

Leader of the Council – Councillor Alex Rennie

- Policy development
- Lead for inter authority relations, engagement with Government, engagement with community and key stakeholders
- Council performance against corporate strategy
- Regeneration

Policy development

A new Corporate Strategy has been developed for the period 2022-26 and this was unanimously approved by Full Council on 21st September 2022. The new strategy sets out the council's ambitions under three themes (Wellbeing, Pride in Place and Growth), detailing for each theme the initiatives we will be undertaking and the benefits that we expect to see in order to move towards realising the ambitions.

Engagement sessions have been held with all staff and with Members to help embed the strategy and the Management Team are currently formulating a work programme to deliver the priorities in the strategy. This will be integrated with budget setting and business planning for the next financial year and subsequent years.

The Leader will also be holding informal engagement sessions with members of the public across the borough during November. The first one took place in the Meridian Centre and was well attended by the public.

We are closely monitoring the latest developments in central government policy to ensure we can effectively implement any further cost-of-living interventions and make the most of new grant funding opportunities arising from the levelling up agenda.

- Lead for inter authority relations, engagement with Government, engagement with community and key stakeholders
- Council performance against corporate strategy

Performance of internal and customer-focusing services remains generally on track. Our Planning key performance indicators for turnaround time of planning applications are almost all within target. Our waste collection service continues to suffer from national shortages of qualified HGV drivers with the number of missed bins higher than we would like - this is also impacting our customer service performance. However, work has been ongoing with Norse to improve the service and ensure that recruitment is prioritised with incentive-based initiatives, as well as improve the way we deal with complaints internally. The number of fly tips reported has also reduced significantly compared to previous quarters which is excellent news.

The newly formed Strategy Unit has brought together several teams from across the council to provide best practice and holistic innovation in project and programme management, change management, performance monitoring, governance and risk management, policy development, communications, insight and engagement, and will play an essential part in enabling frontline services and ensuring the council is fit for the future.

Work is ongoing to review the council's policies and contracts following the separation from East Hampshire District Council and this is being overseen by the Transition team.

Regeneration

1) Bids

1.1) UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

An investment plan for £1m of Govt. funding over 3 years was submitted in Aug 2022. We had expected the plan to be approved and the first payment made in October 2022. We are yet to receive formal notification of the plan's approval from Central Government.

1.2) Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BFLR2)

Still awaiting formal notification from Central Government on our bid for £1.65m to support housing delivery and regeneration in Havant town centre. We are hoping for an announcement to be made in the next 2 weeks, we have received very strong feedback on the bid.

2) Regeneration

2.1) Waterlooville Town Centre

Officers are now completing an outline strategic plan and timeline to progress regeneration in Waterlooville. This incorporates.

- short-term measures to improve the physical appearance and fabric of the town centre
- public and business engagement utilising the forum set up in October for the Local Plan
- development of a deliverable master plan and vision for the town centre including a consultation process and communications plan with a commitment for this to be completed by June 2023
- attraction of public and private sector investment
- capacity & resources required to deliver

2.2) The Plaza and Civic Centre Havant

Officers have now been in good dialogue with the police, DWP and HMTS (magistrates court). Discussions to be concluded by Christmas 2022 for interest in moving into block A of the Plaza building. Discussions are also taking place regarding the wider Civic Centre / Plaza regeneration.

Officers are reviewing the initial plans for development of the overall Plaza site and will be proposing a different approach. Initial plans to be developed by end of Dec 2022 for further discussion in early January 2023.

2.3) Hayling Island

Officers plan to bring forward in the early New Year a proposal to develop the Chichester Road car park, part of the Hayling Island Ambition Plan.

3) Housing strategy and operating model

Richard Bayley an interim with strong experience and knowledge in housing and setting up different operating models e.g. property companies for the public sector has joined HBC on a part time basis

Pinsent Masons are now working with HBC on the housing strategy and the operating models and governance.

Several HBC sites for development listed in Cabinet paper of 21st September 22 have been reviewed by the planning officers and will go forward. These are now going to have individual investment appraisals undertaken by 3 different suppliers