.”*

#### **ITEM 6A. THE EXECUTIVE REPORT**

The Chairman will invite the Leader of the Council to move reception of the Executive Report. This motion does not need to be seconded. The Leader may make a short statement introducing the Executive Report but no other Member may speak in relation to the motion to receive the Executive Report save a Member of the Executive may make a factual correction or update.

## **6B. MOTIONS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE REPORT**

#### **ITEM 6B MOTIONS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE REPORT**

There will be a two hour period for debate on the motions. If we get close to the two hour time limit the Chairman will explain how the motion which is then under debate or any that have not been moved will be dealt with.

In the meantime in relation to the motions below the two hour period will start to run as soon as the Chairman invites the Liberal Democrat Group to move the motion at 6B(i).

### **6B(i) 6.2 P M Zukowskyj** to move (seconder: **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst**) :-

*“Council notes that:*

- a) The Financial Outlook report, presented to all cabinet panels, sets out the challenging financial position that the Council faces due to continuing reductions in central government funding for services for the people of Hertfordshire at a time when demographic change is increasing demand for these services*
- b) The scope for further savings without seriously impacting services provided to the people of Hertfordshire is limited*
- c) The uncertainty about future funding caused by the delay in the*

*government's spending review and fair funding review, a lack of clarity about the future allowed level of council tax rises and a continued failure to publish the adult social care green paper is adversely impacting the Council's budget*

- d) *That both the candidates to become Prime Minister appear to believe that reductions in taxation for the better off should take priority over addressing these matters.*

*This Council welcomes the decision at Resources & Performance Cabinet Panel that the Chairman of the Panel write to all Hertfordshire MPs setting out the concerns and challenges, but believes this level of action needs to be augmented by requesting face to face meetings if the issue is to really be taken seriously by this Government.*

*The Council requests that at such meetings the Leader of the Council robustly outlines the Council's concerns over the challenges this Council faces in delivering adequate services with the current level of funding and also explains how the ongoing uncertainty over local government funding is causing even more difficulty in the budget setting process.*

*This Council believes that the vital services delivered by local government should be properly resourced by a combination of locally and nationally raised funds, with clarity on funding levels set on a rolling basis over a four year period.*

*This Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and both the candidates for leadership of the Conservative Party outlining the Council's view and position."*

Amendment

**6.3 R Sangster to move (seconder: J D Williams):-**

*"Paragraph 1 a): after 'continuing' insert 'uncertainty about the future level and sources of', delete 'reductions in central government'*

*Paragraph 1 d): delete*

*Paragraph 2: line 2 delete 'the' and replace with 'these', delete 'but' and insert 'and', delete 'this level of actions needs to be augmented by requesting face to face meetings if the issue is to really' and insert 'all means possible should', delete 'seriously by this' and insert 'to bring these issues to the attention of'*

*Paragraph 3: after 'Council' insert 'therefore', delete 'at such meetings', after 'Leader of the Council' insert ' in his new role as Chairman of the County Council's Network ensures that the CCN's advocacy, including meeting with Ministry of Housing, Communities*

*and Local Government Ministers, reflects’, delete ‘robustly outlines’*

*Paragraph 5: delete*

The amended motion to read:-

*“Council notes that:*

- a) The Financial Outlook report, presented to all cabinet panels, sets out the challenging financial position that the Council faces due to continuing uncertainty about the future level and sources of funding for services for the people of Hertfordshire at a time when demographic change is increasing demand for these services*
- b) The scope for further savings without seriously impacting services provided to the people of Hertfordshire is limited*
- c) The uncertainty about future funding caused by the delay in the government's spending review and fair funding review, a lack of clarity about the future allowed level of council tax rises and a continued failure to publish the adult social care green paper is adversely impacting the Council's budget*

*This Council welcomes the decision at Resources & Performance Cabinet Panel that the Chairman of the Panel write to all Hertfordshire MPs setting out these concerns and challenges, and believes all means possible should be taken to bring these issues to the attention of Government.*

