

Cabinet Lead Reports – Full Council July 2023

Cabinet Lead for Coastal – Councillor Liz Fairhurst

- Coastal Management
- Delivery of civil engineering services

Property:

- Customer Services
- Cabinet lead for Digital (Capita Contract)
- Procurement

Coastal Management

South Hayling Beach Management Activities (BMA) (2017-2024)

We have entered the final year of the current Beach Management Plan (BMP), and works are underway to prepare the submission for the next 5 years of beach management to the Environment Agency. The technical update is progressing, with work ongoing with consultants to assist with flood modelling projections.

The beach management contract tender period has now ended, and we are currently evaluating the returns. This new contract will cover a 12-month period and will cover all construction works to the end of the current BMP.

A beach management and monitoring report is under development. This is produced in line with our approved licences and consents and assesses changes in beach volume, the beach management works, and reports on environmental surveys (vegetated shingle and birds) over the past 12 months. The report will be finalised in early July and will be shared with key stakeholders.

Our next beach management campaign has initially been scheduled for the start of September 2023, following the end of the summer school holidays. More details will be provided on this as the plans for work develops over the coming months.

West Beach – Scoping and Regeneration

The current position of the beach crest lies within the estimated initial cutback risk zone area identified prior to the structures being removed. It is expected that over time, under average wave and weather conditions the beach crest will continue to roll back into the 'rebound zone'. A recent crest survey has been undertaken and monitoring of the poor condition breastwork for damage continues.

With the emerging coastal strategy policy and renewed interest in coastal management at West Beach, an internal workshop is proposed to review the wider council ambitions for this frontage and priorities.

The area continues to be monitored for Health and Safety purposes and debris on the beach is removed by Norse. There are two pile tops exposed and these will be removed early in July by the timber works contractor.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy

The statutory consultation on the Habitats Regulations Assessment, Water Framework Directive Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment has commenced. Coastal Partners are meeting with the regulators on 10th July to provide background on the Draft Strategy. After the consultation, the project team will review the comments received alongside those collated during the public consultation and make any necessary amends to the Draft Strategy.

The bi-modal wave modelling that is currently being carried out for the BMP will go on to inform the economics update for the Strategy in the Autumn.

Langstone Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Scheme – Detailed Design

The project team continue to work collaboratively with AECOM to progress towards the 100% design milestone. Frontage 1A and Frontage 2 additional design work is currently underway. Design refinements continue to be made as the design progresses to provide an affordable and deliverable scheme. The 100% design is due for completion on 7th December 2023.

The project team continue to seek additional funding sources for the scheme. Assessments for potential inflation uplift with funding from the Environment Agency have been completed this month and a funding claim is currently being prepared for submission to the EA.

Arrangements are currently being made for a series of public in-person engagement sessions to offer the opportunity for residents to drop-in and ask questions about the Langstone FCERM Scheme and speak directly to the Project Manager. The first drop-in session has been provisionally organised for 6th July 2023. Feedback from the sixth stakeholder working group continue to be considered as part of the design development towards the 100% design stage. Further 1-2-1 meetings with residents have also been ongoing providing all those that wish to talk about the scheme, with Coastal Partners, the opportunity to do so.

Broadmarsh Coastal Park, Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Feasibility Study

The project team continue to seek funding for the Detailed Design, Licensing and Consenting phase of the project. A briefing note is to be considered by the Executive Leadership Team early in July, ahead of report presented to Cabinet in September 2023. A CIL request for £1.2m for detailed Design is to be considered at the Cabinet meeting. Where CIL funding is not available the funding application will be made against capital reserves.

Ongoing fortnightly monitoring continues of this key sea defence infrastructure to check for damage. Essential asset maintenance to the revetment, to contain the chalk bund and landfill contents, is planned for this year using the current dedicated revenue budget. However, the delivery will need to be evaluated when tenders for this work are returned because the revenue budget is not expected to be sufficient to cover the full costs and further funding for future maintenance could be sought from the Council.

Wade Lane Seawall Failure

In June the Council voted for a motion for letters to be sent to a number of stakeholders to provide their support for the Chichester Harbour Environment and Investment Adaptation Plan and to raise strong democratic support for the protection of the Mill Pond. This includes the assessment of the long-term management and enhancement of the wildlife within the Langstone Mill Pond that supports the network of habitats and species within the Harbour.

The Leader has now written letters to Minister Pow, and Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, The Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Natural England to demonstrate strong democratic support to the protection of the Mill Pond, and to receive their support for funding a Chichester Harbour Environment and Investment Adaptation Plan, plus asking them to support preparation of a contingency plan should the Mill Pond wall fail.

