

Minutes



To: All Members of the Council
Chief Executive, Chief Officers

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Elaine Shell
Ext: 25565

MINUTES of the Meeting of the County Council held at County Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday, 17 July 2018.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

D Andrews	J M Graham	R G Parker
D A Ashley	L Greensmyth	A Plancey
S Bedford	F Guest	S Quilty
N Bell	J S Hale	N A Quinton
J Bennett Lovell	D Hart	I M Reay
P Bibby	K M Hastrick	R M Roberts
J Billing	T C Heritage	A F Rowlands
S N Bloxham	D J Hewitt	R Sangster
S J Boulton	F R G Hill	R H Smith
A P Brewster	N A Hollinghurst	A Stevenson
M Bright	T W Hone	S J Taylor
S Brown	T Howard	R A C Thake (Chairman)
E H Buckmaster	T R Hutchings	R G Tindall
F Button	S K Jarvis	A S B Walkington
L A Chesterman	J R Jones	C J White
R C Deering	J S Kaye	A D Williams
T L F Douris	J G L King	J D Williams
D S Drury	P V Mason	T J Williams
M A Eames-Petersen	G McAndrew	C B Woodward
S J Featherstone	R Mills	C B Wyatt-Lowe
B A Gibson	M B J Mills-Bishop	W J Wyatt-Lowe
S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	A J S Mitchell	J F Wyllie
E M Gordon	M D M Muir	P M Zukowskyj
S Gordon		

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Meeting of the County Council held on 17 July 2018, as circulated, action was taken or decisions were reached as follows:-

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1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 1.2 The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 22 May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) OFFICE FOR PRODUCT SAFETY AND STANDARDS REGULATORY EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Chairman advised that Hertfordshire's Better Business for All partnership had recently been announced by the Office for Product Safety and Standards as a winner of a Regulatory Excellence Award. The awards are designed to show case innovation and best practice across the nation's regulatory community. The County Council has played a leading role in the partnership since its inception 5 years ago and this particular award was given in recognition of an e-learning training package produced for Hertfordshire's regulators, developed and built by staff from the Community Protection Directorate. The package has been universally well received and has recently been modified to create a national e-learning module for the benefit of local government regulators across the Country. Council congratulated all involved.

(b) UK PUBLIC SECTOR COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

Council was advised that the County Council had won the UK Public Sector Communications Award for 'Website of the Year'. The awards celebrate and reward excellent communication strategies and campaigns, teams and individuals in the public sector. Nine websites were shortlisted and judges considered design, content and user experience in reaching their decision to announce Hertfordshire County Council the winner.

This award comes just a week after the Society for IT practitioners in the public sector awarded www.hertfordshire.gov.uk a top 4-star rating based on mobile, accessibility and task-based testing. Council congratulated all involved.

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3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – STANDING ORDER 8 (10)

3.1 There were no public questions.

4. PUBLIC PETITIONS – STANDING ORDER 15

4A. 4.1 **Nigel Bowan** presented a petition with more than 1,000 signatures in the following terms:-

“Traffic congestion caused by the McDonalds/BP site at the Rush Green Roundabout

Work closely with Hertfordshire Police and McDonalds/BP to find and implement a safe solution to the major congestion caused by the vehicles queuing to enter the site and to alleviate the potential for a serious accident.”

4.2 The petition was received by **P Bibby**, Executive Member for Highways and Environment.

4.3 The Chairman advised Council that in accordance with Standing Order 11 (13) the petition stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

5. OFFICER REPORTS RELEVANT TO EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS

5A. WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN: AMENDMENT TO STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND AND HEARING STATEMENT (JANUARY 2018) IN RELATION TO NEW BARNFIELD, HATFIELD

5.1 The following motion proposed by **D A Ashley** and duly seconded by **A Stevenson** was CARRIED:-

“That County Council approves the revision to the Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and Hearing Statement for Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Policy SP14 in relation to the land at New Barnfield as set out in paragraph 6.7 of the Report subject to the inclusion of the words ‘of at least 1ha’ after the words ‘an alternative HWRC site’

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before the words ‘in a mutually agreeable location’.”

5B. HERTFORDSHIRE’S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2018-21

5.2 The following motion proposed by **T C Heritage** and duly seconded by **G McAndrew** was CARRIED:-

“That the Hertfordshire’s Strategic Plan for Children and Young People 2018-21, as attached at Appendix A to the report, be adopted”.

6. THE EXECUTIVE REPORT

6A. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – EXECUTIVE REPORT

6.1 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** was CARRIED:-

“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.”

6B. MOTIONS ARISING FROM THE EXECUTIVE REPORT IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE RECEIVED

6B(i) 6.2 The following motion was proposed by **S K Jarvis** and duly seconded by **A S B Walkington**:-

“Council believes that the proposed Growth and Transport Plans should set out the priorities for transport infrastructure to meet the needs of growth across the county and provide the basis for acquiring the necessary funding. It does not believe that, in their current form as exemplified by the South West Herts Growth and Transport Plan, the emerging plans are fit for this purpose.

It therefore resolves that the Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy should secure the production of plans that:-

- *are sufficiently ambitious to cope with the projected increase in population, recognising current shortcomings in Hertfordshire’s transport networks;*

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- *identify solutions that will support the modal shift objectives of LTP4 whilst recognising that there will continue to be significant travel by private car and movement of freight by road;*
- *are realistically deliverable and, in the case of proposals such as public transport with ongoing costs, can continue to be delivered for the foreseeable future;*
- *are updated to reflect changes in local plans and major developments as these occur;*
- *take account of other council services such as school place planning to ensure that schools and other services are located in sustainable locations matched to new developments; and*
- *are set out in a clear and unambiguous way that can be communicated to the people of Hertfordshire and secure their support.”*

6.3 S K Jarvis, with the consent of the seconder of the motion in his name at 6.2 requested the Chairman to allow a late amendment. In accordance with Standing Order 10 (3) (c) the Chairman agreed in the interests of convenience and due to the importance of this matter to allow amendments to be moved without due notice having been given.

