

## **Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council 26 January 2022**

**Councillor Tim Pike**

### **Cabinet Lead for Finance, Regeneration and Estates**

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#### **Regeneration**

The refreshed Havant Regeneration Strategy is due to come to Cabinet and Full Council in March. It has been developed following consultation with businesses and business networks, neighbouring Local Authorities, Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP) and Homes England. This Regeneration and Economy Strategy sets out the Council's ambitions to create Sustainable Places, Successful People and Better Businesses across the Borough, so that all of our communities can share in our future economic growth and prosperity.

#### Hayling Island Seafront

Engagement programme ran from 18th October 2021 - 28th November 2021. 650 responses were received through online surveys, online mapping tool, two engagement events, two school sessions and strategic stakeholder sessions.

An engagement report has been drafted and is due to be considered by Cabinet in March 2022.

#### Havant Town Centre

Consultants have been procured to engage with key public estate stakeholders of the Civic Plaza site, as part of the OPE 8 funded project, a piece of work that will assist in bringing forward the site for development. Further work continues to develop options for both the Civic Plaza car park site and Bulbeck Road car park, alongside development of a package of public realm and access improvements to support the regeneration of the town centre.

#### Leigh Park

Link up Leigh Park, the Economies for Healthier Lives Programme, has been officially announced by the Health Foundation. Key stakeholders and project partners have been invited to a series of workshops in January 2022.

#### **Economy**

## Havant Business Partnership

The first face to face Havant Business Partnership event since the pandemic took place on the 6th October at Langstone Park. The event focused on progress made in regenerating Havant including town centre transformation, the opportunities of the national Freeports Programme and strategic employment site development.

The new owners of Langstone Park discussed their plans for new investment and development of modern employment space at the business park along with a vision for future working and workplace well-being. The Department for Work and Pensions highlighted the success of the Government's Kickstart and the opportunity this scheme is providing to local businesses in addressing recruitment challenges locally.

The event was well attended by leading businesses across the Borough with around 50 people in attendance. The Economy Team are now following up on two key actions to develop 2 business focus groups to work with the Council during the autumn to shape the refresh of the regeneration strategy and ensure the borough maximises the benefits from the national Freeports programme.

The next full Havant Business Partnership event will take place in March.

## Youth Hub – funding application

An application to the DWP Flexible Support Fund has been submitted for revenue funding to support the creation of a Youth Employment Hub within the Leigh Park area. This is an additional service that provides dedicated multi-agency support for young people to access employment and training opportunities. If successful, the project will support the outcomes of the Economies for Healthy Lives programme in addressing barriers to employment for young people who have been most affected by impact of the pandemic. A decision on the application is expected by March 2022.

## Rebel Business School

19 entrepreneurs from Havant Borough were among 97 businesses in Hampshire who attended the Rebel Business School in October.

The free, week-long online course provided attendees with a new way of thinking, giving them practical ways to get their ideas off the ground. The course provided a range of advice and support needed to get a business idea up and running.

A number of businesses have been created as a result of the course in sectors such as real estate, crafts, education, communications, food services, social care, and arts.

The cost per attendee was £323 and the estimated contribution to the local economy in Havant is estimated to be around £63,211 per annum.

## Former Pfizer site

HBC's Economy Team are working with Job Centre Plus and the site developer to ensure job opportunities are available for local people during the construction and occupation phases of the scheme at 32 New Lane. The first meeting to discuss this is scheduled for January 2022.

## Jobs Fair

East Hampshire and Havant virtual jobs fair took place via Twitter on 4 Oct in partnership with DWP. During the hour long event a variety of local vacancies were tweeted along with available support including self-employment advice and training opportunities. The event proved very popular with businesses and job seekers with tweets from the event appearing a total of 15,000 times.

## **Estates**

Rental collection from our portfolio remains high at just under 90% of rent invoiced and continues to outperform the general expectation of institutional property owners at the current time.

Lease renewal for the kiosk at Havant Bus Station has been completed.

Provisional terms agreed to lease more vacant units at Meridian, which will increase the footfall through the centre and ensures that rents remains healthy.

Provisional terms agreed for the translocation of slow worms from a development site onto Northney Common providing a capital sum towards the future maintenance of the site. This is a good example of one way in which we can achieve greater income from our open spaces.

