

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 7th November 2018

Councillor Tim Pike: Cabinet Lead for Finance and Regeneration

Coastal Management & Climate Change

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

Works commenced 24th September with 20,000 m³ of material extracted from Gunner Point and the Open Beach following accretion of material at these locations over the past year. The material was placed and graded at Eastoke to manage the flood risk to the 1700 homes behind these defences. Agreement was received from Hayling Golf Club to use Gunner Point again as a recycling location.

The dredging contract tenders have been received and we will award this contract in the next two weeks. We are in discussion with Chichester Harbour Conservancy regarding the potential for a dredging operation of the Chichester Harbour Bar during the first three months of 2019.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park

Work has commenced on a new feasibility study for Broadmarsh, to understand the complex issues affecting these ageing defences, constraints and risks at the site, groundwater processes, overtopping and environmental importance. It will also consider a short list of coastal defence options and then develop the most appropriate option to outline design stage.

The scope of the works and initial searches are currently being undertaken, with contract documents for ground investigations and consultant appointment due to be sent out in January 2019.

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 2020.

West Beach Hayling Island

ESCP is undertaking regular beach surveys to monitor rates of beach shape and profile change at West Beach. The report included additional erosion risk scenarios, and a review of recent beach level changes following removal of the failing beach groynes at West Beach.

Drone service

The ESCP survey team has taken delivery of a quadcopter (drone). We are in the process of training up our first six pilots who will then be qualified to operate the drone, with one pilot flying, while the other operates the onboard HD camera

systems. Initially the drone will support the team with asset inspections, coastal monitoring, ecological surveys and incident response, with a view to developing this service and making it available to other council services.

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.

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 FDGiA 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

The results of the analysis of 40,000 bird records and a series of recommendations for taking forward future FCERM and habitat creation projects will be presented at the joint Solent Bird Studies/RHCP workshop.

The data has already been used for assessing sites for the RHCP tactical stage, and for the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy. The data will also be 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.

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 Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA).

The ESCP is actively investigating and bidding for alternative funding from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Local Levy in addition to GiA to secure the future stages of this work.

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

Ground / structural investigation works took place along the frontage over a two-week period at the end of September 2018. The results will feed into the options appraisal process and outline design.

The project team has appraised a long list of possible coastal defence options for Langstone, from which a shortlist of possible options has been identified. In mid-October the project team presented this shortlist to the Project Board and gained its approval. Moving forwards, the project team will share the shortlisted options at a second Langstone Stakeholder Working Group meeting and two public events programmed for mid-November 2018.

Financial Strategy (inc. MTFs, borrowing & investments)

We have just completed midyear financial reporting and are currently performing within the budget set at the beginning of the year. A detailed report will be coming to Cabinet in the next few weeks.

The Annual Budgeting and Business Planning process has begun which will look to align resources to the delivery of our new Corporate Strategy.

As per previous years portfolio holders and Members will be involved throughout the budget setting process before the final budget is presented in February next year.

Plaza

The conference facilities at the Plaza continue to be well used by partner and external organisations despite the pressures on these groups to reduce spend on venue and event bookings. We are finding that our competitively priced conference suite offering, well managed conferences and good customer feedback are leading to repeat bookings and income streams to be maintained.

Colleagues in the Facilities Team continue to challenge internal booking requests and prioritise external income opportunities for the venue wherever possible

Economic Development and Business Support,

Inward investment - We continue to actively promote the borough as a location for business investment. A new brochure has recently been produced to showcase our regeneration and commercial development priorities to

investors and occupiers. Officers are currently dealing with a number of enquiries from companies outside the area interested in re-locating to Havant.

Havant Business Partnership - We are working in partnership with Havant and South Downs College to develop a regular forum for businesses in the borough. It is intended that this partnership will provide a forum through which local companies can be actively supported to access finance/advice from a range of providers and make connections with other businesses. This will also provide the council with a means through which the business community can be consulted and involved in our regeneration plans. Initial discussions with businesses suggest they would value a local forum with this focus. The first meeting of the partnership is planned for January 2019.

Waterlooville MDA construction skills programme - as part of the S106 agreement, developers are required to contribute to local construction training. The first tranche of the programme has been very successful with 20 participants receiving training to enable them to work within the construction industry. The programme is provided by PCMI and commissioned and monitored by HBC. I'm pleased to report that 11 residents have now secured full time employment as a result of this scheme.

Energy efficiency

Electric Vehicle charge-point Infrastructure EVCI - This project is nearing completion, when the first three chargers will be commissioned and publicised in the media.

CitizEn Energy - CitizEn is the brand name of the 'white label' energy supply company launched this month by Southampton City Council. Havant is one of around 14 local authorities to have signed a letter of support.

Domestic Retrofit ECO flex and ECO3 - This is funding from energy companies and is available to residents who qualify against criteria in HBC's statement of intent. Since Q4 2017-18 (approx. nine months) the figures show £44K of measures have benefitted Havant residents.

The replacement of the scheme is likely to work in the same way, with installers claiming funds directly from the energy company. A new Statement of Intent will be drafted when details emerge.