

## **Cabinet Lead for Levelling-Up – Councillor Tim Pike**

### **Link Up Leigh Park Programme**

#### Youth Engagement Survey – Phase 1

A pilot youth engagement survey, which launched in October 2022, came to a close on 16<sup>th</sup> December for interim review. This survey was developed with HBC Insights team for the dual purpose of informing the Local Plan and Corporate Strategy reporting, as well as to provide insight into priorities of young people living in the Borough to help shape the creation of initiatives for the Link Up Leigh Park programme. A full report will be written in early 2023 but below are the headlines of the *interim report*:

- 107 respondents with 61% aged 16-18 years old.
- In terms of physical activity, results indicated respondents were less likely to meet the average recommended guidance, and less than the Sport England national average of 150+ minutes a week.
- Access to local GPs was high (70%), but access to mental health services was significantly lower (35%).
- Combining first and second priorities, young people responded with the following top 5 priorities:
  - 53% said mental health support, 51% said access to training and education, 43% said enough local jobs, 36% said places to go and hang out with friends and 34% said getting on the property ladder.

A second phase of the survey will commence on the 16<sup>th</sup> January with more focus on outreach activity to groups of young people less likely to engage and participate as most of the Phase 1 respondents were local college students. The vision is to take learning from both phases to develop future youth engagement programmes and a Youth Forum for the Borough.

### **Link Up Apprenticeship Event**

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, the LULP programme partnered with the Link Up Youth Hub to host a pilot apprenticeship event at Leigh Park Library. During the event, 60 borough residents were in attendance with 71% from the Leigh Park postcode. There were 3 training providers, 7 employers and 1 career support advice service in attendance to showcase the opportunities available.

In terms of attendees, there were 10 young people accessing the Youth Hub service that came along, 3 of them with their CVs. In addition, an estimated 30 pupils (Years 10 and 11) from Park Community School joined the event.

### **Link Up Leigh Park 121 Youth Support Worker**

Link Up Leigh Park are working in partnership with Motiv8 and the Link Up Youth Hub to provide 121 support to 16-24-year-olds accessing the hub service. The Motiv8 support worker started at the beginning of December 2022 and is currently working with 8 young people residing in the Leigh Park postcode. A pilot initiative for a 6-month period to begin with, the support worker will be helping to reduce barriers that young people are facing to access employment, training, and education.

The support worker programme will aim to be of 8 weeks duration for every young person participating. Much of the work so far has focused on relationship building and goal setting to tackle both physical and mental health barriers and how this crosses over with developing skill and confidence to take steps toward employment, training and education.

### **Youth Hub**

Link Up Youth Hub has relocated to Front Lawn Community Hub based in Leigh Park, every Monday to Friday, supported in partnership by Hampshire FA and the Link Up Leigh Park programme.

Since its launch at the beginning of September, 91 Young People have been referred to the Youth Hub from the Job Centre and 12 young people have self-referred into the Youth Hub for support. 40 young people are receiving intensive support through the Havant Borough Council Youth Hub provision. This means they receive 1+ hours support per week with employability skills and referrals to partners. To date, 24 young people have been supported into paid employment. Roles include health care support workers, retail assistants, administrative assistants, and education.

10 young people are currently on a pathway to achieve an apprenticeship with local businesses across Havant and Portsmouth.

Across January 9 partners will be visiting the hub to provide wraparound support for young people including our partnership with Southern Health to remove health barriers, a bespoke employment course with Community First running from the hub location and our Link Up Leigh Park partnership funded Motiv8 support worker, who currently works with 9 young people from across the Leigh Park area.

### **Havant Business Partnership**

A meeting of the Havant Business Partnership is being arranged for the 26<sup>th</sup> January. As previously this involves close joint working with Havant & South Downs College because of the shared importance of business engagement across economic development, skills and employment agendas. This is a great opportunity to update the business community on the work of the Council and issues of wider relevance such as the Freeport and to hear directly from businesses about their successes and challenges.

