

Cabinet Lead Report – 21st September 2022**Councillor Gwen Robinson****Cabinet Lead for Affordable Housing, Communities and CIL****Community relations, including sport, leisure and play parks****Emsworth Recreation Ground Pavilion Refurbishment**

Planning approval has been granted for the refurbishment of Emsworth Pavilion and officers will now focus efforts towards gaining all necessary funding in order to go out to tender for the construction works. In partnership with PDP Architecture officers will work to produce a specification for works and to understand the final associated costs for the project.

Front Lawn Recreation Ground and Bidbury Mead play area refurbishments

Officers are leading on the consultation, design and writing specifications for these play area refurbishments. Community consultation, delivered through the new Citizen Lab online platform and working with the Insight team, closes at the end of August. The results will guide the specifications ready to go out to tender. CIL neighbourhood funding of £115k has been secured to deliver each of these projects.

Get Up and Go Havant

The Get Up and Go project has relaunched its new programme with offers for residents of the borough with physical or mental health conditions. Including a new yoga class in Emsworth, chair-based yoga, coastal rowing and guided walks, with Dementia friendly cricket and lawn bowling in two locations launching in September and October. This new timetable and project approach is successfully engaging a new demographic within the community.

The project also serves as a hub for signposting to other local activities and services, with several residents already having been successfully guided towards other opportunities as a result of the website and personalised assistance.

Hayling Island Volleyball Court

The refurbishment of the sand volleyball court on Hayling Beachfront has been completed following severe storm damage in 2021. The £15,000 section 106 funded project was completed by Merrid Ltd, for the start of the school summer holidays, allowing residents and visitors the chance to be active on court.

British Kitesurfing Championships

Following the cancellation of the 2022 Kitesurfing Armada festival, the British Kitesports Association wish to continue to deliver the British Kitesurfing Championships on Hayling over the weekend of the 10th/11th September. Officers have liaised with event organisers to manage their event application process and supported in managing practical considerations regards event delivery, including adequate provision of sanitary and waste facilities, together with Norse.

Hayling Island Skatepark

Contractors, Maverick, are currently on site and works are nearing completion. A final safety inspection will be undertaken on the 7th September. Following formal safety sign off the skatepark will be opened and ready for use.

An opening party is currently being prepared in partnership with the Hayling Island Skatepark group and is expected to take place in October.

Allocation of neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to projects

£115,000 of CIL neighbourhood funds has been allocated to each of Front Lawn Recreation Ground Play Area refurbishment and Bidbury Mead Play Area refurbishment. This will fully fund each project.

South Western Railway Community Improvement Fund

Officers are looking to put in a bid to launch a 'Grow it, Cook it, Eat it' project in the Leigh Park or Bedhampton area. Officers are investigating working in partnership with Park Community School, Norse and other community organisations that may benefit from this project. Sources of match funding are currently being identified if the bid is successful.

Homes for Ukraine

Officers in the Community team have recently taken over as community lead for Havant as this work was previously facilitated by EHDC. Working in partnership with other organisations, officers are supporting both hosts and guests in the Borough. Officers are working with the Housing team on the rematching programme and supporting them in contacting all current hosts. They are also liaising with Citizens' Advice to ensure there is help available for those who need assistance with benefits and other advice. Working with Community First and other community organisations the team will look at what support is available across the Borough for both hosts and families. Monthly meetings are now set up to provide a platform for any organisation that supports Ukrainian families and hosts to support co-ordination, prevent duplication and identify gaps. To assist our guests further, we are also exploring English as a second language (ESOL) courses and looking at the covid vaccination status of the guests.

Major New Development sites

Work continues to support 5 major new developments across the Borough. There are now two dedicated officers within the team that facilitate regular liaison between developers, ward members, existing residents and relevant stakeholders.

New Armed Forces HR policy

Councillors have granted permission to adopt a new HR policy to support Reservists during their training and mobilisation commitments.

The Council acknowledges that the training undertaken by Reservists enables them to develop their skills and abilities further. We also fully support the mobilisation process of calling Reservists into full time service with the regular Forces in order to make them available for military operations.

We do not currently employ any Reservists, but we hope that this policy and our commitment to the Armed Forces covenant will attract Reservists to apply for job opportunities at Havant Borough Council in the future.

This policy supports our current silver Employers Recognition Scheme award and highlights our commitments to the Armed Forces Covenant which was re-signed by the Mayor of Havant during an online ceremony in February 2021.

Havant Borough Council also supports Veterans through a Guaranteed Interview Scheme, this policy was implemented in 2016 and is applied to all job opportunities to date, this policy guarantees Veterans a job interview as long as they meet the personal specification.

