

Cabinet Lead for Coastal – Councillor Liz Fairhurst

Property & Asset Management

- Collaborative working with the Communities Team to resolve operational issues at a number of our community buildings.
- Successful recruitment to the establishment post of Estate Manager. New employee due to start on 4th December 2023.
- PAMS procurement completed and Civica (Technology Forge) is the chosen supplier. Currently with Legal for completion of contract.
- Terms agreed with Portico (STC) for new lease of former Havant Lorry Park site at £200,000pa.
- New lease agreed (STC) with Stagecoach for Havant Bus Station to regularise current occupation and reduce future maintenance liabilities for HBC.
- Paper approved at ELT for presentation at 6th September Cabinet Briefing on the future of sites leased from Portsmouth City Council.
- Helped resolved vandalism issues at public facilities on Hayling Island and completed necessary repairs to bring back into use.
- Level of rent collection remains high at over 98% this quarter. Decrease of £7,000 in total debt, to £121,000.

Customer Services

Land charges:

All KPIs are being achieved and the service being delivered is of a high standard. Registrations completed within 24hours is achieving 100% year to date.

Customers Services:

Customer Services have been achieving their KPIs with a marked improvement in call times and wait times. With 89.6% of calls answered within 20 secs against the target of 80% and 84% of out of hours calls answered within 50 secs against the target of 80%.

Pay 360 will have some down time on the 6th September and the contact centre will not be able to take payments. This is being worked through and other options offered such as online payments.

Revenues and Benefits:

The Single Person Discount review is well under way and Capita have had received responses from the first round of letters, identifying a number who should no longer be receiving this discount, resulting in an increased collection for the council. The next stage is now underway. Collection rates for Council Tax and on target. The time for processing new claims for Housing Benefits and Council Tax benefits is currently averaging at 10 days, below the KPI target of 17 days.

Cabinet lead for Digital (Capita Contract)**Performance/Good news:**

The service's exit work for the 5C Partnership contract for ICT in 2025 continues under the established three major project areas:

1. **Developing and procuring a new ICT security and Infrastructure provision.** We received 14 responses to our soft market testing proving that the market is interested in our ICT proposal. We have spent considerable time analysing the feedback and amending our specification and approach to reflect new technical projects within the 5C exit timeframe.
2. **Moving legacy applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) cloud provision** in preparation of a new ICT provider:
 - **Planning Case Management.** This project is currently out to full-market tender and will be shortly entering the evaluation phase of its procurement.
 - **Other regulatory case management (env. Health, licensing etc).** This project is also currently out to full-market tender and will be shortly entering the evaluation phase of its procurement.
 - **Finance system replacement.** This project is currently assessing best route to procurement and is building its business case for resource requirements.
3. **'J to H Project' - Separating and reorganising HBC's network data into a new HBC only network drive.** The new network drive is live and several teams have been migrated. HBC is on track to move to a new network drive by October 2023.

BAU activity continues to support technical discussion around the future provision of Customer Services, council telephony, Elections support provision until 2026, preparation for the PTSN switch off, presenting to DLUHC about the provision and use of a 'Data Lake' in our future infrastructure, evaluating the Property Asset Management System and supporting the onboarding of new starters to the council.

Procurement

The procurement department has worked on several large-scale projects in line with the council's initiatives. We are currently in the process of finding a suitable consultancy firm to help put together a master plan for Waterlooville town centre. There have also been several procurements for software-as-a-system (SaaS) to ensure the council is fit for the future. We are consolidating all the contracts that are within the council in our Contract Management System to increase visibility across the council.

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 ongoing, and we are working to develop flood extents to assist with calculating the project economics.

A pre-contract meeting was successfully held on 18th July for the new beach management contract. Following signing of the Contract a site meeting with the Contractor has been arranged for the end of August 2023. 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 report has been finalised and shared with the Marine Management Organisation. This sets out any changes identified on the beach over the past 12 months.