6.4 The following amendment was proposed by **S K Jarvis** and duly seconded by **A S B Walkington**:-

“That the words ‘fit for purpose’ be deleted and replaced with ‘perfect’.

the amended motion to read:-

“Council believes that the proposed Growth and Transport Plans should set out the priorities for transport infrastructure to meet the needs of growth across the county and provide the basis for acquiring the necessary funding. It does not believe that, in their current form as exemplified by the South West Herts Growth and Transport Plan, the emerging plans are perfect.

It therefore resolves that the Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy should secure the production of plans that:-

- *are sufficiently ambitious to cope with the projected increase in population, recognising current shortcomings in Hertfordshire’s transport networks;*
- *identify solutions that will support the modal shift objectives of LTP4 whilst recognising that there will continue to be significant travel by private car and movement of freight by road;*
- *are realistically deliverable and, in the case of proposals such as*

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public transport with ongoing costs, can continue to be delivered for the foreseeable future;

- *are updated to reflect changes in local plans and major developments as these occur;*
- *take account of other council services such as school place planning to ensure that schools and other services are located in sustainable locations matched to new developments; and*
- *are set out in a clear and unambiguous way that can be communicated to the people of Hertfordshire and secure their support.”*

6.5 The following amendment was proposed by **D A Ashley** and duly seconded by **S J Taylor**:-

“That the last sentence of paragraph one be deleted

the amended motion to read:-

“Council believes that the proposed Growth and Transport Plans should set out the priorities for transport infrastructure to meet the needs of growth across the county and provide the basis for acquiring the necessary funding.

It therefore resolves that the Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy should secure the production of plans that:-

- *are sufficiently ambitious to cope with the projected increase in population, recognising current shortcomings in Hertfordshire’s transport networks;*
- *identify solutions that will support the modal shift objectives of LTP4 whilst recognising that there will continue to be significant travel by private car and movement of freight by road;*
- *are realistically deliverable and, in the case of proposals such as public transport with ongoing costs, can continue to be delivered for the foreseeable future;*
- *are updated to reflect changes in local plans and major developments as these occur;*
- *take account of other council services such as school place planning to ensure that schools and other services are located in sustainable locations matched to new developments; and*
- *are set out in a clear and unambiguous way that can be communicated to the people of Hertfordshire and secure their support.”*

6.6 **S K Jarvis** advised Council that, with the consent of the seconder of

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the amendment in his name at 6.4, the Liberal Democrat Group would accept the amendment at 6.5. The amendment at 6.4 was therefore not voted upon.

6.7 The amendment at 6.5 was then voted upon and CARRIED.

6.8 The substantive motion at 6.5 was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

“Council believes that the proposed Growth and Transport Plans should set out the priorities for transport infrastructure to meet the needs of growth across the county and provide the basis for acquiring the necessary funding.

It therefore resolves that the Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and the Economy should secure the production of plans that:-

- *are sufficiently ambitious to cope with the projected increase in population, recognising current shortcomings in Hertfordshire’s transport networks;*
- *identify solutions that will support the modal shift objectives of LTP4 whilst recognising that there will continue to be significant travel by private car and movement of freight by road;*
- *are realistically deliverable and, in the case of proposals such as public transport with ongoing costs, can continue to be delivered for the foreseeable future;*
- *are updated to reflect changes in local plans and major developments as these occur;*
- *take account of other council services such as school place planning to ensure that schools and other services are located in sustainable locations matched to new developments; and*
- *are set out in a clear and unambiguous way that can be communicated to the people of Hertfordshire and secure their support.”*

6B(ii) 6.9 The following motion was proposed by **J Billing** and duly seconded by **E M Gordon**:-

“Despite a yearlong national campaign for increased and appropriate resourcing for schools, things have only got worse across Hertfordshire and head teachers in a number of areas have been forced to write to parents to warn them of further reductions in teaching staff, classroom assistants, school trips and extra curricula activities. Of enormous concern is the removal of access to previously available curriculum

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areas at both GCSE and A Level.

When our totally dedicated head teachers and the Hertfordshire Schools Forum are expressing continuing and alarming concern over their resources to teach our children it is vital that government re-thinks its funding decisions and recognises that continuing austerity is simply unacceptable in our children's education.

The Executive Members for Children, Young People and Families and Education, Libraries and Localism are requested to make urgent representations to the Minister of State for Education Damian Hinds and the Schools Minister Nick Gibb to make this clear on behalf of the head teachers, schools, parents and students of all Hertfordshire schools and to ask for immediate action to improve funding to our schools in order that we may fulfil the vision of our Plan for Children and Young People 2018-2021."

6.10 T L F Douris advised Council that with the consent of the seconder of the motion in his name on the Order Paper at 6B(iii) he would support the motion at 6.9 and withdraw his motion.

6.11 The motion at 6.9 was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

"Despite a yearlong national campaign for increased and appropriate resourcing for schools, things have only got worse across Hertfordshire and head teachers in a number of areas have been forced to write to parents to warn them of further reductions in teaching staff, classroom assistants, school trips and extra curricula activities. Of enormous concern is the removal of access to previously available curriculum areas at both GCSE and A Level.

When our totally dedicated head teachers and the Hertfordshire Schools Forum are expressing continuing and alarming concern over their resources to teach our children it is vital that government re-thinks its funding decisions and recognises that continuing austerity is simply unacceptable in our children's education.

The Executive Members for Children, Young People and Families and Education, Libraries and Localism are requested to make urgent representations to the Minister of State for Education Damian Hinds and the Schools Minister Nick Gibb to make this clear on behalf of the head teachers, schools, parents and students of all Hertfordshire schools and to ask for immediate action to improve funding to our schools in order that we may fulfil the vision of our Plan for Children and Young People 2018-2021."

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6B(iii) 6.12 The motion at 6B(iii) of the Order Paper was withdrawn as set out at 6.10.

7. QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

7.1 During the period for questions to Executive Members under SO(8)(7)(c) the following Members asked questions (and, where indicated, supplementary questions) of the Executive Member or their Deputy as stated [the audio recording of this item of business can be found here [Questions to Executive Members](#)]

[Questions are listed by portfolio (in alphabetical order)].

