

Cabinet Lead for Local Plan, Environment and Water Quality – Councillor Elizabeth Lloyd

Planning Policy

Consultation took place on the Building a Better Future Plan, Havant's new Local Plan, from 3rd October to 14th November 2022.

Officers are preparing to report back to the Planning Policy Committee shortly regarding this consultation. This will include details of the issues which were raised through the main consultation alongside the sites which were submitted through the Call for Sites.

This report will also consider whether any updates are needed to the Local Development Scheme, the timetable for the Local Plan's production.

Water Quality

Following the decision of the last Full Council, procurement is underway to bring on board consultants to independently review the information and data provided to the Council to support our Local Plan's Infrastructure Delivery Plan together with any planning applications not supported by the development plan. In pushing forward with this piece of work, the Council is also working with other local authorities affected by this issue, through a Stakeholder Group and my thanks go to Wealden District Council for coordinating this.

We also continue to engage with Southern Water regarding the proposals for a Water Recycling Plant, linked to Budds Farm Wastewater Treatment Works. This would be classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and will be determined through a Development Consent Order. As a result, the Council will not be the consenting authority for any scheme. However, this scheme has the potential to significantly impact on the Borough and beyond and as a result, the Council will continue to engage with this emerging project. Most recently, in order to learn more about the scheme, I attended a site visit to Budds Farm to see a pilot project of a wastewater recycling plant which has been set up by Southern Water.

Climate Change and the Environment

Arguably the most pressing concern facing the UK at this time is the inflation in the cost of energy. In a borough with an higher than average levels of deprivation and ill health, the increases in the cost of energy could drive many households further into poverty.

Addressing the energy efficiency of the Borough's homes is critical in the long term, to addressing the causes of climate change, to meet net zero and reduce long-term temperature rises. In the short term, this can have a direct and meaningful impact on

the bills that residents will face. As such, ensuring that residents have access to energy efficiency improvements is a key priority.

Havant Borough Council is part of the Warmer Homes, a consortium of local authorities, led by Portsmouth City Council. Through this scheme, eligible households can get access to energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy and heating system improvements.

I was delighted to host a meeting convened by the Havant Climate Alliance, which brought together volunteers and professionals from the wider voluntary sector in the Borough. This meeting enabled information sharing which in turn further spreads the word about how residents can sign up for grants through the scheme they can trust, which uses contractors - for energy efficiency works in people's homes - who have been appointed by the consortium lead at Portsmouth City Council. Confidence in such schemes is paramount in today's environment of scams.

Further information can be found at www.warmerhomes.org.uk. Any households who consider they could be eligible can apply either online or by calling for free on 0800 038 5737. The present scheme runs out on 31st March 2023 so if you have any queries from residents, please encourage them to apply as soon as possible. A press release was issued on 19.12.22 and there will be reminders through our communication channels.

I would like to thank the Havant Climate Alliance for the work they do in the Borough and for their continuous engagement with me.