

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 26 February 2020

Councillor Tim Pike: Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Lead for Planning, Regeneration and Communities

Regeneration

Following the acquisition of The Meridian Centre in December, the Regeneration plans for Havant Town Centre (including the masterplan and video produced by Fabrik Architects and Munro Studios) were launched in the Meridian Centre on 4th Feb. There was a lot of interest from retailers and community groups and the reception was largely positive. While the regeneration team continue the work with Homes England to develop and promote a financially attractive offer to commercial investors and developers for the Town Centre, the message to retailers is that the Council is firmly committed to supporting and investing in the Town Centre economy.

Homes England have also offered further financial support to ensure the delivery of the Civic Plaza Car Park development. After a review, work has recommenced and the intention is to be ready to enter into a contract with a developer by April.

There has been considerable interest in the Brockhampton West site with a number of developers submitting expressions of interest and attending interviews. Financial submissions are due in on 6 March. These options sit alongside alternative fall-back uses that would allow the Council to retain the site and generate an income.

Work continues to progress sites along Hayling Seafront. This is based on the strategic work for the whole seafront completed by Mace Architects. This work has been carefully coordinated with a range of internal and external stakeholders to ensure that development plans are carried out in the most beneficial way to the community and the environment.

A Strategic Infrastructure workshop was held with Hampshire County Council on 11th Feb. This is in light of initiatives such as the Transforming Cities Fund bid and is intended to establish a collaborative approach.

Preparation for a multi-sector summit in the summer on the Future of Leigh Park are underway. In addition to coordinating and prioritising the various work streams, this event will raise the profile of Leigh Park within Central Government through input from major academics and government advisors.

The new structure for the Regeneration team is now in place and is beginning to bed in well. This will ensure the Council is able to continue to resource this key strategic priority.

Housing

Brent House

We have asked Two Saints to make a formal application, with a detailed business case/development appraisal, for Local Authority funding to enable refurbishment of Brent House to provide 29 temporary housing units (12 family self-contained, and 17 single with en-suite).

Housing Strategy

The next step for the new Housing Strategy is to organise a workshop/seminar for all Councillors to inform direction of the strategy.

Oak Park

HCC is continuing to work closely with HBC, Homes England and the developer to move this scheme forward as quickly as possible. A design review has taken place to make sure that the scheme meets high standards and can cope with the challenges of climate change.

There will be an increase in the amount of affordable housing on the site (by switching tenures of some of the housing rather than additional development), which will mean more opportunities for local people to have an affordable home.

Housing and Planning colleagues at HBC have met with the design team and representatives from HCC and the RP Home Group to develop momentum and move this development on at pace

Homelessness Support

Full Council approved the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy 2019-24 on 22 January 2020. HBC in partnership with EHDC put together a bid to the MHCLG for the Rough Sleeping Initiative and we have received confirmation that the bid has been successful - we will receive 92k for 2020/21 (between the councils) to provide outreach workers and an officer to support single people facing homelessness and potentially rough sleeping with support to rent in the private sector. Although figures for rough sleeping are low in both councils we are very aware that there are many single people who do not have a secure home and could be faced with the only option being rough sleeping - both council's strategies want to support these people and this funding is very welcome.

Building Control

This month our Building Control Team will go-live with their new specialist IT application. This is the culmination of a huge amount of effort over the last 12 months by a multi-disciplinary team drawn from across the council. We have reduced the cost of implementation and ownership of the application by

working closely with East Hampshire District Council. This change is the first part of a wider move to transition a number of council services from their legacy application and Building Control have been leading the way as the first 'movers' in this transition.

The legacy application will not be developed or maintained for much longer and the council identified the need modernize to a more flexible system. The new system, provided by Tascomi, will help improve the quality of service to residents and local businesses while allow our building control team to work in a more mobile, digital, environmental and efficient way.

The scale of this transition should not be underestimated as the team will move from a 20+ year old legacy system to a new system. Migrating tens of thousands of documents and millions of data points in the process and adopting new ways of working.