Executive Member	Questioner	Subject
Leader of the Council	S Bedford	Timeliness of responses to freedom of information requests and nature of any information withheld ¹
	S J Taylor	Regeneration of Stevenage town centre and interventions of the local MP, Stephen McPartland ¹
	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Need for greater engagement with the general public to ensure that the Local Enterprise Partnership is seen as a vital part of the County Council, particularly in growth and infrastructure plans and action being taken to ensure all district and borough councils are represented on it
	J Billing	New stakeholder bulletin for Hertfordshire MPs ¹
	T L F Douris	Congratulations to Hertfordshire born Gareth Southgate and Stevenage resident Ashley Young, manager and member respectively of the England Football Team on their performance in the World Cup 2018
Adult Care & Health	B A Gibson	Impact on those people requiring two carers of the adult social care charging policies that came into effect in April 2018 ^{1 2}
	E M Gordon	Underfunding of adult social care and remuneration for care workers, particularly in light of the recent

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		Court ruling regarding back pay for carer workers working sleep-in shifts
Children, Young People & Families	A F Rowlands	Whether a report on the Council's post adoption support services could be brought to a meeting of the Children, Young People & Families Cabinet Panel in the near future
	N Bell	The development of a multi-agency strategy to address the issue of gangs and knife crimes in the County ¹
Community Safety & Waste Management	T J Williams	Capacity issues at household waste recycling centres across the County; current issues and pressures and long terms plans, including contingency plans, to continue the services ¹
	M A Eames-Petersen	Use of biodegradable plastic bags for food waste bins and advice about their use given to waste collection authorities (district and borough councils) ¹
	S N Bloxham	Update on proposals for the future governance of the Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
Education, Libraries and Localism	A F Rowlands	Implementation date for new arrangements for the delivery of services for primary aged children with specific learning disabilities ¹
	E M Gordon	Requesting a report on delays in carrying out assessments for children and young people with learning and behavioural needs (required in order for them to receive appropriate support) as part of the plans for the delivery of future services for this group of children ¹
	J Wyllie	Learning from a visit to Storyhouse in Chester that can be applied in Hertfordshire to increase library book rentals
Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & the Economy	C J White	Brexit White Paper and implications for employees of Hertfordshire businesses affected by the proposals in it ¹

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	S J Taylor	Action taken by the Council in relation to the disruption caused across the County by the introduction of new rail timetables ¹
Highways & Environment	S B A F H Giles-Medhurst	Highways' handling of access issues relating to new housing development in his division and subsequent intervention by the Health and Safety Executive ^{1 2}
	J G L King	Impact of recent hot weather on the County's roads
Public Health and Prevention	R G Tindall	Lack of government funding for public health prevention strategies ¹
	L A Chesterman	Action taken on a proposal that all reports include a statement on public health implications ¹
Resources and Performance	P M Zukowskyj	Action taken in response to concerns raised at Cabinet Panel about potential adverse financial impacts of Brexit for the Council ¹
	S J Taylor	Social and affordable housing to be made available via the Council's Joint Venture Company and 'Herts Living' initiatives ¹
	A J S Mitchell	Action being taken to improve the Council's ability to operate as a flexible, smart working employer

Notes: 1 - denotes that a supplementary question was also asked
2 – denotes that a written reply will be given

7.2 Written questions to Executive Members – Standing Order 8(9)

7.2.1 Written questions to Executive Members and responses are set out in the attached Annex.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At the invitation of the Chairman the Council agreed to vary the order of business and take the agenda items 10 "Recruitment of the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)", 11 "Revision to the Local Government Pension Scheme Employer Discretions Policy" and 12 "Section 85, Local Government Act 1972 - Vacation of Office by failure to Attend Meetings" at this point in the meeting in the interests of the effective conduct of the business following.

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(The Minutes of these items of business are set out below in original agenda order).

8. REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 8.1** The following motion proposed by **D Andrews** and duly seconded by **K M Hastrick** was CARRIED:-

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

9. REPORT FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 9.1** The following motion proposed by **S Quilty** and duly seconded by **C J White** was CARRIED:-

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

- 9.2** The following motion proposed by **C J White** and duly seconded by **J S Hale** was CARRIED:-

“That Council notes the unanimous decision of the Health Scrutiny Committee on 3 July that the Committee:-

1) is disappointed by the manner in which Herts Valley’s Clinical Commissioning Group (HVCCG) have dealt with the issue of the Nascot Lawn funding, particularly the manner in which it engaged with the users of Nascot Lawn and partner agencies;

2) notes that there is ongoing work to ensure that all the children and families using Nascot Lawn are fully transitioned to alternative respite provision;

3) notes that there are continuing negotiations on the section 75 NHS Act 2006 agreement;

4) agreed that the Chairman of Health Scrutiny should write to Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England, to be copied to the Secretary of State for Health for England, to set out the Committee’s concerns about the manner in which HVCCG conducted itself throughout the process since reaching its original decision to withdraw funding in January 2017.

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Council now resolves that:-

1) If by 31 August 2018 the Topic Group is not satisfied with the progress being made to reach agreement with the Recommendations of the special scrutiny meeting held 21 March 2018 the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Health Scrutiny Committee and Group Leaders are requested to consider calling an Extraordinary Meeting of Council to be held to enable Council to consider exercising its power under Regulation 23(9) of The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to refer the Proposal to the Secretary of State; and

2) The Chairman of the Health Scrutiny should report to Full Council on 27 November or earlier as applicable as to the responses received from Simon Stevens, Chief Executive, NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health for England, whom ever that should be.”

9.3 The following motion proposed by **N Bell** and duly seconded by **M A Eames-Petersen** was LOST:-

“This Council notes the appointment of a new secretary of state for Health and Social care.

This Council should use this opportunity as it is now over a year since Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group announced their plan to remove the £600,000 funding from Nascot Lawn to look at ALL options available to keep the respite centre on its present site.

All legal options should still be considered including a referral to the Secretary of State considering a majority of the children have seen their hours of care reduced in the last year.

This Council resolves that the Leader of the Council together with the Chief Executive urgently contact the new Secretary of State to provide the Finances to keep Nascot Lawn open.”

10. RECRUITMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

10.1 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** and duly seconded by **T C Heritage** was CARRIED:-

“That Council notes the contents of the Report and the provisional dates for an Extraordinary Meeting mentioned in paragraph 2.4 of the Report.”

