

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 23rd September 2020

Councillor Leah Turner: Cabinet Lead for Coastal Communities

Community Infrastructure Levy

CIL spending decisions were last made in February this year and no interim bids have been received since then.

An update on CIL income was brought to Cabinet in July. This highlighted that due to the effects of the Coronavirus lockdown and subsequent delays to building commencements, it was likely that CIL income this year would be much reduced. It was therefore agreed to halt spending from the Strategic pot this year for all but previously agreed schemes.

This break will also give officers the opportunity to review the spending protocol to learn from past rounds to improve the process and outcomes. In particular, I have asked officers to consider matters relating to match funding, prioritising the funding of project delivery over the funding of feasibility stages, and spreading funding to groups and areas which have not historically bid.

Meanwhile bidding for the Neighbourhood portion is underway and closes on 30th September. Councillors are reminded that they may make bids to this fund, or they may wish to support Community Groups in their area in making bids.

Housing

Homelessness -Since 26th March 2020 when the "Everyone In" measures were launched by the Government, HBC has accommodated 32 individuals under Covid-19 arrangements and a further 22 were offered accommodation but declined. Of those housed, 20 remain in occupation and 12 have moved on. 3 left of their own accord, whereabouts unknown, 4 were evicted due to their unreasonable behaviour, 1 went to a family member, 2 went to detox/rehab, and 2 were rehoused in shared houses in the private rented sector.

Housing Services have continued to work very closely with Two Saints, who have been providing outreach support to rough sleepers and those accommodated in B&B. Ensuring customers are linked up with access to benefits, health, food, means of contact, (providing mobile phones where necessary) and providing support and assistance to enable them to move on to more appropriate accommodation.

LAs are obliged to submit weekly returns to the MHCLG of the current status of those placed under Covid-19 and who they still have rough sleeping. Two Saints have been crucial in assisting with gathering and providing this information to enable HBC to do this.

Brent House

Following on from Cabinet approving a grant for Two Saints to enable the refurbishment, (29 units of temporary accommodation) a planning application has been submitted and a Grant Agreement drafted which is being reviewed by both parties' legal teams.

Development

Delivery of affordable housing units has been delayed by the Covid situation but we have had the following updates from sites that were previously stalled.

Woodcroft Farm- Waterlooville. Aster are currently awaiting handover of their first units on Phase 2 (40 units in total) of this development, these are expected in the next 8 weeks, in addition they will be entering into contract with the developer to provide 47 units on Phase 3.

Land South of Barton's Road. Aster are anticipating delivery of affordable homes to restart in November 2020.

Woodcroft Copse. This is a 100% affordable site being developed by Guinness with units potentially being available from November 2020 onwards.

Saxon Corner, Emsworth. Barretts site. Sage Housing. Site under construction but still no details regarding availability of affordable units.

Currently going through planning:-

Colt Site-Havant. Vivid are now in contact with the developers to provide 98 (100%) affordable units, a mixture of Social/Affordable Rent and Shared ownership.

Pullingers Site-Hayling Island, H21, 40+ units of assisted living units.

Coastal Communities

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (2017-2022)

Following the beach recycling campaign in February/March 2020, the project team are finalising the 2019/20 Annual Report which explains the geomorphologic changes along the beach management frontage year on year. Councillors will be advised when the document is ready for publication.

An assessment by officers for further beach management activities prior to the winter, are currently being undertaken throughout the summer. 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

The consultants are currently preparing an economic appraisal of the shortlisted options. This will then inform the identification of the leading options with the highest benefit-cost ratio, ensuring it is economically justifiable. Outline designs will then be prepared for the preferred options for the frontage. A preferred option workshop will be held over the next few weeks to go through the leading options.

We are due to complete the project toward the end of September 2020.

Hayling Island Strategy

Since starting the Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy in June, we have been preparing the initial comms around the project, updating the webpage, created an interactive story map and send out a press release.

As part of the launch of the project, we have formed a steering group, to help support and guide delivery of the project, as well as the key stakeholder group (formed of groups such as local businesses, community groups, resident groups) to represent and be the link within the wider Hayling community. Last week we carried out two virtual sessions to introduce each group to the strategy and the role of the group going forwards.