Draft Heads of Terms issued to the YMCA for ground lease of land at Hampshire Farm which will enable development of new community facilities on the site.

Over 300 native broadleaf trees planted at Mengham Park by volunteers, members of the Property team and Councillors. Lots of positive feedback from residents. This is the start of our natural defences project and also a great contribution towards the Council's newly adopted environmental policy.

More than £2,000 was raised by Santa at the Meridian Centre, which is being donated to local charities

## **Parking**

December saw a long-standing member of the Civil Enforcement team retire. This has provided an opportunity to review and adapt our operations slightly to ensure that effective parking enforcement and focused patrols continue.

The Parking Support team continue to work on transitioning from paper to virtual permits. This is gathering pace and it is anticipated that we should be able to go live before April 2022.

In December the parking team transferred from the Southmoor Depot to take up a new space within the Plaza. The space provides easy access for officers to set up for a day's patrol and then subsequently upload information collated during their beats at the end of the working day. The team has settled in well, and the location is ideal as it a shorter walk into Havant town centre and associated car parks for the CEOs patrol.

The current works programme for the Traffic Management team is on track to be completed by year end and work is already underway to determine the programme for the forthcoming year.

### **Civil Engineering and Landscape Team**

#### **Warblington Footbridge Feasibility – HBC CIL Funded**

Report was approved at Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> December. This will allow the Disability Impact Assessment to be added into the CELT work programme and engage with Network Rail to progress the design.

#### **Havant Park – HBC Revenue Funded**

Works on Havant Park walls have now been completed. We are chasing Norse to rectify the issues with loose slabs on top of walls.

#### **Bushy Lease Cycle Route – HBC CIL Funded**

A formal report detailing the findings of the ecological survey carried out last year is due in February 2022. In the meantime, detailed design is ongoing. Based on the provisional findings of the ecological survey the amended design includes an alternative to the original route which links Park House Farm Way to Fitzwygram Way. Ecology report will dictate phasing and programming of this scheme.

#### **Hobby Close, Waterlooville – drainage: CIL neighbourhood fund & WeBig Local**

The tender documentation for the CIL scheme is being drawn up and we plan to be on site in early summer this year and have advised the local community stakeholders accordingly. Access will be via Chaffinch Green using Portsmouth City Council land.

#### **Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton recreation ground – unfunded**

A land raising option to address significant seasonal drainage issues at this site is being finalised but due to ongoing concerns over the number and type of vehicles that will be needed to transport the fill material to the site, we now intend to update

stakeholders before resubmitting a planning application in the spring, based on a phase 1 start later in 2022; phase 2 summer 2023 so that the access and working impacts of the similar Hobby Close scheme (above) can be used as empirical evidence of the access arrangements.

### **Transforming Cities Fund – HCC / DfT Funded**

The CELT team has been commissioned to assist HCC designing and implementing schemes along the east-west corridor through Havant town centre (walking and cycling improvements in Centenary Gardens and School Lane), along with bus stop improvements in Purbrook Way and Botley Drive. Design is now under way, with delivery on-site required by the end of March 2023. The three schemes (bus stop upgrades at Purbrook Way and Botley Drive, and footway upgrades at Centenary Gardens and across the Havant Station forecourt) are now designed, with costings and assessments are now being developed. Ground penetrating radar surveys to locate any clashes with buried cables etc. were undertaken on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Ward Councillors have been briefed about the bus stop schemes.

### **Elmleigh Road, Havant Off road cycle route – HBC CIL / HCC / DfT Funded**

CELT has been commissioned to develop the detailed design for the scheme. The results of the public consultation have been received and processed, showing a large proportion of support for the scheme. The proposals will create an exemplar layout of segregated cycle track along Elmleigh Road from the east entrance of Havant College to the railway footbridge, with an upgrade of the Petersfield Road ‘puffin’ crossing to a ‘Sparrow’ crossing which places two independent signal-controlled crossings, one for pedestrians and the other for cyclists, side by side to operate in parallel. Delivery on-site is planned for autumn / winter 2022/23.

### **Rusty Cutter Link Road congestion scheme – HBC CIL Funded**

We are in engagement with National Highways to design and implement an off-carriageway cycle track on the west side of the link road with delivery expected in the next 18 to 24 months, which would be located far enough from the existing carriageway so that either of the two options for the link road widening itself can be constructed without adversely affecting the new work. This is because the CIL scheme and a possible S278/HCC scheme are incompatible due to the different carriageway widths that result from each scheme. Discussions have opened with HCC as to the best party to deliver the project, linking as it does to S278 works currently underway as part of the Forty Acres housing development, which may result in the CIL funds being used as match funding for the larger HCC scheme.