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11. REVISION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS POLICY

11.1 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** and duly seconded by **T C Heritage** was CARRIED:-

“That Council approves the revised Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions Policy attached as Appendix 1 to the Report.”

12. SECTION 85, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - VACATION OF OFFICE BY FAILURE TO ATTEND MEETINGS

12.1 The following motion proposed by **J D Williams** and duly seconded by **T C Heritage** was CARRIED:-

“1. That the Council’s power, under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to approve a reason for a Member’s failure to attend meetings of the Council and/or the Executive throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of the Member’s last attendance, be delegated to the Standards Committee.

2. That the Chief Legal Officer be authorised to make any amendments as may be necessary to the Constitution to give effect to the decision at 1 above.”

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – STANDING ORDER 9(6)

13A. 13.1 The following motion was proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**:-

“The Executive Member for Highways and Environment is requested to review policies relating to pedestrians and cyclists to ensure that on all highways schemes the greater priority is given to those to encourage modal shift in line with Council’s aims and objectives and to bring the review to Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel.”

13.2 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

13B. 13.3 The following motion was proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and

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duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**:-

“The Director of Environment and Infrastructure is requested to ensure that in any footway (or off road cycle way) closure that is required for development work those users be afforded greater priority and that:-

- 1) Local Members be informed of such closures beforehand; and*
- 2) on principal routes adequate and safe pedestrian crossing facilities are provided by the developer including traffic controls to so protect them.”*

13.4 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

13C. 13.5 The following motion was proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**:-

“Council considers that the practices of 'one and done' is embedded in the Integrated Works Programme for highways resurfacing/reconstruction and i2i projects to enable redundant crossovers to be raised, blocked gully gates to be cleared and, where possible, ponding at road junctions to be resolved with re-profiling or appropriate measures to ensure the long term benefits to the highway and footway network and thus reducing costs in the future.”

13.6 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

13D. 13.7 The following motion was proposed by **S B A F H Giles-Medhurst** and duly seconded by **S K Jarvis**:-

“The Executive Member for Highways and Environment is requested to review the policy of using "surface dressing" (stone chips) in urban settings and to use instead other more appropriate treatments on urban roads and to bring the review to Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel.”

13.8 In accordance with Standing Order 9(8), the Chairman advised Council that the motion stood referred to the Highways and Environment Cabinet Panel for consideration.

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13E. 13.9 The Chairman advised Council that, in accordance with Standing Orders 9(8) and 9(9), he would allow the motion at 13.10 to be debated at the Council meeting and that normal rules of debate would apply.

13.10 The following motion was proposed by **S K Jarvis** and duly seconded by **B A Gibson**:-

“The Council welcomes the decision of Charles Horton the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) to resign in the light of GTR's appalling performance surrounding the introduction of the new Thameslink timetable this May. However it is clear that Network Rail and the Department of Transport are also responsible for the failures which have so greatly impacted the lives of many Hertfordshire residents. It therefore believes that Mark Carne, Chief Executive of Network Rail and Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport should follow Mr Horton's example, accept their share of responsibility for the massive disruption caused and resign.”

13.11 The following amendment was proposed by **D A Ashley** and duly seconded by **A Stevenson**:-

“Delete the last sentence and replace with “.....and it urges government to ensure that the forthcoming independent review takes full account of decisions taken within the Department of Transport since the inception of this franchise in 2014.”

The amended motion to read:-

“The Council welcomes the decision of Charles Horton the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) to resign in the light of GTR's appalling performance surrounding the introduction of the new Thameslink timetable this May. However it is clear that Network Rail and the Department of Transport are also responsible for the failures which have so greatly impacted the lives of many Hertfordshire residents and it urges government to ensure that the forthcoming independent review takes full account of decisions taken within the Department of Transport since the inception of this franchise in 2014.”

13.12 The amendment at 13.11 was then voted upon and CARRIED.

13.13 The substantive motion at 13.11 was then voted upon and CARRIED as follows:-

“The Council welcomes the decision of Charles Horton the Chief Executive of Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) to resign in the light of

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GTR's appalling performance surrounding the introduction of the new Thameslink timetable this May. However it is clear that Network Rail and the Department of Transport are also responsible for the failures which have so greatly impacted the lives of many Hertfordshire residents and it urges government to ensure that the forthcoming independent review takes full account of decisions taken within the Department of Transport since the inception of this franchise in 2014."

**KATHRYN PETTITT
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO EXECUTIVE MEMBERS – STANDING ORDER 8

1. Written question from J Hale to J D Williams, Leader of the Council

“Following the announcement of extra funding for the NHS last month, has the Leader of the Council received any assurances from the Government that social care will not be viewed in isolation from the NHS and that extra funding will be made available to local authorities to lower the social care cost burden as well as improving residents’ lives?”

J D Williams has replied:

“The NHS and social care are inextricably linked, so it is important that extra funding for social care is secured to complement the extra funding identified for the NHS. Indeed, it is also important that a significant proportion of the extra NHS funding is set aside for prevention, and primary, community and mental health services. This investment will in turn complement social care provision and help our residents be as independent as possible. We have been actively lobbying government on these issues through the Local Government Association, the County Councils Network and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services.

At the recent Local Government Association conference, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, acknowledged the need to secure long-term financial sustainability for adult social care. Specifically, he said: “I know that the social care system is under significant pressure and we are committed to ensuring it is sustainable for the future. Health and social care are inextricably linked and any reforms must be aligned. Which is why - as the Health and Social Care Secretary has announced - we will publish a Social Care Green Paper in the autumn. This will include proposals to reform social care, better integrate services and put social care on a long-term, sustainable footing”

The new Secretary of State for Health and Social care has also already committed “to reforming social care for the future so everyone across the country has dignity and security in old age.”

2. Written question from J Hale to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Environment

“In view of the recent Court of Appeal ruling in respect of a landowner's (Network Rail) responsibilities to prevent encroachment of Japanese knotweed onto adjoining land, will the Council be reviewing its policies and procedures for the treatment of Japanese knotweed on roadside verges and other county council managed land.”

