

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 26th February 2020

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Finance and Coastal Communities

Strategic Review of Medium-Term Financial Strategy

The Leader Cllr Wilson will give the latest Financial update within his budget speech.

Long Term Sustainable Financial Strategy

The Leader Cllr Wilson will give the latest Financial update within his budget speech.

Coastal Communities

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

Small scale beach management works are programmed for mid-February following the recent winter storms. Our land-based contractor, Les Searle Plant Hire & Sales Ltd, will be placing the bulk of imported and recycled beach material at Eastoke Corner followed by beach re-profiling work.

These works are fully funded by Defra Grant in Aid funding, including all ESCP staff time.

Further briefing updates will follow shortly.

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

Working alongside the professional consultancy Black and Veatch, 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.

Black and Veatch are currently appraising a long list of options to a shortlist through the option development process. The shortlist appraisal workshop is due to take place over the next two months.

The project is due for completion by the end of Summer 2020.

Hayling Island Funding and Implementation Strategy

The Hayling Island Funding and Implementation Strategy (Part 1) was completed in October 2019. A further bid for funding, for the Hayling Island Strategy (Part 2), was made to the Environment Agency in October to secure funds to go alongside the HBC community infrastructure levy funding already secured. In December 2019, we successfully secured recommendation for approval from the Environment Agency (EA) through the Local Project Review Group (LPRG) to progress with the Hayling Island Strategy, together with funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy through HBC.

The Hayling Island Strategy (second stage of the strategy development) will shortly begin and will take place over approximately 18 months.

The consultants AECOM will continue to provide professional support to the project team. The project includes developing strategic management options, environmental studies and carrying out public engagement. Public comms and engagement will need to be planned and delivered extremely carefully given the complex, and often ongoing, issues on Hayling Island. The project will also have to carefully manage expectations about the outputs of the Strategy which won't be on the ground works, but a route map to their delivery.

Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Scheme – Outline design

Two planned public engagement events to disseminate the leading options were held on the 8th and 9th of January 2020. These were well attended by over 200 people, although some disruption was made by a number of key members of the Langstone SOS group, a residents group set up to try to influence the community and take our findings/advice in a different direction.

Following the public events, the team have identified an additional defence alignment to assess further that may be more acceptable to residents. The project team offered to meet the key individuals leading the SOS group and a meeting was held on the 27th January, to discuss their points of view and find a way forward. The meeting was also attended by Cllr Pike who provided direction from the Council's perspective. The meeting was positive, with a key action to set up a community stakeholder workshop at the start of March 2020.

The team have secured HBC CIL to progress the detailed design stage in the next few months, before developing a business case to apply for additional Government GiA funding. The team have started hand over meetings with the capital team prior to formal handover.

Timber Maintenance 2019/20, Hayling Island

We are currently out to tender for the timber maintenance contract with work programmed for early March which will include repairs to the Coastguard revetment and a number of groynes.

ESCP Geomatics Division

The team recently secured a topographical survey contract with RegenCo for a proposed housing development in Ramsgate. Due to the increase in non-coastal survey work the team are employing a new Apprentice, Jonathan Everett commencing 17 February.

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, was completed in 2018 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 with the 2018 Annual Review report now drafted and with Natural England for their approval. We 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. We are also producing a summary note on the various potential funding opportunities for habitat creation sites.

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.