## **Havant Town Centre**

Brownfield Land Release funding of £1.2m 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. Tenders for the work are currently being requested with a view to entering into a demolition contract before the end of March 2023 (this being a condition of the funding received).

Havant is one of the town centres that has been selected to receive fully funded support from the High Streets Task Force (HSTF). In the first instance this involves a diagnostic site visit and stakeholder workshop which would then be followed by tailored advice and support to meet particular local needs. The HSTF have now confirmed that they are looking to start this work in February 2023.

## **Capita – Digital and Customer Services**

### **Digital**

- The team have completed the separation of HBC infrastructure, access, and data on time.
- The separation of digital services from EHDC has been completed successfully.
- The new Intranet and Councillor hubs are working well. Democratic Services and Communications teams are able to update the content.
- The new room booking system that went live in October is working very well.
- The digital transfer of Legal data to Southampton City Council is complete and working well.
- The current Infrastructure and Security contract with Capita ends in September 2025. The strategy for procuring the future service is currently being considered by Cabinet this month.
- The team will go out for a new print provision contract in January, seeking to reduce costs and environmental impact.
- Work is underway to support services in looking at approaches to Case Management and Software as a Service (SaaS) to support the move to a new infrastructure and security solution prior to September 2025.

### **Customer Services**

- Work with Capita on improving Customer Services continues.
  - Customer Services – Havant have seen a sharp improvement in ‘% calls answered within 20 seconds’ as we address Waste issues and call volumes fall.
  - Land Charges - we are achieving all monthly performance levels.
  - Revs & Bens

- Benefits performance against the monthly trajectory continues to look positive.
  - Collection Rates are ahead of the same point last year, however, this is starting to slow which is not unexpected due to the difficult economic conditions.
  - 'Call answered within 20 sec' is very poor due to more complex calls.
  - The Royal Mail (RM) strikes have had an impact on the R&B Team and the situation is expected to deteriorate further in the New Year. Incoming post levels have fluctuated dramatically on a daily basis due to strike days and backlogs of post. The amount of damaged mail received has increased.
- We are in the process of recruiting a new Contract Manager to cover Customer Services, Revenues and Benefits, Revenues Recovery, GIS and Street, Name and Numbering.
  - We are working with Hampshire County Council to deliver the Department for Work and Pensions 'Household Support Scheme (3rd tranche)'. Although this is considered an extension to the previous two DWP household support fund schemes, it is a new fund and subject to its own conditions.

This consists of two areas for those receiving benefits. Help towards rent costs and food vouchers. The team are currently confirming the fund levels with County and setting up the schemes to live as soon as possible.

The Household Support Fund is there to support those in exceptional cases of genuine emergency where existing support from housing benefit, Universal Credit (housing element) and where discretionary housing payments do not meet the exceptional need.

The scheme also supports households who are in receipt of council tax support and or housing benefit with food vouchers. These are a one-off voucher that can be used in community pantries or supermarkets to help with the rising cost of living, freeing up money for other bills. Recipients do not need to apply for the food vouchers as we will be writing directly to eligible recipients. We will be working with a third party to deliver this scheme. The vouchers will be made available in the following two ways:

- Working age recipients will receive a letter with a QR code to claim the voucher online (an offline option can be made available in exceptional circumstances)
- Pensionable age recipients will receive a letter with a physical voucher. The nearest supermarket has been pre-selected, prior to issue, based on postcode.

- We are expecting details shortly from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on the '**EBSS Alternative Funding Scheme**'. The scheme aims to support household dwellings that are not already benefitting from the Energy Bills Support Scheme (EBSS). Applications will be made centrally on gov.uk. A national call centre will be in place for general queries and those who need to access assisted digital support. BEIS will conduct verification checks. Verified applicants will be passed to the Council who will confirm the address, payment details and ensure EBSS payments have not already been received. Councils will then make the payment and report back to BEIS. New Burdens funding will be available to cover the Council's costs.

### **Civil Engineering and Landscape Team**

#### **Warblington Footbridge Feasibility – HBC CIL Funded**

NR and its design contractors have proposed three options for the footbridge along with the standard design from the earlier work. All costs have increased since the previous stage and the funding gap is now larger.

