

Cabinet Lead for Levelling-Up – Councillor Tim Pike

Levelling Up Fund - Havant Town Centre

The Levelling Up Fund application for the delivery of the first phase of the Regeneration of Havant Town Centre was submitted to Government at the end of July alongside an application from Hampshire County Council for a replacement to Havant Station footbridge.

We had expected a formal decision by the end of October 2022. The latest information from ministers suggests that a decision will not be announced until the end of the year. There are apparently over 500 LUF 2 bids that the Government are currently considering. Officers continue to monitor the situation.

Economic Development

Dan Grindey, Regeneration & Economy Manager, is joining the team at East Hampshire DC and leaves HBC on 25th November 2022. To ensure continuity, we have appointed an interim ED manager, Grant Thornton who started on a full time on 31st October on a 6 month contract. His focus will be on business engagement and support, inward investment, the Dunsbury Freeport and will provide wider support for the regeneration programme.

Havant Business Partnership

Among Grant's immediate priorities is to arrange the next Havant Business Partnership event which is due to take place in mid-late January. The event will focus on promotion of the progress made with Council's regeneration agenda and ensuring on-going participation from our business community.

Capita – Digital and Customer Services

Digital

- Digital Services has successfully completed a significant number of resource intensive projects to separate the HBC infrastructure, access, and data as part of the end of the Inter-Authority Agreement. Enabling customer-facing services to operate without restriction or interruption during this period. These transition actions have been entirely led by Havant staff and as a result we are in a fully auditable position.
- Digital Services resource has now been permanently split. We will continue to work with staff from the other council to deliver on the final transfers of HBC data having completed our Data Protection Impact Assessment, and to support staff still under consultation/shared service provision.
- As part of transition, HBC have secured a new M365 licencing contract and a saving for 2023 against previous years.

- We have created and launched separate new Intranets with automated membership and workflows to reduce manual interactions, including those for councillors on the Councillor Hub.
- We have supported procurement and implementation for a new room booking system that went live on 28th October.
- We have offboarded all non-HBC data from our Corporate Kahootz DMS platform.
- We have supported the offboard of HBC's Legal Service Iken data to Southampton City Council, due to completed on 4th November.

Customer Services

- The team is currently reviewing Season 22 at the Beachland's Visitor Information Centre. Considering telephony and footfall data for customers accessing services and types of enquires.
- We have undertaken a series of workshops with partners to identify and address design flaws in our Environmental Services Customer Service and Complaints processes. This has identified a series of information and systems integration solutions and work on implementing both short term wins and longer-term solutions has started.
- The Exceptional Household Support Fund (2nd tranche) is now closed. The estimated volume of households that received support was 8,496. Over 3,460 households contained pensioners and 2,208 contained children. We issued over 8,480 households with food vouchers, of which 4,972 households contained children.
- The Government has delegated delivery of the Household Support Scheme (3rd tranche) to Hampshire County Council. We await their decision on where this support will be targeted and what support they would like us to provide.
- Administration of the many government schemes has had an inevitable impact upon delivery of normal Council Tax services, but this backlog is now almost cleared.

Property & Asset Management

- Despite there being several key posts yet to be filled, the new team is beginning to gain traction. An exceptionally busy period we are seeing significant progress across all areas: investment and public buildings, open spaces and maintenance. This has included a significant increase in cross functional working with the Regeneration, Planning, Housing and other teams to deliver value added results to the many project initiatives being progressed.

- Recruitment of permanent staff is progressing steadily, with two new officers joining the team in early November and a new Head of Property & Asset Management expected to start in January 2023. Where appropriate we continue to use interims to cover key tasks.
- The void rate within the portfolio continues to be very low and is currently represents less than 1% of the estates portfolio. Expressions of interest have been received on many of the vacant units which is encouraging. We have seen an increased level of interest by retailers in the vacant units at the Meridian Centre as the festive season approaches.
- Plans relating to the management of open spaces are being progressed with 39 volunteer and local resident groups, keen to contribute towards their local environment.
- The protection of public spaces is progressing in accordance with agreed priorities. We continue to learn and adapt as the challenges evolve. Current works at Mengham Park are due to be completed in early November and preparations for Barton's Triangle are well underway.
- Emsworth SINC is now completed with information boards in place. Volunteer Group is being formed to manage the area and help realise the biodiversity net gain.
- Maintenance progresses at pace. Repairs and re-decoration of the Cafe at The Plaza are complete and discussions with a new tenant underway.
- Contracts for the external decoration of 15 community buildings have been issued. Following close liaison with occupants to ensure minimal impact on their operations.
- Decoration works on sea front toilets is complete. Orders have been placed for seasonal clearance of rainwater systems of all operational buildings. The annual review of the 10-year maintenance plan is complete, ready to inform 2023/24 budget submission.
- The high volume of new and legacy work, combined with staff vacancies, has required the prioritisation of tasks. The team is grateful for the understanding and patience of councillors and residents as the team works expeditiously through these priorities.

Civil Engineering and Landscape Team

Warblington Footbridge Feasibility – HBC CIL Funded

Network Rail and its design contractors are working on three options for the footbridge. An internal review workshop is planned for the 2nd November, from which a front runner option is to be progressed along with the Disability Impact Assessment (on which CELT will be working with NR). This stage (GRIP3) is on track to be completed by Christmas.

