

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 10 July 2019

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Finance and Coastal Communities

Strategic Review of Medium-Term Financial Strategy

A review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTS) has been started and will also be drawing on the outcome of the 2018/2019 outturn. In addition as part of this process, the Chartered Institute of Public and Financial Accountancy (CIFA) has been engaged to undertake a benchmarking exercise. This will be looking at income generation, service costs and performance in comparison to authorities of a similar size and service provision. This will then identify service areas where further financial analysis is required, to determine opportunities for further income generation or for potential cost reduction,

To accompany this, a review of the current organisational structure will be undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose for the Council going forward.

Long Term Sustainable Financial Strategy

The review of the MTFs will form the basis of the longer term sustainable financial strategy, it will enable proposals to be developed to tackle the financial deficits currently forecast.

The initial focus will be to develop proposals that can be implemented over the next two financial years.

Development of the strategy will be progressed as part of the forthcoming budget setting process and will be reported back to Members in due course,

Coastal Communities

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

Over the winter, the beach at Eastoke remained in a healthy condition. During Spring 2019 a small beach recycling campaign was planned, which was carried out following the Easter school holidays. In total 14,000m³ shingle was recycled from the Open Beach at the Coastguard Revetment to bring the beach back to design profile for the summer season.

A dredge of the Chichester Harbour Maintenance Channel is pencilled-in for September/October this year, with material pumped ashore at Eastoke. These works will be carried out to ensure the beach is in the healthiest condition

possible prior to the winter season. Sediment samples have confirmed that this material is of a good quality to place on the beach, and discussions are ongoing with the Contractor to determine the best dates to carry out these works.

South Hayling Timber Maintenance

Timber maintenance works were completed in March 2019 to coast protection structures, with several groynes requiring repair following storm damage over the winter. Small repairs were carried out to the sloping timber revetment at West Beach to reduce the health and safety risk at this site. Several navigation markers were also repaired during these works.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Feasibility Study

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.

The contract documents for the ground investigation works and the Consultant led option appraisal study are in draft form, with the aim to send out to tender at the start of July 2019 for works to commence in September / October 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.

Routine Maintenance Works: *Royal Oak*, Langstone Harbour

Small 'make safe' works are to be carried out on the blockwork wall in front of the *Royal Oak* pub at Langstone. Several small blocks have become detached from the seaward face of the wall. Norse SE will carrying out these repairs.

ESCP Geomatics Division (Survey Services)

The ESCP survey team recently branded itself as the Geomatics Division to reflect the cutting-edge geomatics and geospatial technologies used to support the four partnership authorities and wider project needs. Having taken delivery of a quadcopter UAV (drone) during 2018 we have now obtained a fixed wing UAV which will support our ongoing coastal monitoring and ecological surveys. The UAV service is available to other partnership council teams, for example we could provide an alternative means of undertaking difficult to access inspections of high buildings without the need for

scaffolding/cherry picker hire, or perhaps capture aerial footage for promotional projects. Over the coming years we intend to increase our range of services and make them available to a wider council audience.

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 is 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. We are currently finalising some minor amendments that have been suggested by the Solent Waders and Brent Goose Strategy working group 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

The Funding and Implementation Strategy for Hayling Island, the first part of a full strategy for the island is progressing well. Our consultants AECOM have completed an assessment of the condition of defences around the whole island, undertaken flood modelling, identified option development units, completed an initial economic assessment and are currently progressing a Gross Value Added (GVA) and economic footprint assessment for the island. This stage of the Strategy is expected to be completed towards the end of the Summer.

The ESCP have secured HBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to progress this work to a full Strategy for Hayling Island. We will however, also apply to Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Local Levy and Government Grant in Aid (GiA) in addition to CIL to secure the future stages of this work. Work on the full strategy is expected to start in Autumn 2019.

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

Following engagement with the Langstone community on the shortlisted options at the end of last year, our consultants AECOM appraised the options further and identified a set of preferred long-term solutions (subject to funding) for the Langstone shoreline. These options were presented to and approved by the Project Board in April 2019.

Following Project Board approval, the project team have been undertaking targeted engagement with the local community to share the preferred options directly with those who may be affected by the scheme. The team have also consulted with Natural England and Historic England on the preferred options and scheme alignment; as well as the two pubs along the frontage to discuss potential financial contributions to the scheme.

During the summer AECOM will develop the outline designs for the scheme before sharing these with the wider community in the Autumn. The team have secured HBC CIL to progress the detailed design stage early next year, before developing a business case to apply for additional Government GiA funding.

Tourism

The first meeting regarding Tourism in the Borough has been held. I now await answers to various questions and have made suggestions as to how we can improve our offer to visitors to our Borough.

Mayoralty

Meeting are scheduled with both the relevant Officers and The Mayor.