The team continue to monitor and update the council on the Government's proposed changes to Building Control in response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Plaza

Conference Suite Improvement

In light of recent Conference Centre user feedback, linked to the review of how other meeting rooms on site are being used, the Facilities Team have agreed with on site Partner organisations to relocate a 75 inch HCC screen to the Hollybank room at no additional cost to the Council. This will improve the facility and bring in it line with other large meeting areas. As this room can be used for HBC and HCC staff, including bookings from non based Plaza staff, it would be beneficial to all organisations on site, as well as Councillors and Conference Centre customers who use this room for meetings. We continue to review both the utilisation of the site and the opportunities to improve the service offering.

Sport and Leisure

A New Direction – Physical Activity Initiative

After the success of the first A New Direction Course; a 12-week physical activity programme for inactive women aged 35-54 that was delivered in partnership with Horizon Leisure, the next course dates have been finalised and start in April 2020.

Acting on feedback received from course participants at an evaluation focus group, Havant Borough Council have contributed £7200 of partnership funds to enable the programme to increase its capacity over the next 12 months. The programme will reach more inactive women and improve their experience of physical activity by creating a supportive environment. The funding will be used by Horizon to employ two part time co-coordinators, one based at each

leisure centre site. Their responsibilities are to manage the programme and provide ongoing support and motivation for participants in making a change. Sport and leisure officers will monitor the performance of the programme and the co-ordinators.

Thinking and delivering differently fund

The Thinking and Delivering fund, administered by Havant Borough Council, in partnership with the Havant Sport and Physical Activity Alliance, received 9 applications from local sport and leisure organisations for the four £500 small grants available.

The winners were Waterlooville Bowls Club, Ktroo Havant, South Downs Karate Club and Hayling Dance Academy, who are all implementing learning gained from the Hampshire Sports Conference, to reach new audiences and think differently in their approach. The winners were presented their awards at the Havant Sports Awards on 4th February.

Borough Park Tennis Improvements

The tender process to identify a specialist contractor for surfacing works at three tennis court sites is now live, contractors have until the 24th February to finalise their submissions. Works will include, jet wash clean, minor surfacing repairs, repaint, new court lines and new nets and posts. Section 106 money has been secured to fully fund the project.

Hayling Island Skate Park Project

Officers are working closely with the Regeneration Team to work up a project to replace the Hayling Island skate park. The constituted community skate park group are currently focusing on raising small scale funding towards the project, including a fundraising campaign. Officers have identified Section 106 money that could support the project and will look to secure this.

Play Area Investment Programme

A contractor has been identified to install new play equipment across 7 play area sites within the borough. Works are set to start on the 17th February. A formal schedule for the works will be provided however, it is anticipated that the play areas on Hayling Island will be the first sites where work will be undertaken. Works across the borough will take approximately four weeks.

Hayling Island Bowls Club

Officers are working with Hayling Island Bowls Club to support a project to install an artificial green. Sport England have agreed to match fund the project conditionally, officers are currently supporting the club in relation to the conditions imposed by Sport England.

Economic Development

Havant Business Partnership - Following the public launch of the Regeneration vision for Havant on 4 Feb, the first anniversary Havant Business Partnership event takes place on 11 March 2020. This will provide a key opportunity to update key local business stakeholders on the significant progress made on the Regeneration Strategy including the final version of the promotional video. The event will be hosted externally at the Velocity site in Havant - a recently completed commercial development project - which provides an opportunity to showcase a newly completed development and investor confidence in the area.

Google training - Following the success of the Google Digital Garage that took place in Havant Town Centre in November, the economic development team are working with Google to deliver further training for the business community. The next event takes place on 19 Feb 2020 where Google will deliver a free course on digital marketing strategies for micro and small businesses. This has proved popular with the local business community with 20 businesses signed up to attend.

Saxon Corner, Emsworth - construction skills - Barratt Homes are constructing homes at Saxon Corner, Havant Road Emsworth. Through their Section 106 obligations they will now be offering jobs, work experience and training to local people looking to join the construction industry. This includes 16 new jobs, 6 work placements, plus 522 weeks of training.

Waterlooville construction skills programme - the third year of the training programme has begun successfully with 6 participants attending the first course with 5 local residents securing employment. The course, provided by Portsmouth CC targets unemployed local residents and is funded entirely from S106 contributions secured from the Waterlooville MDA. The course is on track to support 20 unemployed residents into work this year.