Chichester Harbour has been judged to be in an unfavourable declining environmental condition due to 'Coastal Squeeze' and 'inappropriate coastal management' resulting in the loss of almost half of its saltmarsh since designation of the SSSI and a continuing loss of two hectares per year.

Coastal Partners continue to monitor this section of coastal erosion and the initial response/erosion of the shoreline following the collapse of the wall has slowed. Support from all stakeholders is needed to secure funding to undertake a Chichester Harbour Environment and Investment Adaptation Strategy.

A webpage has been created for this issue and will be regularly updated and maintained. Coastal Partners are directing enquiries to the website for information and encourage others to do the same.

[Langstone Coastal Path, Mill Pond to Wade Lane, Havant — Coastal Partners](#)

Coastal Environmental Initiatives

The Coastal Environment team are actively working across several initiatives that aim to protect and improve the natural coastal environment within the Havant Borough, such as:

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – additional studies

The team are investigating priority intertidal habitat creation opportunities on Hayling Island. If successful, this could lead to the creation of new intertidal habitats to replace those that have been lost within the harbours through climate change, including saltmarsh, mudflats, and coastal grazing marsh. For one of the sites, we are currently preparing to meet with the landowners to discuss potential options and obtain a clearer understanding of how the site is currently used, before pricing up and assessing options. We are also preparing to undertake a topographical survey of another area of land, to help understand how future habitat creation could be maximised on the site. This will involve a UAV flyover by our Geomatics Team once we have received landowner permissions and Consent from Natural England / Chichester Harbour Conservancy.

Langstone FCERM scheme – Saltmarsh Feasibility Study

Having received a report from our consultants, that advises that saltmarsh restoration is not currently considered feasible at Langstone village, we are liaising with wider partners to either confirm this advice, consider the benefits of undertaking a trial, or to explore whether there are other potentially suitable sites in the vicinity, including an area to the east (which appears to have lower risks). Natural England are also overseeing a study, looking for sites across Chichester Harbour that could benefit from saltmarsh restoration through Beneficial use of Dredgings, which may highlight other opportunities for redirecting our funding and efforts.

Chichester Harbour Protection and Recovery of Nature (CHaPRoN), Three Harbours and linked initiatives

CHaPRoN has a vision of 'working together for the protection and recovery of nature,' focussed on Chichester Harbour – www.chapron.org.uk. The Three Harbours initiative has a vision of 'a healthy and thriving water environment where restored and connected sea and landscapes are resilient to a new climate reality, enabling people and nature to adapt and flourish – together.' This effectively extends the CHaPRoN partnership into Langstone and Pagham Harbours.

Alongside Chichester District Council, we have applied for funding to produce an Environmental and Coastal Investment Adaptive Strategy for the whole of Chichester Harbour. Funding from the Environment Agency's Environmental Statutory Allowance has now been allocated to this, but we need to prepare and submit a business case, to unlock this funding, which will be a focus within 2023.

We are being approached frequently by CHaPRoN partners and the community to discuss failing defences (mostly of private ownership) around the Harbour and how these should be addressed going forward, with consideration requiring a balance of risk vs. environmental harm or opportunity. A recent coastal defence failure that has required significant officer input and advice, is the area around Wade Lane, Langstone Village. The complexity of the management of this section of coast is significant and is exactly the type of issue a Strategy would help plan for, developing a holistic view in the context of the wider harbour. This again highlights the need for a harbour wide Environmental and Coastal Investment Adaptive Strategy to set a clear and planned direction, rather than ad hoc, piecemeal advice. Securing full funding for this is now a priority of the team.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy have recently undertaken a saltmarsh restoration trial at Itchenor, which will help advise future saltmarsh restoration techniques across the wider harbours. This makes beneficial use of dredged sediments, whereby sediment arisings from the dredging of Chichester Marina will be used to raise the level of the saltmarsh, helping it keep pace with sea level rise. Historically these dredging's would have been disposed of, in a licensed site off the Isle of Wight (and lost from the system). The trial has so far been considered a success, and ongoing monitoring will highlight whether pioneer saltmarsh species are able to take hold. Further info here: [Saltmarsh Restoration Trial Project – West Itchenor - Chichester Harbour Protection & Recovery of Nature \(chapron.org.uk\)](#)

Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme (HCRP)

Nationally, the HCRP is on track to deliver its legal requirements, but progress needs to be increased. Within our region, it has highlighted the need to submit a funding application for a Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study (prioritising opportunities to create this habitat, which is critically important to the harbour's bird networks). We are currently preparing a scope for this study in attempt to unlock funding, as the Solent's FCERM programme relies on successful delivery of the HCRP. We are also requesting funding to update the programme with latest sea level rise predictions (Solent Dynamic Coast Project update). This will help us understand future coastal habitat changes more accurately, so that we can better plan habitat creation opportunities. Additionally, the team are exploring funding opportunities, to continue coordinating the HCRP, working alongside the Environment Agency.