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P Bibby has replied:

“A comprehensive information report on Japanese Knotweed and its impact on Hertfordshire County Council owned land was circulated to Environment, Planning & Transport Panel Members at the end of November 2017. The report concluded that while present in Hertfordshire the weed was not currently causing major concerns or problems and as a responsible landowner the County Council was managing outbreaks on its own land as and when they are highlighted. The recent Network Rail ruling opens the way for adjoining landowners whose property or land may have been damaged or suffered reduced amenity to attempt to seek compensation from the landowner who has allowed Japanese Knotweed to encroach is noted but not seen as significant in terms of how the Council continues to manage this invasive foreign invader.

The information report also included the County Council’s approach to the management (including treatment) and responding to reports of Japanese Knotweed within the highway (including roadside verges) which aligns with national guidance (e.g. Well Managed Highway Infrastructure). The Highway Service Guide includes a section on weed control and highway design guide Roads in Hertfordshire contains guidance on dealing with contaminated land. An information note has been given to highway staff to increase knowledge and awareness of Japanese Knotweed. HCC arrange the cutting of around 13 million sq. m of grass by highways. Districts and Ringway staff also look for Japanese Knotweed before cutting to report it for treatment and avoid spreading small pieces around.

The highway fault reporting system has recently been improved including the way noxious weeds (including Japanese Knotweed) can be reported on the website, including photos to help with identification and location details of existing reports.

In regard to the Council’s Corporately Managed Portfolio (CMP) of assets, the land is managed by Carter Jonas, who are aware of the legal designation of Japanese Knotweed and react accordingly when such a plant is identified on any of the assets they manage for us, often using the services of Herts Business Services.

Carter Jonas does not have a formal policy in this area, but has due regard to the Defra and Environment Agency guidance and to the 2012 RICS Guidance note on Japanese Knotweed.

Whenever Japanese Knotweed is identified on County Council CMP sites there is a programme of treatment and control put in place and that is run by Herts Full Stop Facilities Management Team (HBS).

There are a number of sites that receive treatment each year on an ongoing basis. There are no sites where an instruction has been given to cease

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treatment at present other than at Greenfield Road in Berkhamsted where ongoing inspection identified that it appeared to be no longer present.

The County Council Rural Estate follows a similar working practice to the CMP although they manage the current eradication process in house with an instruction to an appropriate contractor. At present there are circa six sites that are being monitored and treated on an annual basis in the Rural Estate."

3. Written question from M A Watkin to T C Heritage, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

"Can the Executive Member tell me what actions are and initiatives are being taken across the county to tackle the threat of knife crime to our young people, particularly to our Children Looked After. I would like a thorough report and am prepared to have it in written form."

T C Heritage, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families has replied:

"A Serious Violent Crime Needs Assessment for Hertfordshire has been commissioned by the Assistant Chief Constable on behalf of the Strategic Chairs Group, and is currently being prepared by the County Community Safety Unit. The term 'serious violent crime' encompasses a wide range of criminal offences. Most commonly, serious violence refers to higher harm offences such as knife crime, gun crime and homicide; however, more broadly the term encompasses offences such as robbery, domestic violence and criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults. The Government's Serious Violent Crime Strategy, published in April this year, stresses the importance of early intervention to tackle the root causes and provide young people with the skills and resilience to lead productive lives free from violence. The emerging Hertfordshire needs assessment reflects this key focus on early intervention and prevention and includes contributions, information and data from a wide range of sources, including Children's Services. It will provide an evidence base to inform strategic planning for the prevention of serious violent crime in Hertfordshire. Once this is finalised a Partnership Protocol and Practice Guidance will be progressed to create a whole partnership approach to meeting the challenges that will form the basis of Hertfordshire's response to the changing environment. It is proposed to bring a full report on knife crime and the Hertfordshire response to Children, Young People and Families Cabinet Panel on 6 November 2018.

Police recorded knife crime in Hertfordshire increased this year in line with the national trend, although it is likely that this is in part due to a change in reporting standards. Hertfordshire Youth Justice data for 2017/18 show that 15 young people were charged with possession of an offensive weapon including knives, 1 of which was a firearm, 13 of which were Hertfordshire young people, (the firearm offence was a non-Hertfordshire young person). This compares with 11 for the year 2016/17 with again 1 firearm offence for a

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non-Hertfordshire young person. The number of first time entrants to the youth justice system in Hertfordshire remains fairly stable and numbers are low but offenders are more challenging and complex. Because a relatively small number of individuals commit the majority of crime and serious violence there is greater potential benefit to preventative intervention.

The needs assessment will inform understanding of what is influencing attitudes among young people and assist in developing appropriate responses that prevent people from carrying knives and weapons and the associated harm. Effective evidence-based programmes for preventing reoffending tend to focus on skills building, cognitive behavioural therapy or restorative justice and are tailored to young people's learning styles, motivation, abilities and strengths and will be multi-agency approaches. Hertfordshire Youth Justice Service, integrated within the Targeted Youth Support Service has been delivering training to update the knowledge of practitioners. A knife crime group intervention programme has been refined and is being delivered and group work continues to be delivered through the Junior Attendance Centre Programme, which includes a session on weapons. Targeted prevention and early intervention projects are also delivered by YC Hertfordshire in project settings or street / detached work, in areas of deprivation, anti-social behaviour / crime and other locations identified with young people exhibiting high risk behaviour. Herts for Learning has an extensive offer for schools that includes training, events and resources. Child Protection Liaison Officers also provide training and briefings along with advice to schools and are currently working with a multi-disciplinary task group to develop a useful toolkit for schools. Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently in the process of renewing old, national resources, known as Staywise to include interactive learning and there are 114 resources relating to criminality and vulnerable young people that are being reviewed by Herts Constabulary. These resources are expected to be available in 3 weeks.

Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) has organised twilight safeguarding briefings across the County this term for School Designated Safeguarding Leads that have included presentations on violent crime delivered by the Police and also by a secondary school that is developing good practice that can be shared across other settings.

These developments are overseen by the HSCB Strategic Safeguarding Adolescents sub-group to ensure that everything that is being developed at the moment is compatible, complimentary and will be in line with the Hertfordshire strategy that is in development.

