

Leader's and Cabinet Leads' Reports

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
29 March 2017

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next 29 March 2017 meeting of the Council, the following supplementary information that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 29 March 2017

Councillor Mike Cheshire: Leader's Report

Finance and Devolution, PUSH, Housing White Paper, HLOWLGA, Business Rates Retention, Solent Growth Forum, TCPA Spring Conference, Internal Communications.

Finance

After a huge amount of work was undertaken by the Finance team, the budgets for 2017/18 were finally approved in full at the Full Council meeting on the evening of 22nd February 2017. As highlighted in the budget speech, there remains considerable challenge within next years numbers to achieve a balanced budget.

In terms of this financial year, we are still anticipating a full year surplus of circa £500k, which will mean that we do not have to draw down from the general fund to balance the books as had been anticipated.

There has been significant progress with finance in terms of improving the levels of Finance reporting and ownership of budgets at a service and Director level, with regular performance reviews now happening.

As we approach October 1st and TUPE transfer of Finance staff to our partner, Capita there will be increasing demands upon the finance team and the Head of Finance to ensure a smooth transfer. We continue to be supportive of our dedicated team and all the great work they do to manage the finances of this council.

Devolution and the Combined Authority

The Leaders of Hampshire's Councils have yet to receive any word from Government on the status of the Solent Combined Authority bid and do not expect to do so soon. The Leaders will continue to discuss opportunities for further collaborations in the coming months and I will keep all Councillors updates on any progress.

Business Rates Retention

There is a movement by Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to pilot the retention of 100% business rates to two tier authorities and consequently a further round of consultation has started, which runs until Wednesday 03 May 2017 on the design of the reformed system.

The DCLG is building on the existing pilot scheme and will be inviting all councils to apply to participate in piloting aspects of 100% Business Rates Retention from April 2018. A decision on whether we can / wish to participate cannot be made until all information on this has been released and considered.

Housing White Paper

The Government has released a Housing white paper “Fixing our broken housing market” which sets out a broad range of reforms that government plans to introduce to help change the housing market and increase the supply of new homes.

There is a consultation period that runs until 02 May 2017, which draws together the Government’s programme for housing market reform, although there seems to be no new substantive measures which have not previously been mentioned in recent bills or consultations.

It is worth also noting that there seems to be limited implications for our progressing the Local Plan, which means we can stay on course to ensure that we are able to get an up-to-date plan in place as soon as possible.

Please do attend one of the seminars being held on Monday 03 April 2017 where you will be given an overview of the provisions of the White Paper, be able to explore how the White Paper could, if at all, affect how we move forward with the new Local Plan, this follows on from the visioning workshops the week before and discuss whether the Council should respond to the consultation and if so, what that response should be. Again, I urge all Councillors to get involved.

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HIOWLGA)

The HIOWLGA meeting was held on 03 March 2017 with a number of topics being discussed:

The impending Housing White Paper consultation and the various grants that may become available for those local authorities serious about housing delivery.

Councillor Barbara Hurst, Rushmoor was appointed as member of the Hampshire County Council Health & Adult Social Care Select (O&S) Committee.

Councillor Roy Perry, Leader of Hampshire County Council provided a briefing on the National Infrastructure Commission visit to Hampshire. The visit focussed on the importance of Hampshire's infrastructure to the region and England. The first phase of the Solent light rapid transport bid has been approved: Solent Local Enterprise Partnership will now be seeking further input from Solent councils for the next phase.

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner, provided an overview of their recent inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). They were rated "good" for neighbourhood policing, organised crime, anti-social behaviour and vulnerability; however domestic abuse, education, rehabilitation and concerns regarding a shortage of skills are areas of focus going forward.

PUSH / Solent Growth Forum

This meeting on Tuesday 14 March 2017 was attending by Tony Briggs, Deputy Leader in my stead.

Strategic level agenda items covered included the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Coordinators Report, Budget Monitoring Report, Green Infrastructure, Housing White Paper, Industrial Strategy Green Paper, Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership, Inward Investment and Productivity and a discussion on the future strategic focus of PUSH.