Havant Community Lottery

Registered Good Causes of the Havant Borough Community Lottery can now apply for even more money to support local residents.

The twice-yearly grant, generated through ticket sales, has been increased by £500, meaning local causes can receive up to £2,000 to help run larger projects, services or activities for the benefit of the community.

Since the Havant Borough Community Lottery started in 2018 more than £179,000 has been raised, helping 105 registered good causes in the borough. These grants have helped fund:

- IT equipment for socially isolated residents in Havant
- a pavilion re-vamp at Cowplain Bowls Club
- pool hire for children and adult swimming championships in Waterlooville
- a defibrillator for Leigh Park Bowls Club
- equipment for the Heart of Hayling Boxing Academy
- kitchen equipment for Bedhampton Bowls Club
- counselling sessions for school children in Emsworth

Each application is assessed and reviewed by a panel of community representatives and local Councillors.

Havant Eco Fair

The Great Big Green week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. The event runs from 24th September to 2nd October and as part of these celebrations, officers are supporting Havant Climate Alliance to host the Havant Eco Fair on Saturday 24th September at Havant Park.

Citizens Advice Havant

July and August tend to be quieter months for Citizens Advice Havant, and client numbers drop back as families 'bury their problems' during the summer holidays. Citizens Advice Havant have been actively working on the C4C summer holiday activity programme and with food banks. As a result, client numbers haven't fallen, in

fact the trajectory is still rising. However, this week, straight after the bank holiday, numbers are up further, approaching 50% up, with finance related and energy issues dominating. Citizens Advice Havant are seeing more clients that would be classed as the working poor, who are now slipping into debt, that includes more self-employed/small business owners.

Citizens Advice Havant are supporting Ukrainian refugees, and have dealt with queries such as financial entitlement, bus passes, dentists etc.

Citizens Advice Havant are planning a local seminar on the currently still unfolding cost-of-living crisis, which is booked for Thursday 20th October at the Havant Plaza and a number of HBC Councillors and staff have been invited. Citizens Advice Havant will be running more detailed client reporting next week to provide more local data and client stories relating to the cost-of-living crisis. Citizens Advice Havant anticipate partnering with Park Community School and MIND to gather a broader understanding of the local landscape.

Affordable Housing delivery

Q2 so far has seen an additional 36 affordable new homes across 3 sites in the borough, Horndean Road Emsworth, Castle Avenue Denvilles & Forty Acres Bedhampton. All have been delivered by VIVID housing Association.

Bedroom size	Shared Ownership	Social Rent	Affordable Rent	TOTAL
1			10	10
2		6	5	11
3	2	8	2	12
4		2	1	3
TOTAL	2	16	18	36

This takes our current total for 22/23 to 42 new dwellings which includes 6 Affordable Rents (4 no 2B, and 2 no 3B) delivered in Q1 by Aster on the Catherington Park site in Cowplain.

Q2 does not end till 30/09/2022 and VIVID are forecasting another 37 potential completions by that time. However, in this current climate of slippage we will not be able to confirm these numbers until after the 30/09/2022 when VIVID provide us with a new spreadsheet.

The Colt site in Havant has suffered from delays but we are expecting the first homes to be ready for letting by November 2022.

Homelessness

Numbers in temporary accommodation saw a decrease in August compared with July 2022. Brent House is now scheduled for completion in early October 2022, and those 29 new units will enable HBC to accommodate some of our homeless residents in their local area closer to support networks.

July 2022

Number in TA - 80
Shared accommodation - 28
Self-contained - 52

Number in TA outside of area - 46
Shared Accommodation - 16
Self-contained - 30

August 2022

Number in TA - 73
Shared accommodation - 34
Self-contained - 39

Number in TA outside of area - 41
Shared Accommodation - 19
Self-contained – 22

Ukraine Advisor/Project Worker role

The Housing Team now has a dedicated officer in post (Lee Ward), who will be part of the wider HBC project team dealing with our Ukrainian guests.

We now have details from Hampshire County Council which has enabled us to identify all our hosts and their guests. This allows us to begin the task of communicating with hosts to see how the placement is progressing and if there are any additional support needs. So far feedback from the current hosts is positive and all are agreeing to continue with current arrangements or are actively assisting families with alternative arrangements.

All households will be given a status of either placement ended, crisis, intervention, or no intervention. Once we have a clearer picture as communication with hosts continues, we can either prevent, plan for rematch, or look at alternative provisions such as B&B, but this would only be as a last resort.

The details will also be utilised for the purpose of the six-month hosts checks. Once we have established who needs this visit, details will be handed over to our Housing Officers who have agreed to complete this task. We are currently compiling a property inspection and safe and well check list for this purpose.

