

## E Buckmaster County Councillor Report May 2026

Improvement notice lifted for Hertfordshire SEND services



Following our Area SEND monitoring inspection in October 2025, the Secretary of State for Education has confirmed the decision to lift Hertfordshire's Improvement Notice.

The decision recognises key improvements and progress made across the local area partnership, including stronger governance and quality assurance, improved performance against statutory timescales, better use of data, and more meaningful coproduction with children, young people and families.

### Albury School

#### WHETHER TO AGREE TO THE STATUTORY PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ALBURY Church of England VA PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 31 AUGUST 2026

DECISION: -Cabinet, in relation to the proposal to close Albury C of E VA Primary School, decided to approve the proposal. The cabinet decision has subsequently been called in and will be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Hertfordshire moves forward with franchising

Hertfordshire County Council is progressing with its involvement in the Government's Bus Reform and Franchising Pilot Programme. Bus franchising could improve routes, fares, and service standards by giving it more control over how services are run. Mark Doran, Executive Director for Growth and Environment, said: "This is an exciting step for Hertfordshire. More regular and reliable bus services could make a real difference to our residents."

### Hertfordshire County Council appoints Believ to deliver £38m of EV infrastructure |

Hertfordshire County Council has appointed electric vehicle (EV) charge point operator (CPO) Believ to assist in the £38 million rollout of public EV charging infrastructure for residents without off-street parking.

Mark Doran, Executive Director for Growth and Environment, said: "We know that lack of access to home charging can be a barrier for many people, particularly those without driveways. This programme will help address that by providing reliable, convenient charging options closer to where people live. It also supports our commitment to growing a greener Hertfordshire by reducing emissions and enabling more sustainable journeys across the county."

## **£169m sales of Hertfordshire council land and buildings expected by 2030**

Hertfordshire County Council has agreed plans that could see £169 million raised from the sale of land and buildings by March 2030 as part of a new strategic asset management plan. The proposed disposals are intended to help address a significant funding gap, with the council stating that assets should only be retained where they directly support services, deliver community benefits or generate income.

## **Consultation on Bus Services Help us choose new stop locations - HertsLynx Survey**

HertsLynx is Hertfordshire's on-demand bus service, providing flexible transport in rural and less well-served areas.

We want to make HertsLynx easier for people to use. We're looking at where we could add new stops. Your feedback will help us decide.

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/)

Closes 8th May 2026. Separate email sent to local parishes

### About HertsLynx

HertsLynx is an on-demand bus service serving villages in North and East Herts and fixed destinations in Key Hub Towns: Bishop's Stortford, Royston, Baldock, Stevenage, Hitchin and Letchworth. The HertsLynx service is designed to improve connections between rural areas and town centres, as well as expand access to employment, education, healthcare and shopping.

[Click here to find out more about HertsLynx.](#)

## **UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF NEW SCHOOL PLACES TO SUPPORT EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE THE GILSTON DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL TO CAPITAL SPEND AGAINST S106 DEVELOPER FUNDING**

Cabinet agreed to authorise:

- (i) approval of the capital budget for a 3FE Primary School in Village 1 of £18.53m (DfE scorecard cost plus indexation and 10% sustainability uplift) – funding dependent upon timing of programme (either through Housing Investment Grant or S106);
- (ii) approval of the capital budget for Village 7 Primary School of £18.53m (funded by s106 contributions);
- (iii) approval to allocate funding from s106 contributions (as funding is received) for Village 1 Primary School (dependent upon timing and HIG) and Village 7 Primary School; and
- (iv) approval for the final contract value of Village 1 primary school and Village 7 primary school schemes to be delegated to the Executive Director of Childrens Services & Education, in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Executive Members of Education, SEND & Inclusion and Resources and Performance.

Cabinet also noted that the Council will, at an appropriate time in the school delivery programme, run a competition to seek an appropriate School Trust to run the new school(s) within the development.