

Supplementary Information

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER, 2023

Please note that the attached supplementary information was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

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| 5 | Public Speaking under Standing Orders 27.5 & 28 | 1 - 2 |
| | To deal with any public questions or address submitted in accordance with the requirements of Standing Orders 27.5 or 28, which is to deal with public questions or address notified no later than 12 noon three working days before the meeting. | |
| 11 | Questions Under Standing Order 27.4.1 | 3 - 4 |
| | To receive questions from Councillors in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 27.4.1. | |

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Item 5 – Public Question Received under Standing Order 27.5

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Mr Comlay	Cllr Bowdell	<p>In October 2022, Amazon began operations at its ‘DBH3’ Delivery Station in Poole, Dorset, a newly built site claimed at the time to be the largest such Amazon facility on the South coast. Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole Council have been in receipt of business rate contributions from operations at this site since it began operations. Following two upward re-valuations within the first year, BCP Council are currently receiving £70,400 per month, based on a valuation for business rates of £1.65 million.</p> <p>In March 2023, Amazon began operations at its ‘DPO1’ site at 32 New Lane, Havant, a facility designed to have 35% greater capacity than its sister site in Poole. Nine months later, however, Havant Borough Council has yet to receive any business rate income from this operation.</p> <p>The 32 New Lane site was acquired for £11 million in November 2020 by Havant Property Investments LLP, a shell company set up by Kingsbridge Estates and Bridges Fund Management. Business rate payments of £65,000 per month continued to be paid until 1st August, 2021 with Pfizer as a sitting tenant. However, just four days after the HBC Planning Committee approved Havant Property Investment’s planning application in September 2021, the site was removed from the business rate register by the Valuation Office Agency, triggering a refund payment by Havant Borough Council of £295,000.</p> <p>Having owned the site for almost two years free from business rate payments, Havant Property Investments sold the redeveloped and newly-leased Amazon ‘DPO1’ site to LCN Capital Partners’ Luxembourg portfolio for £39 million.</p> <p>What actions are Havant Borough Council taking to expedite the setting of a realistic rateable value for the Amazon operation at 32 New Lane, comparable with the same company’s Bournemouth operation?</p>

	Question From	Question to	Question
2	Mr Comlay	Cllr Bowdell	Please explain what action is being taking to recover unpaid business rates, with accrued interest, from the twenty-one months' ownership of the site by Havant Property Investments LLP and the site operation by Amazon UK Services dating from 6 March 2023.
3	Mr Comlay	Cllr Bowdell	It is common knowledge that Amazon's preferred location for its main Portsmouth delivery station was Dunsbury Park, a choice blocked by Portsmouth City Council ahead of the subsequent announcement of that site as a Solent Freeport tax site. What is the current outlook date for the first receipt of new business rate income from a Solent Freeport business located at Dunsbury Park?

Item 11 – Questions Received under Standing Order 27.4.1

	Question From	Question to	Question
1	Cllr Rason	Cllr Bowerman	At the council meeting in September Cllr Bowerman said there was to a new approach to grass cutting and the management of verges in 2024. I would welcome the opportunity to read the report on the 12 sites which were identified for No Mow May and hope this can be achieved soon. There was a considerable amount of negative noise around No Mow May because of a widespread confusion about the cutting of verges and conflagration of this with No Mow May. Hence, will there be a rebranding of No Mow May and when will plans for 2024 to support floral diversity in the borough be ready to share with council?
2	Cllr Rason	Cllr Bowdell	<p>At present, as an officer stated very recently, the council’s financial strategy is to not fund any projects which cannot be capitalised. Whilst the council’s financial position was more precarious, removing all risks was totally justified. Thankfully, HBC’S financial position is more secure and we are now rated A +, which is significantly better than the majority of Local government councils. So, balancing risks and opportunities must be an ongoing process and there will be conditions that it requires for HBC to cease the current policy to never front fund any projects given that removing risk is also removing opportunities. At present there are many income streams are not accessible such as money from Art council, Southern Railways Community fund for community projects, or funding a bid writer to increase the opportunities to make lives better for our residents. All businesses need to balance risk and opportunities.</p> <p>What conditions does the council need for it to consider a review of the present financial policy which would allowing it, where risks are accessed as low and matching the council’s corporate strategies to front fund opportunities for community groups to access other funding for projects?</p>
3	Cllr Coates	Cllr Rennie	Does the Leader agree that all efforts should be made by the Council to negotiate with Hayling Community Centre and ensure that storage facilities for the children's charity

	Question From	Question to	Question
			The Heart of Hayling Boxing Academy are either retained or replaced with a like-for-like secure, accessible and safe storage solution. Anything else will in turn lead to the charity - one that he has publicly supported in the past - closing its doors next month to seek another venue at potentially significant cost and thereby also threatening the viability of the Hayling Community Centre itself who receive thousands in funding through their partnership with HoH.
4	Cllr Philippa Gray	Cllr Bowdell	There have been a number of committee meetings cancelled at short notice recently and it takes a long time for them to be re-arranged. Is any consideration being given to processes that will avoid this, and where cancellation cannot be avoided, are there processes that would allow the meetings be rescheduled quickly.
5	Cllr Rason	Cllr Lloyd	I was very pleased to take part in the very recent Ashden training last month and wish to thank all the officers who enable the training to take place and to Cllr Lloyd who facilitated the training. There were lots of exciting ideas floated. I am pleased to see a review of our Strategy and Action plan on Climate change is due to take place. May we know when the outcomes from the Ashden training and the Review will likely to ready to be shared with the cabinet and members?
6	Cllr Munday	Cllr Lloyd	In the list of sites under active negotiation for planning approval I notice there is no mention of the Southleigh site. Please could you tell us whether there are any current plans to develop this site?
7	Cllr Munday	Cllr Lloyd	At the recent workshop on 12 th October Councillors were given an analysis on the current position of the Council with regard to progress towards Net Zero. Please can you tell us what action is planned as a result of this?
8	Cllr Harris	Cllr Lloyd	Further to the mention of such work in the CEO's August report, what progress has there been on installing more EV charging points around the borough?
9	Cllr Harris	Cllr Rennie	Following the publication of the Royal HaskoningDHV Report into the situation at, and options for, Langstone Mill Pond, and as winter approaches and the danger of catastrophic failure of the wall looms, can we be updated on how HBC plan to follow through on the pledge made in the summer to save the millpond, and can Alan Mak MP be enlisted to acquire any necessary permissions at government level?