

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council December 2016

Councillor Mike Cheshire: Leader's Report

Finance and Devolution

Finance

I am please to advise you that our Councillor Locality Grant scheme is now live and I look forward to hearing about how it has helped your communities later in the year. This is being funded through the savings being achieved by our officers, through our in-year targets.

Following the annual external audit of the Statutory Accounts, we were pleased to receive clean audit from our auditors, Ernst & Young. Our audited final accounts are now live online. The accounts can be found at: <https://www.havant.gov.uk/council-budgets-and-spending/statement-accounts>

The organisation is working through a 'bottom up' budget programme against the latest monthly data during November and December as part of the Mid Term Financial Strategy programme. As a result, the numbers are still to be firmed up and fully understood as our new ventures (i.e. NORSE and the 5 Councils) start to take effect on our overall budget.

Furthermore, the Finance Teams are working hard through a programme of enhancing the suite of reporting documents so as to better understand "in year" performance and variation to budget. The finance business partners have been fully engaged with the service managers to enable them to better understand the expenditures and incomes through their respective services. In addition, the Team are fully engaged with our external auditors to understand what year end activity and close can be brought forwards into this financial year. This will have the effect of allowing close financial scrutiny on any times that need investigating.

During this financial year Havant BC has agreed to fund some of the costs of repairing the 'Emsworth Wall' by Emsworth Railway Station, which we are able to do without impacting on services or drawing down from revenue reserves, but will clearly benefit our residents in that area in having a solution to what has been an ongoing problem.

The closing of accounts process is due to be conducted earlier next year. This is in line with the statutory requirement for all councils to have their accounts signed off by the 31st May. This will take place for the 2017/18 financial year onwards.

Devolution & Combined Authority

Councillors will be aware that they have been updated on all devolution matters on the 12th October 2016. Furthermore, you are aware that at the Chancellor's Autumn Statement the proposed Combined Authority between Portsmouth, Southampton

and the IOW was NOT announced, neither were any other Devolution matters that concerned Havant. I will keep you informed of any proposed way ahead programmes for Local Government Reform as and when it occurs.

New Cabinet Post Announcement

I am delighted to announce that Cllr Tim Pike has kindly accepted my offer to join the Cabinet. His role will be as: Cabinet Lead for Strategic Innovation, Infrastructure and Projects.

Tim, as a Local Business Man in the area knows Havant (Town and Borough) well and will do a very good job within this wide remit. I will be asking him to take the lead on the following areas:

1. Innovation – 4th Industrial Revolution, New approach to Service Delivery, Liaise with Schools, Collages and Universities

2. Infrastructure – Resulting from our commitment to focus on Infrastructure Improvement, Cycling and Walking, Public Transport, Roads, Traffic and Parking in the Borough.

3. Strategic Projects – Linked to Infrastructure with Town Centre re-generation at Waterlooville, Havant Town, Hayling Island and Leigh Park; Development of Strategic Sites at Denvilles/Emsworth, Impact of Brexit, and Tourism.

This appointment will take affect as from 1st January 2017