

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 26 September 2018**

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

---

#### **Financial Strategy (inc. MTFS, borrowing & investments)**

Since our last Council meeting, the financial services team have completed the drafting of the annual Statement of Accounts and I am pleased to inform members that once again Havant have received an unqualified opinion from the External Auditors.

We are just beginning to start our annual budgeting process and an update of the Medium Term Financial outlook. Over the next few months the Cabinet will be working with officers to set next year's budget. Members can expect to be involved at a number of stages before the final budget documents are brought to February's Council meeting.

The new financial system (Integra) which was implemented on the 1st April is now operational, training has been rolled out on the system use and will be supplemented with additional financial training over the next couple of months to ensure users are able to fully utilise the system reporting tools to enable them to manage and monitor their budgets.

#### **Estates**

The Estates Team continue to work with Capita to gain full transparency of the rent position following the move to Integra. The issuing of automated rent demands is still proving to be problematic but the team have now resolved all the invoicing issues for the latest rent quarter which becomes due, in a few days time, on the 29th September. The team are also working hard to regularise the occupation of all the buildings in the tenanted estate and I anticipate this work will be completed shortly.

In terms of the future of the management of the Council's Estate, a new Assess Management Strategy has been drafted and I have been working with the team to review and shape the strategy document in order to bring this forward for scrutiny and approval in due course.

#### **Property Management**

As you are aware our goals for property are based around regeneration and over the last few months a lot of work has taken place to identify strategic sites which might be brought under the Council's control to help facilitate our regeneration ambitions. Preliminary negotiations have been taking place to establish the viability of various options and I am hopeful that I will shortly be bringing you further information on some of these sites, should we consider that a property is suitable for the Council to consider acquiring it.

#### **Plaza**

The Community Team and the FM team have been working together to ensure that a Tommy figure can be installed at the Plaza. Norse will install the figure at the appropriate time. A location near the flag poles has been agreed to ensure that there is no adverse impact on future ceremonies being held at the Plaza.

It is felt this is highly visible to visitors as they arrive at and leave the Plaza, it is covered by CCTV and it will enable the figure to form a key part of flag pole ceremonies, a bold statement to the Council's commitment to our armed forces. Installation will take place just ahead of the Armistice Day ceremony and this will be celebrated again at the Silhouette Community event taking place on November 19th.

10 clear plastic silhouettes have secured for community locations. Several community groups have expressed an interest across the Borough and Community team colleagues are looking for a representative spread both geographically and also mix of the type of location. Each location will be asked to capture a war time story of their community, either a local hero or about the place. These will all be shared at the Event on the 19th November and be used as a positive social media campaign throughout November. A further update will be sent by colleagues in the Community team once the locations are finalised and they will ensure all Councillors are kept up to date via the Councillors Newsletter.

## **Regeneration**

Civic Plaza area: We are exploring the options for the delivery and construction options for residential development on the Civic campus site to meet the government's expectations for around 120 new homes as part of the successful Accelerated Construction funding bid. This government programme enables us to access over £3m of grant funding for the infrastructure (parking and public realm improvement) to support the delivery of the new homes at the Civic campus.

Hayling Island: We are working to ensure that the seafront development ideas continue to feature in the evolving local plan. We are discussing with Natural England the opportunities for focusing infrastructure development at West Beach alongside improved environmental management, whilst recognising the dynamic nature of coastal change in the area. A business stakeholder workshop on 28 September will be following up the Hemingway Design survey which will bring together the local plan evidence and the regeneration aspirations. There are a lot of things (e.g. Ferry Bus, Beach Huts, Motorhomes, parking, Barratt planning application etc) current on Hayling and the focus is on coordinating as much as possible.

Leigh Park Centre – Viability appraisal work on the ideas for a new community centre and 150 new homes on public land in the centre has shown that there's a significant funding gap. Further work is now programmed to explore the options for possible refurbishment and reconfiguration of the existing buildings with the possibility of fewer new homes.

## **Transport and Implementation Team**

Southmoor Lane roundabout – Works start on the roundabout on the 20 August 2018. As expected, additional utility works have had to be carried out which will affect the programme and budget but at this point both officers and contractor are expecting the works to be brought back into programme.

