

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 26 February 2020**

**Councillor Gary Hughes**

### **Cabinet Lead for County Council Liaison and Commercial Services**

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#### **Environmental Services**

The Delegated Environmental Services from EHDC continue to be carried out in successful manner and a recent briefing open to all EHDC members reinforced this with positive messages from all councillors in attendance from themselves and constituents.

Renewal letters for the Garden Waste Service have all been sent out and at the end of January 3578 customers have signed up for the 2020/2021 period and of them 101 are new customers. The existing number of customers is circa 11500 and the sign up figure so far is similar to previous years.

The project team for the Recycling Project has been set up consisting of HBC and NSE officers and a project plan is being produced. This will include quick easy win actions and longer term strategic actions. Already a joint effort between NSE, HBC Contract Liaison team and the HBC Communications team have produced a “what to and what not to recycle” leaflet that will go out with the Council Tax bills so will be received by every household in the Borough.

I fear that a comment I made at last Full Council may have been misinterpreted. When I said (something along the lines of) ‘if we could remove the contamination from recycling and put that in general waste and take the recyclable element out of household waste (which is approx 14%) and get it into the recycling stream, we could achieve a recycling figure of about 44%’ and would be one of the highest performing authorities in Hampshire’. At no point did I mean to imply that the figure (44%) was a target, but the ambition to increase recycling and reduce contamination is sincere and one that can be supported by this council.

#### **Grounds update.**

Grass cutting will commence by the third week in March, weather permitting. The teams have been out doing the winter shrub bed visits as well as the grass edging around the parks. There has been noticeable works across the borough to improve open spaces.

A programme of works have been set up to tidy up the three Havant cemeteries, alongside the scheduled winter maintenance.

A joint approach by the HBC Coastal team, HBC H&S team and NSE ensured that preparations were in place prior to the recent storms that hit Hayling Island thus reducing the impact on the sea front and a combined effort post storms

resulted in any issues caused being quickly resolved which included repositioning shingle and tidying up seaweed. I would like to place on record my thanks to all the team at NORSE for their preventative and recovery efforts.

### **Police and Crime Panel**

In my capacity as HBC representative to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Police and Crime Panel (PCP), I attended a meeting of the PCP on 31 January, where a recommendation to increase the Police 'precept' by £10 per household was considered. Following a rigorous scrutiny of the PCC and his team by the Panel to justify the increase, the Panel voted overwhelmingly in support of the recommendation, with one abstention.

### **Hampshire County Council - Budget**

At a meeting of the Full Council of HCC on 13 February, the Council considered the 2020/2021 budget proposals. There were a number of recommendations up for consideration, the most relevant was an increase of Council Tax by 3.99% (comprising 1.99% in Council Tax, plus a further 2% for Adult Social Care). The arguments in support of a rise were:

- Hampshire has the second lowest Council Tax of the shire counties
- An increased demand (and costs) for the delivery of statutory services for vulnerable children and the ever-growing number of elderly people with chronic conditions and complex needs
- The lack of 'fair funding' by Central Government.