

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 1st November 2017

Councillor Tony Briggs: Leader's Report

Cabinet Lead for: Corporate Strategy, Devolution, Finance and NORSE

This is my last Full Council as Acting Leader, as we welcome Cllr Cheshire back from sabbatical in January 2018. This report contains updates on my portfolio as well as duties as Acting Leader.

Finance

The team have been working with managers in building the budgets required for Financial Year 2018/19 from a zero base. This will require each and every budget to be justified before inclusion.

In parallel, work on the projections of expenditure and income for the current financial year identified a deficit against the approved budget. The Executive Team and Heads of Service have identified a number of solutions to reduce the projected deficit; and work will continue towards the year end to try to bring the outturn in on budget.

The Council's section 151 officer, Andy Radford, has advised us that he wishes to end his contract with us, subject to ensuring a smooth handover to his successor. I am pleased to say that Lydia Morrison has been appointed to replace Mr Radford as the Council's interim section 151 officer. I am currently supporting interviews to recruit a permanent Head of Finance and Deputy.

Business Rate Relief

The Chancellor announced in the budget in March 2017 funding for the Supporting Small Business Relief Scheme, the Discretionary Business Rates Relief Scheme, and the Pub Relief Scheme.

The small business relief has not been awarded as yet as we are in the process of installing a software release to award it (should be in the next week or so). There are only 5 ratepayers affected and they have previously been notified of the position.

The cases for discretionary relief scheme have not been awarded their relief yet as we are working to ensure the correct cases are identified. This should be concluded shortly and we will then be posting the awards automatically to the accounts – no need for ratepayers to apply. Current estimates are for 380 cases to be eligible to receive this benefit. All eligible cases will be backdated to 1st April 2017.

The pub relief has been granted to those who have applied.

Norse South East (NSE)

Highway weed control - There are still challenges and additional resources have been employed, however it is apparent that this has not resolved the situation to a satisfactory level. NSE will continue to work to improve the situation. This will include;

- Continuing to provide resources to physically remove weeds
- NSE has now trained team members to spray weeds. They will continue spraying weeds throughout the rest of this year, end of March 2018.
- As of 1st April 2018; NSE will have two team members continually employed on weed spraying. This will be supported by additional resource as required and will continue for as long as necessary.

Bottle banks – Due to operational challenges (driver shortages) this service was significantly disrupted, this resulted in poor service delivery in some of our key sites. Action was taken to address this as quickly as possible, which included crews working additional hours. Normal scheduled emptying has now resumed. In an effort to minimise future disruptions and to accommodate the increase in glass NSE will place additional bins at our busier sites, these will include;

- Hayling Park
- Tidworth Road, Leigh Park
- Wickes Car Park, Havant
- Tempest Avenue Car Park

Additional bins will be delivered to these sites by Friday 10th November. Signage will also be displayed at each site to advise customers of scheduled collection days and the nearest alternative site.

Health and safety - NSE and HBC continue to monitor the Health and Safety and there are no issues of concern.

Strategic waste - Officers from Havant Borough Council and NSE continue to attend Project Integra meetings. Recent meeting highlighted key issues of concerns regarding recycling levels and recycling contamination levels, this appears to be a regional trend. A waste and recycling project is to be set up, this will include officers from various service areas in HBC and NSE. An initial meeting has been arranged to agree Terms of Reference, to identify the challenges around waste minimisation, increasing recycling levels and reducing recycling contamination. It has been identified that the NSE use of bin hangers for visible contaminated recycling has not been satisfactory, also the case for notification/stickers being placed on excess rubbish. This is being addressed by further employee training and improved monitoring by Managers.

Hampshire waste partnership project – The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Local Government Association (HLOWLA) agreed to fund this project and Atkins were appointed as consultants. In December, HLOWLA agreed that there was an opportunity to refit two Material Recycling Facilities (MRF) to

collect more materials, look at the wider collection of glass, and explore behaviour change options.

Since then, the project team has been working closely with Veolia to develop various options for expanding the MRF input specification. This includes looking at the number and location of the existing MRFs. For example, the building of a new MRF would mean lower transition costs and could be located at an optimum site to improve efficiency. Investigations are being conducted along with a timeline which will be completed by the next HLOWLA meeting on 21st July.

Green waste - The customer base has increased steadily throughout the season. There have been some disruptions to service but these have now been resolved.

Street cleaning - A good level of service has been delivered; the team are preparing for seasonal leaf fall and will divert appropriate resource to key areas.

Grounds and open spaces - Highway verge cutting, this work is scheduled between March and October and the target is 9 cuts. As of the end of October 7 cuts were completed. However due to the mild weather conditions grass continues to grow, NSE will continue to cut up to the 9 cuts weather and ground conditions permitting. All other aspects of this service are performing to standard.

Vehicle workshop and fleet - Continued growth in MOT testing, servicing and repairs.

Commercial update: NSE continues to develop new business opportunities and business growth is encouraging with recent business gained on grounds maintenance, vehicle workshop and ongoing increase in trade waste collections. NSE continues to bid for local business with a high number of proposals currently being considered, and the ongoing increase in trade waste collections. Sales continue to be on target.

Service Updates

At Full Council on 20th September 2017 it was suggested that all Councillors should have a Disclosure Barring Service check (DBS) due to their role within the community and schools. It has since been confirmed that a DBS check is not required by law based on the role that Councillors at HBC carry out.

Internal Communications

I attended the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee meeting on 18th September 2017 where it was reported that following a consultation with members; Naomi House Children's Hospice has been nominated to receive

an award under the metals recycling scheme operated by the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management. The Manager and Registrar updated members on the increasing popularity of early morning 'walk through' funerals. Further work is required to identify costings to fully implement utilising waste heat in the heating of the Crematorium.

I attended the NORSE EHDC & WCC Environmental Services meeting on 19th September 2017. Further meetings are being undertaken to move this project forward.

I attended the Hampshire & IOW Local Government Association meeting, held on 22nd September 2017, where it was agreed that a full investigation in to siting and building a new Material Recycling Facility will be undertaken by Veolia and Hampshire County Council.

I attended a joint meeting between Sandy Hopkins/Tom Horwood - Leaders/Deputies EHDC, HBC & WBC on 10th October 2017, where a number of issues were discussed and possible opportunities for the future discussed.

At the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) Joint Committee meeting, held on 16th October 2017 I received two presentations; one regarding the final draft of the South Hampshire Integrated Water Management Study. The other from a Marine Officer, introducing The Marine Management Organisation and their South Marine Plan.

End.