Barncroft Way / New Road, cycling and walking improvements - Tenders have been returned and are slightly higher than expected. We are working with HCC and the potential contractor to ensure the works costs are within budget. We are hoping that works will start on site early to mid-October 2018.

Hollybourne Road / The Drive cycle and walking improvements – Works are out to tender. Expected start date is late October 2018.

### **Sustainability and Climate Change**

Retrofit: Since Jan 2018, we have attracted over £30k of Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding through links with known local and national installers. Funding enabled boiler replacement and the installation of first time central heating systems in traditional dwellings as well as in park homes.

Work continues working with Portsmouth City Council on the Local Energy Advice Programme (LEAP) <https://applyforleap.org.uk/> offering free home energy visits offering expert help and advice and direction to applicable funding.

Electric Vehicle charging points: Contracts have been signed with an installer. Detailed plans and Risk Assessment Method Statements (RAMS) for sites have been received, assessed and approved. The sites are confirmed free of wayleaves and covenants that compromise implementation

Site visits were completed on 7 Sept 2018 with contractors and installer. Parking team comments have been incorporated, including mitigation for potential trip hazards. Work on site is due to start shortly.

There are 4 HBC vehicles which are suitable for replacement with EVs. The challenge is to provide a charge-point infrastructure at the Plaza at a reasonable cost and with sufficient 'future-proof' technical capability whilst also offering a public-facing EV charge-point. An investment case will be developed that includes the minimum specification of the facility and verify local electricity supply capacity.

### **Coastal Partnership**

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

The next planned phase of beach recycling will be carried out during late September and early October 2018, with material extracted from Gunner Point and, potentially, The Ness following accretion of material at these locations over the past year. Agreement has been gained from Hayling Golf Club to use Gunner Point again as a recycling location.

The dredging contract tenders have been received from potential contractors. Discussions have been ongoing with the Chichester Harbour Conservancy

regarding the potential for a dredging operation of the Chichester Harbour Bar during the first three months of 2019. This will be discussed further once availability of the preferred bidder for the contract is confirmed.

As part of ongoing beach monitoring, approximately 1,000 tracer pebbles were deployed at 9 sites along the South Hayling frontage during April 2018. Each tracer pebble contains a radio frequency tag which broadcasts a unique ID number together with a GPS position. Retrieval surveys carried out by ESCP allows the team to track the direction and speed of beach material as it travels along the frontage. These findings are used to inform and support the Beach Management activities and can be a particularly useful tool to monitor beach response after storm events.

Five successful retrieval surveys have been carried out since the deployment in April. The furthest distance that a single pebble has been tracked is 600m in one month. Retrieval surveys will be carried out every two months until April 2019, which will continue to help the ESCP understand how the beach at South Hayling behaves under certain conditions.

#### Broadmarsh Coastal Park

No new damage has been recorded along the Broadmarsh frontage over the 2017/18 winter period, although there are several areas of known failure in recent years.

Work has commenced on a new feasibility study at Broadmarsh, which aims to investigate the methods of defence failure at this site. It will also consider the key issues, constraints and risks at the site, groundwater processes, wave climate and overtopping, history of the site, current usage and ecological importance. It will also consider a short list of coastal defence options and then develop the most appropriate option to prevent future failures at Broadmarsh to outline design stage.

Funding of £73,000 has been sourced through Local Levy via The Environmental Agency Regional Flood & Coastal Committee. The project is due for completion by March 2019.

#### West Beach Hayling Island

ESCP are undertaking regular beach surveys to monitor rates of beach shape and profile change at West Beach. A report containing predictions for coastline evolution at West Beach was issued earlier this year. It contained risk erosion zones for 20, 50 and 100 years' time, assuming existing beach management practices continue. Further scenarios are being explored for the wider South Hayling coastline between West Beach and Eastoke Corner under different management practices. This is due to be issued by the end of September. These will help to inform future beach management practices and any development decisions along the coastline.

There is ongoing communication with the beach hut owners at this location, to inform them of natural changes occurring at the beach. The team at NorseSE are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and management of the beach huts,

with a working group consisting of Councillors and Officers set up within HBC to consider the longer-term position of the huts and car parking at West Beach.