*The Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council in his new role as Chairman of the County Councils Network ensures that the CCN's advocacy, including meeting with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ministers, reflects the Council's concerns over the challenges this Council faces in delivering adequate services with the current level of funding and also explains how the ongoing uncertainty over local government funding is causing even more difficulty in the budget setting process.*

*This Council believes that the vital services delivered by local government should be properly resourced by a combination of locally and nationally raised funds, with clarity on funding levels set on a rolling basis over a four-year period.””*

**6B(ii)**

**6.4 J Bennett-Lovell to move (seconder: J G L King):-**

*“This Council notes:*

- the decision of Cabinet to approve the final draft of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) at its meeting on 8*

*July,*

- *that following a 12-week public consultation of this document, including an online survey and resident meetings, it was found that a majority of the public disagreed with the draft plan proposal regarding the reduction of fire-fighting crew numbers from 5 to 4,*
- *the increase in fire-injuries (is up 45%), deliberate primary fires (up 45%) and total incidents that require emergency response (up 26%, a total of over 2000 more) between 2014/15 and 2017/18,*
- *that multiple significant concerns were raised by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in their official response to the IRMP consultation which have not been reflected in the final draft document.*

*This Council believes:*

- *the ability of Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to respond effectively to rising numbers of fires is only worsened by reducing crewing numbers from 5 to 4, placing the workforce and public at heightened risk,*
- *that this risk is only further increased by replacing more capable Type B fire-fighting vehicles with smaller Rapid Response Vehicles (RRVs) which will mean fewer firefighters operating less safely at incidents and may ultimately lead to the outcomes of incidents being less efficient and/or effective- to the detriment of our communities,*
- *that any expansion of the number of casualised contracts cannot take place without further consultation and agreement with Hertfordshire FBU,*
- *that cuts to our fire service are leaving fire-fighters and the public less safe and must therefore be unequivocally opposed.*

*This Council therefore:*

- *requests that Cabinet reverses the decision to reduce crew numbers from 5 to 4 (IRMP Proposal 4),*
- *requests that Cabinet reverses the decision to trial the use of smaller RRV vehicles in place of larger Type B vehicles (IRMP Proposal 3),*
- *opposes the further casualisation of fire-fighter contracts without further consultation and agreement with Hertfordshire FBU (IRMP Proposal 7).”*

6B(iii)

6.5 J D Williams to move (seconder: S B A F H Giles-Medhurst):-

*“In January 2018, HM Government published “A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment”. On 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Prime Minister heralded the end the UK's contribution to climate change by setting set a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. At its recent conference in Bournemouth, the Local Government Association (LGA) agreed a motion that:*

- Calls upon Her Majesty’s Government to explore supporting domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals through funded partnership roles within each local authority area; and*
- Encourages councils to continue their work on linking their local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs; and*
- Declares a “Climate Emergency”, and commits to supporting councils in their work to tackle climate change by providing a strong and unified voice for councils in lobbying for support to address this emergency, and sharing best practice across all councils.*

*Hertfordshire County Council’s sphere of influence is broad with the ability to influence carbon emission reductions, improve air quality, promote energy efficiency, seek more sustainable sources of energy, reduce waste production, promote better land use practices, make links to health and wellbeing and influence procurement practices.*

*The Council’s existing initiatives include an Air Quality Strategy, Energy Strategy, a Climate Change Resilient Communities Strategy, a Pollinator Strategy and the Leading by Example working group.*

*To fortify and coordinate the Council’s existing initiatives, contribute to the national imperatives and provide local leadership:*

