

Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET
2 June 2021

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at meeting of the Cabinet, to be held on 2 June 2021 the following supplementary information that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

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Chairman's Report to Cabinet 2 June 2021

As the new Leader of Havant Borough Council, I'm very much looking forward to taking this organisation forward in a positive direction.

Today, Cabinet reviews the recommendations that have been made by Scrutiny in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. As residents, we have all had to adapt through lockdowns and restrictions that have changed our lives, almost beyond recognition.

But it has also challenged local Government in a way no other crisis has done in the last 50 years. Back in March 2020, virtual meetings were just a pipedream, our staff worked almost entirely from the Plaza and the majority of our services were conducted in person. We now come out of this pandemic streamlined, more efficient and adapted to the challenges of a virtual world.

As a resident and Councillor, I'm proud of the efforts that have been made by officers and Councillors in response to the challenges that the last 12 months have delivered. I have been fortunate to work alongside Councillor colleagues and staff who have been at the forefront of that effort. From delivering food and medicine to co-ordinating the community response. Nearly every person in this organisation has played a vital role and I think we can be proud of our efforts.

That is why I am so privileged to have been elected Leader of this Council and excited for what we can achieve in the future. Havant is a place where I call home and where I hope to raise my own family. So as we recover from the Coronavirus pandemic I'm committed to improving this Borough as place to live, work and visit.

I'm fortunate to be building on what has been achieved in the last three years by Cllr Wilson, who has put in place the strong foundations that I hope to use as the springboard for improvements to the Borough.

Following the sale of Brockhampton West, we can now start to pursue our bold regeneration agenda. Work is underway to submit bids to central Government to provide funds so we can attempt to turn our masterplan vision for Havant Town Centre into reality.

Meanwhile, we are also working on a separate vision for Hayling Seafront, safeguarding it as a tourist destination and as a wonderful location enjoyed all year round by residents. I look forward to sharing those exciting plans with residents in the months ahead.

Finally, I was pleased last week to meet with Flick Drummond MP last week, to hear about her ideas for regeneration in Waterlooville, which I hope we can explore in more detail to bring to fruition.

As Leader, I'm also conscious of our commitment to provide value for money for residents. The last ten years have meant changes for how local authorities operate, becoming more efficient and delivering services for less, something I hope to build upon.

Again, we have strong foundations through our strategic partnership with East Hampshire District Council and commercial partners Norse. Through our

transformation agenda, that we outlined at Cabinet last year, I hope we can continue to provide savings for residents, while delivering high quality services.

While we recover from Coronavirus, we must not forget about the potentially even more devastating effects posed by Climate Change. As a local authority we have an important role on the frontline, changing perceptions as well as setting an example by cutting harmful carbon emissions.

Cllr Thain-Smith as our first ever Cabinet Lead for Climate Change has over the last 12 months been leading Havant Borough Council's work on delivering our Climate Change Strategy. This vital document will set out our blueprint as a Council to help deliver the Government's ambitious climate targets and ensure we have done our part to prevent an ecological disaster that would have a devastating impact on us as a coastal Borough.

Our Climate Change Strategy is just the start of the journey and will inform our work and those of our partners in the years ahead.

Be assured, myself and my Cabinet team are committed to working to achieve these goals. Alongside our outstanding staff, who have proved themselves invaluable during the last 12 months, I'm confident we can deliver them.

Cllr Alex Rennie

Leader of Havant Borough Council