A programme of workforce development focused on understanding adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and developing skills to deliver trauma informed practice is being explored currently by a multi-agency group of senior managers. The intention is to deliver this at a universal level across the whole Hertfordshire workforce and a skills-based programme for front line practitioners working with more vulnerable young people, including children

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looked after. This is an ambitious plan that will sit under the governance of the Health and Well-being Board and the leadership of the Executive Member for Prevention. An initial meeting has been held to begin to scope the project.”

4. Written question from M A Watkin to T L F Douris, Executive Member on Education, Libraries and Localism

“In view of the fact that this never features in our Cabinet Panel what new measures supporting the Local Agenda does the Executive Member plan to introduce during the coming year?”

T L F Douris has replied:

“I have taken Cllr Watkins reference to Local Agenda as referring to our Localism activities and rather than necessarily looking to introduce new measures, the current focus with the localism agenda is primarily on progressing pre-existing initiatives and maintaining key local partnership arrangements.

Key areas of activity currently include:

- Locality budgets – a report on spend with 2017-18 scheme will be coming to Cabinet Panel in September.*
- The Hertfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant – the annual progress report for which is due to come to Cabinet Panel in October.*
- Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership – for which a progress report is due to come to Cabinet Panel later this year.*
- Working with the voluntary and community sector – through joint working with the sector via the Hertfordshire COMPACT Forum and the commissioning of the #TeamHerts and Connect Hertfordshire contracts to support volunteering and voluntary and community services in the county respectively.*
- Working with Town and Parish Councils – through regular meetings with the Hertfordshire Association of Parish and Town Councils (HAPTC) to explore possible opportunities for joint working. For instance, communications to parish councils encouraging them to get involved in the winter self-help gritting scheme went out last week. I spoke at the HAPTC AGM last week and we are looking to hold a further partnership event with town and parish councils in the New Year.*

Updates on key developments with these areas are regularly included in my Executive Member reports to County Council.

Preparations are also currently being made to mark Local Democracy Week between 15-21 October. As ever, we will be asking members to support this week by making themselves available for visits to schools in their local area.

Plans are also underway to hold a second Hertfordshire County Council

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Volunteer Award event in the Autumn. Following on from a previous successful event in 2016, this event will once again celebrate the fantastic work of those who volunteer their time to support council services.”

5. Written question from M A Watkin to T L F Douris, Executive Member on Education, Libraries and Localism

“At the recent meeting of Schools Forum, attended by the Executive Member, Heads from School’s across the county were presented with a paper by County Council officers outlining the desperate funding situation now facing many Primary Schools as well as Secondary Schools. Will the Executive Member reflect the concern he and his deputy showed at the time by writing to the Secretary of State for Education expressing his deep concern and urging him to ensure that schools’ funding is at least increased in line with inflation and not as at present?”

T L F Douris has replied:

“I have already submitted a motion which covers in broad principle the issues raised by Cllr Watkin. Certainly we recognise the financial challenges faced by schools as well as many other areas of public service. There are clearly a range of cost pressures facing schools, in terms of teachers and other staff pay costs and pension contribution changes. The Government has also withdrawn funding to the County Council previously provided through the Education Services Grant. We have responded by working with Herts for Learning (HfL) to seek to help schools manage and meet these challenges, and where possible improve efficiency as we have done within the Council.

We should not forget that the Government has provided some additional funding to Hertfordshire; in 2018-19 we received an increase in funding for schools of 1.5%. I do not propose to write to the Secretary of State at this particular juncture, though I have recently agreed representations round the level of High Level Needs DSG funding for Hertfordshire. But I do hope that all Cllrs will continue to engage with their MPs to represent to Government the need for a funding settlement which recognises the needs of Hertfordshire.”

6. Written question from B A Gibson to T W Hone, Executive Member Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management

“Given that a government report published in May reveals that people in Hertfordshire are stopped and searched by police more than any other place in the country aside from London, and that a black person in Hertfordshire is nearly five times more likely to be stopped and searched than a white person, and that these figures are completely missing from the Police and Crime Commissioner’s annual report on Stop & Search provided to either the Police and Crime Panel or the County Council Cabinet Panel for Community Safety & Waste Management, do you agree that greater scrutiny is needed of the

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Police and Crime Commissioner?"

T W Hone has replied:

"As you are aware, the Police and Crime Panel have a responsibility to scrutinize the role and actions of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Chairman of the HCC Community Safety and Waste Management Cabinet Panel invite the PCC to speak to the to the panel and it is at that time that members get the opportunity to ask questions of the PCC, including interpretation of data that reflects the actions of the PCC. In addition, there is the statutory role of HMICFS to inspect the Police (and now the Fire and Rescue) Service."

7. Written question from B A Gibson to T W Hone, Executive Member Executive Member for Community Safety and Waste Management

"The current Police and Crime Panel is tasked with scrutinising and holding the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to account, including approving major strategic decisions, yet it was not consulted on the PCC's bid to take over the Fire Service, because it's Chair, a Member of Hertfordshire County Council, believed such oversight was beyond its remit. If the PCC's proposed takeover of the Fire Service is approved, what steps can be taken to ensure there is effective scrutiny and democratic oversight of the PCC and that community safety is not compromised?"

T W Hone has replied:

"Until such time as a decision is taken by the Home Office, regarding the PCC Business Case, we shall continue to challenge the PCC in the way mentioned in the answer to question 6 above. The role of the Police and Crime panel will continue until the governance of the service is changed, or not. Arrangements for any other scrutiny will be dependant of the approved outcome of the case, including the governance model dictated by the Home Office."

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

"What contact has the Executive Member had with the Department of Transport and the railway industry arising from motion passed at the last County Council meeting?"

D A Ashley has replied:

"In immediate response to the motion, The Leader of the Council wrote to the Rail Minister, the Chief Executive of GTR and the Route Director at Network Rail on 23 May, setting out the motion agreed at County Council."

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The Leader has also written to the Rail Minister regarding the recent publication of the specification for the East Midlands franchise, setting out the concern on the proposed loss of long-distance connections in the area.

I am currently arranging a meeting with the Network Rail Route Director for London North Eastern & East Midlands, where I will discuss the Stevenage fifth platform and other rail infrastructure issues.