- This Council agrees the declaration of a “Climate Emergency”;*
- Calls upon the Leader of the Council to commit to the development and implementation of an overarching Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy. This will set out the policies, strategies, implementation plans and resourcing requirements to embed the values of sustainability into the Council’s service delivery, operations, procurement and supplier management as well as the basis for engaging proactively with the County’s many stakeholders, including the 10 Local Planning Authorities, who can contribute to a sustainable Hertfordshire; and*
- Seek Cabinet approval of an ambitious Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy by the end of 2019.”*

**6B(iv) 6.6 S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to move (seconder: J S Hale):-**

*“In the light of the Financial Outlook reports to Cabinet Panels, Full Council resolves to request that the Leader of the Council sets up a Members Advisory Group (MAG) tasked with undertaking a review of all the Council’s contractual arrangements for the provision of services, with a view to identifying those which could be brought in-house in order to reduce expenditure and provide a more effective and cost efficient service.”*

**6B(v) 6.7 S J Taylor to move (seconder: J Billing):-**

*“In the light of recent discussions on the Council’s financial situation at all the Cabinet Panels, this Council notes that council budgets are now at breaking point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres:*

- *Councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;*
- *Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children;*
- *With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for;*
- *Government cuts have seen over 500 children’s centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services;*
- *Northamptonshire has already gone bust and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding;*
- *Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative former Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’; and*
- *Hertfordshire already faces making further devastating cuts to*



*our local services as councillors are forced to look for £45 million of savings to make ends meet.*

*This Council condemns Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight that the Government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this Council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets.*

*This Council is disappointed with the lack of emphasis on local government funding throughout the Conservative leadership campaign and calls upon the new Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:*

- Reversing any planned further cut to council budgets and ensuring the forthcoming spending review recognises the importance of local services in protecting our communities and transforming our economy;*
- Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years; and*
- Immediately investing £2bn in children’s services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing.*

*This Council resolves to:*

- Support the ‘Breaking Point’ campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community; and*
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, setting out the funding pressures faced by Hertfordshire and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.”*

7.

**QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

**ITEM 7. QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

**Note:** Under existing Standing Orders (SO 8(7)), there is a time limit of 1 hour for questions to Executive Members. Group Question Time shall end on the first to occur of (i) or (ii) below:

- (i) when there are no further oral questions to be asked by members of political groups; or
- (ii) at the expiration of 1 hour from the start of Question Time or after the completion of one full rotation of Executive Members whichever is the later.

Each member asking a question shall have a maximum of 1 minute to ask the question and 1 minute to ask a supplementary question. Each member responding will have 2 minutes to respond to the question and 2 minutes to respond to any supplementary question.

- (a) **Leader of the Council**
- (b) **Adult Care and Health**
- (c) **Children, Young People and Families**
- (d) **Community Safety and Waste Management**
- (e) **Education, Libraries and Localism**
- (f) **Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy**
- (g) **Highways and Environment**
- (h) **Public Health and Prevention**
- (i) **Resources and Performance**

If one hour has not elapsed since Questions to Executive Members started, repeat (a) to (i) until 1 hour has been reached or until there are no further questions for Executive Members.

**7B. WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – STANDING ORDER 8 (9)**

7.1 As set out in the attached Annex.

**Items 8, 9 and 10**

The time limits for speeches in the debates on items 8, 9 and 10 are as follows:  
Mover of motion – 5 minutes

First speaker from each of the other groups (or the speaker who has been nominated to the Chairman previously in writing by the Group Leader) – 5 minutes

All other speakers, including the mover of the motion when exercising their right of reply – 3 minutes

**8. REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**8.1 D Andrews** to move (seconder: **TBC**):-

*“That the report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received.”*

**9. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**9.1 S Quilty** to move (seconder: **C J White**):-

*“That the report from the Health Scrutiny Committee be received.”*

**10. HERTFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD CONSTITUTION**

**10.1 R M Roberts** to move (seconder: **T C Heritage**):-

*“That County Council:-*

*(i) agrees the amendments to the Constitution of the Board as set*

*out in the report; and*

- (ii) *authorises the Chief Legal Officer to make such amendments to the Constitution of the Board and to the County Council's Constitution as are necessary to give effect to (i) above."*