Beyond this, we are exploring funding to monitor and better communicate the natural coastal defence breach at Southmoor, which is already leading to the establishment of vitally important new saltmarsh habitat on the landward side. This site breached in 2020, with the saline inundation leading to terrestrial vegetation die back on the site (which may be considered unsightly / be a concern to the community). However, with a closer look, there are already signs of colonisation by pioneer saltmarsh species. Over time, this saltmarsh is expected to establish further and provide an incredibly rich and diverse habitat, with saltmarsh being one of the most effective forms of habitat for storing carbon, positively contributing to addressing climate change. It takes

time for habitats to transition in this way, and the team are hoping to help communicate this, if this funding can be secured.

Civil Engineering and Landscape Team

Warblington footbridge HBC CIL 23/06/2023

Network Rail (NR) have revised their costs for option 3 Flow bridge from £3.42M to £4.1M. ELT 10/5/23 and CAB 17/5/23 show concern on moving forward at risk with this project. Leader has written to NR requesting that NR accept all risk and deliver the project in receipt of a Grant from the Council, but they have declined this offer. NR have requested that they complete their SPEED work over the next 3 months at a cost of £60K before making an informed decision.

Bushy Lease Shared Cycle Route HBC CIL 26/06/2023

We have now received Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA). The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has indicated that the new route will have only a minimal impact on trees. A Pre-application enquiry to Planning has been made and an acknowledgement has been received but we are awaiting a formal response. The team have contacted PCC regarding proposals for mitigation. A quote for a new topo survey for the revised route has been requested. Designing mitigation works for path widening through woodland. A revised Bridge cost estimate received for Hermitage stream crossing. Contact with Portsmouth (landowner) over connecting to Fitzwygram Way and onward route including a link to Park Lane as per earlier feasibility study. PCC has also requested consideration be given to means of crossing A3M J3 in conjunction with FreePort development. The Planning team have now submitted the pre-application comments which are now being considered prior to putting in a planning application.

Eastoke Corner Footpath Improvements HBC CIL 28/06/2023

Works started 23 May 2023 to remove the boardwalk and replace the surface with a porous resin bound surface. Works are now complete on site; comms have gone out via social media to say work is complete. KBI (contractor) removed the waste left on site 23/06/23. NORSE removed the barriers 23/06/2023.

Rusty Cutter link road Active Travel Improvements HBC CIL 23/06/2023

An 'Expression of Interest' application for match funding as a Designated Fund (DF) scheme through National Highways (NH) was made 8 June. CELT will be liaising with NH officers to make a formal application for DF funding if Expression of Interest accepted. In meantime, CELT continuing with preliminary design, CELT are talking to the HCC S278 team regarding interface with 'Forty Acres' site works, but all subject to NH approval as

technically this is 'at risk'. We expect to know outcome of DF bid by September 2023.

Hobby Close Landraising PCC 23/06/2023

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 2024 for 10 weeks, to ensure pre-planning conditions are signed off in good time and to avoid working in the wet (and muddy) season. There is also a material shortage which would impact completing the works in time with the risk that the site would have to be secured over the winter period, which is likely to be unsuccessful.

Elettra Avenue / Milton Road Roundabout Improvements

HBC CIL 26/06/2023

Design complete and approved by HCC. Now to proceed as minor works scheme with additional £60k of HCC S106 funding (to be confirmed, so timetable uncertain). Milton Road - scheme has been amended and layby has been removed following consultation with bus company. New footway / cycleway linking Milton Road to Hambledon Road is being included in design. Client Manager at HCC has now been contacted to request the scheme be added to the Minor Works programme.

Waterlooville To Denmead Active Travel (Pedestrian and Cycle) Corridor

HBC CIL + HCC 26/06/2023

The design for the Sunnymead Drive section of the scheme has been sent to HCC for a Safety Audit and is being reworked following comments from the Safety Audit team and will be sent for checking. This project is still under funded but in discussions with HCC to figure out how we can fill the funding gap. Works may progress in phases.

MUGA Rugby Club car park HBC CIL 26/06/2023

Construction work started on site on Monday 5 June and progressing for completion by mid-July. Ducting for street lighting being carried out by the main contractors.

Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground Landraising

HBC No Funding 20/06/2023

CELT has submitted a 'General Enquiry' Planning Application document for a revised scheme incorporating elements of biodiversity net gain including wetlands and increased landscaping. Once outcome of pre-app is received a report will need to be taken to ELT to get the project formally onto the council's project schedule. Scope/brief to be agreed at Cabinet. Likely contractor advises there is currently a material shortage, and this means that it may be best to delay any implementation on this project until 2024.

England Coast Path, Emsworth NE HBC CIL 20/06/2023

Preliminary design for civil engineering works submitted to Natural England for application to Public Inquiry in spring 2023. This stage (timing and outcome) is not in HBC's control. Further commission for detailed design expected after Inquiry completed.

Brambles Farm Pedestrian and Cycle route

Link HBC CIL 20/06/2023

Initial discussions with HCC have indicated willingness to promote this route as an additional access point into Brambles Farm from the south. Ecology, arboriculture, Environment Agency consents / applications will all be required. CIL as a fund building contribution as a minimum is likely to be >£250k. HCC undertaking wider study into Brambles Farm access and movement which will incorporate this link as part of the justification for further S106 contributions which will be required to fully implement the project.

Somborne Drive Greywell Drainage HBC S106 23/06/2023

CIL funding secured design to include Green Infrastructure within the car park - re-align surface water drainage using existing drainage to the west - revised date for completion Q3 2023/24.

Future of Billy Trail (feasibility study) HBC CIL 20/06/2023

Initial study completed in summer 2022 costing £20k. Balance now being used in 2023/24 to carry out feasibility design for alternative routes at two locations where erosion is threatening the Trail (West Lane, Saltmarsh Lane) in combination with separate HCC funding of £50k for 'NCN2' project. Topo survey carried out by HCC. Ecology by CP is complete and now inviting input from HCC Ecology team. Site meeting held to discuss the West Lane alternative route on HCC land and impact / restrictions inherent in the designation as Higher-Level Stewardship site and for Brent Geese.

Elmleigh Road HCC Transforming Cities Funding (TCF) + HBC CIL 20/06/2023

CELT detailed design work completed. HCC are lead on implementation. Work started 15/5/23. Site compound using Civic Centre East car park in operation. Separate land dedication along Plaza frontage agreed. HBC organised separate works by Rocon Contractors Ltd for site clearance 10/5/23 - 12/5/23. Good progress being made on section east of Civic Centre road, and at Petersfield Road sparrow crossing. Works expected to continue until Christmas.

TCF Park Road South HCC TCF 20/06/2023

CELT preliminary design work completed. HCC are lead on design and implementation. Approval to proceed given on 04/04/2023 following review of TCF programme and tenders expected to be issued by HCC in July. CELT is

supporting HCC (who are the lead) with background design / local information as and if required but have had no input following preliminary design carried out in 2020.

TCF Bedhampton HCC TCF + HBC CIL 29/06/2023

All works now complete and as built drawings and safety file submitted to HCC.

Havant Road and Bridge Road Emsworth, Road Improvements

HCC 26/06/2023

It has now been decided that the Havant Road scheme be discontinued following discussions with HCC's Road Safety team - no accidents in review timeframe. Design had already been completed and forwarded to HCC. For Bridge Road, design is complete, and this is expected to be out to tender at the same as the Victoria Road scheme.

Victoria Road, Road Improvements Emsworth HCC 26/06/2023

Drawings have been checked and are now working through final approval. HCC have now decided they want implementation to go ahead during the October half-term holiday. Combining a minor part of this scheme with the Bridge Road scheme and going to tender as a single package is being discussed with HCC.

Morelands Phase 3 (Gauntlett Park) New Footway/Cycleway

HCC 20/06/2023

Ecology survey carried out; bat survey received end of April 2023. The design of the line and level of the proposed footpath is nearing completion and the work is currently programmed for October 2023. Following HCC Street Lighting Team comments, Enerveo have been commissioned to provide 2 options for a lighting within the park and the new footway. These have now been received and are being reviewed. A possible CIL application to cover the cost of the lighting is being investigated as this has resulted in a funding shortfall.

Active Travel Fund (ATF) 4 (north of Hayling Billy) [detailed design only]

HCC 20/06/2023

Active Travel Fund project to upgrade to all weather surface the Billy Trail north of the Esso car park at Victoria Road. ATF announcement now made public. Now formally engaged as an HCC project Countryside Service client. Agreement with HCC Countryside for asphalt surfacing (under Ted Mason Agreement) has been achieved. HBC CELT to design, then HCC Countryside will tender and implement with HBC design support. Detailed design under way, topographic survey (by HCC) and PEA (ecology) report (by Coastal Partners) received.

