1. **Cabinet decisions since the last meeting of County Council**

1.1 There will have been eight Cabinet meetings (16 December 2019, 20 January 2020, 24 February 2020, 23 March 2020, 21 April 2020, 18 May 2020, 15 June 2020 and 13 July 2020) since the last Executive Report to County Council on 26 November 2019. There were no items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio; update reports on the Council’s response to Covid 19 have, however, been reported to each Cabinet meeting April 2020 – July 2020.

2. **Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council at which an Executive Report was considered on 26 November 2019**

2.1 Nothing to report.

3. **Anticipated/ future decisions to be made by Cabinet**

**Cabinet – 13 July 2020**

Forward Plan Ref: A028/20: COVID-19 Update report: Cabinet will be invited to note the Council’s planning and response update to Covid-19 and to formally adopt the Hertfordshire Local Outbreak Plan.

**Cabinet – 21 September 2020**

Forward Plan Ref: A03/20: Approval of the HCC Smokefree Policy and toolkit: Cabinet will be invited to approve the policy and toolkit.

4. **Key Partnerships**

4.1 The Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board met on 28 January 2020 and 23 June 2020; agenda papers can be viewed here [28 January 2020](#) and here [23 June 2020](#).

5. **Other comments**

5.1 **Outbreak Plans**

On 22 May 2020 Government announced that as part of its national strategy to reduce infection from SARS-CoV-2 it would expect every area in England to create a local Outbreak Plan. National Guidance was issued jointly by Public Health England with five key partner agencies and a Local Outbreak Plan for Hertfordshire, led by the Director of Public Health, has been produced.

This builds on existing health protection plans and puts in place measures to contain any outbreak and protect the public’s health. The Director of Public
Health is responsible for defining the measures required to do this. This plan is intended to enable agencies in Hertfordshire to prevent, manage, reduce and suppress outbreaks of COVID-19 infection across the County.

The plan sets out the arrangements for surveillance of and response to local outbreaks and infection rates. Some of these (such as work in Care Homes) are already in place. Other parts (such as how the National and Local Contact Tracing Systems interface) are still being developed nationally.

5.2 PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

The Local Resilience Forum established a 'PPE Cell' to oversee all aspects of PPE. The cell was stood up on 21 March 2020 and includes membership from 'provider' services (NHS Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Fire & Rescue, Police, County Council, district authorities, care providers, funeral directors) with expert advice from Public Health, CCGs (Infection Prevention and Control), Trading Standards, Resilience Team, and the Environment Agency.

Public Health provides both leadership and secretariat for the Cell, including project management, administration, communication and supplier management. Public Health also provides scientific leadership into the Cell in terms of what standards of PPE can and should be used, distilling national guidance as Government messaging changes.

Public Health officers have developed systems for receiving, managing and allocating PPE supplied by central government, and have mobilised a recall of some PPE items and led on the lookback exercise. Public Health continues to develop approaches for the PPE Cell, its functions and resources to flex in response to changing PPE needs, as it is a crucial aspect of the county’s Outbreak Plan.

5.3 Commissioned Services

Provision of key public health services has been maintained throughout the pandemic, including some health visiting interventions, sexual health services and drug and alcohol provision. Contract managers have maintained positive relationships with providers and supported them to deliver services in new and innovative ways and through alternative delivery models. County Council Public Health has been flexible with providers and suppliers regarding their contract payments to ensure that they do not experience unnecessary problems with cash flow and, as such, all providers have stayed financially stable.

Services have continued to be monitored for performance, quality and safety, operated flexibly to all for the changes to delivery arrangements, reduced provision (particularly NHS organisations where staff have been redeployed), and their reduced capacity for reporting. There has been continual monitoring of risk and key service aspects (e.g. safeguarding) and lead commissioners and stakeholders have been kept informed of service changes. The focus is now on supporting and monitoring services as they seek to return to normal
provision and on considering how to take advantage of the new opportunities for service delivery that have been presented.

5.4 Work with other Council Directorates

The Public Health team has worked closely with other County Council directorates and partner organisations and provided advice and guidance on a wide range of topics. This has included, but is not limited to, safe working practices for the County Council, partner and provider staff, schools, the safe reinstatement of services e.g. registration services, the re-opening of HWRCs, and legal cases involving COVID-19. Work with the district and borough councils has included expertise on the re-opening of town centres and liaison with the local Environmental Health teams. There has been close working with Public Health England and the NHS (CCGs, hospital trusts etc) particularly around information and predictions for forward planning, swabbing of staff and patients, and plans for Test and Trace. Guidance has also been provided to care homes, including a webinar for Hertfordshire Care Providers Association (HCPA) members.

5.5 Covid 19 webinar for Young People

On 15 May 2020 over 400 young people and their families tuned into Hertfordshire County Council’s live Covid-19 webinar for young people. I, along with Simon Newland, Education Operations Director, and Liz Shapland, Deputy Education Services Director, Herts for Learning, made up the Panel, led by Jim McManus, Director of Public Health. We answered over 50 young people’s questions during the hour long webinar, which is now available to view online at www.justtalkherts.org/coronaviruswebinar.

Answers to all the questions asked on the day, including those that there wasn’t time to address in the webinar, are also available at the link above. There have been over 2,000 views of that page since the date of the event.

5.6 Data Modelling

The Public Health Evidence & Intelligence Team has had the lead role in providing epidemiological briefings and local modelling work related to COVID-19. Regular briefings covering deaths, outbreak spread, demand on the health and social care system and other important aspects of the local system response are produced for a variety of audiences. These continue to evolve as new data becomes available and the needs of stakeholders change over time.

The team provides information and advice directly to the Strategic Commissioning Group (SCG) on how levels of infection and the impact on the system are expected to change, to support strategic decision-making and planning. It has established a response escalation process, based on analytics and modelling, which forms the core of the revised SCG strategy, supported by a dedicated weekly dashboard.
The team is also currently devising and embedding a reporting and surveillance system to support the local outbreak plan.

6. **Cabinet Panels**

6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel met on 6 February 2020. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

[Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel - 6 February 2020](#)

6.2 Matters considered by the Special Cabinet Panel, established in place of all service cabinet panels as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, can be found at the following locations:

[Special Cabinet Panel - 17 April 2020](#)
[Special Cabinet Panel - 6 May 2020](#)
[Special Cabinet Panel - 3 June 2020](#)
[Special Cabinet Panel - 2 July 2020](#)

**Tim Hutchings**  
Executive Member for Public Health and Prevention  
July 2020