

Leader of the Council – Councillor Alex Rennie

Corporate Strategy

Following agreement of the Corporate Strategy in February 2022, work to deliver and account for the key priorities of the strategy has been underway. This includes regular reporting against commitments to Cabinet Briefing via a newly introduced Chief Executive Officer's report.

In the first instance, the focus of reporting has been on immediate priorities due in the 6 months to June 2022. Achievements realised either before or during this period include:

- Approval of a Climate Strategy and drafting of an action plan to deliver this. Work is now focusing on confirming the lead officer structure and convening a Cabinet Liaison Panel.
- Approval of a revised Communities Infrastructure Levy Policy.
- Issue of wellbeing and low emission permits.
- Submission of a business case for the Freeport.
- Approval of a Regeneration and Economy Strategy.
- Approval of schemes for small business support for Mental Health and Digital skills.
- Agreement of case for exit of Joint Management Agreement with East Hampshire, and commencement of work to effect that exit.

Focus will now move onto elements due this financial year. In addition, to keep the strategy current and relevant, Cabinet will be triggering a review from June 2022, starting with an away day taking place this month.

Policy development

The last reporting period has seen key work undertaken on two key organisational policies:

Corporate Governance Policy: this work has been necessary to update details on risk management arrangements, and to commence changes required to support the separation from East Hampshire District Council.

Corporate Surveillance Policy: this to update in regard to new management structures and to incorporate feedback from the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office.

A fuller programme of Policy reviews will be commissioned, to support the ending of the Joint Management Team Agreement with East Hampshire, and to ensure

necessary support for Havant Borough Council running as a standalone Authority. Policies will need to reflect any new structures and governance arrangements.

Regeneration

Havant Regeneration Strategy

The Regeneration and Economy Strategy refresh is now complete and was approved by Full Council in March 2022. The priorities that encase the vision of creating Sustainable Places, Successful People and Better Businesses have been identified and re-enforced through the new Corporate Strategy.

Havant Town Centre

The regeneration of Havant Town Centre remains a top priority for the Council. We are currently in the process of developing a bid for the second round of the Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF) to support the delivery of the first phase of the regeneration the town centre, focusing on the Meridian Centre and surrounding public realm. This followed positive feedback from Government on the bid submitted under the first round of the LUF. This represents an exciting opportunity to secure strategic investment in the town centre with bids due to be submitted by 6 July 2022.

In March Cabinet approved the Civic Plaza East outline business case for the redevelopment of the Civic Plaza car park site and Bulbeck Road car park. This will enable the next stage of the more detailed work to be carried out and work is now progressing on the full business case. Cabinet also approved a package of public realm projects to enhance the town centre and encourage further investment.

Leigh Park

Link Up Leigh Park, the Economies for Healthier lives programme funded by the Health Foundation continues to progress. The project is focused on addressing health inequalities through economic development interventions and is focused on young people. Meetings with governance partners have progressed over the last few months and a programme manager and project officer have been appointed and will start in post in late May / early June.

Since the funding was awarded the programme team has engaged with over 25 stakeholder organisations. Over the coming months the programme will engage with young people in a participative insight programme that will develop a set of interventions, starting with a summer programme to support young people. HSDC are developing a summer transition programme for vulnerable school leavers to prepare them for college so that they get a good start to the next stage of their education.

The Council has also been successful in securing additional funding from the Dept. for Work and Pensions to increase local capacity to support young people into employment and training. A total of £142,000 has been awarded to HBC for a 2-year period with funding to be spent to create a youth employment hub service focusing on the Leigh Park area.

Waterlooville

The Corporate Strategy makes clear our commitment to all our Town Centres, including Waterlooville. Therefore, Cabinet released £150,000 from our Revenue Reserves to progress work on a strategic development plan for the regeneration of Waterlooville town centre.

The specific 'Waterlooville Regeneration Reserve' will now fund the revenue costs of feasibility and development work for progressing regeneration projects in Waterlooville to Outline Business Case stage. The specific amount and conditions of this reserve will be reported back to the next Cabinet meeting.

Funding

We have been successful in our expression of interest to the Changing Places fund and have been awarded £100,000 towards the cost of installing two modular Changing Places Toilets - one at Havant Park and one at Eastoke Beach Car Park.

Matchfunding had to be provided to be successful with this fund. Accordingly, we will be bidding to Havant Borough Council CIL Infrastructure Fund for £30,000 matchfunding for each toilet (this has been revised upwards to allow an increased contingency for inflation given the current uncertain economic climate).

HBC has also been successful in receiving £83,430 from the PropTech Digital engagement fund to procure a digital community engagement platform. [CitizenLab](#) has been selected and work is beginning on creating the content for an initial broad engagement in Leigh Park with young people. We must report back to DLUHC on the project by October to fulfil the funding requirements.

Welcome Back Fund (WBF)

The Welcome Back Fund programme concluded on 31st March 2022. Several projects were delivered across the borough, which included half term activities at Meridian Shopping Centre, cleaning of the underpasses at Waterlooville and Emsworth and re-painting the walkway at Eastoke.

Havant Thicket Reservoir

The tree felling work is due to restart soon. The Local Economy stakeholder group continue to meet. Its objectives include providing guidance and support reservoir contractors to engage with local businesses and potential employees from the Borough.