

Leader of the Council –**Councillor Alex Rennie****1. Policy development, lead for inter authority relations, engagement with Government, engagement with community and key stakeholders**

1.1. We continue to closely monitor the latest development in central government policy to ensure we can effectively implement any opportunities that arise and that will help us to deliver our priorities.

1.2. Since the last Council meeting new laws came into force on the planning system, holding developers to account and encouraging plans to enable the building of new homes. These measures become law after the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill received Royal Assent. Measures in the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act will:

- Make it easier to put local plans in place
- Require developers to deliver vital infrastructure
- Rebalance the housing and land markets, giving councils the power to increase council tax on empty homes
- Encourage developers to build
- Give councils the powers to work directly with landlords to bring empty buildings back into use by local businesses and community groups.

2. Council performance against corporate strategy

2.1. Following adoption of the corporate priorities plan earlier in the year we are continuing to monitor progress. During the last quarter we have:

- Completed the installation of the CCTV hubs in Waterlooville
- Launched a Pop to the Shops 30 minute free parking initiative to support Waterlooville town centre
- Launched a Vacant Shop Grant Scheme in Waterlooville town centre to support businesses to occupy and transform empty shops
- Appointed consultants to take forward the Waterlooville Masterplan
- Completed 3 playpark refurbishment projects
- Begun work on our Housing Strategy

- Arranged a workshop for Havant Town centre businesses and funding secured to delivery a Havant Town centre Action Plan
- Continued work on our Local Plan with work on development allocations commissioned
- Ran workshops with Councillors and staff to take forward our Climate Action Plan

2.2. Following the end of quarter two performance information has been collated and will be reported to Cabinet. Performance data is gathered from services across the council on a quarterly basis to provide insight on the operational performance of the organisation. Key metrics from quarter two show:

- Response times for information requests all within target
- Visitors to our website increased by almost 50%
- Number of missed bins, in particular for garden waste has decreased
- Contamination of recycling is still high and above the Hampshire average
- Vacancy rates and debt levels across investment property portfolio remain low
- Decrease in the number of complaints (177 received compared to 230 in quarter one) with the lowest amount of waste collection complaints received compared to the last 18 months.
- Processing times for revenue and benefits claims within target
- Regulatory services (Planning, Building Control) generally within target.

3. Regeneration, including the Hayling Island Seafront Strategy

3.1. The Hayling Island Seafront Strategy Group continues to meet, to ensure a joined up approach to achievement of ambitions for Hayling Island is maintained, as plans are developed. The regeneration team are looking at various opportunities to enhance the seafront area and stimulate economic activity within the physical barriers constraints that a beach front location presents.

3.2. Bulbeck Road – As previously reported the Council have identified a contractor to demolish the former car park site. The Council continues to work with prospective developers of the site and the Regeneration team are currently formulating the best way to bring this site forward to market.

3.3. **Waterlooville Town Centre**

Waterlooville continues to be an important priority for us and with the appointment of a dedicated Regeneration Officer in April to focus solely on the regeneration of the town centre and provide the capacity we need to accelerate progress. Work is well underway with delivery of the short-term interventions and now the contract has also been awarded for the development of a Masterplan to guide its longer-term regeneration strategy and transformation.

The recently launched Waterlooville Vacant Shop Grant Scheme received 29 expressions of interest. This grant programme has £140k allocated from the UK Shared Prosperity fund. This initiative will incentivise and minimise financial risk to businesses looking to take on vacant shop units and reduce the current high vacancy rates, increase footfall, support existing local businesses, and stabilise the current economic situation. Out of the 29 expressions of interest 18 went through to the full application stage. Currently the full applications we have received are being evaluated.

Work is continuing around the Waterlooville Infrastructure Interventions which will include a Parklet and Grey to Green initiative in the Queens Parade section of the London Road precinct. Surveys have been undertaken and detailed costings and designs are currently being worked on with a view to installing early 2024. £150k of Community Infrastructure Levy funds have been allocated to the project.

The Council have now appointed a contractor to bring forward the Masterplan to be consulted upon by March 2024 for Waterlooville. Feria Urbanism beat off a large field of bidders and were particularly employed based on their demonstration of how they would consult with members of the public. The

Council and Feria are now working closely to work up an engagement plan and details of this will be released shortly.

3.4. Leigh Park – The Council’s regeneration team are working up a scheme to implement a Vacant shop scheme in Leigh Park similar to that in Waterlooville. If approved this will allow applicants to bid towards a £150,000 pot for businesses new to Park Parade shops or for those businesses who are already based in Park Parade and are hoping to expand.

4. Communications

4.1. Since the last meeting of the Full Council, we have continued with campaigns and launched new ones. Key campaigns and communications coverage have included:

- Launched our new website with increased traffic to the site
- Ran a consultation on the feeding of pigeons in Waterlooville
- Promoting receiving a prestigious animal welfare award
- *Motion for the Ocean* backed to clean up our coast
- £2 million plan approved to help the homeless into temporary accommodation
- Promoted our Get Up and Go exercise programme
- Promoted a Ukrainian host families thank you and recruitment event
- Promoted National Recycling Week
- Completion of the refurbished play area at Bidbury Mead
- Winning the Gold Award for supporting the Armed Forces community
- Promoted improvement in physical and mental health through Wellbeing Walks
- Announced the consultants appointed to take forward the Waterlooville masterplan
- Provided critical news updates regarding Storm Ciarán

- Provided support for the Havant Business Partnership and High Street Task Force events
- Production of *Your Borough* – online and in print.