Outcome of this meeting was that:

- The Push budget was approved.
- It was agreed to respond to the Housing White Paper – Councillor Guy Shepherd from East Hampshire District Council presented some thoughtful solutions to addressing the issue of developers land banking.
- The Industrial Strategy Green paper was agreed.
- Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership – there was discussion that resulted in the paper being requested to be reviewed again in June 2017. There were a number of key issues addressed including impact of a mitigation tariff on affordable housing, a justification of 70 years being taken as in perpetuity and how to address the assumption that this would be the last plan period that would attract the charges.
- There was a presentation on inward investment for the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership – slides are on their website.
- It was agreed to accept the paper on the strategic focus of PUSH in the future.

Solent Leaders Meeting

This meeting on Tuesday 14 March 2017 was also attended by Tony Briggs, Deputy Leader in my stead.

Outcome and discussion from this meeting will be reported within Cllr Tony Briggs, Deputy Leader's report.

Town and Country Planning Association Annual Conference

Tony Briggs, Deputy Leader attended the TCPA Spring Conference on 23 March in my stead.

The conference aimed to answer a number of questions facing local authorities in a post-BREXIT environment, in which Government spending remains tightly constrained. Topics included, financing new large-scale developments, creating value through local leadership and innovation, implications of the Housing white paper and the 2017 budget for creating new communities and garden cities.

Anything of note as a result of this conference will be communicated verbally at the Full Council meeting.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor 121 Sessions – these are now completed and I would like to thank those councillors that took the trouble to complete their questionnaires and come to speak to me. The result of these conversations will be used to appoint next years' areas of responsibility and will be communicated to you all prior to Mayor making.

Those councillors involved in Scrutiny panels going forward will be appointed by the Scrutiny chairman.

HCC / HBC Meeting - As I stated as part of my Leaders report in February, the Cabinet's regular meeting with the Havant County Councillors are set to continue next municipal year and dates have now been put in the diary for June 2017, October 2017 and February 2018.

Annual Youth Conference - On 10 March 2017 the Mayor opened the annual youth conference in the Plaza, which was attended by all 9 secondary schools in the Borough. The conference was very well received by the schools, officers and the councillors who took part in the Question & Answer session in the afternoon.

Following short presentations given by 3 young people on topics relevant to the youth of the borough 'beat the bullies, Motiv8 and Music Fusion, the delegates were given the opportunity to vote for their winner. As a result of that vote the first prize went to Music Fusion of £2,500, second prize was awarded to 'beat the bullies' of £1,000 and the third prize awarded to Motiv8 of £500. All three organisations deliver services that benefit young people in the local community.

It was really nice to see so many councillors taking an active role in the afternoon, thank you.

Local GC Awards – 6 Councils - I had the pleasure of attending the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2017 in London on 08 March 2017 with Leaders and Officers from a number of the other local authorities we are in partnership with on the 6 Councils project.

The project was nominated in the 'Most Innovative Service Delivery Model' category and although we did not win the award this time, it is still a great achievement to receive the recognition on a national stage for the good work we are doing in the Borough and provided plenty of networking opportunities with various Leaders and Officers from other innovative and forward thinking councils such as ours.

Partnership Working with East Hampshire District Council - You may have heard that Councillor Ferris Cowper, Leader of EHDC has announced his intention of stepping down as Leader following this year's elections. We have built a strong partnership between the two councils with a number of services now being delivered jointly providing value for money and saving millions of pounds for both EHDC and HBC residents and we will of course continue to work together to ensure this partnership stays strong and

continues to deliver the best results for our residents. We wish Councillor Cowper well and look forward to welcoming the new Leader, post May.

Winchester City Council – The Chief Executive and I are due to meet with the new Leader and Chief Executive of Winchester City Council on 03 April 2017. This will provide opportunity for us to all meet each other and to help ensure we maintain good working relationships and understanding with neighbouring councils. We hope to have the opportunity to discuss topics such as the impact on council resources and facilities used by residents of the new housing development close to Waterlooville town centre that is within WCC's boundary.

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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 29 March 2017

Councillor Narinder Bains - Cabinet Lead for Marketing, Business Development and 6 Councils

Customer Services

Some analysis has been carried out to understand the numbers of residents who travel to the Plaza from different areas of the Borough to access Council services. We are also looking into whether customer services can provide feed back to Councillors when their queries have been resolved.

Regular meetings have been scheduled with Customer Services Client, to ensure a smooth transfer in October. A CRM workshop is due to be held on 28th March with CAPITA and partners to understand the requirements of a 6 Councils CRM solution.