I am also seeking to arrange a meeting with DfT to discuss current issues and longer-term aspirations for Hertfordshire. The GTR issues have highlighted the need for Hertfordshire to press its case harder on all rail issues.

You will be aware that the problems on introducing the new timetable have continued way beyond the initial bedding-in period. In response to this GTR introduced an interim timetable on 15 July with a view to delivering a reliable service, albeit one that is a reduction from the original May 2018 proposals. Officers are working with local rail user groups to monitor if this promise of reliability is actually being delivered.

GTR have been invited to attend the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & Economy Cabinet Panel meeting on 20 September, where we will have the opportunity to question them on current performance and remedial actions.

My priority at this stage is to press for the reliable introduction of the full timetable that has been promised by GTR. The motion listed several areas of detriment to Hertfordshire services, but we have to accept that this will be a battle for a later day.

You are probably also aware that the Office of Rail and Road are currently conducting an inquiry into the problems with the timetable introductions at GTR and Northern, and I await the results of this inquiry with interest.”

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

“When the Network Management Team agree to footway closures (normally for development work) would the Executive Member agree with me that if such closures are on principle routes and are to last longer than a few days/a week that :

- 1) the Local Member be duly informed?*
- 2) that priority be given to pedestrians and on principle routes and that temp traffic controls to enable pedestrians to safely cross busy roads be provided at cost to the developer in order to safeguard residents?”*

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P Bibby has replied:

- “1. Information on all highway works that involve some form of traffic management, including footway closures, is already available on our highways Roadworks webpage. At present it isn't possible to set up an automatic report to generate information on footway closures. However, the Department for Transport are currently developing a new street works management tool which may offer the opportunity to be able to do this in future. The current timeframe is 12 to 18 months.
2. Where footways are closed on principal roads for any type of works including our own works, developer works or utility works, alternative pedestrian facilities are always considered and will be provided. These facilities could include a temporary traffic signal controlled crossing, signing to an existing pedestrian crossing point or coning off part of the carriageway to provide a safe pedestrian route past the works. These are provided and paid for by the works promoter.”

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

“What steps have been taken to encourage bus operators to establish demand responsive services in Hertfordshire?”

D Ashley has replied:

“Beyond the Dial-a-Ride service there are no current demand responsive public transport services in operation in the county although officers have visited the Arriva Click service in Kent to see such a scheme in operation. Demand responsive services could be trialled as finances permit (for example funded by government grants or developer contributions), and we continue to explore the potential benefits of doing so. As far as we are able we will support and work with any willing commercial and/or community transport operator, or district or borough council who wishes to explore this approach while ensuring traditional timetabled services continue as appropriate.”

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

“Would the Executive Member agree that the framework contract now needs review as it has come to light that road resurfacing defects where a Default Notice has been issued are not required to be put right until after two weeks of the completion of the package of County wide dressing programme in this case in September, no matter when the Default Notice was issued which in at least one case means residents waiting 5 months?”

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P Bibby has replied:

“Our contracts work to nationally recognised standards and we regularly review them on retender to make sure they are fit for purpose. The maintenance framework contract requires the contractor to make good hazardous defects straight away but it is correct that those defects which do not pose a hazard need to be fixed within two weeks of the completion of the project or programme in question. This is normal practice and gives both the contractor and our own engineers time to assess any defects and ensure that they are resolved in the most appropriate way and, where possible, in a single visit. I will ask the team who manage the highways contracts to consider this matter as part of the next review of the relevant contracts but I do not consider that this needs an immediate review.”

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

“Does the Executive Member consider a 5 month wait for defects to be put right anyway acceptable?”

P Bibby has replied:

“Our works on the highway are frequently planned and programmed six months or more in advance so that the impact on the network and the travelling public can be managed. Given that we are considering non-hazardous defects, I do not see a compelling case for an urgent response just because a defect has arisen due to an error by a contractor rather than as part of natural wear and tear on the highway.”

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

“Would the Executive Member agree that if road safety on road markings, such as warning for school children crossing, are faded away that they should be given due priority for replacement/renewal and not just added to a CAT 2 which could mean they wait years to be refreshed?”

P Bibby has replied:

“All highway defects are categorised according to our Defect Management Approach (DMA), which is a risk based approach and follows the guidance in Well Managed Highways Infrastructure, a national code of practise. In the case of a faded road marking these would typically fall in to the category 2 works pool. This means they aren't considered in need of immediate replacement but will be considered for replacement via the CAT 2 budget or if other planned works are taking place in the area.”

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It is unlikely that the type of marking referred to would appear in isolation and there would be other signs in the area indicating the presence of the school. The local area team would take this into account in determining the relative priority for replacing such faded markings against other CAT 2 works. Members may choose to use their Highway Locality Funding for replacing these marks.”

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

“Given that the County Council has funded measures to protect grass verges such as “post and rail” fencing and bollards or these measures may have been funded as part of Section 278 agreements to protect such verges, that due priority be given to ensure their replacement when damaged or repair rather than the reportee receiving a standard “We have assessed the issue, as reported at this location, and it is considered safe” with no indication when replacements or repairs are to be made?”

P Bibby has replied:

“Replacing damaged verge protection measures such as post and rail fencing or bollards is not a priority for the highways service as this would have limited impact in terms of providing a safe and operational highway. These types of replacements are best put together as a package of works to provide better value for money for the council, rather than be carried out as individual replacements within a set time of the damage occurring. As a consequence, when responding to an individual report of this nature it’s not always possible to say when the replacement will happen as it will depend on a number of factors including:

- 1. The volume of verge protection measures to be replaced;*
- 2. Available resources;*
- 3. Priority against other works types.”*

15. Written question from S K Jarvis to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Environment

“What is the Council's policy regarding the maintenance of the older speed operated warning signs and what will be done when these reach the end of their life?”

Phil Bibby has replied:

The Council's operational practice regarding the maintenance and life cycle planning of the older electrically powered static speed operated warning signs is to replace them with the newer Solar powered Speed Indicator Devices.

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Members may choose to use their Highway Locality Funding for such activity.

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

“Is it acceptable for pedestrian protection guard rails damaged/removed on main A roads to not be replaced within 9 months or longer?”

