

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

### **COUNTY COUNCILS NETWORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE: 15 – 17 NOVEMBER 2015**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To report back on Member and officer attendance at the County Councils Network (CCN) Annual Conference which took place in Surrey between 15 and 17 November 2015.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. The County Council's representatives were Councillor Alan Rhodes, Councillor Kay Cutts MBE, Councillor Joyce Bosnjak and the Chief Executive, Anthony May.
3. This report describes the business of the event and an evaluation by the Council's representatives of its success, with particular reference to the business of the Council and the achievement of objectives. The report is supported by reference to the speeches and presentations which are on the CCN website.

##### **Attendance Objectives**

4. The CCN Conference is the annual national conference for all of the County Councils in England and this year's event was hosted by Surrey County Council.
5. The event is designed to provide an opportunity to consider, discuss and create a deeper understanding of the key issues and challenges faced by County Councils as Local Authorities and the challenges faced by Local Government as a whole.
6. The conference had a full agenda of speeches, plenary sessions, workshops and exhibitions. It also provided opportunities for Members and officers to talk to colleagues across the Country about the various issues and challenges facing County Councils. Conference presenters included Council Leaders, prominent sector figures as well as the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government.

## **Achievement of Objectives**

7. A large number of topics were covered and some of the key issues are summarised below;

### Counties in 2030

8. This session was delivered by a number of young officers, including apprentices, a Police Officer and graduate trainees, from the host County and gave a very interesting perspective of what local government, and in particular, County Councils may look like 15 years from now. The session provided an opportunity to consider challenges from a longer term perspective through the eyes of the younger generation.

### Counties – The Big Issues

9. Tim Byles, the Chief Executive Officer from Cornerstone Assets led on a session which considered the key issues and challenges faced by the Counties with specific reference to Health and Social Care in the context of the ageing population, the Devolution agenda, capacity and resourcing issues as well as challenges faced by developing our infrastructure and delivering Educational outcomes. As a consequence of this interaction, Tim has been invited to a meeting with the Chief Executive and Corporate Director for Place in the New Year to discuss our approach to asset management and the One Public Estate. It is hoped that these discussions will help with efforts to consolidate and rationalise the County Council's building and property portfolio in order to create much needed efficiency savings.

### Health & Social Care Integration

10. This session investigated the opportunities and challenges of integrating health and social care activities to create efficiencies and improved outcomes and informed the ongoing work in this area in the County Council.

### Devolution

11. This session considered the current position and potential outcomes of the Devolution agenda which are obviously of major significance to the County Council given the development of the local Devolution Deal involving Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire local authorities. Councillor Anne Western, the Leader of Derbyshire County Council presented the potential benefits, challenges and risks of devolution and the creation of combined authorities, and made several references to the work across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire to secure a package of devolution. The session also featured Cornwall Council one of our key partners in the current development of the Highways Joint Venture. Members will be aware that Cornwall Council agreed one of the first devolution deals.

## Delivering efficiencies in Health & Social Care

12. This workshop was led by consultants appointed by Kent County Council and considered an evidence based approach to driving transformation within health and social care to create efficiencies and better outcomes. The workshop drew on real case examples from the transformation programme currently underway in Kent County Council. Much of the work presented features in this Council's Adult Social Care Strategy. As a consequence of this session, an informal, without prejudice meeting has been arranged with these consultants to assist the County Council in determining if similar work and associated benefits could be achieved in Nottinghamshire. In this regard, there may be potential in both children's and adult services, and both sectors will be explored in the forthcoming meeting.

### 13. Address by the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP delivered a key note speech covering the issues associated with the Devolution agenda and the funding challenges for local government for the period 2015 to 2020. Specific mention was made of the potential for devolution in County areas and of the work across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. In addition, the Secretary of State talked in detail about the Government's approach to the local government financial settlement, covering topics such as the increasing costs of Adult Social Care, Business Rates retention and the costs associated with providing support to refugees.

14. In addition to these main themes there were workshops on important topics, including the following;

- Ofsted -challenges and opportunities
- Care Market Management
- Troubled Families
- Safeguarding
- Reputation Management
- Business Rates

15. Both Members and officers felt that the Conference was very effective in providing an opportunity to learn, discuss and explore the common key challenges faced by County Councils. As a consequence of the event, a number of follow up meetings are being convened in the New Year to explore opportunities for innovative working

16. Details of the speeches and presentations can be found via the link below.

<http://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/ccn-conference-2015-videos-amp-presentations>

### **Other Options Considered**

17. The report is for noting only.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

18. The report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the report back on Member and officer attendance at the County Councils Network Conference between 15 and 17 November 2015 be noted.

**Anthony May**  
**Chief Executive**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

Bob Godley  
Senior Executive Officer  
T: 0115 9773360  
E: bob.godley@nottsc.gov.uk

## **Constitutional Comments**

20. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

## **Financial Comments (KLA 29/10/13)**

21. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0311