Serving You:

The council's magazine has been written, designed and printed by the communications and marketing team and is now being distributed to approximately 56,600 properties. 1,000 will be sent to community centres and information points.

Press releases:

The Communications team secured really good coverage in the media including national coverage in The Times. This has included:

- A front page article on the News about encouraging youngsters to take part in developing the local plan and a comment piece inside the paper about this <https://www-portsmouth-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/c/www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/politics/youngsters-must-act-to-shape-their-housing-future-1-7868391/amp>
- Extensive coverage of the beach management works at Hayling Island. This has included national coverage - <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/news/gps-tagged-pebbles-are-deployed-to-save-beaches-k0p3pvzhd> Coverage of this story also included a live interview on BBC Solent and an item on Wave. That's Solent also filmed the work and an interview
- Other items have included freezing council tax, funding being spent on infrastructure projects, flying the flag for the LGBT community (this also featured on the radio)

Marketing

- First stage implementation of the fly-tipping campaign, including full household coverage with Council Tax inserts, a *Serving You* centrespread and a dedicated webpage. This marketing material has already received good feedback.

Working with the Planning Policy team on Local Plan 2036 content, including content for Councillor workshops

Development of *Serving Us* – an informal weekly email to staff

Website

The Havant website has had 36,201 sessions (engaged users) accessing 122,659 service pages.

Most frequently viewed pages

1	Home page	13,972 (11.39%)	6	Rubbish and recycling	2,986 (2.43%)
2	View planning applications and planning decisions	4,824 (3.93%)	7	Pay for it	2,811 (2.29%)
3	Contact us	3,559 (2.90%)	8	Planning services	2,120 (1.73%)
4	Bin collection	3,079 (2.51%)	9	Unknown page	1,807 (1.47%)
5	Council Tax information	3,073 (2.51%)	10	Local plan design workshops	1,720 (1.40%)

The most popular service area visited in February 2017 was 'Planning applications and decisions' and 'Contact us' making up more than 7% of the total page views.

Social media

A really good month of social media activity in February, with all of the top posts performing well on both platforms.

- Facebook up by **80** in February totalling **1,690** followers
- Twitter up by **32** in February totalling **2,567** followers

The top post on Facebook was the news that Havant Borough Council is freezing council tax for the eighth year in a row.

This post was seen by **8,047** Facebook users in which **263** engaged with the post.

The top tweet for Twitter was a weather warning about strong winds on Hayling Island, this is unsurprising as weather posts always tend to perform particularly well.

This tweet was seen by **4,760** Twitter users and **23** of these engaged with the tweet.

Social media campaigns

- **Man with a (van) scam** – Campaign to raise awareness on fly tipping and identifying legitimate waste carriers.
- **Great British Spring Clean** – Havant residents can join a campaign that is aiming to get half a million people across the country to clean up their local community

Friday Funday - is a new project that has been running since the beginning of 2017. It is based on the premise that we post a photograph of somewhere in the borough on Facebook and Twitter on a Friday and ask for residents to guess as to where the photograph was taken.

Since starting the project, we have had very good engagement with residents, in fact there has only been two weeks when the correct answer was not guessed. More than 8,000 people have seen and/or engaged with the project since it began in January.

New feature "Cabinet Communications has been introduced to the councillor's newsletter to provide feedback on items discussed at Cabinet Briefing.

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Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 29 March 2017

Councillor Tony Briggs: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Operations, Environmental Services and NORSE.

Parking Strategy/Management & Traffic Management

Throughout the year, the Traffic Management Team has implemented Traffic Regulation Orders on 20 roads within the Borough.

Included within this is a Restricted Parking Zone (RPZ). This is the first RPZ to be introduced in the Borough. The zone reduces the requirement for lines within the estate which reduces any visual intrusion but still provides clear signing to deter indiscriminate and unsafe parking.

The team have also processed over 60 road closure applications and deployed speed monitoring equipment in approximately 25 locations to monitor speeding concerns across the Borough.

Solent Leaders briefing

Solent Combined Authority

An update was provided on the latest position re: combined authority Solent devolution deal.