#### **Bushy Lease Cycle Route – HBC CIL Funded**

We are still awaiting the bat survey. However, the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) has now been completed. The report shows the proposed route would have a minimal impact on trees along the route. We have identified an area suitable for mitigation for loss of the trees that will be felled to create the widened path and crossing of the river. Following the receipt of the AIA a pre-application enquiry to Planning has now been made.

#### **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.

#### **Scratchface Lane, Bedhampton recreation ground**

We are working on a 'General Enquiry' Planning Application document for a revised scheme incorporating elements of biodiversity net gain including wetlands and increased landscaping, to be potentially implemented in 2023.

#### **Transforming Cities Fund – HCC / DfT Funded**

##### **TCF Elmleigh Road:**

Tender documents have been prepared but their issue has been delayed whilst the Department for Transport reviews the entire TCF programme. The Civic Centre east car park would be used as the site compound with a rental agreement required – this is being co-ordinated with Property colleagues. If the DfT approve the continuance of

the programme, tenders would probably not be issued until February, with construction starting in late spring / early summer 2023.

**TCF Leigh Park Local Access Zone:**

Works completed – minor landscaping to finalise

**TCF Havant Local Access Zone:**

Works completed at Centenary Gardens and on the station forecourt – road marking work to be carried out in the station car park in January 2023 subject to agreement with Network Rail to temporarily close it for 2 days.

**TCF Bedhampton Road:** Scheme has been successfully tendered, road space has been booked and works are due to commence on site week commencing 24 January 2023.

**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 DF funding, so CELT will be liaising with them to progress any design with the CIL funding in this scenario being match funding to any DF award.

**England Coast Path – NE/HCC funded with CIL NP contribution**

CELT has been engaged to design work at the shoreline end of Warblington Road (at Nore Barn Woods) to ensure improved access on the ECP where it crosses the stream from Maisemore Gardens. Work is under way to deliver a designed scheme in January which will raise the level of the footpath over the culverted stream enough to provide dry shod passage on all but the most extreme tides. Natural England is client, working through HCC. CIL Neighbourhood portion funding of £46k for the 'Solent Way Upgrade Project' was awarded in 2017 and will be used for part of the implementation cost, as the Solent Way will be subsumed into the ECP when opened.

**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 (revoking the TRO for the mandatory cycle lane is required). Consultation 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 have responded to queries from the Safety Audit team and are awaiting their report. A BT pole will need to be moved and this

has been ordered. Design on the Bridge Road scheme is nearly complete with two options now submitted to HCC client for comment and preference.

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

Following approval and publication of the LCWIP document by HCC (covering 'primary' and 'secondary' routes), contact has been made with officers in HBC and HCC with a view to organising a stakeholders' meeting in early 2023 to discuss Havant's priorities for the 'tertiary' level of routes.

### **Milton Road Bus layby and Elettra Avenue HBC CIL Funded**

**Milton Road:** Minor changes to the design are being made following Asset Management comments.

**Elettra Avenue:** Drawings have now been approved by HCC Asset Management. Implementation of this design is now in the hands of HCC to undertake negotiations with the local developers over additional financial contributions. If successful, this would allow more of the CIL funding to be spent on Milton Road including upgrading the link into Hambledon Road spur (south).

### **Hambledon Road – HBC CIL & WCC Funded**

Topographic survey has been carried out on an addition to the design near the borough boundary with WCC. The design is expected to be completed by March 2023.

### **Havant Rugby Football Club – HBC CIL Funded**

Funding resolved, finalising Design. To be on site by end of February 2023.

### **Emsworth, The Promenade - HBC Funded**

Works completed, an additional pot hole was repaired at the same time. Now looking to undertake core samples in the New Year details to follow.

### **Havant Park Sculpture**

Chainsaw artist is on site creating the artwork following installation of the base.

### **Eastoke Corner Performance Shelter**

Completed

### **South Street Emsworth Car Park Wall**

Working on design to bring for initial review before commissioning repair.