Hayling Billy National Cycle Network 2 Cycle Route Feasibility HCC 20/06/2023

HCC funded feasibility study to investigate engineering options for upgrading sustainability of remaining sections of route not covered by CIL 108 and not threatened by immediate erosion, and completion of cycle route via Staunton Avenue to Sea Front. Report completion extended to December 2023 on approval of the combination of funding from CIL108. Topo survey to be undertaken by HCC shortly; ecology by CP complete but require input from HCC Ecology in addition. HBC already have some allowance from Natural England to work on SSSI. Spoken with RSA team from HCC about options for Staunton Avenue. Making sure all proposals are LTN1/20 compliant on highway.

Northney Common Flood Management Improvements HBC Rev 23/06/2023

Works are completed to budget, two minor pieces of snagging to undertake (H&S sign on steps and raise existing railings the dates for these two items are TBC).

Emsworth Mill Pond Wall Survey Works HBC Rev 23/06/2023

Core samples undertaken and being reviewed. Also, currently GPR survey being undertaken to assess structure for anomalies.

Chichester Ave Car Park Patching HBC car parks Rev 29/06/2023

Snagging works to be completed within July 2023, to coincide with Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) works in the Rugby Club (Contractor is ROCON).

West Beach Car Park HBC car parks Rev 28/06/2023

CELT have been requested to design a spring / summer car park only. Met with Property Team, week commencing 5 June 2023 to understand brief. Design discussed with property, car parks and NORSE. Plans were completed by 16/06/2023. Design have been sent across to Property who will be speaking with NE. Awaiting further instruction. Property are still waiting to hear back from NE 28.06.23

Elmleigh Road Car Park HBC car parks Rev 23/06/2023

Investigate options to improve drainage.

South Street Emsworth, Wall and Planting HBC car parks Rev 30/05/2023

Crack in car park wall due to large trees in planting bed. Remove large trees and low soil adjacent to wall and improve drainage behind wall. Trees and shrubs have all been removed from site by NORSE contractors. Wall has now been fixed. Replanting of with shrubs in the autumn.

Bus Shelter Replacement Sea Front HI + Station Road HI

HBC Rev 27/06/2023

Replacement shelter required due to Road Traffic Accident. Replacement shelter will be installed Q2 2023/24. Works ordered 26 April 2023. However, supplier did not receive order. Copy sent to supplier 21 June 2023.

Digital

Business as usual activity continues with Digital Services' involvement with 40+ corporate projects including; building an App that automates the management of our digital assets, the secure disposal of old digital assets and attending the Cyber Centre of Excellence webinar to improve data security. Preparations for the new IT Security Infrastructure continue at pace with the draft requirements specification complete and soft market testing due to be complete by 28th July. Work to move legacy applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) cloud provision is underway. The specifications for Planning and Regulatory Case Management systems are out for market consultation with feedback due by the end of July. The specifications for the new Finance and Payment systems is being prepared and work is on track to move to a new network drive by October 2023. This will simplify future moves to a new IT infrastructure supplier.

Customer Services

Capita continue to perform well and have been really helpful in supporting us to deliver new payments and schemes for the most vulnerable in our Borough.

The new food vouchers provided under the Governments 4th round of the Household Support Scheme, for those in receipt of Council tax support, will start to be issued next month. The Council Tax collections team are working hard and despite the current economic climate are currently are on target with the projected collections and income.

The Customers Services team have been recruiting for the office at beachlands on the weekends for the busy period over the summer. The office there will take queries and questions from the public and support them with any issues they may have.

Procurement

Procurement has been very busy supporting buying activities across the council services and supporting the Monitoring Officer's review of the Contact Standing Orders. The new digital Contract Management System is now available for officers and population of the system is ongoing. A review of the procurement service is being undertaken by the Executive Head of Commercial.

Property & Asset Management

- Enhanced levels of customer service and response times through closer working with Customer Services.
- Increased levels of cross-functional working (with Planning, Regeneration, Communities, Finance etc) resulting in better outcomes for the Council.
- Development of closer working relationships with external partners and agencies including Langstone Harbour Board, Norse, NHS and Natural England.
- Gone out to advert for two permanent establishment posts, to help solidify and build resilience within the team.
- PAMS procurement underway with 4 tenders currently under evaluation.
- Opening of the Horizon Wellbeing Hub in the Meridian Centre.
- Additional income generating opportunities from the portfolio via lease regears have been identified and are being progressed.
- Additional rental income of c.£36,000pa identified at three premises where there has been a change in use / occupier.
- Level of rent collection remains high at over 98% this quarter. Successful recovery of c.£50k aged debt this quarter.
- Successfully facilitated a number of community / charitable events held on Council land.