

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 20 September 2017**

### **Councillor Tim Pike: Cabinet Lead for Cabinet Lead for Economy and Infrastructure**

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#### **Economic Development**

**Dunsbury Business Park** - The new Business Park is progressing rapidly with the first occupier FatFace moving into their new distribution and office space. The new operation, which has modern handling systems, will allow Fatface to distribute across the UK to their retail outlets as well as supplying the developing U.S market. Local residents have benefitted with the new employment opportunities Fatface has offered with their new site. The site has attracted significant interest from prospective occupiers and the council is working with Portsmouth City Council to identify local businesses with expansion needs that can be met by the site.

**Solent LEP Havant support fund** – The council continues to help businesses access and apply for this £250,000 fund launched in Dec 2016 by Alan Mak MP. This capital fund seeks to support small businesses in Havant to grow through new processes, products or services, and/or developing new markets. To date, around half the money has been awarded to businesses in the Borough with a number of further applications in the pipeline.

**Pfizer** – following announcement of the company's intention to withdraw from the Havant site in New Lane by 2020, I am taking part in a multi-agency task force that is co-ordinating the public sector's response. Chaired by Alan Mak MP, the group comprises senior representatives from Solent LEP, Dept for International Trade and Pfizer. Key issues relate to support for affected staff and the future of the Havant site. The group's next meeting takes place in December 2017.

**Chamber of Commerce** – Sandy Hopkins and I met last week with the new CEO of Hampshire Chamber of Commerce to discuss opportunities for partnership working with HBC. The Chamber are keen to increase their level of engagement with businesses in the borough and have a range of support products to offer including access to finance, help with exporting, training and networking. This forms part of our aim to increase the level of business support investment in the Borough to actively assist the small businesses community.

**Solent Road / Commercial property** - All the units on the recently developed site are now fully occupied which indicates confidence in the Havant economy. Discussion with agents in the area has confirmed that there is a shortage of industrial units in a variety of sizes from 1,000 sq ft to 15,000 sq ft to meet local demand. I continue to work with Cllr Guest to bring forward development opportunities that meet business needs.

## **Tourism**

**The Emsworth British Food Fortnight** - takes place from 23rd Sept- 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017. This award winning event is a key event supported by Havant Borough Council that attracts thousands of visitors each year from across the UK and beyond. This year's event will further underline Emsworth's profile as a leading food destination.

## **Property Investment**

Members will remember that our February 2017 meeting, the Leader (in his budget speech) committed to engaging members further in the proposal to invest in additional property to increase our income. Our existing property portfolio is performing well, but there is still room for improvements.

A paper outlining our approach has been prepared, and has been presented to the Budget Scrutiny Panel chaired by Cllr Hughes. The Panel's suggestions have been responded to, and I expect the final proposals to come to Cabinet and Council in October 2017.

## **Infrastructure Improvement: Cycling and Walking, Public Transport, Roads, Traffic and Parking**

The Civil Engineering and Landscape Team are busy delivering improvements to infrastructure, in particular those that promote walking and cycling:

Langstone – This project is currently underway, which includes measures to prevent junction blocking at Langstone Technology Park and an improved bus stop by Langbrook Close. The works are not preventing a two-way traffic flow – only the line painting will take place overnight, as this has the potential to impact the A3023 flow.

The Hayling Island Infrastructure Advisory Committee continues to meet, and has received presentations from Emergency Planning staff and many other topics including waste water. Ideas are being developed that should improve traffic flow, increase modal shift and remove the need for journeys to the mainland. The conclusion of this work will form part of the draft Local Plan.

I have initiated some work on electric car provision within the Borough and will be bringing forward proposals to Cabinet about how best to ensure residents

and businesses are enabled to use this technology.

### **Strategic Projects & Town Centre re-generation**

The strategic plan for Hayling Beachlands is currently in development. A dedicated project manager is in place, and member engagement forum is being held every six weeks. Proposals are being drawn up, and will be presented as part of the Local Plan consultation in the new year.

The Leigh Park regeneration project is underway, examining options for the public services delivered in Leigh Park – focussing on the area off Dunsbury Way currently utilised by a number of public bodies and charities. The next meeting of the Project Board takes place in October.

The redevelopment of areas of Havant Town Centre is a much more wide-ranging and complex project. Initial work is taking place as part of the ‘One Public Estate’ agenda, and options are being examined for the replacement of the Havant Station footbridge (the publicly accessible bridge to the west of the station).

In Waterlooville, in response to traders concerns, additional signage to warn against feeding pigeons has been erected and has had some impact. Additional enforcement measures are now also taking place. Following a earlier Development Consultation Forum, the developers of Wellington Way are preparing revised plans and these will be available to the public at Waterlooville Library, and an empty shop unit will also be utilised for consultation with the public.

A seminar is being arranged for all members to outline all the regeneration work taking place.