

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, including the Hayling Island Seafront Strategy
- Communications
- Armed Forces Covenant
- Economic Development and Levelling up Priorities

Havant Town Centre

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. This initial stage took place on the 16th of March with the HSTF expert Dr Jo Morrison. The 3-hour workshop facilitated by the HSTF was attended by a broad range of stakeholders, as well as councillors and senior officers. The resulting report was received in late April and identified the lack of an organisation or group to take responsibility for the town centre as the main barrier to transformation in Havant. Recommendations focused on addressing this key issue with an offer of further mentoring support to assist. Officers are currently liaising with the HSTF to put this mentoring in place and take the work forwards.

Bulbeck Road

Hughes and Salvidge are the contractor for the demolition works and a contract has been let with work due to commence in Winter 2023/24 pending planning approval, the demolition will take up to 24 weeks. At present environmental site investigations have started and to be completed in 8 to 10 weeks. Once these investigatory searches have been completed, a preapplication will be submitted to the planning department for the demolition. There will be an extensive programme of engagement with those in the vicinity of the site who will be impacted by the works to provide information and address any issues of concern, and this will feed into the pre-application. We are awaiting a second report back from Vail Williams on the investment appraisal for what could be built in that location once the existing structure is demolished.

Havant Plaza Area

The Council is working closely with LCR and at present regarding the Plaza site and the area around Market Parade and reviewing a programme plan, which is separated into workstreams. The Next meeting with them is on 12th June 23.

Waterlooville

Waterlooville continues to be an important priority for us and with the appointment of a dedicated Regeneration Officer to focus solely on the town centre and provide the capacity we need to accelerate progress. Work is currently underway to look at both short term actions and the development of a masterplan to guide longer term change. We will be looking to bring forward a package of short-term actions that can be implemented in the next 12 months.

We are currently developing an Invitation to Tender (ITT) and specification for the work on vision and master planning, which is planned to be launched for procuring the specialist service required at the end of June 23. The plan will be to have the visioning and master plan work completed by Winter 2023/24.

There is also an opportunity this would work well if the call for Levelling Up Fund (LUF) round 3 bid is launched later this year as anticipated.

Freeport – Dunsbury Park Tax Site

As we know Dunsbury is the most advanced of the Freeport Tax-Sites with development underway and future investment potential. There continues to be close liaison with Portsmouth City Council as landowner and developer. In the latest phase of development three new units were completed in April and negotiations with potential occupiers are already underway for all of these indicating strong market interest. Further details will emerge if these negotiations progress to contractual commitment.

One of the key incentives for eligible businesses to invest at Dunsbury is the availability of 100% business rates relief for 5 years and it will be the Council's responsibility to administer this relief. To facilitate effective and timely dealings with potential investors the Council has now developed an on-line application form and associated guidance.

Local Authority Housing Fund

The Council continues to progress the LAHF programme to purchase 15 properties for the purposes of housing Ukrainian and Afghan Refugees. The Council are currently out to tender for an agent to acquire properties on our behalf and are about to advertise a tender for the management of tenancies and maintenance of these properties.

Havant Youth Hub

Link Up Youth Hub is currently supporting 173 young people from across the borough working closely with Havant and Cosham Job Centre.

To date, 60 young people have been supported into paid employment. Roles include riding instructor, maintenance and rail engineering.

Throughout April and May we were joined by partner organisations to provide wraparound support and opportunities to young people attending the hub. This includes:

- City of Portsmouth College to raise aspirations and promote local apprenticeships as a route for employment and education.
- Princes Trust to promote their Get Into Security course in partnership with Vespasian, security company based in Portsmouth.
- High Ridge Training to promote free Level 2 courses in admin and childcare to support upskilling and preparation for work.
- JBC to promote apprenticeships in IT and Level 2 courses to work towards this.

We also attended an event at Cosham Job Centre to promote the youth hub work to young people from Waterlooville area. The event was successful to support the partnership with the job centre and will help with building our caseload to embed the project into the community.

Our current target is to build and sustain a caseload of 200 young people by August 2023 and we would like to see 100 young people moving into paid employment for the first year of the project.

Business Support

Support for Havant businesses is an integral part of the approved investment plan for Havant Borough Council's award of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). With

some resources allocated for business support in the 2022/23, officers have moved quickly to commission a two-year business support programme from the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Exclusively for Havant businesses, the programme will provide small and medium sized enterprises that have growth potential with 4 peer group workshops and intensive one to one expert advice and mentoring over a 12-month period. Across two cohorts it is anticipated that between 16 and 20 local businesses will benefit over the next two years. Outcomes and impacts will be closely monitored as part of an agreed evaluation framework.

Hayling Island

Meeting set up with the Leader and Councillor Julie Richardson on 21st June to discuss the road map for Chichester Avenue where we will discuss objectives, key design principles, timelines, stakeholder engagement and next steps