Sustainability and Climate Change

The number of homes in Havant that have benefitted from retrofit measures under the Energy Company Obligation is approaching 300 and a value of more than £250,000. The customer journey is under review so that we can improve the way residents interact with the scheme.

Community Development, Health and Wellbeing

The Annual Youth Conference is taking place on Friday 13th March, all 12 Secondary Schools have received invitations for up to 10 pupils to attend. There will be three workshops and two presentations for young people. Councillors have been invited for the Q&A session.

The temporary Community Building at Berewood in Waterlooville is now open, and bookings are being taken. Our thanks go to Waterlooville Area Community Association who are assisting with this.

Library Consultation - Hampshire County Council is asking people who live, work and study in Hampshire to have their say on proposed changes to libraries. A 10-week public consultation opened on 9 January 2020 asking for opinions on:

- the emerging vision for Hampshire's Libraries to 2025;
- the level of need for library services in specific local communities;
- proposed changes to the Library Service and the potential impacts; and
- any alternatives that respondents may wish to propose.

Wecock

Wecock Big Local, who are Lottery funded, have agreed to provide some funding to be used to attract other match funding for an extension at the Acorn Centre. If successful, the addition to the building would provide a Workshop style space. Additional projects are planned which include Hobby Close Open Space drainage works, and a major refurbishment/re-provision of the skate and play park with associated landscaping works as their Legacy Project which has attracted some contributions from a local Housing provider.

Lottery

There will be a Havant Community Lottery event taking place on Wednesday 11th March 2020 between 2pm – 4pm held in the Hurstwood Room for charities and community groups to learn about the benefits of signing up. They will learn from existing good causes about the benefits of this fund-raising method.

Civil Engineering and Landscape

Warblington Footbridge – HBC CIL Funded

The project is moving forward with more surveys completed and we now await feedback from Network Rail and the results of surveys.

Havant Park – HBC Revenue Funded

The project to resurface sections of the footpath around Havant Park to remove the current trip hazards caused by the mature trees should be completed by the end of March. Additional maintenance improvement works have been issued to Norse including fixing sections of the failed wall.

Bushy Lease Cycle Route – HBC CIL Funded

Detailed cycle route design has now started. Early path widening work through the Community Payback scheme has been delayed due to weather conditions but as weather improves work will start at Ramsdale Avenue open space to improve drainage in advance of permanent works starting, which is expected to be in autumn 2020. Pre-planning will need to be carried out before a formal planning application is made in the spring after consultation with Hampshire Police's Community Safety Advisor.

Dunsbury Hill Farm Cycle Link through Junction 3 of the A3M – PCC Funded

The feasibility report is complete and with PCC. The report explains that it is feasible to construct a cycle route through junction 3 but only when the junction is fully signalised. The expectation is that PCC will set up a meeting with HCC and HBC to discuss options.

Warblington Interchange Feasibility Study – HBC CIL Funded

The feasibility study to investigate the potential for implementing an A27 westbound jet lane from the A259 continues to assist traffic flow and improve safety as development in West Sussex results in additional traffic flow at this important junction. It is expected that the Study results will be presented shortly after final quality checks.

Elmleigh Road, Havant Off road cycle route – HBC CIL Funded

CIL funded project to connect existing off-road cycle at New Road to Havant Railway Station. We are currently at detailed design stage. It is due to go out for safety audit by April 2020.

Hayling Island Access Improvements Phase 2 – HCC Funded

This phase covers the Hayling Park footpath upgrade, footpath 89 upgrade and footpath 102 resurfacing works. We are still waiting for the legal issues to be resolved before the project goes through HCC's Project Appraisal process to allow funding to be released. The projects are expected to commence on site in spring 2020. Works at Legion Field are expected to be undertaken in a later phase once the future maintenance responsibilities are agreed with the landowner.

Scratchface Lane Bridlepath Bedhampton – HCC Funded

Phase 1 - On-road cycleway from Hillmead Gardens through Newbarn Road to its junction with Hulbert Road. New off-road shared cycleway from Newbarn Road to Willowdene Close which will link into an existing shared cycleway towards the Asda roundabout.

Phase 2 – Off road shared path between Hillmead Gardens and College Road.

Both phases have HCC's design approval and are currently passing through the County Council's Project Appraisal process. Once complete these can proceed to tender.