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.

The Hayling Island Strategy will take place over approximately 18 months until early 2022.

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

An engagement exercise with residents and the local community took place between 12th and 26th June 2020 to understand preferences relating to the defence alignment along the Royal Oak frontage, through a short online survey. Out of the three alignments presented, 61% of the 109 responses indicated the current leading option of a raised seawall around the Royal Oak frontage as their preference.

Other engagement has been continuing with virtual and face-to-face meetings with residents and regulators. The community's views have been taken into consideration, alongside those of our regulators in the project teams' recommendation in a cabinet paper which will be taken to HBC Cabinet in November 2020. The paper seeks Cabinet approval of the outline design and

recommended route alignment options in order to progress to the next 'detailed design' stage of the project.

The project team are continuing to actively seek additional funding sources to address the shortfall for construction. Positive conversations have been held with Hampshire County Council (HCC) who have subsequently written to the project team to commit to contribute £250,000 (to be confirmed) towards the scheme given its positive impact on protecting the highway infrastructure, the bridge to Hayling and the public right of way from flooding and erosion. In addition, a further bid to the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Levy for £600,000 has been allocated following a bid in April 2020. This is subject to committee ratification and to business case approval after detailed design.

Detailed design will build upon the outline design and project appraisal to enable the options to be detailed and drawn up to allow for construction. Following approval by Cabinet, we anticipate procurement of a detailed design consultant by the new year and the work to take approximately 9 -12 months.

ESCP Geomatics Division

Our Geomatics Division has slowly started undertaking surveying activities following the COVID-19 lockdown using various cutting edge geomatic and geospatial technologies including RTS (robotic total station), GPS (global positioning systems), 3D laser scanners, ATV's (all-terrain vehicles) and two UAV's (unmanned aerial vehicles).

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.

West Beach Timber Revetment Removal Works

Following the removal of the end of serviceable life section of revetment at West Beach by the Council's contractor, Earlcoate Construction we have commenced regular beach monitoring activities. These are being undertaken by our Geomatics Division, initially on a weekly basis but now programmed at monthly intervals. By flying a UAV along the same flight path enables us to survey the beach and collect data which when analysed can detect changes to crest position and loss or accretion of beach volumes. At the same time, our pilots are capturing fantastic photographs and video footage.

A small quantity of timber was salvaged from the old revetment and will be made available to the public at the beginning of September.

The display cabinets currently on site are to be replaced with aluminium noticeboards before the winter. They will explain the story and history behind the various coastal works carried out at West Beach.

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.

Phase 2 of the project, the Tactical Stage, has also recently been completed (in May 2020) with the finalisation of the 2018 Annual Review report and a summary note on various potential funding opportunities for habitat creation sites. The Tactical stage investigated 18 priority sites (five of which are within the Havant Borough) for their feasibility for intertidal habitat creation. Jointly with the EA we 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 Capital Investment 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 as part of Phase 3, the Operational Phase of the RHCP.

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. The data has and will be also be used to inform strategic planning and development management decisions. 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.

Tourism

Over the summer, the economic development team have led an engagement programme with our local tourism businesses to understand the key issues affecting the sector and support requirements in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The general view is that accommodation providers are adapting well and benefitting from the upturn in the Staycation market given the restrictions on overseas travel, especially on Hayling Island. While some accommodation providers focused on business travellers have been affected by a downturn in demand, there is evidence of a move to new business models focusing on holidays and longer stays. In terms of support moving forward, assistance with promotion and bookings were among the key themes identified. This will now be considered as part of our economic recovery plan.

Unlock the Summer Campaign

Visit Hampshire have been awarded £300,000 by Central Government to promote the county to both residents and visitors within a 2 hour drive of the county. The campaign is designed to remind residents of attractions on their doorstep. Provide Covid safe practices and support the tourism sector's recovery from the pandemic. HBC are an active partner in this as it is an immediate opportunity to support local businesses through responsible marketing and promotion of the local visitor offer, including Hayling Seafront. This will be done through a range of professionally produced printed material and digital content and is being delivered by a media agency appointed by Central Government, the campaign went live on 24th August and runs for one month. Depending on the success of the campaign this may be extended.