The application is still with the Secretary Of State Sajid Javid despite numerous requests to ascertain the government's position, none has been forthcoming and the general opinion is that Brexit is the focus and that devolution deals are on the back burner for the moment.

It was agreed to write to the Secretary of State again and if the Solent Deal was not going to be progressed in the future, an acknowledgement of that position would allow the matter to be put to bed.

Discussion of:

Hampshire County Council Leaders devolution paper

Subjects where

- **Future Joint Working in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight**
- **HIOW Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education**
- **Proposed Transport for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight/ HIOW Passenger Transport Executive**

This proposal would cover the whole of Hampshire County Council

- Local bus franchising (reserved power);
- Take over the Traffic Commissioner role locally;
- Enforcement of a duty to co-operate on public transport operators (e.g. over smart ticketing, contactless payments, travel information systems and interoperability) and on Highways England;
- Major Routes Network designation (the category just below trunk roads e.g. A27) and access to additional maintenance funding for such routes, in advance of any SE designations;
- Delivery of major schemes including potential metro/rapid transit schemes in Southern Hampshire and Basingstoke;
- Local variation to allow a small user contribution on older persons Concessionary Fares, to create a Public Transport Fund hypothecated to supporting PT services.

Health and Care Integration: Joining up Health & Wellbeing Boards

Some Leaders felt that there could opportunities in having dialogue with Hampshire County Council around the whole health and care question.

The Solent Leaders group will respond in full to the Leader of the County on his proposals.

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 29 March 2017
Councillor Tim Pike: Cabinet Lead for Cabinet Lead for Strategic Innovation, Infrastructure and Projects

Infrastructure Improvement: Cycling and Walking, Public Transport, Roads, Traffic and Parking

The Civil Engineering and Landscape Team remain busy delivering improvements to infrastructure, in particular those that promote walking and cycling. Bedhampton – following consultation with members, potential improvements that will be funded by the S106 money from the Scratchface Lane development have been prioritised.

Langstone - The proposals for cycling improvements on the west side of Langstone Road have been amended following consultation with residents. A more limited scheme will be implemented, which will include measures to prevent junction blocking at Langstone Technology Park.

Southmoor – Proposals for improving the junction of Harts Farm Way, Southmoor Lane, Brockhampton Road and Brookside Road have been presented to representatives of businesses in the area. The scheme should deliver improved ingress and egress from the industrial areas.

The Hayling Island Infrastructure Advisory Committee has had its second meeting, and received presentations from the HBC Transport Team and flooding issues from the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnerships. Ideas are being developed that should improve traffic flow, modal shift and remove the need for journeys to the mainland.

I have initiated some work on electric car provision within the Borough and will be bringing forward proposals to Cabinet about how best to ensure residents and businesses are enabled to use this technology.

Strategic Projects & Town Centre re-generation

The strategic plan for Hayling Beachlands is currently in development. A dedicated project manager is in place, and member engagement forum is being held every six weeks. Cabinet has approved some additional funding which will allow detailed proposals to be drawn up.

A similar approach will be taken to other redevelopment areas. I have undertaken further engagement with businesses and residents in Havant and Waterlooville Town Centre's, and continue to seek opportunities to consult on regeneration plans.

Development of Strategic Sites

Successful workshops took place earlier in March regarding the Strategic Site between Denvilles and Emsworth. These were successful at bringing forward a wide range of views from residents, and the consultants are now assembling this information ready to present back to residents at the next set of meetings.

Housing Services

I am pleased to report that Havant Housing Association has completed on the purchase of Lockerley Road-this joint project will provide some much needed accommodation for single homeless people. It is anticipated that we will be able to refer to the scheme in 3 months.

Community Housing Fund - HBC has received a grant of 133k to facilitate and enable local community groups to develop plans for community led affordable housing to be built. Officers have completed a survey advising of the potential use of the fund, to support us in receiving the second tranche in April 2017. Housing Officers with the Planning Team will work on developing possible initiatives which will be discussed further with the relevant Portfolio Holders before reporting back to Cabinet.

Housing Targets - the Housing Service is looking on track to achieve and possibly exceed targets in relation to Homelessness Prevention and Affordable Housing Development.