**11. NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 9(6)**

**11A. 11.1 S K Jarvis to move (seconder: S B A F H Giles-Medhurst):-**

*"This Council notes that a number of other highway authorities have adopted the planting of wild flowers and other alternative methods of managing highway verges that improve bio-diversity without increasing the cost of verge maintenance. Whilst recognising that there are areas where vegetation must be cut for reasons of highway safety it believes that there are opportunities for adopting such strategies on many of Hertfordshire's roads.*

*The Council notes that in March it agreed a motion on the Pollinator Action Plan and note that the Council has already recognised the need for such measures.*

*It also notes growing concern about the bio-diversity and potential health impacts of the widespread use of glyphosate weed killers on the edges of the highway network.*

*It requests the Executive Member for Highways and Environment to bring forward proposals to manage the maintenance of highway in ways that improve bio-diversity."*

In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman has determined that the motion above will be referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

**11B. 11.2 S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to move (seconder: S K Jarvis):-**

*"This Council resolves to register its concern about the continued use of "stone chipping" micro-surfacing in urban roads and the problems this causes in low volume roads and where there are parked cars.*

*It requests the Executive Member for Highways and Environment to bring forward a report on the suitability of this treatment and other alternatives."*

In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman has determined that the motion above will be referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

**11C.**

**R G Tindall** to move (seconder: **N A Quinton**):-

*“On 20th June, the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board received a report from the Hertfordshire Partnership University Foundation NHS Trust, (HPFT), which included an overview of HPFT’s plans for 2019/20, which in turn included an update on issues pertaining to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) services.*

*Arising from the debate on 20th June, this Council:-*

- 1. Takes note of paragraph 2.4 in which it is stated that 2019/20 will be a very challenging year with demand for services reaching their highest levels – across all ages;*
- 2. acknowledges that the demands for CAMHS services are not being met;*
- 3. undertakes to request that the STP work stream on Mental Health be expanded to include attention on services to women and children;*
- 4. acknowledges that Hertfordshire Schools are under increasing financial and workload pressures and calls for greater NHS support to schools in respect of CAMHS;*
- 5. asks that the NHS Neighbourhood Services recognise that local schools should form an integral part of that service delivery;*

*In addition*

- 6. recognises that more resources for Mental Health Services are needed to properly fund CAMHS and the wider Mental Health Services.”*

In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman has determined that the motion above will be referred to the Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel for consideration.

**End of Meeting**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – STANDING ORDER 8**

**1. Written question from S B A F H Giles-Medhurst to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Environment**

*“Given the expected and continued high growth of EV (electric vehicles) there is recognition that highway authorities should facilitate the infrastructure and charging platforms required for these. The Mayor of London has an EV infrastructure delivery plan.*

*Given the above will the Executive member now consider and bring forward to a future panel meeting a report on how the county, as the highway authority, can assist and enable, especially in new developments, a future-proofed environmental sustainable on road highways charging points plan in conjunction with the districts and boroughs?”*

**P Bibby** has replied:-

*“A strategy to help guide the County Council and the District and Boroughs is in development and has been supported by several round table officer discussions with the Districts and Boroughs to help shape the work. I will bring a report to a future Panel advising how we will support a sustainable collaborative approach to on-road EV charging.*

