

## **Cabinet Lead Report – Full Council 21 February 2018**

### **Councillor Michael Cheshire: Leader's Report**

#### **Cabinet Lead for: Corporate Strategy, Devolution, Quality and Programmes**

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I returned from sabbatical on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, after taking some time out to fulfil my passion for history. I would therefore like to thank Cllr Tony Briggs for taking on the duty of Acting Leader in my absence, and thank you to all Cabinet members for their continued support to Cllr Briggs and I during this time.

Whilst I have now resumed my position as Leader, I have confirmed that I will not be seeking re-election as a Ward Councillor, and therefore as Leader of HBC in the May 2018 elections; we will be moving away from the area. The process to elect a new group Leader is underway for the next municipal year. However, I do remain the Leader of HBC until Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May when the new Leader will be elected by Full Council.

#### **Budget**

A great deal of work has been undertaken in the last few months to provide a balanced budget for the next financial year, and I will be presenting this to you later. As well as thanking Councillors in the Overview and Scrutiny Board for all their work, it is also worth emphasising that I, the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Lead for Finance and all Cabinet Leads, together with the CEO and the new Chief Finance Officer, together with their relevant Service Heads, have all pulled together, with me, to present to you, a balanced budget for the financial year 2018/2019.

#### **Capita and Correspondence**

I have recently received a letter from the Managing Director of Capita Local Public Service Division formally reassuring me of Capita's full commitment to HBC as a client and to also re-assure us that Capita remain committed to the public-sector market (which includes Local Government). Capita are determined to build a stronger company that will deliver long term value growth for both its customers and shareholders. The actions they are taking will also facilitate development and future investment in its people, systems, products and services which I hope will reflect back through to us as customers as we move forward

Furthermore, on 5<sup>th</sup> February I attended a meeting with the Leaders of the 5 x Council's with our Cabinet Lead and the CEO to discuss the service delivery of Capita. There are many services that are on track in terms of their Key Performance Indicators and are doing well. However, we are also aware that

there are other services that are not performing as well. We are managing this through the partnership of the six district councils. However, I am also aware that given recent events in the market with Carillion having been taken into administration, and now the public concerns around Capita, there is a need for us to ensure that our own national organisation, the Local Government Association (LGA) is cited on our issues. To that end the Chief Executive has recently chaired a conference call with the LGA and all other CEOs from the councils involved in the contract. The purpose of this was to ensure that the work of the six districts through the Capita contract is at the forefront of their minds and on their busy agenda. The Leaders are also working together to ensure that Lord Porter, Chairman of the LGA is aware, and regular communications with him and his team will continue.

### **Devolution and the Combined Authority Issue**

Of late, there has been very little further to add on this subject at a national level beyond the Northern and Midland Elected Mayors and Combined Authorities bedding in. Members will be only too familiar with the time and effort that took place in 2016-2017 and the start of this financial year on this matter, and we are no further advanced. More recently the cities of Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight have been successful in their work to be a 100% business rate retention pilot. You will be kept informed if the issue starts to gain any momentum in the future. Members might be minded to read the statement by the leader of HCC recently on this matter (amongst other things).

### **Relationship with East Hants District Council**

I have been in close contact with the Leader of EHDC on various matters of mutual benefit for both Councils, which I believe is right and proper approach what with the senior management team and the CEO working for both Organisations. I firmly believe there are many advantages in continuing to develop this relationship as we move forward, and I feel there are even more savings and efficiencies that can be obtained with an even closer working relationship. The Overview and Scrutiny of this Council undertook a review of arrangements earlier this year and concluded the success of this aspect of our strategy, which fully endorses the way we are moving ahead. More recently the Budget Scrutiny has also been looking at this aspect of our financial strategy and similar conclusions are being drawn.

### **Quality and Programmes**

One of the most significant changes the Council is working through currently is IT. We are in the process of moving away from Hampshire IT and into a new service as part of the 5 Councils Partnership. Significant changes such as these take time and are extremely complex. All staff are working tirelessly to implement this, and I very much appreciate the patience shown by all our

services during this time. Hampshire County Council IT are behaving very professionally, ensuring all of the Council's requirements are met as part of the transfer. The migration is no mean feat. So far, 14TB of data has been transferred from Hampshire's data centre to support the running of over 110 applications for over 400 users. The project has also seen the distribution of over 330 desktop machines and 400 telephones. Much of this work has happened out of hours and over weekends. The objective is to be fully on the Capita platform by the end of February.

### **Facilities Management Strategy (including effective working and the Plaza)**

At the HBC full council on 13<sup>th</sup> December it was agreed that we would not be transferring property, facilities, building maintenance, print, post and design services to VINCI Contract. This was due to take place as part of the Five Councils contract alongside South Oxfordshire DC, Vale of White Horse DC, Mendip DC and Hart DC.

This decision has now been taken following changes in the council's strategic approach to these services, which is to make further savings and invest in the regeneration of our area.

All staff affected by this change have been informed. Formal notice of the termination has now been given to VINCI Facilities, but the final date of termination has yet to be agreed. However, once agreement has been made, Members will be informed as soon as it is possible to do so.

The approach of staff who were in scope to transfer has been professional throughout and they can be very proud of their contribution to the process.

The Facilities team continue to look at how they can reduce costs since the above decision was made, having already successfully transferred the management of the waste collection service across to NorseSE, reducing operational costs at the Plaza.

### **Internal Communications**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January, Sandy Hopkins and I met with Solent LEPs Mr. Mike Gaston and Mr. Mike Bateman to discuss Solent LEP bids in retaliation to the Havant/Southdown's College's and the Council's perceptions of recent Solent LEP bids and explore potential avenues for collaborating more closely on lobbying the LEP for the mutual benefit to the Council and the College

I attended the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorations at Havant Cemetery on 25<sup>th</sup> January - the theme this year was 'The Power of Words' and the service contained some very thought-provoking readings. The service was led, successfully, by Cllr Gerald Shimbart, who has undertaken this role since 2008. I understand that Cllr Shimbart will be stepping down, and on behalf of

the Borough Council I would like to thank him for his sterling contribution to this annual event. I would also like to thank Cllr Leah Turner for her efforts in ensuring the Borough Council's commemorations have been, and continue to be, dignified and appropriate.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February I met with the Interconnector project team from AQUIND Limited who have proposals for a new underground and subsea electric power transmission link that will connect the UK and French electric power grids. If approved, it will increase competition across energy markets, which could mean lower energy prices for consumers and businesses. My meeting with them was to gain a briefing on the project, and understand how it affects the Havant Borough – in particular the Norther Wards.

Staffing – Tom Horwood, Director of Strategy and Governance has recently confirmed of his resignation as he joins Waverley Borough Council as Chief Executive. Tom is moving on, after 7 years with both Havant Borough and East Hampshire District Councils on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. I would like to wish Tom, on your behalf every success in his new role, for which I am sure he will be successful.

**End.**

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