

## **Leader of the Council – Councillor Alex Rennie**

### **Policy development**

Following approval of the Corporate Strategy at Full Council on 21 September 2022, a period of engagement took place over October and November, with Members, staff, and residents. During November three informal drop-in sessions were held across the borough in Havant Town Centre, Waterlooville, and Hayling Island. At the same time our online platform, Citizenlab, was open for residents to provide comments on the new strategy.

Following the period of engagement, an updated Corporate Strategy, setting out the upcoming priorities for 23/24 and the results of the engagement exercise, will come forward to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2023.

We continue to closely monitor the latest developments in central government policy to ensure we can effectively implement any opportunities that arise. At the end of the December, central government published the Local Government Financial Settlement 2023/24 which confirms funding for the year ahead. We are currently finalising our budget, which will be brought forward for members to review in February, based on the funding settlement and our corporate priorities as set out in our Corporate Strategy

### **Council performance against corporate strategy**

With the new Corporate Strategy in place, we are currently reviewing performance reporting to ensure that our key priorities are reported in an effective and timely way. During the last month, Cabinet have been working to finalise our key priority initiatives for 2023/24, which will form the basis of our reporting in terms of progress against the three themes in our strategy of wellbeing, pride in place and growth.

We are currently collecting data for our Quarter 3 monitoring which will be reported to Cabinet in due course. Our performance for internal and customer-focussed services remains generally on track. We are taking forward a review of our performance measures in Planning and Waste to ensure they provide a thorough overview of performance in these areas. During the last quarter, we have been focussed on complaints resolution and at the end of the quarter our outstanding complaints stood at 33, a significant reduction against the 166 outstanding complaints that were recorded in early October.

## **1. Funding**

### **1.1) LUF 2 – Havant town Centre**

We had expected to hear whether our bid was successful or not by the end of December 2022. Latest information from Ministers is it will not be announced until the end of January 2023. Government also announced that the funding would be increased from £1.7bn to £2.1bn which is potentially positive for the number of submissions that will be supported.

### **1.2) Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BFLR2)**

Brownfield Land Release funding of £1.65m has been secured for the demolition of Bulbeck Road Car Park in order to help address viability issues in bringing the site forward for residential development. Procurement of a demolition company is out to tender with submissions required by the 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 to enable a demolition contract to be let before the end of March 2023 (this being a condition of the funding received).

## **2. Regeneration**

### **2.1) Waterlooville Town Centre**

Following the public consultation on the Local Plan and engagement with local Councillors and interested staff, officers are now developing a programme of work to support the future regeneration of the town centre. This will include commissioning further stakeholder engagement with town centre interests and additional technical work (footfall, vacancy and car park usage data) that will both inform development of a masterplan. Shorter term improvements will also be taken forward where possible, such as the introduction of CCTV to address public concerns about safety and behaviour. The Council is to recruit a Waterlooville Regeneration / Town Centre Officer to provide capacity to take this important work forward over the next couple of years. The job description has been developed, signed off and been evaluated and the role will be advertised very soon and hopefully filled by March / April 2023

### **2.2) The Plaza and Civic Centre Havant**

- Officers have now been in good dialogue with other public sector organisations occupying adjacent premises regarding the wider Civic Centre / Plaza regeneration: the police, DWP and HMCTS (magistrates court).
- HBC has now signed an MoU to work with London Continental Railways (LCR) on taking forward regeneration plans for the area. LCR is a public corporation owned by the Department for Transport established to bring forward regeneration and development proposals in the public interest.
- Following the signing of the MoU, LCR have secured internal approval to spend some staff time and fund consultant, or other costs, if required, up to £35,000

to assist in further analysis and development of options for the Plaza / Civic Centre area.

- A second MOU is being explored between the potential stakeholders with an interest in the area adjacent to the station (including Market Parade):
  - Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd.
  - First MTR South Western Trains Ltd.
  - London & Continental Railways Ltd. and
  - Havant Borough Council.

### 2.3) Hayling Island

At a meeting with Cabinet prior to Christmas, the HBC Corporate Strategy was discussed, and it was agreed to first project as part of the Hayling Island Ambition Statement was to be Chichester Avenue car park. Discussions with Councillor Satchwell and Councillor Pike are to take place to work up the objectives and specification for taking this forward.

### 3. Housing & Property Company

- Alan Downton has concluded discussions with each individual Cabinet member regarding the above.
- An initial analysis undertaken by Richard Bayley and Pinsent Masons has identified that HBC should look to actively participate in the delivery of its future regeneration opportunities through the use of its land interests. This analysis is consistent with the recently approved Corporate Strategy as well as the Regeneration & Economic Strategy (2022-2036).
- The focus of the operating model should be regeneration through public private partnerships where HBC can exert control and influence, especially in the quality of development delivered through its land interests as well as, potentially, through the ability to on-lend into the operating model from Public Works Loan Board finance. This accords with the Housing Development Strategy presentation by the Interim Chief Executive to Cabinet in September 2022.
- A formal business case is in the process of being prepared, including an analysis of the options available to HBC, for decision by the Cabinet before the end of March 2023. This process also includes a series of conversations with potential public and private sector partners which have already commenced.

### Community Safety

The **Partnership Action Group** meeting consisting of Police, Council, Schools, Health and voluntary sector agencies including MOTIV8, YServices and Stop Domestic Abuse chaired by HBC Neighbourhood Quality Team meets monthly to coordinate operational service delivery across the Borough on current issues. In November the following areas were identified for attention

ASB in Havant Town Centre

ASB in Mengham town centre inc. damage to Public Toilets, Hayling beachfront.

ASB in Holst Way and Newlease Coppice

ASB in Waterlooville Town Centre.

Graffiti. Across the Borough.

Flytipping in Greywell area

Plans have been put in place for targeted outreach work and partnership patrols in the areas of ASB and clearance of Graffiti and Flytips.

### **Violence against women and girls**

The Safer Streets 4 initiative was launched at Havant with participation in White Ribbon Day. A flag was raised by the Mayor and displays utilised at the Plaza supported by a social media campaign to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse.

### **Planning Enforcement**

The team have been undertaking a review of all existing cases including a number of legacy matters that originated during the pandemic with a focus on criminal matters relating to heritage and listed properties and tree preservation orders and have been successful in reducing the current caseload from over 300 at its peak to some 90 current investigations with formal action pending in some twenty cases.