The Havant Lottery

In the summer of 2017 we are looking forward to the launch of the Havant Lottery. This exciting new project for HBC will benefit many charities and good causes with the Havant Borough. The purchase of tickets will be online and a dedicated website is being set up. We purchased the domain name Havant Lottery.Co.Uk in readiness for what we hoped would be support from Cabinet, which was received on 15/3/17. As much of the detail of this is commercially sensitive, I would be happy to answer any questions on this if members would like to telephone me at home. More details will be provided as the launch date grows nearer.

Havant Sports Club Forum

The Forum on 14/3/17 was hosted by the Community Sports and Leisure Officers. It was attended by 36 people representing 22 local Sports Clubs. The Clubs were told of the advice and support that HBC Sport and Leisure Officers can provide them with in relation to facility development projects. The evaluation from the event will enable us to proactively plan for future sport facility investment projects.

Front Lawn Recreation Ground Project

Following the return of the final construction tenders in February, Officers have been working hard to fill the remaining shortfall in funding to enable the project to start. There has also been a reduction in the original planned size of the car park, which will still remain adequate. This required a variation to the original planning consent. Our wonderful Senior Leisure Officer reapplied to Sport England for additional funding which was granted and that together with some S106 funds have made up for the shortfall.

The aim is for work to start in April for project completion in Autumn 2017.

Bidbury Mead Pavilion Project

Drawings and costings have been submitted to HCC for their approval and to enable draw down of the 100k allocated towards this project. A preferred concept design has been shared with key stakeholders for their initial feedback and thoughts. Officers are currently working on the tender

specification so that a suitably qualified and experienced contractor can be identified to undertake the work, having followed the correct procurement procedure.

Adizone Refurbishment

Officers are currently working to refurbish the Adizone at Eastoke on Hayling Island. Both Norse employees and residents have identified items that are no longer working as they should and are in need of replacement. Officers are to utilise available S106 funding to refurbish this well used facility.

Emsworth Recreation Ground Pavilion

Officers have been in consultation with users and stakeholders of this tired and unfit for purpose pavilion. Current usage, concerns and future requirements form a project brief for the refurbishment project. A design and construction specialist has been approached to produce initial option drawings and indicative costings. These will guide the level of funding that will need to be sought alongside S106 contributions. It will also begin the process of seeking permission from the Charity Commissioners who entrust the land to HBC.

Havant Borough Youth Conference

As those Councillors who attended will confirm, our third conference was better than ever. We are looking to increase the time given at next year's conference to the Councillor Q & A session which both students and members seemed to much enjoy.

Councillor Devolved Budget Scheme

As the scheme for this year ended on 10/3/17 we had a very large number of last minute applications. These are being processed now. We intend to give a summary of the applications, the projects funded and an evaluation of the application process before the next round of Grants start on 1/4/17.

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 29 March 2017

Councillor Michael Wilson: Cabinet Lead for Governance and Organisational Development

Democratic Services

Democratic Services have continued their work in supporting the new streamlined processes for the Scrutiny function. Recommendations from reviews on Independent Sheltered Housing, the EHDC / HBC Partnership and the transfer of IT Services to the Five Councils Contract have now been agreed by Cabinet. The Budget scrutiny process has also been endorsed by the Leader as part of the Budget Speech. Reviews on the Troubled Families Programme and the Provision for Beach Huts are nearing completion.

Topics that are currently being scrutinised include the provision of public toilets in the Borough, a review of the Economic Development service, a review of the Assets of Community Value Policy, a review of the Standing Orders in the Constitution relating to meetings and Taxi Licensing Policy. Councillors who wish to take part in any of these reviews are encouraged to speak to Democratic Services.

The Councillor Development Panel is making good progress in working towards accreditation under the South East Employers Charter for Elected Member Development. The initial self-assessment form and action plan for the Charter have been submitted to South East Employers and we have received very positive feedback in relation to the Council's proactive approach in relation to member development. The Panel will be building on the work it has done to date by implementing the activities identified within the action plan.

The Panel is also taking a lead role in the production of the Corporate Training Programme for 2017/2018. This follows the very positive response from Councillors to the training needs analysis survey carried out earlier this year. From this, the Panel have identified topics such as social media, local government finance and socio-demographic profiles of the Borough as areas for further development and are populating a schedule of training sessions to cover these and other training priorities identified by Councillors. The Panel will continue to review Councillors' collective and individual development requirements as it takes forward the training programme into the forthcoming municipal year.

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