

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 25 September 2019

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Finance and Coastal Communities

Strategic Review of Medium Term Financial Strategy

A review of the MTFFS has been started drawing on the outcome of the 2018/2019 outturn and the financial monitoring position at Quarter 1.

One key factor which will have a bearing on the MTFFS forecast is the recent government announcement that the Fair Funding Review and the introduction of the 75% Business Rates Retention Scheme will now be delayed by a year to 2021/2022.

In addition Service Heads are currently reviewing their budgets and will be formulating proposals for additional income generation, commercialisation opportunities and efficiency savings. These will be considered as part of future Budget Challenge sessions which have already commenced.

Long Term Sustainable Financial Strategy

The review of the MTFFS will form the basis of the longer term financial strategy and will enable proposals to be developed to tackle the financial deficits currently forecast. As previously reported, the initial focus will be to develop proposals that can be implemented over the next two financial years.

Coastal Communities

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

Following the beach recycling campaign in April 2019, ESCP has been working with the Maritime Marine Organisation to extend potential working dates for any future dredging campaigns. Permission for this was gained during August 2019, allowing potential future dredging to take place between September and May, as required.

Discussions with our dredging contractor has led to a provisional start date of 14 October 2019 for a dredge of the Chichester Harbour Maintenance Channel. This date is subject to change depending on weather conditions and over-run by the contractor on previous dredging work. Following sediment sampling of the Harbour Bar, it is expected that up to 30,000m³ shingle will be dredged and deposited on the beach at Eastoke, to provide protection to 1800 homes at flood risk. This will then be re-profiled to build the beach up to design volume and profile. These works will be funded through Grant in Aid from the Environment Agency.

It is currently estimated that these works will take two to three weeks on site, although again this may vary depending on weather conditions during the work. We will provide further updates to councillors, residents and businesses nearer to the date.

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 develop the most appropriate option to outline design stage. Tenders have been returned for the ground investigation works, and the Consultants option appraisal study. These are currently undergoing evaluation and moderation. Based on the current estimated programme, we aim to have contractors/consultants under contract by mid-September 2019, with ground investigation works commencing on site in early 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 the end of March 2020.

Routine Maintenance Works: Broadmarsh Revetment, Langstone Harbour

The last set of maintenance works at Broadmarsh were carried out in 2017, when three areas of failing revetment were replaced with rock armouring to stabilise the structure and provide coastal protection to the landfill behind. This has worked well, however some new areas of damage have emerged. Small scale repairs are scheduled for October 2019. The works are expected to take one week and will be carried out immediately following the ground investigation works (mentioned above), to reduce the impact of any works on the public.

Ferry Road, Hayling Island, Beach Clean

Following concerns about public safety at the Ferry Road Hayling Island beach and slipway the ESCP coordinated a beach clean with our contractor NORSE SE. This included:

- Removal of exposed concrete debris from both the HBC and the privately-owned beach areas.
- Engaging with BT to remove the redundant brick chamber (date tbc) at the top of the beach.
- While the slipway is owned and operated by Langstone Harbour Board, we have encouraged LHB to consider the concerns raised. Tim Pointer and Rebecca Mundy have enabled installation of new safety signage in the car park and existing signage has been improved. They will be meeting with the landowners along this frontage, including LHB, car park

and café owner to discuss further safety enhancements to the car parks and the beaches.

ESCP Geomatics Division – New Service Launched

The ESCP survey team recently branded itself as the Geomatics Division to reflect the cutting edge geomatic and geospatial technologies our surveyors operate within. The team use the very latest technology including RTS (robotic total station), GPS (global positioning systems), 3D laser scanners, ATV's (all terrain vehicles) and our latest additions, two UAV's (unmanned aerial vehicles).

Our Geomatics Division are leaders in public service innovation using pioneering technology to capture survey details with accuracy both inland and on the coast. Our drone capabilities provide the ability to undertake higher risk and more complex surveys such as environmentally sensitive or difficult to access locations, high rise building inspections, detailed aerial photography or construction site inspections. Our team of skilled surveyors are available to support teams in HBC, EHDC and the other ESCP Partner Authorities. We will be holding an HBC/EHDC information event this winter where officers and councillors can meet the team, see the equipment we use and ask questions about the services we can offer.

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.

Work continues with Phase 2, the Tactical Stage, and is now well progressed and with us 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 Hayling Island Funding and Implementation Strategy (HIFIS), is the first part of a full Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for the island. HIFIS is nearing its end with all tasks completed. 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 a Gross Value Added (GVA) and economic footprint assessment for Hayling Island. ESCP tasks have included a landfill desktop study and a broader outcomes and funding strategy for the island. We are currently working to draw together all the recommendations from HIFIS to justify the need for a full FCERM Strategy. HIFIS is expected to be completed in September 2019.

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) for additional funding. The project will be on hold for approximately four months from September to make these funding applications. Work on the full FCEERM Strategy is expected to start in January 2020.

Langstone FCERM Scheme – Outline design

The Langstone Scheme is currently at outline design stage, following two months of targeted engagement with the local community. Dialogue is continuing with the two local pubs, the sailing club and utility companies in relation to potential partnership founding.

During the summer AECOM have been developing the outline designs for the scheme before we share these with the wider community in late Autumn / early Winter. 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

Cllr Bowerman and I have met with both Sandy Wilson and Dan Grindy and we are looking at a joint approach to boost our Tourism offer in the Borough.

Mayoralty

The Mayor has been making improvements to her Parlour in the seating and soft furnishings, this will enable her to entertain those people she wishes more easily. It is looking much more modern.