

Portfolio Holder Report – Council 17 April 2013

By Cllr Tony Briggs – Leader

IESE Conference

I attended an IESE conference on 6 March entitled “Council 2018” – Radical change requires radical thinking. The event included various speakers including a very interesting session on the Financial Conundrum: How do you make local authority budgets work now and in the future and a Strategic Panel Discussion on the Future Sustainable Councils and what are the new innovations of the future?

South East 7 Conference

The Chief Executive and I attended this conference on 7 March. It gave the opportunity to hear first hand from the South East Seven (SE7) Councils*, central government, partner organisations and the private sector as to how this flexible approach to partnership working is enabling the SE7 to respond to the challenges facing local government and to take full advantage of emerging opportunities. The SE7 partnership is working with Government to develop innovative responses to the reform of public services, whilst delivering significant savings for the benefit of our 5.5 million residents. What was particularly complimentary to us was the fact that Havant was mentioned by several of the speakers during the day and the Plaza was highlighted as best practice to others. The final speaker of the day was the Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government.

Meeting with David Willetts MP

Sandy Hopkins and I met with David Willetts on 22 March. The meeting gave us the opportunity to discuss various issues with our MP including: housing pressures, new Welfare Reform and its impact, Dunsbury Hill Farm development and other economic development opportunities.

Local Government Chronicle Awards and other Awards

In January, Sandy Hopkins and I presented our submission to the judging panel under the partnership award category “Recognizing Innovation”. Following this we were shortlisted to the final eight, and along with Cllr Mike Cheshire, Sandy Hopkins, Gill Kneller, Jackie Batchelor and Louise Weaver, we attended the awards ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane, London. Sadly we didn’t win our category but our work was acknowledged on the “big screen” on the night!

I am delighted to announce that we have now been shortlisted for the competitor local government awards 2013 – Municipal Journal. We will be making our pitch in early May – watch this space.

Other work I have been involved in recently include:

PUSH Economic Development Panel

PUSH Employment & Skills Board
PUSH Joint Committee

Councillors joined me on 25 March to continue our work on developing the Council up to and beyond 2020.