

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 28 March 2018**

### **Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing**

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#### **Housing**

##### **The Homelessness Reduction Act 2018**

This act received the Royal Assent in May 2017 and will be introduced in April 2018. The act sees the biggest change in homelessness legislation since the 1977 act. The act will mean that councils must have an even sharper focus on preventing homelessness as early as possible and not just for those who are in priority need.

The legislation states that all prevention of homelessness work is to be carried out under a statutory duty. As current homelessness legislation does not help a substantial proportion of those people seeking accommodation who are homeless or facing homelessness, this is a major change to policy.

There are new duties owed regardless of priority need, intentionality or local connection as the legislation extends homelessness prevention so that help is provided at an earlier stage to all eligible households. It is likely that local authorities will require more temporary accommodation, as using the private rented sector is more and more difficult, mainly due to changes in welfare benefits, like Universal Credit. Landlords are already stating that they will not accept tenants who claim benefits, due to the time it takes to process claims etc.

HBC's Housing Service has been preparing for the legislation since last Autumn and have already begun working in the new ways. Homelessness Prevention has been the team's key focus and this work will continue to be enhanced and developed in line with the new legislation.

It is anticipated that there will be a considerable increase in case load, but this will be monitored and reported to the Executive Board and Cabinet on a regular basis.

A more detailed briefing is being prepared for all councillors and will be sent out shortly.

#### **Rough Sleepers**

During the recent two spates of cold weather the Severe Weather Protocol, (SWEP) was introduced. The team worked with Two Saints and visited the Town Centre daily to ensure offers of support were made to any rough sleepers of whom we were aware. A couple and a single man were placed into B&B and a further offer was made to a single man. However this man chose not to take up the offer despite Officers following this up with him three times.

#### **Community Issues**

#### **Community Grants**

Notifications of reductions in Core Funding have been sent to both Making Spaces and The Spring.

### **Kite Surfing Armada**

The 2018 Kite Surfing Armada is set to take place on Hayling Island from Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th June.

On the Friday, 300 local children will be attending the festival as part of the schools day. The children from years 5,6 and 7 will attend the festival free of charge with their schools to learn about kitesurfing, wind energy, sustainability and the environment. They will have a tour of the festival and be offered the opportunity to come back and try some activities over the weekend.

2018 is the 6th year that this event has been held on Hayling Island. It attracts hundreds of competitors from across the country as well as from overseas. It is a free event for spectators to attend and watch the action.

### **Havant Community Lottery**

A good causes launch was held with over 60 people attending, they heard a presentation from our Lottery Management Company Gatherwell. We had really positive feedback and an interesting Q & A session. Eligibility criteria and FAQ was finalised and shared with groups across the Borough. A Facebook campaign was started and continues to go well. We then held a Web-Go-Live event supported by TV personality Fred Dineage which generated lots of publicity with over 100 tickets sold on the first day.

6 days later over 600 tickets had been sold and over 40 good causes registered, with 5 per week still joining.

Our Communities Team are currently finalising a long-term Communications and Marketing Plan with colleagues.

### **Havant Borough Youth Conference**

Positive Choices-Positive Futures was the theme this year, with keynote speakers delivering inspirational messages. 10 Borough Secondary Schools attended, including Woodlands and Prospect attending for the first time.

Approved by You funding was voted for and allocated by the young people attending.

Those benefiting were Off the Record, Enable Ability and Y-Services.

Thank you to all Councillor's who attended and took part in our Q & A sessions on the day.

### **Armed Forces Mental Health Training**

A course was held in The Plaza, delivered on our behalf by HCC. This was to raise awareness and develop the skills of front-line staff who may come into contact with serving forces members and veterans needing help, who may have mental health issues.

The course was oversubscribed and following extremely positive feedback further courses are to follow.

### **Sport**

#### **Sport England Active Ageing Project**

Officers are currently working through the development phase of this Sport England funded project. Year 1 of this 3 year project received £19,700 of funding to develop a sustainable programme to engage over 55 's improve physical activity levels in the Borough.

A number of focus groups have recently met with local residents, following a comprehensive survey and the insight gained it will help shape the programme over the coming years.

Sport England have agreed £127,500 in principle funding towards the full project, following the development stage.

As the only successful applicant to the Sport England Active Ageing Fund in Hampshire, we have invited to be the guest speakers at the next District Leads Health Forum. The project see our Community Team in partnership with the Countryside Service for the first time.

### **Havant Rugby Football Club**

Officers are currently working with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Havant Rugby Club (HRFC) to improve the facilities at the Hooks Lane site in Bedhampton.

A planning application has been submitted to install a full size rugby compliant artificial grass pitch in place of the existing grass pitch on the site. If successful, the project will bring all year round usage to the site, increased community use and improved quality of sports provision. The project will also relieve pressure on the grass pitches which currently struggle with the demands of rugby.

This project would see an investment of in the region of £850,000 from the RFU into the site, and this would make Havant the leading area for rugby in Hampshire. The project would be operated by the RFU under a lease agreement and HRFU would have priority use of the facilities for an agreed period of time.