### **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’. The first stage

(new gates at North Hayling halt) has been completed with the new signage to be erected shortly.

#### **Jubilee Park, north drainage – HBC funded**

Works are complete for phase 2, some minor adjustments need to be made to the ramps, this will be undertaken in the New Year.

#### **Emsworth Town Centre Accessibility - HCC Funded**

Emsworth Town Centre Accessibility comprises 3 schemes: 1. Havant Road (Improving accessibility for cyclists), 2. Victoria Road (Safer routes to school) and 3. Bridge Road (Improving accessibility for pedestrians). Pre design of the Havant Road scheme is complete, but implementation may not take place until Q3 / Q4 2022 due to the processes and timescales involved in revoking the TRO associated with the mandatory cycle lane on the northern side of the road between Highland Road and Bridge Road. Pre design of the Victoria Road scheme is ongoing, and we will need to fit construction in prior to the beginning of the school term in September 2022. The Bridge Road scheme is on hold until such time as both the Havant Road and the Victoria Road schemes are implemented.

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

Public consultation ended in October and we are awaiting the outcome.

#### **Milton Road Bus layby and Elettra Avenue HBC CIL Funded**

Scheme has been submitted to HCC Asset Management who have now provided their comments which are being incorporated into the design. We would expect to resubmit the design for approval in March 2022.

#### **Hambledon Road – HBC CIL & WCC Funded**

We have now received the Safety Audit report for the Hambledon Road scheme and have slightly amended the design based on their comments / suggestions. Scheme has already been peer reviewed and needs final check and approval prior to being sent to Asset Management.

#### **Havant Rugby Football Club – HBC CIL Funded**

Quotations received in September were higher than agreed budget. Client Manager is seeking more funding to progress the project.

#### **Hooks Row, Leigh Park Shared Path – HBC CIL Funded**

Scheme near completion with small outstanding works required including signage and lining, awaiting HCC approval as within highway.

#### **Havant Park Feasibility Project – HBC CIL Funded**

CIL funded project to draw up a master plan incorporating all the future aspirations for Havant Park. The plan will illustrate what the park will look like in 20 years' time. The project has now been incorporated into the Regeneration Report which includes the wider aspirations of the town centre and surrounding infrastructure. The draft feasibility study has now been completed and circulated with relevant stakeholders.

### **Future Role of Hayling Route, Billy Trial**

We continue to develop ideas and have contacted various stakeholders regarding the scheme. The results of the Study will be delivered by splitting the Billy Trail into geographic sections with different solutions for the various sections. CELT officers are in discussion with Coastal Partners team colleagues regarding an online version summarising the works for public consultation. The Study will need to deliver its findings in close conjunction with the outputs from other parallel and overlapping studies, these being the Hayling Island Coastal Strategy and the work by the Regeneration Team into use of the Trail as a route for Connected Autonomous Vehicles. An initial draft has been forwarded to various other teams including Coastal Partners and the Council's Climate and Environment Officer so that the carbon impact of the proposals can be recognised.

### **Emsworth, The Promenade - HBC Funded**

The consultant is now finalising a costed 5 year plan for repairs to the Promenade, the consultant has been working with a reputable and competent Contractor to ensure costs are as realistic as possible before presentation.

### **Hayling Island Access Improvements Phase 2 – HCC Funded**

Construction completed at the end of September 2021; SSE completed the street lighting works at the end of December 2021.

### **Havant wide memorial bench project**

Project nearing completion – sites identified for current applications and approved by Estates. Bench style approved and quotations received. Anticipate the completion of the project March 2022.

### **Sandy Brow**

Area of open space in Purbrook requires interventions to make repairs on steps, footpath and bridge. NORSE have been instructed and have carried out repair work on worst offending steps. Site plans to replace steps have been drawn up and approved via CELT procedures. Looking to get quotes from three contractors to carry out the work (at present on one has come back in at £6K).

### **Mengham Park**

Estates project to create bund / physical barrier in Mengham park. Starting to draw up site plans and create options to get approval from estates.