Hobby Close, Waterlooville drainage - CIL neighbourhood fund & WeBig Local

Phase 2 works (whole-field drainage including a land re-profiling option) are still in the design phase in association with WeBig Local team and Portsmouth City Council and will require planning permission which is expected to be made in late February / March in conjunction with other proposed works at the site by Portsmouth City Council. Phase 2 works are expected on site late summer 2020.

Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton recreation ground – Not funded

A land raising option to address significant seasonal drainage issues at this site is being investigated with a planning application. Early discussions with the highway authority have taken place prior to submitting a pre-planning application expected later in February or early March.

Jubilee Park Waterlooville drainage – Seeking HBC funding

Design has been completed for work to address long standing drainage issues at the Wallis Road entrance to the Park. A new drainage layout has been designed and we are chasing an approval in principle by Southern Water.

Emsworth Town Centre Accessibility Feasibility Study - HCC Funded

A Feasibility Study into a series of local interventions throughout Emsworth but mainly linked to the Selangor Avenue development site has now been commissioned by HCC. This would include schemes in Victoria Road and Selangor Avenue to improve safety at the accesses to Emsworth Primary School, along with a number of local junction, safety and accessibility improvements including at Bridge Road / Havant Road and in North Street. Delivery of the feasibility study is expected by Easter.

Transforming Cities Fund – HCC Funded

Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council are leading on this bid for government funds to improve sustainable transport across Portsmouth, Havant, Fareham and Gosport. The CELT team was awarded the commission to design measures in Havant town centre and these have now been submitted to the Department for Transport by Hampshire County Council with a decision on the bid expected late March 2020. We have subsequently been retained to carry the designs through to preliminary design approval for which the target date is 22nd February. The proposals include interventions along Park Road North, Park Road South, Solent Road and Langstone Road. If the bid is successful, the works would commence April 2020 and run across a three-year programme.

The wider TCF bid programme (with design being undertaken by Atkins on behalf of HCC) covers the route between the Borough boundary at Farlington and the town centre, and from Widley to Waterlooville on the A3. It includes a new fast bus service from West Leigh direct to Portsmouth via Park Parade, the A3M and A27, i.e. missing out the diversion into Havant town centre, although as a consequence the frequency of existing route 23 would be cut.

Rusty Cutter Link Road congestion scheme – HBC CIL Funded

We continue to work with Highways England towards delivering a scheme on this important link road which would allow two lanes of northbound traffic. A separate CIL bid in the current round is being made to fund additional work to improve connections to the local cycle network, as well as to make up a shortfall in funding on the original bid now that Highways England has provided additional design information. We await confirmation of CIL funding whilst progressing design.

Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) – HCC Funded

Hampshire County Council have now completed a draft LCWIP as part of their work on the Transforming Cities Bid and have presented their findings to CELT and HCC officers. CELT and HCC will work together over the next few months to help audit routes that are on Havant's Aspirational Plan but weren't considered as part of the Transforming Cities Bid. When complete the Plan will enable walking and cycling schemes to be quickly and systematically identified and the role of developers funding sections of the network will be clearer. We would expect the Borough's LCWIP to be completed within 12 months.

Hayling Billy Trail waymarking – HCC Funded

Improved waymarking is to be introduced on the Trail. Hampshire County Council is funding this work, with CELT co-ordinating activity 'on the ground'. It is expected that a planning application for the three historic station signs will be made this month.

Milton Road Bus layby and Elettra Avenue - HBC CIL Fund

The design for both these schemes is complete and waiting for Hambledon Road shared cycle path design to be completed before submitting to HCC Road Safety Audit and design approval. Once all 3 elements have been approved, we will be tendering the works by May 2020.

Hambledon Road – HBC CIL & WCC Funded

The design of an off road shared scheme on the north side of Hambledon Road continues. When implemented the scheme will fill a missing link in our cycle network. Funding has been received from Winchester City Council towards the cost of this scheme.

Emsworth Recreation Ground Petanque Court – Not Funded

Design has been costed and producing options report to ascertain where the most viable location for the petanque court.

Estates

The successful renegotiation of the Ferry Road car park lease is complete to enable the Council to continue to run the car park for another 15 years.