Potential new hosts details are contained within the Ukraine Inbox, and we go through these to identify the most suitable for rematching. Primarily we begin with hosts who have self-contained accommodation available.

Actual homelessness approaches to date appear minimal however we anticipate this to change in the coming months when initial six-month arrangements come to an end. Hopefully with the communication we are completing now we will know who

these potential new approaches are in advance and will be able to commence arrangements for rematching or other alternatives.

Currently Havant BC area has 43 individual hosts with a total of 85 guests. The decrease from the original figure of 45 hosts and 89 guests is due to the breakdown of arrangements and subsequent placement of two households into B&B. The two households have now been successfully rematched and one will be leaving the B&B shortly, and the other is waiting for the hosts accommodation to become available, which is anticipated to be mid-September.

Housing Association Liaison

Regular meetings are scheduled in at Senior level with The Guinness Partnership as the organisation that we transferred our stock to under Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT).

The last meeting was held on 02/08/2022 and subjects discussed were:

1. Milton Road sensitive lets.
2. Housing First Pilot.
3. Housing Support Grant spending opportunities.
4. Incoming regs for fitting of smoke and CO detectors & discussion on the challenging timescales on these.
5. Vacant property & the lack of information from Guinness when advertising properties through Hampshire Home Choice.
6. Guinness's social enterprise work.
7. Potential for homelessness pods on Guinness land.

Date of next meeting had already been set for 01/11/22

Hampshire Home Choice (HHC)

Current active applications to Havant Borough Council through Hampshire Home Choice:

	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Grand Total
1	3	78	695	49	825
2	2	23	526	10	561
3	2	14	341	3	360
4		6	61	2	69
5			5		5
Grand Total	7	121	1628	64	1820

This total of 1820 represents a steady increase this financial year as we see more residents registering for social housing.

HHC is a partnership between 5 local authorities and our applications rank 3rd highest after Test Valley (TVBC) and Eastleigh (EBC). If we compare our application numbers against our population then again, we rank 3rd highest after TV and EBC with 1.46% of our population on the waiting list.

Allocation of neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy to projects and other developer contributions expenditure

We have agreed our first two Neighbourhood Portion spends under the theme of Parks, Play, Open Spaces, Sport and Leisure. The funds allocated to these projects are:

Exaco m Project Ref.	Name/Description	Amount
246	Bidbury Mead Play Area Refurbishment	£115,000
247	Front Lawn Play Area Refurbishment	£115,000

The Community Team are delivering these schemes.

The following additional funds have been allocated to Project 105 Hooks Lane/Fraser Road MUGA to Car Parking:

Exaco m Project Ref.	Name/Description	Amount
105	Strategic CIL Funds	£12,455
	S106 Funds (APP/12/00205)	£62,658

This project is being delivered by the Civil Engineering and Landscape Team in conjunction with Project 72 Bidbury Infants School Lighting Project. It is currently anticipated that the construction works will be carried out in the October Half Term (24-28 October 2022).

We have received four enquiries since 1 April 2022 from Councillors in respect of potential Neighbourhood CIL projects for expenditure. These are being reviewed with the relevant Officers/Teams and will be taken forward if successful.

The Developer Contributions Team are being asked to consider increasing the amount of expenditure in respect of some of the existing agreed Strategic CIL Projects to facilitate delivery. The additional costs are arising out of current inflationary pressures which are particularly high in the construction sector. Consideration of cost increases to approved projects will take place through Interim Spending Decisions, the process for which is set out in Section 5 of the CIL Spending Protocol which Full Council approved on 16 March 2022. On the basis that such projects are above £10,000 these would be determined through a delegated

report to the Cabinet Lead for Affordable Housing, Communities and CIL. If the request is above £50,000 then it would also be considered by the Planning Policy Committee prior to a delegated decision. Any additional sums granted in accordance with the CIL Spending Protocol will be reported in a future Cabinet Lead Report.

Currently we do not have a clear picture of the additional sums required and for this reason, along with withdrawal of the Local Plan, there will not be a Strategic CIL Spending Round this year. When the Local Plan progresses, we will have a clearer picture of the infrastructure needed to support its delivery and will then be in a position to invite Strategic CIL Bids.

Since the 2 June 2022 I am pleased to confirm the following S106 spend is being progressed. This should identify sites for emergency/temporary accommodation that could be developed in partnership with our Registered Providers of Social Housing:

Exacom Project Ref.	Name/Description	Amount
234	Potential Site Location Research Homeless Pods	£50,000

Our public facing Exacom System provides up-to-date information on CIL and S106 income and expenditure and can be viewed via this link:

<https://pfm.exacom.co.uk/havant/>