

## COUNCIL MEETING 23 FEBRUARY 2022

### Item 5 – Public Questions Received under Standing Order 27.5

	<b>Question From</b>	<b>Question to</b>	
1	Ms Ann Buckley Havant Borough Residents' Alliance	Cllr Rennie	<p>The sudden and surprise decision to withdraw from joint management with East Hants DC has led to considerable financial pressure as well as time pressure on staff to balance the budget for the year ahead.</p> <p>Residents are concerned that £1.95 million has now been set aside to cover costs resulting from the split. Was the Leader aware of the likely financial impact when he made this decision?</p>
<p><b><u>Reply</u></b></p> <p>The Leader confirmed he was aware of the likely financial impact.</p>			
2	Ms Ann Buckley Havant Borough Residents' Alliance	Cllr Rennie	<p>The new Corporate Strategy is welcomed and is a far more detailed document than previous ones.</p> <p>In the section on Regeneration data is given on the Town Centre Occupancy Rate. The monitor data gives Havant Town Centre at 9.7 percent and Waterlooville Town Centre at 10.3 percent. However, this data is from 2015, seven years ago and clearly to anyone who visits the two areas very much out of date.</p> <p>Last week I undertook a count in both areas. Currently, Havant is 7.4 per cent and Waterlooville 23.3 per cent based on the number of empty premises. Also worth noting one empty stores in Waterlooville is the former Waitrose a very substantial building. There are no large unoccupied buildings in Havant Town Centre.</p> <p>The Corporate Strategy is a key document for any Local Authority. As this data could impact on your decision to regenerate Havant first do you intend to update this outdated and irrelevant data before publication of the Corporate Strategy?</p>

## **Reply**

It is clear that the picture on vacancies and empty shops in our High Streets is changing rapidly. We use a wide range of data and intelligence to help us decide where best to direct our focus and this is also informed by where we feel we can make the most impact for the Borough as a whole. It is clear that many of our town centre and high streets need support, including Waterlooville - and the Corporate Strategy reflects our ambitions to regenerate Waterlooville Town Centre as part of the wider Regeneration Programme.

Within the Corporate Strategy we have committed over the next financial year to engage and understand the projects required for redevelopment within Waterlooville and we will do this by firstly understanding what the business community wants for redevelopment, providing us with new data and intelligence and we will then develop a pipeline of projects for future funding bids to take forward the Waterlooville town centre redevelopment.