

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 27 February 2019

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

Regeneration

Since approving the regeneration strategy at the November Council we have been working to align the regeneration ideas with the Local Plan, which Councillors will be aware was approved for publication. As the policies are now aligning, alongside the revised corporate strategy, a new governance overview has also been agreed by Cabinet for the regeneration programme.

The Council's leadership conference

In January the Regeneration strategy was presented to the staff leadership conference, and was well received. It focused solely on regeneration to inspire staff to get more involved in the programme. The idea of using 'Have.... With Havant', was introduced at the conference as marketing of a positive story about the Borough will be critical to our success.

The processes are now in place to push ahead with delivery, and the first project is the Civic Plaza car park and new multi storey car park. A £3.36m grant funding agreement has been signed with Homes England and site/ground investigations are underway. Options for the sale of Brockhampton West are being considered to generate a capital receipt to re-invest in regeneration.

There are exciting times ahead for the Borough and we want everyone to be part of the project.

Coastal Management & Climate Change

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

The beach at Eastoke has remained in a healthy condition over the winter period, although some locations have suffered from erosion. These areas are still providing protection to the properties at Eastoke and will be restored during the Spring 2019 beach management campaign.

A dredging contract has been awarded to Boskalis Westminster Ltd., who have previous experience working on the Hayling coastline.

It is likely that there will be a dredge of the Chichester Harbour Maintenance Channel during February and March 2019, with material pumped onshore at Eastoke to return the beach to design profile prior to the summer months. Sediment samples will be collected from the Channel to ensure that the material is the correct grading for Eastoke during the next three weeks.

South Hayling Timber Maintenance

Damage to some of the timber groyne and revetment structures along the South Hayling coastline have been identified over the winter. Repairs to these structures will involve the replacement of timber planking and piles, and the reinstallation of top markers at the end of the groynes.

The timber maintenance contract will be out to tender by mid-January 2019, with a provisional commencement on site during early March 2019.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park

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

Initial information regarding UXO risk and utilities have been received, and the Ground Investigation contract is in draft form – due to be out to tender during January 2019.

Funding of £73,000 has been sourced through Local Levy via The Environmental Agency Regional Flood & Coastal Committee with a contribution from HBC. The project is due for completion by March 2020.

UAV (Unmanned aerial vehicle) Service

The ESCP survey team has taken delivery of a quadcopter UAV (drone) for asset inspection and this has been utilised to commence training of our first 6 pilots. We have completed a procurement exercise to obtain a fixed wing UAV which will support our ongoing coastal monitoring and ecological surveys. The UAV service is due to become operational to the 4x ESCP Partner Authorities from April 2019, with a view to developing this service and making it available to other council services over the following 12-24 months.

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 had 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, has now been completed and confirms the quantity of habitat creation required in this area to meet our legal obligations. The findings of the Strategic Update were shared with local authority planning officers and other relevant stakeholders via a workshop on 1 November 2018.

Phase 2, the Tactical Stage, is now well progressed and we are currently drafting the 2018 Annual Review report. 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 Solent Birds Studies - a 3-year study of the way over-wintering bird populations use coastal areas, with a particular focus on taking forward future FCERM and habitat creation projects has reached an important milestone. Natural England and the Environment Agency have been consulted on the final report and have praised the report and are supportive of its findings. We are currently working through some minor amendments that have been suggested and will submit the report for formal approval by Natural England and Environment Agency once these have been made.

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

In December 2018, AECOM was appointed as the professional service 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 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.

We are currently awaiting the final decision on our CIL application for funding, which will be made in February 2019. A RFCC Local Levy bid was postponed until the first stage of the work is complete and the outcome of the CIL bid is understood. At this stage, we will look to bid for Local Levy funding again.

The project officially started on 7th January 2019 with an inception meeting and site visits around Hayling Island. AECOM have since started a baseline data review and gap analysis assessment, and are commencing flood modelling for the entirety of the island.

Throughout February 2019, the project team will be carrying out defence condition assessments around the island to review and update the current condition of existing coastal defences.

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

Two public events were held in November 2018 to present the shortlisted coastal management options for the Langstone frontage. The events provided a fantastic opportunity for residents and visitors to find out more about the coastal defence study, speak to the project team and to share their views on the shortlisted options being put forward. During the events, the local community were also invited to share their aspirations to improve the public space along the waterfront. Both events were well received and in total 114 people attended and over 50 questionnaires were completed. The results of the questionnaires will shortly be shared with the public and will feed into the appraisal of the short list options to identify a preferred way forward for Langstone.

The project team are currently costing the shortlisted options. In February 2019, the appraisal of the shortlisted options will be evaluated, and the preferred options selected. Once finalised the preferred options will be presented to the project board in March 2019 for approval, enabling further public engagement early summer 2019.

Property Management & Asset Management

The Council is awaiting production of draft valuations for approval in respect of Asset Valuations of our investment portfolio. The valuations are being carried out by an external consultant and are due shortly.

The Estates team continues to focus on ensuring our property portfolio is being run effectively and in accordance with good estate management practice to protect the Council's interests as landowner, whilst facilitating the aspirations of tenants, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Plaza

Coastal Partnership takes up residence at the Plaza

The Coastal team now have a workspace at the Plaza. The team, who already work across a number of sites, is on the first floor in A block. Their new location has been dubbed the Coastal Hub at the Plaza (CHP) and is well signposted. The team is taking advantage of the easier connectivity with other teams located at the Plaza and they are making good use of the drop-in area

and meeting rooms located nearby. Their new second home is already proving to be a great asset, with lots of team members making use of it to reduce pressures for space at other locations and reduce travel times.

Recycling scheme supported at the Plaze - Bottle Bricks.

A recycling scheme was rolled out at the Plaza. This is part of an international initiative to upcycle soft, non-recyclable, plastics into building materials for community projects around the World. As well as producing a lightweight, affordable building material for the communities that need them the project could prevent thousands of pieces of plastic from ending up in landfill and the environment, thus helping to protect our oceans, landscapes and wildlife from the increasingly widespread risks of plastic pollution.

For more information on how to start your own eco-brick project at home, please follow the link below:

<https://www.ecobricks.org/>

Regen South

The team have been provided some flexible workspace within the Plaza and work is underway to scope their longer term requirement and linkages with other teams on site.

Capita Finance Team

In light of the move towards the target operating model for the financial services team, a full review of the remaining finance documentation was conducted. Approx 400 files were reviewed in conjunction with the deputy 151 officer in order to ensure compliance and disposal in line with the retention policy. Once this was completed the finance officers were relocated into the area already occupied by the Capita onsite teams and the agreement to occupy space redrawn to reflect this reduced space allocation.

Economic Development and Business Support,

Havant Business Partnership

The Council is working with Havant & South Downs College and Solent LEP to form the Havant Business Partnership - comprising leading businesses in the borough who are the key drivers in the local economy. The purpose of the partnership is to provide a regular forum through which local business can shape the delivery of the council's regeneration strategy, access information about available funding & support and network with neighbouring business. The Inaugural event takes place on 14th March at the Plaza and will be opened by Alan Mak MP.