Our next beach management campaign has initially been scheduled for the start of September 2023, following the end of the summer school holidays, with initial plans to undertake beach recycling works along the Open Beach between the Coastguard Hut and Inn-on-the-Beach.

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 and seafront regeneration, collaborative workshops have been held to consider wider council objectives and timescales for West Beach.

The area continues to be monitored for Health and Safety purposes and debris on the beach is removed by Norse. An exposed pile top was cut off below beach level in the Timber Maintenance Works in July.

Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy

Coastal Partners met with the Environment Agency and Natural England on 10th July to provide background on the Draft Strategy and leading options. Initial comments have been received from Natural England and Historic England which the project team are working through. The Environment Agency have requested an extension until early September.

The consultation also was published in the Hampshire Independent, on the project webpage and via e-newsletter. Public comments on the Strategic Environment Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Water Framework Directive assessment were due by the 25th August. These will be collated with the comments from regulators and any necessary updates will be made to the documents. However, it is likely that further meetings with the regulators will be needed prior to finalising the Strategy.

Further model runs and sensitivity tests are being carried out on the Beach Management Plan bi-modal wave modelling that is being carried out. The model results 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. The 100% design deliverables for all frontages (except Frontage 2) and 80% design for Frontage 2 was received on Friday 11th August 2023 and is currently being reviewed by both Coastal Partners and external parties. The 100% design is due for completion in mid-December 2023.

The project team continue to seek additional funding sources for the scheme. An inflation uplift claim has been submitted to the EA to the value of £818,000 and a funding application has been submitted to the Department for Education to the value of £500,000 in July 2023. Outcomes of these submissions is now awaited.

Five public in-person engagement sessions to offer the opportunity for residents to drop-in and ask question about the Langstone Scheme and speak directly to the Project Manager have been organised. The first two engagement sessions held in July 2023 were well received by the public. The next meeting will focus on scheme materials and will be held in September 2023. 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) – Detailed Design

In July the Broadmarsh Coastal Park project was taken to the Executive Leadership Team to seek approval to bid for £1,258m of HBC CIL funding. The project is recognised by ELT for its importance and is considered a priority project by HBC. It was agreed that, in September, the project can be submitted into the HBC Capital Programme as a formal bid for funds. The project team are working towards this funding application.

Ongoing 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 September this year. £50,000 of the current dedicated revenue budget has been allocated to the repairs, as a result, all of the revenue budget has now been committed for this financial year.

Wade Lane Seawall Failure

In June the Leader wrote to Minister Pow, and Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, the Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy and Natural England. These letters demonstrated strong democratic support to the protection of the Mill Pond, and to a request for 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.

The Environment Agency, Natural England, and Chichester Harbour Conservancy have now replied, and they all have concerns for the deteriorating condition of the SSSI. This results from the 2021 Chichester Harbour Assessment by Natural England that points to 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.

There is wide support from these key stakeholders for the Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan. The Environment Agency confirm that they have allocated £35,000 for this purpose, although an Outline Business Case will need to be approved to access the funding.

A meeting between Members, the Environment Agency, Natural England, and Chichester Harbour Conservancy is scheduled for early November.

Chichester Harbour Conservancy has appointed an independent consultancy to produce a technical report into the sea defences from Langstone Mill Pond to Wade Lane. The report is expected to be published in early Autumn 2023.

Coastal Partners continue to monitor this section of coastal erosion. The initial response/erosion of the shoreline following the collapse of the wall has slowed.

The webpage continues to be maintained to include our recent updates. 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

We are investigating intertidal habitat creation opportunities on Hayling Island. At one key opportunity site, we have been in discussion with the landowners to obtain a clearer understanding of how the site is currently used and to consider the potential options for intertidal habitat creation at that site. Our Geomatics team have just completed a topographical survey of another site (using a UAV), to help understand site levels, as this will influence intertidal habitat creation potential at that site and will advise future opportunity.

