

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council Councillor Alex Rennie

Leader of the Council

Corporate Strategy

The new Corporate Strategy for 2022-2025 was approved at full Council on 23 February alongside the 2022-23 budget.

A major focus of the strategy is on regeneration particularly targeting our town centres and seafront as well as our commitment to open spaces and play parks. We are also committed to capturing the potential benefits from a Solent Freeport and the levelling up agenda of central government.

Services are now creating detailed service plans to deliver the Corporate Strategy and monitoring of progress will be provided through our performance reports.

Shaping our Future

Following the approval of the new Corporate Strategy and developments in terms of the exiting of the Joint Management Team Arrangement, officers are currently reviewing the approach to transformation for Havant, which will remain an important plank in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. I expect the Budget Review Working Group to advise on the approach to transformation also, aided by the supporting officers.

More information on the scope and approach to these plans will come forward in the next few weeks.

Communications

Local plan: press release, web updates, FAQs and user-friendly guide being developed. Meeting held with local paper to give background information.

Water quality monitoring: promotion of this new technology and will be ongoing in the run up to summer

Corporate strategy: Promotion via press release, web updates and social media

Budget promotion: explaining increase in council tax via all channels

Councillors' intranet: development of councillors' intranet and testing

Storm Eunice: Ongoing updates throughout the storm to ensure that residents were informed - via all channels

Promotion of High Streets Task Force support: including video of Cllr Rennie

Digital Strategy

Our strategic digital priorities remain important to our transformation plans, as shaped in the Digital Strategy. Introducing enhanced e-payment options for our residents is a must and officers are putting together a business case for investment which will be considered alongside other transformation initiatives.

The Council remains committed to moving towards a paper-less way of working for both staff and councillors and very shortly plans will be brought forward to propose changes to access to IT to support everyone in making this shift.

Service resilience remains high on the agenda, during times of worldwide uncertainty and increasing cybercrime. I am pleased to advise that we have successfully secured £100,000 funding to source and implement an additional layer of protection for our data in the shape of off-line back-ups. Provided by the DLUHC, the solution will be implemented in the coming months as part of the 5 Councils IT infrastructure. This will not affect your day to day use of IT but will have a major impact on our service resilience as a Council by making sure our data and systems can be readily restored. The very recent situation for Gloucester City Council illustrates the impact a cyber-attack can have.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-60124133>

Partnership for South Hampshire Joint Strategy

On 14th February I attended a meeting of Leaders regarding the Partnership for South Hampshire's Joint Strategy. This will be a strategy which covers the Solent sub-region that will be key to meeting the overall need for housing, providing a strong message to Government on the region's ambitions and looking at strategic scale green infrastructure.

The meeting was productive and the strategy is moving forwards as set out in the Statement of Common Ground, which has previously been agreed by the Partnership's Joint Committee. Whilst there is likely to be a delay to the programme, this is commonplace for such a complex strategy. Once approved, this strategy will be a key part of the new local plan for the Borough, addressed elsewhere in the agenda.