Phil Bibby has replied:

“In line with the council's Defect Management Approach, pedestrian guard railing that has been damaged / removed on main A roads, will be made safe and the hazard mitigated as part of the Category 1 service (safety). Follow on repair / replacement works are then planned and programmed as part of the Category 2 service (asset protection) or Category 6 service (Client Directed).

The repair / replacement works on busy roads such as main A roads require appropriate traffic management and road space booking as well as looking at opportunities to coordinate with other works / traffic management and are batched up for reasons of efficiency, cost effectiveness and to minimise the disruption to the travelling public. This therefore may take several months to arrange and deliver.”

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

“Is it any way acceptable that reported highways faults are closed down and the reportee told they are fixed when nothing has been done and given this is still occurring now some 6 years into the Ringway contract will the Executive Member now consider that the failure to correctly respond to reportee should result in a default notice or similar penalties to the Ringway to “get it right first time”?”

P Bibby has replied:

“There have been issues of incorrect responses going back to customers and where this happens highway teams investigate the problem to understand the cause and put in place measures to avoid this happening again. One of these measures has been the reconfiguring the hand held devices used by the teams on site to make it clear which button should be used, where no works are carried out.

This year highway teams will be introducing a revised audit process to check the customer responses against works carried out to ensure the correct process is being followed. This will allow us to identify the extent of any issue compared to the volume of enquires received before deciding if and to what

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level improvements need to be made.”

18. Written question from S K Jarvis to P Bibby, Executive Member for Highways and Environment

“When will a review of the Speed Management Strategy be undertaken and what consultation with Members and with the public will this involve?”

P Bibby has replied:

“The review of the Speed Management Strategy has begun. Officers have formed the working group with Hertfordshire Constabulary who are essential to the process and are working through key areas to help provide further clarity for users to avoid ambiguity and individual interpretation. It will include a review of the 20mph requirements.

Agreement for the document will be sought from the Strategic Road Safety Partnership prior to being brought to the February Highways and Environment cabinet panel meeting for endorsement for public consultation for a period of 6 weeks. Subject to the consultation feedback it is expected that the final document will be taken to the May 2019 meeting for agreement.”

19. Written question from S K Jarvis to D A Ashley, Executive Member for Growth, Infrastructure, Planning & Economy

“When does the Executive Member expect to bring forward proposals to implement a “total transport strategy” encompassing all transport provided by the Council?”

D A Ashley has replied:

“Work is on-going to resource and take forward a programme to investigate and implement a more integrated approach to passenger transport provision within the county council and possibly beyond. A programme manager/dedicated resource is being recruited to deliver this and it is hoped the new post holder will be in place in the autumn. Their role will be to build upon work already undertaken which suggests that there are opportunities to deliver a more integrated, ‘total transport’ type strategy. Update reports will be brought to the Growth, Infrastructure, Planning and Economy Panels as necessary.”

20. Written question from T Williams to R Sangster, Executive Member for Resources & Performance

“What is the expenditure on temporary workers/agency workers for the past four financial years and the relevant breakdowns in the various departments/budget areas of the Council and what is the current expenditure

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on temporary workers/agency workers for this financial year and the projected expenditure for this financial year?”

R Sangster has replied:

“

	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 (to date) £000's	2018/19 (Projected) £000's
Adult Care Services	5,711	7,370	6,090	5,452	1,160	3,743
Children's Services	8,342	7,674	6,038	4,795	841	3,826
Community Protection	15	31	144	119	4	7
Environment	261	260	315	375	117	344
Public Health	94	(15)	24	4	0	0
Resources	1,845	1,498	1,498	1,721	396	1,782
Total	16,268	16,817	14,109	12,466	2,518	9,703

Agency spend is predominately concentrated within Social Care services (both adults and children's). This is largely due to the need to retain safe levels of cover. However, there has been a clear reduction in that area of expenditure since 2014/15.

Agency staff are also required heavily within Resources, specifically Legal Services (due to pressures recruiting permanent solicitors and to manage peaks in caseloads throughout the year) and HBS (though use of agency warehouse staff and drivers to cover seasonal busy periods).”

21. Written question from T Williams to R Sangster, Executive Member for Resources & Performance

“What is the expenditure on consultants for the past four financial years and the relevant breakdowns in the various departments/budget areas of the Council, and what is the current expenditure on consultants for this financial year and the projected expenditure for this financial year?”

R Sangster has replied:

“

	2014/15 £000's	2015/16 £000's	2016/17 £000's	2017/18 £000's	2018/19 (to date) £000's	2018/19 (Projected) £000's
Adult Care Services	764	800	404	392	91	0
Children's Services	2,190	2,423	1,669	1,788	420	753

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Community Protection	0	70	25	103	64	9
Environment	1,159	1,100	1,231	929	205	1,195
Public Health	291	82	4	5	3	0
Resources	2,383	2,201	2,016	3,183	310	3,968
Total	6,789	6,676	5,349	6,401	1,093	5,924

Consultancy expenditure is usually driven through the needs of specific projects where it is not cost beneficial to retain staff with specialist skills, and where specialist advice is only required infrequently.

The majority of Consultancy expenditure relates to specialist professional advice (property valuations, feasibility site-studies), which is not available in house. This supports the delivery of the capital programme (example schools expansion programme) and also to meet statutory obligations (for example maintaining up to date valuations for accounting purposes)."

22. Written question from T Williams to R Sangster, Executive Member for Resources & Performance

"What is the expenditure on employment agency fees for the past four financial years and the relevant breakdowns in the various departments/budget areas of the Council, and what is the current expenditure on employment agency fees for this financial year and the projected expenditure for this financial year?"

R Sangster has replied:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 (to date)	2018/19 (Projected)
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Adult Care Services	41	219	20	9	31	33
Children's Services	2,098	1,929	1,592	3,087	15	2,094
Community Protection	2	4	2	3	0	0
Environment	22	13	25	41	4	5
Public Health	25	2	0	0	0	3
Resources	554	475	375	281	121	250
Total	2,741	2,642	2,015	3,421	172	2,385

Employment Agency Fees represent payments made to specialist recruitment agencies to support recruitment to establishment posts. The majority of the spend is within Maintained Schools and is understood to be reflective of wider sectoral pressures."

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