Langstone FCERM scheme – Saltmarsh Feasibility Study

Since the issue of the saltmarsh feasibility study for Langstone, we have been in discussion with a local expert on saltmarsh restoration. He has experience in the Beneficial reuse of Dredgings to restore intertidal habitats within the Solent. He has provided advice towards saltmarsh restoration and considers that it should be possible to restore saltmarsh at Langstone, using a restoration technique recently trialled at West Itchenor (by Chichester Harbour Conservancy). We will now undertake some additional investigative work to help understand quantities of sediment that would be required to restore the saltmarsh at this location, allowing us to begin estimating costs.

Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan

The proposed Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan will set out a plan for the future management of the Chichester Harbour coastline, with a focus on environmental improvement, investment and coastal adaptation. We are currently preparing a scope for this plan, and estimating costs, prior to submitting a business case to the Environment Agency for funding. We are hoping to submit the business case in January 2024.

Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme (HCRP)

We have just completed drafting the HCRP Annual Review Report for 2021 & 2022. Whilst progress is being made, identifying and taking forward sites for intertidal habitat creation within our region is complicated and expensive, with considerable knock-on implications. Some of our key priority habitat creation sites have considerable issues to overcome to unlock them, and this is causing concern amongst our regulators, over the long-term delivery of the programme.

In response to these concerns, Coastal Partners are developing several business cases for tasks that are considered critical to the programme, to unlock funding from the Environment Agency. These include:

- **Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study:** To prioritise opportunities to create this habitat, which is critically important to the harbour's bird networks.
- **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.
- **Co-ordination of the HCRP:** To continue developing annual reports and respond to HCRP related queries. The Solent and South Downs Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Programme relies on successful delivery of the HCRP, and we have a vested interest to ensure it delivers.
- **Monitoring and communication at Southmoor:** 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.

Civil Engineering and Landscape Team

Warblington footbridge HBC CIL 21/08/2023

Revised letter from Network Rail 18/8/23 suggests that the bridge can now be delivered within the funding envelope of £3.48M - meeting to confirm latest position being set up. However, the issue over who owns and maintains the structure remains unanswered and this is the Council's 'red line', so even if funding is sufficient, the project would not proceed. Hopefully, planned meeting will determine way forward.

Bushy Lease Shared Path HBC CIL 18/08/2023

Bridge cost estimate (£90k) received for Hermitage stream crossing. Contact with Portsmouth (landowner) over means of connecting to Fitzwygram Way . Pre-application comments now received and are now being reviewed prior to putting in a full planning application.

Eastoke Corner Footpath Improvements HBC CIL 23/08/2023

Works Complete

Rusty Cutter link road Active Travel Improvements HBC CIL 21/08/2023

National Highways (NH) staff confirm support for proposed Designated Funds bid. CELT will be liaising with National Highways officers to make a formal application for DF funding, but this will not be until start of new RIS3 period in April 2024 as current funds are committed and NH wants to get those schemes completed before new ones are added. In meantime, CELT continuing with preliminary design, talking to HCC S278 team regarding interface with 'Forty Acres' site works. The CIL team are advised and recognise the implementation maybe delayed to 2025.

Hobby Close PCC 1/08/2023

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; securing the site throughout the winter is likely to be costly and ultimately unsuccessful.

Elettra Avenue / Milton Road HBC CIL 22/08/2023

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. HCC have been contacted to ascertain if the S106 funding can be released to enable the scheme to be implemented and are awaiting a response.

Waterlooville To Denmead Active Travel Corridor HBC CIL + HCC 09/08/2023

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 17/08/2023

Car park works complete. A soft area was identified during construction. Final costs for the additional work to remove this area on the car park are now complete. Height barrier installed on 17/08/2023. Next phase lighting - Lighting connection cost is more than the original estimated costs but funding to cover this cost has been found. Start date still TBA.

Scratchface Lane Recreation Ground HBC No Funding 21/08/2023

Response to 'General Enquiry' Planning Application, recommended that further engagement with HCC Highways over site access was required. This is now in process. Once scheme is shown to be technically viable, a report will need to be taken to ELT to obtain a formal mandate to proceed before detailed design and a planning application are submitted. There is currently a material shortage, and this means that it will be best to delay any implementation on this project until 2024 or 2025 as per contractor advise.

