

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
- Transformation
- Community Safety
- Enforcement & prevention Services
- Emergency Planning & business continuity
- Freeport

Policy Development and lead for inter-authority relations, engagement with Government, engagement with community and key stakeholders

Following the period of engagement in late 2022 on the Corporate Strategy the updated document has been brought forward to full Council in February alongside the budget and medium term financial strategy. The new Corporate Strategy outlines the council's vision until 2026, setting out the council's priorities and how they will be delivered in particular focusing on improving the health of our communities, protecting our natural environment and building for the future.

We continue to closely monitor the latest development in central government policy to ensure we can effectively implement any opportunities that arise. Although we were not successful in our Levelling up funding bid the Council has already secured £1.6m of Government funding to regenerate part of Havant town centre as well as funding for improvements to parks and play areas and help to support the homeless in our borough.

During February the Council hosted a public meeting with water companies giving residents the opportunity to ask Portsmouth Water and Southern Water questions about how water is provided in the future, taking into account the growing need and pressures of climate change.

Council performance against corporate strategy

With the approval of the Corporate Strategy, services have been identifying the key priorities that will be reported on in order to deliver the strategy. These new priorities will be tracked through our performance scorecard and through project assurance reports to ensure that our priorities are being delivered.

Quarter three performance information has been collected and is being reported through Cabinet. Our performance across a number of services is generally good; complaints handling and customer service metrics have improved over the last quarter and our regulatory services are achieving against national metrics. Continuous improvement in performance monitoring is ongoing with new planning metrics planned for quarter 4 as well as updated Housing metrics.

Business Continuity

Officers are currently reviewing business continuity plans as part of our annual review to ensure plans remain clear should they be required. Once a review of plans has been completed a short testing exercise will take place to ensure they are robust.

Armed Forces

The Armed Forces Stakeholder group is growing, 56 businesses, charities and community groups are signed up to attend meetings and receive updates.

Partners are keen to work together and share information to better support the Armed Forces community. We will be meeting with officers on Thorney Island and also the local Reservist branch to see what the issues are and how we can support in the future. The next Stakeholder meeting takes place on 26th June at the Plaza.

We currently hold a silver ERS (Employer's Recognition Scheme) award, we are applying for a gold award. The deadline for application is 15th March 2023. We are currently working through the application and supporting evidence. The Gold Award is the highest badge of honour for employers who support those who serve in the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Regeneration

LUF 2 – Havant town Centre

HBC is disappointed it wasn't successful with the LUF2 bid, although DHLUC will provide feedback and there will be another fund, the detail of which we will be appraised of soon.

Brownfield Land Release Fund 2 (BFLR2)

The second round is now open for applications for funding, with up to £60m available. One Public Estate partnerships will coordinate applications to the fund from councils across their OPE partnership areas. Applications to be submitted by 23:59 on 31 March 2023. This fund will be administered through the One Public Estate Programme, a partnership between Cabinet Office, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Local Government Association.

HBC are assessing its property portfolio to establish whether there can be a viable bid submitted.

There will be a final BRLR fund in March 2024 which will be £80,000,000.

Waterlooville Town Centre

16 applicants applied for the Waterlooville town centre / regen officer role and HBC officers interviewed 4. There were two great candidates, and we are in the process of offering this role to one of them, with a conditional offer which has been verbally accepted. Potential start date mid-April.

In the meantime, we are commissioning an additional piece of work to focus on stakeholder engagement focused on businesses, landowners and key public agencies. This work will not only inform the commissioning of a masterplan but prepare the ground for longer term partnerships and stakeholder delivery groups.

The Plaza and Civic Centre Havant

- Officers are regularly meeting with London Continental Railways (LCR) on taking forward regeneration plans for the area. The next one is due mid-February 2023
- Unfortunately, the Brown Field Land Release Fund is only available for council owned land or premises and cannot be accessed by other public sector bodies like the police, magistrates and DWP, who all occupy the wider Havant Plaza site.
- A second MOU is to be signed 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.

Hayling Island

Following a meeting with Hayling Island Ward Councillors regarding Chichester Avenue car park, officers are producing a draft plan by the end of February 2023, which will be circulated for further input.