

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 11 July 2018

Councillor Tim Pike: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Lead for Finance and Regeneration

Financial Strategy (inc. MTFs, borrowing & investments)

As part of the work towards the financial services Target Operating Model, all financial processes have been moved across from Civica to Integra on 1st April 2018 ready for this financial year. This has been a significant piece of work, not just for the finance team but also for all staff involved with finance as we are now transitioning across to a self-service model. The first quarters' management reports are currently being reviewed by the finance team and Heads of Service as part of our due diligence work to ensure that everything has transferred across as it should have.

Our external auditors are currently on site completing their normal annual audit of the council's draft statutory accounts, and will report formally to the Governance, Audit and Finance Board on 23rd July 2018.

Estates

We are currently undertaking work looking at areas of open space that have historically been maintained by the Borough Council that are not owned by us. The current position is that the Council only maintains areas that it owns or leases. Any issues identified are being examined, and residents and Ward Councillors will be kept informed of progress.

Plaza

Victim Support are now working on site at the Plaza, having taken a licence for 4 desks on the top floor of Block B. There are good service linkages with HCC Substance Misuse team and HBC Safer Neighbourhood team. A press release is being prepared for our Chief Executive and the Chief Executive of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to show further linkages and highlight to other teams that this team are now on site.

The relocation of the housing team to the ground floor and the ability of colleagues to use the meeting rooms adjacent to reception to conduct meetings has helped improve the delivery of this service and customer flow. The Head of Service for Housing has registered her thanks for the team for being ahead of the game and supporting her team in the moves to make this happen.

Regeneration

Regeneration focus is underway with Regeneration poster and initial video used at Regenerate South Business event (6 June). Officers are working to develop research and communications for the regeneration/marketing of the

Borough. Marketing of the Borough is fundamental to raising our profile with investors in order to raise sales values, which is our major regeneration challenge.

Marketing of the regeneration story will be as important internally with staff and the wider Council membership to create positive momentum. There is a Councillor briefing on 17 July – please attend.

Officers met with Paul Flatt from Homes England on 22 June who confirmed that the Civic Campus Accelerated Construction Fund bid has been successful and we would be awarded between £2m - £4m which is to forward fund a multi storey car park to replace the redeveloped surface car park for 60-120 homes. The level of grant depends on the level of housing numbers and the Affordable Housing element that creates a financially viable project that delivers quickly and with Modern Methods of Construction (MMC). MMC involves the use of modular factory built elements to speed up construction.

The initial high level Design and feasibility work by HCC architects on the potential for 150 new homes and a new community centre in Leigh park Centre indicates a significant funding gap between build cost and sales values. Further work is now being undertaken to examine all the possible ways forward.

Officers are building relationships with government to build interest in our regeneration and larger development opportunities. They will be exploring potential to tap into the recently announced £1.67Bn affordable housing funding in order to bridge the gap in values.

We have submitted supporting documentation alongside Portsmouth CC, Hants CC, Gosport and Fareham for a Transforming Cities bid to provide major capital funding for Bus rapid Transit system investment. The programme includes new bus infrastructure between Waterlooville, Havant and Portsmouth.

Transport and Implementation Team

Warblington Footbridge – Officers have met with Network Rail who are now progressing the design of the bridge through their staged process.

The Southmoor Lane/Harts Farm Way junction improvements have been agreed by the Highway Authority. Works are out to tender until 24 July, and if the contract is let then work is scheduled to run from the August until the end of the year.

The feasibility work being currently being undertaken with Highways England on the possibility of widening the northbound carriageway between the Tear Drop and the Rusty Cutter Roundabout.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Good progress is being made with the project to deliver electric car charging points in the Borough, and I expect to announce the exact locations of the initial charging points in the coming weeks.

In addition, we continue to discuss the potential for electric vehicles within the Council's own fleet, and plan to invest in these vehicles when existing fleet come up for renewal.