

Cabinet Lead Report – Full Council 7th November 2018

Councillor Michael Wilson

Leader of the Council

Corporate Strategy

Following the Cabinet Strategy session in the summer, Officers have been working up the draft vision and strategy. The draft document will set out the mission, values, key priorities, outcomes and vision for the Council going forward. The aim is to ensure the strategy is concise, clear and focussed on outcomes across the short, medium and long term. Heads of Service are working with Directors to further develop the strategy to allow for the development of service business plans. A further officer planning session is due on 8th November and, following that session, Cabinet will be provided with a draft of the strategy and vision.

The strategy will be worked up alongside the medium term financial strategy and budget setting which will be taken through Cabinet and Full Council in February 2019.

Corporate Performance

Cabinet members will be reporting information regarding performance across their areas. I do wish to highlight a few items on overall corporate performance;

Cabinet has reviewed the Quarter One Healthcheck which is available to all Councillors to review. The healthcheck picked up on a number of areas of progress during the first quarter in particular the work on the Local Plan, which remains on target to deliver pre-submission at the January 2019 Cabinet. There has been a great deal of work focussed on regeneration during the quarter, including the pulling together and drafting of the strategy and targets for the year.

Work is focussed on delivering a balanced budget for 2018-19 and during the next few months attention will be on the budget setting for 2019-20, alongside the business planning and corporate strategy development work.

Operationally the Council continues to meet its performance targets, particularly with respect to national planning targets and homelessness. Work is currently focussed on pulling together the quarter two operational performance and financial position.

External Relations

HIOWLA:

A number of topics were covered at the last HIOW LGA meeting, hosted at Portsmouth Guildhall. Lord Gary Porter, Chair of the LGA gave a

characteristically robust overview of the climate for local government across the country. He indicated that the prospect for new devolution deals was limited. There could be continued reorganisation, but this would be a matter of pooling resources rather than new finance.

Richard Crawley of the LGA provided an overview of the implications of the new NPPF for planning authorities.

Combined Fire Authority – HBC will be responding to the consultation on the recommendation for a Combined Fire Authority. Essentially, this would be a combined service for Hampshire, IOW, Portsmouth and Southampton. There are opportunities for efficiencies and improvements to the service. I would like to see greater consistency of messages to the public and improved delivery of service.

All Hampshire authorities have put together an application for a pilot to retain business rates for a period of one year. We are awaiting the outcome of the application, which we hope will have positive financial benefits to this authority.

Solent Local Enterprise Partnership:

As you may be aware, the Government has instigated a review into the work of the LEPs. They remain for Government the key vehicle for the distribution of key infrastructure projects and funding. Part of the reason for the review was the perceived issue of split-districts, i.e. those authorities straddling more than one LEP due to differences between the County and LEP geographies. The review is likely to lead to the elimination of some of these split districts, as they will be required to choose which LEP is most appropriate. Of course, geographic boundaries are often at variance to the historic and conventional relationships between neighbouring authorities who may find themselves in different LEPs. The results of the review will be interesting.

PUSH:

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire joint committee met on the 15th October. I attended, accompanied by Sandy Hopkins, Chief Executive. We had the benefit of an Air Quality Impact Assessment presentation, provided by David Hayward of HBC, and Dr. Jessica Virdo of Ricardo Energy and Environment. The team had been commissioned to provide the assessment on behalf of the majority of the PUSH partners. This important study highlighted the hotspots across our region for air quality issues and the likely impact and mitigation in the light of likely development across the region.

AOB:

The shared Head of Property vacancy has been advertised and closing date passed. Interviews will be held on Monday 12th November.

I will be meeting with the CCG on Wednesday 31st October, and will report on this meeting in due course.