#### Warblington seawall repairs

Works have been completed at Warblington to repair sections of the damaged concrete seawall. The repairs were completed in two weeks and consisted of the removal of damaged concrete from the foreshore and the repair of the concrete wall using an innovative material called Concrete Canvas – used by Havant Borough Council for the first time. The Concrete Canvas was delivered to site as a roll of impregnated concrete fabric which was cut to length and draped over the wall. Once attached the fabric was sprayed with freshwater to activate the concrete fibres within the fabric. The concrete fibres solidified to form an impermeable, energy absorbing concrete casing. Following the completion of these works a press release was produced by ESCP and HBC Communications Teams. Monitoring of the wall will continue to observe how the structure reacts to changes in conditions at the site.

#### Regional Habitat Creation Programme (RHCP)

The RHCP is legally required to deliver habitat creation across the region, to replace habitats lost through Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM). The RHCP is administered by the Environment Agency (EA), however limited progress has been made since 2011 other than the delivery of the Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme between Selsey and Bracklesham, West Sussex. With many opportunities for habitat creation within the Havant Borough (and wider ESCP area), it has been critical for us to inform and progress this programme. Future FCERM schemes to protect people and property rely on the successful provision of compensatory habitat.

Phase 1 of the project, the Strategic Update report for the RHCP has now been signed off by both the Environment Agency and Natural England. The ESCP's Strategic Update work confirms the quantity of habitat creation required in this area to meet our legal obligations. The findings of the strategic update will be shared with local authority planning officers and other relevant stakeholders via a workshop to be run jointly on the RHCP and the Solent Bird Studies in November 2018.

We are now working on Phase 2, the Tactical Stage of the RHCP project. We have investigated 18 priority sites (five of which are within the Havant Borough) for their feasibility for intertidal habitat creation. Jointly with the EA we have produced a habitat creation delivery plan that will ensure we meet our RHCP targets up to the end of the second epoch of the Shoreline Management Plan (i.e. 2055). Ten potential habitat creation sites have been added to the EA's Medium-Term Plan, which is the first step in securing funding to start investigating the viability of these schemes. Over the coming years, we will be looking at these sites in detail to confirm and plan the habitat creation opportunities.

#### Solent Bird Studies

A combined report for the Coastal Network Study and Bird Movement Study is now out for review by the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results

of the analysis of 40,000 bird records and a series of recommendations for taking forward future FCERM and habitat creation projects are presented with in report. The data has already been used for assessing sites for the RHCP tactical stage, discussed above. The data will also of use within the planning system for assessing site allocations, applications and planning any required mitigation in relation to Brent geese and other over-wintering SPA bird species.

A joint workshop with the RHCP is planned for November to disseminate results and promote use of the data and approach.

#### Hayling Island Funding and Implementation Strategy

Funding approval and financial sign off by the EA for the modified 'Hayling Island Funding and Implementation Strategy' was received in May 2018, securing £190k from Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCRM GiA).

We are currently in the process of procuring a professional services consultant to assist in the development of the Funding and Implementation Strategy with the option to progress to a full strategy, subject to securing additional funding. The ESCP are actively investigating and bidding for alternative funding from CIL and Local Levy in addition to GiA to secure the future stages of this work.

#### Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

AECOM were appointed as professional services consultant in May 2018 to support the ESCP develop the Langstone option appraisal and outline design study, starting their contract in mid July 2018.

We have been meeting with the community informally to start building relationships and have formally met with key local stakeholders, forming the Langstone Stakeholder Working Group in September 2018. We have also met with statutory stakeholders during an informal site walkover and as part of the Project Steering Group in August 2018.

A contractor has been appointed to carry out Ground / Structural Investigation works along the frontage to inform the study. These works have commenced on 17th September 2018 and will last for 2 weeks.

The project team is currently appraising a long list of possible coastal defence options for the frontage to identify the shortlist of options for Langstone. The shortlist will be presented to the Project Board for approval in mid-October. This will pave the way for a public exhibition on the shortlist options in mid-November 2018.