*The work is seeking to:-*

- 1. Review the trends and a range of forecast for uptake, vehicle sales, new models coming onto the market by vehicle type*
- 2. Review of where the market is heading in the short, medium and long term – future charge point technologies (types, charging rates, layouts/formats etc), charging locations (identify if there is a push by the large providers to develop dedicated charging stations) and availability/accessibility of charge facilities for residents – Hertfordshire and adjacent area specific – national overview*
- 3. Review how local authorities can manage risk associated with installation, operation and maintenance of on-street and off-street charging equipment. How can local authorities protect themselves against rapidly evolving EV charging technology and not be left with responsibility to remove/uninstall outdated technology.*
- 4. Identify (based on readily available data) an approximate proportion of residents reliant on on-street parking in Hertfordshire (as granular as possible)*
- 5. Develop local uptake forecast rates by vehicle type/locations, including existing requests*
- 6. Recommendations on how to promote/facilitate EV uptake amongst those reliant on on-street parking*
- 7. Review how a model based on centralised rapid charging hubs including destination charging, similar to the current ‘filling station’*

*model, might meet the long-term charging needs of Hertfordshire. This will need to consider the impact of any new charging infrastructure on the capacity of electricity network.*

**Outcome** – *from this work/evidence we want to present options and a preferred scenarios to define our position for on-street charging infrastructure and form the basis to identify our role to overcome the barriers to EV adoption in the county.*

*There is an option to take it to a Member Advisory Group in advance of Panel after the commissioned work is complete and provides an evidence base.”*

**2. Written question from T Williams to the T R Hutchings, Executive Member for Public Health and Prevention**

*“Hertfordshire has some of the worst air pollution outside of London and rightly so many residents are increasingly concerned over air quality. Could the Cabinet Member responsible at Hertfordshire County Council highlight how many Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) there are within Hertfordshire, and could these be listed within the relevant districts/boroughs within Hertfordshire.*

*Are all of these AQMAs reviewed and reassessed with relevant action plans being agreed with the relevant district/borough to address the issues/concerns raised.*

*Traffic Congestion is no doubt a contributory factor within these AQMAs how realistic is the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to address these concerns or is more intervention/direction from central government required?”*

**T R Hutchings** has replied:

*“Hertfordshire County Council recognises that it has a role to play in tackling poor air quality, and has recently approved its new Air Quality Strategy and Implementation Plan<sup>1</sup> which seeks to clearly set out the County Council’s policy position on the matter to foster collaborative working whilst avoiding ambiguity and duplication. The Strategy supports and complements the Hertfordshire Local Transport Plan, adopted in 2018<sup>2</sup>, and is the first step of a longer process designed to develop a joint strategy between the County Council and the ten Hertfordshire District and Borough Authorities.*

**To address each part of the question:**

***Hertfordshire has some of the worst air pollution outside of London and rightly so many residents are increasingly concerned over air quality***

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<sup>1</sup> <https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=146>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/ltp4-local-transport-plan-4-complete.pdf>

1. *It is not the case that Hertfordshire has some of the worst air pollution outside London. If it were, Government would have intervened as it has elsewhere. In fact, only one Borough in Hertfordshire was identified as exceeding air pollution limit values, and on only one pollutant.*
2. *But I agree that residents across the whole country (not just Herts) should be rightly concerned. It's a key health protection challenge and one which requires significant behavioural change – this in itself is a huge challenge to achieve, not least because it is not a visible problem (out of sight, out of mind), and because the behavioural changes also mean significant lifestyle changes for many.*

**Could the Cabinet Member responsible at Hertfordshire County Council highlight how many Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) there are within Hertfordshire, and could these be listed within the relevant districts/boroughs within Hertfordshire?**

1. *All of this can be found in the HCC Air Quality Strategy that was adopted by Cabinet in April<sup>3</sup>. This Strategy supports*
2. *The County Council Air Quality Strategy includes a table on Page 9 (and a map in the Appendix) that lists the location of all the District and Borough Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Hertfordshire. it refers only to Districts and Boroughs that have declared AQMA in line with DEFRA guidance.*
  - a. *The circumstances under which a local authority must declare an AQMA are detailed in DEFRA Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-air-quality-management-policy-guidance-pg09> .*
3. ***All*** *Hertfordshire District and Borough Authorities' are meeting their duties under the Environment Act<sup>4</sup>. All continuous Hertfordshire monitoring data is available at [https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la\\_id=408](https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la_id=408)*
4. *To clarify the position on Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council's, both of which do not feature in this table.*
  - *In the case of Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield, there are no declared AQMA because monitoring shows the air quality meets national air quality objectives. Further information can be found here: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/>*
  - *Both Borough Council's do monitor air quality in a range of locations and their respective Environmental Health teams can*

