

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 25 September 2019
Councillor Michael Wilson

Leader of the Council

Corporate Strategy

Work has already commenced on the review of the Corporate Strategy which will form part of the business planning and budget setting timetable this year. In late July 2019 the Cabinet held an initial session on priorities for the future, and a further session is planned for early October to fully articulate the vision, priorities and themes of a refreshed Corporate Strategy. This work will help to not only inform the Corporate Strategy but also to assist with the building of departmental business plans and budgets which will begin in earnest in October 2019.

External Relations including PUSH, HIOWLA & Solent LEP representative for HBC

PUSH Joint Committee – Wednesday 31st July 2019

On Wednesday 31st July, I attended a meeting of the PFSH Joint Committee. Items on the agenda to note were:

PFSH NITRATE NEUTRALITY UPDATE

A report was received from the Chair of the PFSH Water Quality Group highlighting the ongoing work of partner authorities to address the need for nutrient neutral development. Both Natural England and the Environment Agency were at the meeting. A great deal of discussion took place regarding the very different positions that the two DEFRA agencies are taking regarding the issue in question. National level meetings are taking place in September with DEFRA, their agencies and MHCLG in order to find common ground and provide comprehensive advice to local authorities. A further update is expected at the October Joint Committee. Meanwhile, the update by the Cabinet Lead for Planning, Regeneration and Communities sets out our local response to this crisis. It is considered crucial that local authorities along the Solent coast remain united in pressuring Government to address this matter as a priority.

UPDATE ON STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

Havant and Eastleigh Borough Councils are both advanced in the preparation of their respective local plans. As such, statements of common ground between each local authority and the partnership were proposed. In the case of Havant Borough Council, this highlighted the excellent partnership working that has taken place and continues to take place amongst the South Hampshire authorities which has directly fed into our emerging Havant Borough Local Plan 2036. It was agreed at the meeting that the Borough had done all it could to accommodate new development moving forward. As such,

the statement of common ground between Havant Borough Council and the Partnership for South Hampshire was agreed.

SOLENT RECREATION MITIGATION PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY (SRMP)
A report was received on site specific project funding by the Bird Aware Solent Partnership Manager. This included several projects across the Solent coast designed to minimise disturbance for over-wintering birds. The second largest project, by funding awarded, is taking place in Havant Borough. I am pleased to see investment in the Borough's natural environment taking place.

Corporate Performance

Cabinet members will provide reports on performance across their portfolios; however, I do wish to highlight a few items on overall corporate performance.

Our Regeneration Strategy work is building momentum with the OJEU procurement process for the Plaza now progressing as well as work setting out our vision for the town centre. In addition, we have recruited to our newly created Regeneration Team in order to drive forward our ambitious regeneration work. Alongside this work we have been working closely with Solent LEP to develop our infrastructure plans and priorities for the Borough to gain the necessary momentum that this programme requires. We are also looking at engaging local businesses and have recently held two events focussing on regeneration and skills for businesses. I'm pleased that over 50 local businesses attended, and we are holding a further business engagement event in November 2019.

Despite all the additional demand pressures and national funding cuts we continue to deliver efficient and high-quality services to our residents. Operational performance remains strong with all national planning application targets met as well as high collection rates for Council Tax and business rates. Despite a continued rise in homeless/potentially homeless customers we are continuing to manage due to the hard work of our Housing Team with high levels on intervention work to ensure our vulnerable customers are not made homeless. A key piece of work that we have been focussed on during the first half of this year is the mobilisation of the new EHDC environmental services contract which HBC will be providing through Norse South East with a Delegation Agreement between EHDC and HBC. This has been a considerable piece of work as we move towards the new contract go-live date on 1st October 2019.

Our Brexit team is continuing with its work as we approach October 31st. Our internal Brexit preparations are focussed on ensuring business continuity plans and resources are updated and in place in order to mitigate any issues with getting into work due to road congestion or fuel shortages (in particular due to our proximity to Portsmouth port). Our external Brexit preparations work is focussed on supporting local businesses and residents. We have recently conducted a survey with local businesses to understand how

prepared they are for Brexit and we have also launched a webpage detailing and signposting information for residents and businesses.

You're A Star

I had the pleasure of presenting the You're A Star Awards at the latest ceremony held on Monday 16th September. This quarter 13 awards were presented; these comprised of individual and Team Awards presented for a variety of reasons where members of staff have worked over and above expectations in their role. At this event 3 Long Service Awards were presented for 48, 45 and 42 years' service to Havant Borough Council, which is outstanding. Other awards were for the implementation of the new Animal Licensing regime, work on the recent traveller issues and nutrient neutrality, on which HBC is leading. I remain very impressed by the variety of ways in which staff have excelled in their roles. Congratulations to all of you.