Bushy Lease Cycle Route – HBC CIL Funded

The interim Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Method Statement (MS) are both being revised to include the findings of an additional site visit. Both the AIA and MS are expected to be delivered in early November. The ecological report detailing the extent of the bat corridor through the route is being rewritten and is due to be delivered in November. It was originally intended to deliver this project in 2 phases but it has now been agreed that both the route from Park House Farm Way to the Hermitage stream and from the stream to Fitzwygram Way be delivered at the same time.

Hobby Close, Waterlooville – drainage: CIL neighbourhood fund & WeBig Local

L&S Waste has been appointed as the contractor, but due to the need to obtain approval for pre-start planning conditions the works on site have been re-arranged to start in spring 2023 for 10 weeks, to avoid working in the wet (and muddy) season.

Transforming Cities Fund – HCC / DfT Funded

Elmleigh Road:

Contract Audit stage 2 is under way and expected to be completed by the end of October. This will allow the scheme to proceed to tender for delivery on-site in 2023 – site supervision will be undertaken by HCC. Dedication of land owned by HBC to be within an extended highway boundary is being progressed in parallel with this process. The Civic Centre east car park is to be used as the site compound with a rental agreement required – this is being co-ordinated with Property colleagues.

Leigh Park Local Access Zone:

A contractor has been appointed works are expected to start 7/11/2022 and be completed 18/11/2022

Bedhampton Road: Detailed design on a revised scheme incorporating westbound bus lane at the bus stop is drawing to a close with the aim to be at tender by early November and on site early in the new year. This now includes upgrading and refurbishment of the bus shelter.

Rusty Cutter Link Road congestion scheme – HBC CIL Funded

An application for funding as a Designated Fund scheme through National Highways is being progressed, with no objection in principle reported; if this is successful it would be possible to carry out both the carriageway widening and creating the cycle track, at the same time. However only National Highways officers can apply for the funding, so CELT will be liaising with them to progress any design with the CIL funding in this scenario being match funding to any award.

Emsworth Town Centre Accessibility - HCC Funded

Emsworth Town Centre Accessibility comprises 3 schemes: 1. Havant Road (Improving accessibility for cyclists), 2. Victoria Road (Safer routes to school) and 3. Bridge Road (Improving accessibility for pedestrians).

Design on the Havant Road scheme has been completed and the plans passed to HCC for implementation as a maintenance project timed for Q3 2022 due to the timescales involved in the revoking the TRO for the mandatory cycle lane between Highland Road and Bridge Road. Consultation to revoke the TRO has commenced and the entire process may take up to 6 months. Design of the Victoria Road scheme has been approved in-house and the drawings have been forwarded to the client for approval. We are still awaiting approval from the client but in the meantime we have forwarded the design to the Safety Audit team for their comments. Design on the Bridge Road scheme has commenced.

Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) – HCC Funded

A meeting to discuss the draft LCWIP was held with HCC officers and our comments have been forwarded to them for consideration

Milton Road Bus layby and Elettra Avenue HBC CIL Funded

Milton Road: HCC Asset Management comments about the concrete layby have been incorporated into the design and it has now been sent back to them for approval.

Elettra Avenue: Drawings have now been approved by Asset Management. Implementation of this design may be delayed to allow negotiations with the local developers over additional financial contributions. This would allow the CIL funding to be spread further.

Hambledon Road – HBC CIL & WCC Funded

We are awaiting Safety Audit comments for our proposed design for the junction with The Hundred

Havant Rugby Football Club – HBC CIL Funded

Funding resolved and aiming to be on site by the end of November.

Hooks Row, Leigh Park Shared Path – HBC CIL Funded

Scheme near completion with small outstanding works required including signage and lining, awaiting HCC approval as within highway. HCC needs to get the TRO in place. Updated drawings have been sent to HCC

Havant Park Feasibility Project – HBC CIL Funded

CIL funded project to draw up a master plan incorporating all the future aspirations for Havant Park. The plan will illustrate what the park will look like in 20 years' time. The project has now been incorporated into the Regeneration Report which includes the wider aspirations of the town centre and surrounding infrastructure.

Northney, Surface Water Drainage – HBC funded

Designs being finalised for bag work and forebay with a view to go out to tender later this year with an expectation works to commence February 2023, however due to costs it maybe a case that only one element of either the bag work or Forebay may be affordable this financial year within available funding. Further design work also being undertaken to be completed this year for associated works with surface water management along Northney Road and environs.

Emsworth, The Promenade - HBC Funded

Meeting held with NORSE for the repair of the missing coping stones and to secure loose coping stones. Works currently being planned with a view of the works to be carried out in October/November 22.

Mengham Park

Estates project to create bund / physical barrier in Mangham Park to stop incursions into the park. Estates have erected concrete bollards to Norman road on the north of the park. Now bollards are in place the northern boulders are to be redistributed around the site, all boulders to be mounded up with soil to make moving harder.

Emsworth SINC (Lead Estates)

Section 106 funded project to mitigate the loss of grassland meadow to allow for housing on site north of Emsworth Rec. Estates have request CELT to manage the implementation and management of a site of importance for nature conservation in Emsworth Rec. Interpretation panel has now been installed.

Queen Green Canopy Tree

Tree has been planted and was a success. NORSE have now postcreted in the plaque. Works complete on tree.

Chichester Avenue Car Park – Patching Works

Car park patching works are complete (28 October 2022).

Eastoke Corner

Repair/replacement of boardwalk at Eastoke corner being investigated. Looking to cost up several options to include flexi stone (to match works done at the top).

South Street Emsworth Car Park Wall

Damaged wall by car park entrance due to root heave. Looking to repair wall, remove inappropriate landscaping and installing more appropriate soft landscaping.