

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 13th December 2017

Councillor Tony Briggs: Leader's Report

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

While Acting Leader, I would like to thank the Cabinet, Cllrs, and Officers for their support over the past 5 months, as we welcome back Cllr Michael Cheshire in January 2018, as Leader of the Council.

Financial Strategy (including MTFs, borrowing and investments)

As previously reported, forecasts to date have identified a potential deficit for the end of this financial year. The finance team continue to work closely with Heads of Service to bring the outturn position back in line with the original budget.

On 6th December, the Cabinet held a challenge session with Directors and Heads of Service whereby both this financial years position and the budget estimates for 18/19 were examined and challenged to ensure that as Members we were fully informed and appraised of the reasons for the movements from a balanced budget position to the forecast of a deficit.

The results of the challenge session is that there continues to be more work by Directors, Heads of Service in consultation with the Chief Executive, Chief Finance officer and myself as portfolio holder to ensure our budget for this and next year continues to deliver our strategic objectives and remain affordable.

Last month I informed Members that I was supporting the process for the recruitment of a permanent Section 151 Officer and I can confirm that we have completed this and Lydia Morrison has joined us as our Chief Finance Officer and Section 151.

Norse South East (NSE)

Highway Weed Control – Resources are still being allocated to weed treatment; this includes physically removing and spraying weeds. This work will continue until 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 – NSE have placed additional banks at our busier sites;

- Hayling Park
- Tidworth Road, Leigh Park

- Wickes Car Park, Havant
- Tempest Avenue Car Park

Wording is being finalised so that the signage can be displayed at each site to advise customers of scheduled collection days and the nearest alternative site. Signs will be in place before the Christmas break.

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

Strategic Waste – An initial meeting has taken place involving HBC and NSE officers in relation to a Waste and Recycling project. A project plan is being produced which will be completed by the end of December. The plan will provide direction in terms of addressing key areas of concern around waste and recycling performance. Norse has offered the services of a Waste Officer from another Joint Venture who has experience in identifying issues and reducing contamination levels.

Project Integra – In February, the Head of Project Integra will be leaving post and taking up a new role at New Forest District Council. Between now and February he will to prepare the relevant reports for the next Strategy Board meeting, to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

As the employing authority, Hampshire County Council, along with the current Chair of Project Integra, Cllr Eachus, will initiate the discussion about the way forward for the role, post-February.

Green Waste – As of the beginning of November, we no longer accept new customers for 17/18. Those who enquire about the service will have their details retained and they will receive information ahead of the next year's collection service.

The increase in customers this year has resulted in the need for NSE to review current schedules with the aim of identifying better service delivery and to identify any extra capacity within existing resource. This work will be completed by end of January.

Street Cleaning – The team have been busy addressing seasonal leaf fall with resources diverted to key areas as/when required.

Grounds and Open Spaces - Highway verge cutting, as a result of good weather and ground conditions, continued until the end of November resulting in 8 completed cuts in most areas within the Borough. Schedules for 18/19 have been produced and submitted to HBC. All other aspects of this service are performing to standard.

Vehicle Workshop and Fleet Management – Continued growth in MOT testing, servicing and repairs.

NSE are offering a free 7-point winter check up until 30th December, details have been circulated to the HBC Communications team.

Commercial Update – NSE continues to develop new business opportunities and business growth is encouraging with recent business gained. 39 additional work requests were received; this included new contracts, positive contract variations and new commercial waste customers.

NSE continues to bid for local business with 13 proposals currently being considered. Overall business growth continues to be on target.

‘Storm Brian’ and Remembrance Day – Numerous compliments were received, from HBC Officers, Councillors and members of the public, as a result of NSE staff response and support for these two events.

Christmas and New Year – Residents have been advised of the revised refuse/recycling collections dates through the recent edition of ‘Serving You’. NSE will allocate additional resource to empty bottle banks daily during this period.

Internal Communications

I met with John Nelson, Chairman & Nicky Horter, Administrator from the Chichester Harbour Trust on 21st November and I was given an update on the work that they are doing, and they thanked us for the support that we have given them.

On 24th November we hosted the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Government Association meeting, where we discussed Partner Organisations, updates to the website, and the Outside Bodies Nominations 17/18. A presentation was given by Hampshire County Council into their budget constraints and some of the measures of which they are looking to implement; one of those being agency agreements with District Councils.

On 28th November I attended the Solent Leader’s Meeting at Portsmouth City Council. I was invited to a meeting at Westminster to discuss devolution with some of the southern MP’s; unfortunately I was unable to attend because of Council commitments.

On 1st December I attended the Business Breakfast here at the Plaza, where Alan Mak, MP gave a government update post budget announcements, and Anne-Marie Mountifield, Chief Executive, Solent LEP gave an update on Infrastructure investment.

Also on the 1st, I attended a meeting between Leaders and Chief Executives; with Cllr Dignum, Leader of Chichester District Council, Diane Shepherd, Chief Executive of CDC, Sandy Hopkins, Chief Executive of Havant Borough Council and East Hampshire District Council, and Cllr Richard Millard, Leader of East Hampshire District Council to discuss corporate and local plans. This

was a very positive meeting and we considered opportunities that may be available to work together across the three Authorities.

I attended the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire Joint Committee Meeting on 5th December at Fareham District Council, where discussed was the Solent Recreation Mitigation Partnership (SRMP) Definitive Strategy, and we discussed the housing numbers and it was felt by all Authorities that what we needed from the Government was investment in Infrastructure, and a response to Governments consultation on that matter will be sent on behalf of PUSH.

End.