England Coast Path, Emsworth NE HBC CIL 21/08/2023

Preliminary design for civil engineering works submitted to Natural England for application to Planning Inspectorate inquiry. This was held in early July. The outcome and timing of the resulting report is not in HBC control. Further commission

for detailed design expected after Inquiry completed. Occasional input as & when Planning Inspectorate requires.

Brambles Farm Link HBC CIL 08/08/2023

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 is a fund building contribution as a minimum scheme 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 22/08/2023

S106 funding to be secured for design to include Green Infrastructure within the car park - re-align surface water drainage using existing drainage to the west include SuDS to better manage surface water volume and water quality - revised date for completion Q4 2023/24.

Future of Billy Trail (feasibility) HBC CIL 21/08/2023

CIL funding being used to carry out feasibility design for alternative routes at two locations where erosion is threatening the Trail (West Lane, Saltmarsh Lane) supporting separate HCC funded study of £50k for overall 'NCN2' project. CIL will also fund implementation before spring 2024 across Beachlands SSSI - permissions are being raised with Natural England. Topographic survey to be carried out by HCC. Ecology by Coastal Partners is complete. 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 - cut back of route agreed to allow survey from 01/09/2023. Options for erosion site at Saltmarsh Lane being developed.

Elmleigh Road HCC TCF HBC CIL 21/08/2023

CELT detailed design work completed. HCC are lead on implementation. Work started 15/5/23. Good progress being made on section east of Civic Centre Road, and at Petersfield Road sparrow crossing. Works now expected to be complete 5 weeks early, in October 2023.

TCF Park Road South HCC TCF 21/08/2023

CELT preliminary design work completed. HCC are lead on design and implementation. Expected to be on site September - December.

Havant Road and Bridge Road Emsworth HCC 09/08/2023

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 removes primary reason for this part of the scheme. For Bridge Road, design is complete, and this is expected to be out to tender at the same time as the Victoria Road scheme.

Victoria Road, Emsworth HCC 09/08/2023

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) HCC 10/07/2023

Enerveo have provided lighting design, and these are being integrated into the footway design. A possible CIL application to cover the cost of the lighting is being investigated as this has resulted in a funding shortfall. Also, the Planning Pre-Application has been submitted and awaiting response.

Active Travel Funding 4 (ATF4) (north of Hayling Billy) [detailed design] HCC 21/08/2023

"ATF4 funding from central government is £600k.

Active Travel Fund project to upgrade to all weather surface the Billy Trail north of the Esso car park at Victoria Road. HCC Countryside Service is the client. Agreement with HCC Countryside for asphalt surfacing 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, site meetings with various contractors now being held to agree design approach taking buildability into account."

Hayling Billy NCN2 Cycle Route Feasibility HCC 21/08/2023

HCC funding of £50k for feasibility study to investigate engineering options for sustainably upgrading remaining sections of route not covered by CIL 108 / ATF4 i.e., those not threatened by immediate erosion, and completion of cycle route via Staunton Avenue to Sea Front. Report completion December 2023. TOPO survey to be undertaken by HCC shortly; PEA (ecology) by Coastal Partners complete but requires input from HCC Ecology in addition. RSA team from HCC involved with options for Staunton Avenue, making sure all proposals are LTN1/20 compliant were on highway. Links to Trail at 'Esso' and Saltmarsh Lane (FP521) also being considered within study activity.

Emsworth Mill Pond Wall HBC Rev 22/08/2023

Core samples undertaken and being reviewed. GPR survey completed, currently assessing survey outputs.

West Beach Car Park HBC Car Parks Rev 23/08/2023

Works to open a small spring summer car park has been completed.

South Street Emsworth, Wall and planting HBC Car Parks Rev 23/08/2023

Wall repairs complete. Replanting of with shrubs in the autumn.

Bus Shelter Replacement Sea Front HI + Station Road HI HBC Rev 24/08/2023

Works complete.