

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 09th December 2015

Councilor Mike Cheshire: Leader's Report

Corporate Strategy, Finance.

Finance

The Budget process currently is on track with all Departments looking at their requirements for the next financial year. Once again, Havant BC is adopting a “zero based budgeting” approach, which means that each budget line has been re-evaluated thoroughly, starting from a zero base. The latest stage has been for the Joint Executive Board to consider the current budget position following the initial budget forecast submissions from Service Managers and their teams, and to formulate a strategy for the delivery of a balanced budget for the 2016/17 financial year. It is anticipated that this work will continue throughout December.

The new Civica financial system is now nearly 2 months into its implementation process, with income and payments now being processed through this system. Customer payment via direct debit is currently in ‘phase 2’ of the project. It is expected that this phase of the project will commence early in 2016, however as Havant Borough Council currently use Capita for all income processing it is likely we would need to work in partnership to roll out this functionality.

All services that have been affected by this change have been working with finance to ensure that the migration process runs smoothly. So far, apart from a few days’ worth of minor slippage, the Civica roll out has taken place as per the agreed implementation timetable.”

Corporate Strategy

I have nothing significant to report other than we are moving in the direction that the agreed Corporate Strategy requires us to.

Combined Authority (CA)

Members will be aware of the CA communication updates which have been sent to you and are available in the Member’s coffee room. More recently however, the Hampshire and IOW Devolution Prospectus “challenge session” with the Secretary of State highlighted a number of issues that require further work. The two main issues are – Housing numbers within the CA and Governance of the CA. The Hampshire and IOW CA have offered some 80,000 homes to be built by 2024, but explained that this was a very

ambitious and stretching target, and at the very limits of what the market could physically deliver. The Government feels we could offer more, but has not defined what “more” is. This has resulted in the Leaders of the CA forming a Housing Working Group to ascertain what else could be offered up.

On this issue of Governance, the Secretary of State said that our bid was the least ambitious amongst the other 38 proposals that have been received. The concept of a directly elected Mayor was mentioned, but it was accepted that this model of Governance was not really appropriate for County areas. As a result, a Governance Working Group was established to formulate another offering; I am part of this Working Group.