<sup>3</sup> <https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=146>

<sup>4</sup> Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 provides that every local authority shall review the air quality within its area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality. Section 83 requires local authorities to designate an air quality management area where air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved within the relevant period, as set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000



provide further detail on where these locations are. However, for ease, Stevenage's monitoring location information is at <http://www.stevenage.gov.uk/pollution/25806/>, and Welwyn Hatfield's monitoring location information is at <https://www.welhat.gov.uk/air-quality>

5. *Public Health recognises that there are inherent limitations to the DEFRA criteria for declaring AQMAs, and we actively advocate for improvements as and when the opportunity arises*

**Are all of these AQMAs reviewed and reassessed with relevant action plans being agreed with the relevant district/borough to address the issues/concerns raised?**

1. *Yes, we are working on an all eleven council air quality strategy. But the designation, monitoring and management of Air Quality Management Areas is a statutory function of District and Borough Council's -the County Council does not have oversight of this.*

**Traffic Congestion is no doubt a contributory factor within these AQMAs, how realistic is the Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to address these concerns or is more intervention/direction from central government required?**

1. *I agree that the LTP4<sup>5</sup> is just one component of response to air quality. It sets out what the County Council will be doing in coming years on its road network. The Air Quality Strategy supports and complements the Local Transport Plan.*
  - a. *The most important policy commitment in LTP4 is the movement hierarchy – because the best way to reduce transport related air pollution within towns will be to encourage more local journeys to be on foot, by bicycle or by public transport.*
2. *A great deal is driven by national policy and new technology changes. We would strongly welcome more direction from central government, as per the letter we drafted to Michael Gove from David Williams earlier this year on the matter.*
3. *Moreover, while transport is a major factor, other sources play a role which are even harder to influence -including the individual use of wood burning stoves in residential homes.....a notable source of PM2.5, but this is difficult to quantify locally for any area.*

## **Response**

1. *Section 82 of the Environment Act 1995 provides that every local authority shall review the air quality within its area, both at the present time and the likely future air quality. Section 83 requires local authorities*

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/media-library/documents/about-the-council/consultations/ltp4-local-transport-plan-4-complete.pdf>

*to designate an air quality management area where air quality objectives are not being achieved, or are not likely to be achieved within the relevant period, as set out in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000.*

2. **All** Hertfordshire District and Borough Authorities' are meeting their duties under the Environment Act. All continuous Hertfordshire monitoring data is available at [https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la\\_id=408](https://www.airqualityengland.co.uk/local-authority/?la_id=408)
3. In the case of Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield, there are no declared AQMAs because monitoring shows the air quality meets national air quality objectives. Further information can be found here: <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/>
4. Public Health recognises that there are inherent limitations to the DEFRA criteria for declaring AQMAs, and we actively advocate for improvements as and when the opportunity arises.

**3. Written question from S K Jarvis to D A Ashley, Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy**

*“Can the Executive Member confirm that the Council's response to the Heathrow airport expansion consultation will be considered by the September meeting of the GRIPE Cabinet Panel?”*

**D A Ashley** has replied:

*“There is a considerable amount of activity in the aviation sector at this time having implications for Hertfordshire, some of which being closer to home than London Heathrow. Indeed, the Hertfordshire Growth Board received an update last week. GRIPE Cabinet Panel periodically receives updates on aviation-related matters and I can confirm that another of these will occur in September. It will include the London Heathrow expansion consultation and will seek Panel's views on how the County Council/Hertfordshire should respond.”*