Website information

Users

- 123k
- 55s average engagement time

Location Top 5

- London 45,348
- Havant 12,793
- Portsmouth 12,239
- Unknown 11,974
- Waterlooville 7,199

Most searched for item on the website

- Council Tax
- Search and Comment on planning apps,
- Where I live
- Planning application and appeals
- Bin collection

Devices

- Mobile 57.1%
- Desktop 39.1%
- Tablet 3.8%

Social media update

Facebook

- Gained – up 45 fans.

- Reached – up 199k.
- Posts – 119
- Top Post - Work underway at Bidbury Mead play area. (Sep 21)

Twitter

- Gained – 5 followers
- Posted - 83
- Followers – 4.1K

LinkedIn

- Our page reach was 2.1K

5. Armed Forces Covenant

5.1. On 5th October the Leader, Community Officer and our one Reservist attended a ceremony on board HMS Warrior in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard to receive a gold Employer Recognition Scheme award. This is the Ministry of Defence's highest badge of honour in recognition of supporting the Armed Forces community. After receiving the award there were performances by 3 PWRR Fanfare Trumpeters, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers (QGE) 36 Engineer Regiment, the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) Corps of Drums and Gordons School of Pipe band. Havant Borough Council is one of 26 organisations across the Southeast to receive this award. Our gold award certificate is displayed on the wall in the Atrium by the Customer Service desk.

6. Economic Development and Levelling up Priorities

6.1. Havant Skills Zone meeting and Newsletter

On 3rd October Havant Borough Council's Economic Development team brought together Post 16 training providers, such as HSDC, Community First, Itchen College, and Brockenhurst College, and referrers working with unemployed residents such as Hampshire County Council's Education Participation NEET team, Get Set, Probation, and others to discuss joint promotion and better ways

of working. Presentations were given by Hampshire County Council's Multiply and Construction skills Team, as well as Havant Job Centre, and Havant Borough Council's Youth Hub.

From this group the Havant Skills Newsletter was launched and the first edition was sent out via GovDelivery on the 31st October promoting free courses available to Havant Borough residents promoting skills and employment.

6.2. Havant Business Partnership

On 2nd November the launch of The Havant Business Partnership took place in partnership with HSDC and was hosted by The West Group in Waterlooville. This event brings together Havant Borough Council's Economic Development and Regeneration team and connects them with businesses and industry leaders. Talks around Economic Development and Regeneration from Havant Borough Council were given by Cllr Alex Rennie, and Wayne Layton, and from HSDC Aaron Butson discussed their skills offer. The West Group presented a brief history of their business and James Maw hosted a feedback activity designed to identify business needs of the community.

The Havant Business Partnership will be a biannual event.

6.3. Havant Youth Hub

Youth Hub

The Youth Hub is currently supporting 180 young people from across the borough working closely with Havant and Cosham Job Centre. To date, 140 young people have been supported into paid employment. Roles include hospitality, engineering / mechanics apprenticeships and roles in the NHS.

178 young people have been supported into further training opportunities including Get Into Engineering through Princes Trust, CSCS courses and Tempus Customer Service training.

Partnerships

Havant Youth Hub is working with three training providers to establish two training provisions at the hub per month.

Itchen College, Havant and South Downs College and Community First are all delivering adult education budget funded courses through our youth hub. We have recently delivered a variety of courses to build employability skills and gain Level 1 Employability qualifications.

The youth hub will commit to holding 2 training courses per month to continue to upskill and support young people across the Borough to move forwards.

DWP link

We are committed to driving forwards a more embedded link with DWP and local job centres through ensuring we are using their provision to support residents.

We have recently been able to access the DWP Work Psychologist for some of our residents who are struggling to make the transition into work. This provision allows us to access a detailed report of an individual's needs meaning we are better able to support those who are neurodiverse or have more severe mental health needs.

6.4. Havant High Streets Task Force

On the 2nd November Havant Regeneration and Economic Development hosted the Havant High Street Task Force workshop, to create a Town Centre Board to follow up on the findings from *the Unlocking Your Place Potential report* after the diagnostic visit in March 2023.

This event was led by Toyubur Raham, a High Street specialist, and was hosted by The Pallant Centre. Attendees included local Councillors, community stakeholders, and retailers in the town centre.

Applications to become a member of the Havant Town Centre Partnership Board will be open from Wednesday 8th November and closes on the 26th November. A press releases announcing this is coming shortly.

6.5. Link Up Leigh Park

Link Up Leigh Park Programme

University of Portsmouth Research and Intervention Workshop

The University of Portsmouth has produced the final interim report of findings from their participatory insight programme. The final two interim reports, focus groups with 16-18-year-olds and focus groups with families of 16-24-year olds, will be merged together with another four reports to identify common patterns and themes that will bring together the final results of the research programme.

The final results will build insight that will be shared on 29th November at the upcoming Intervention Development Workshop. This workshop will be hosted by officers from the Link Up Leigh Park programme and will be facilitated by the University of Portsmouth to design a final intervention to pilot during the last year of the Economies for Healthier Lives project. This workshop will bring together stakeholders from businesses, education, health, local authority and the community, including residents, to co-design an intervention that will focus on business support.

Link Up Leigh Park Coordinator

The mentoring programme being delivered in partnership with HSDC and Park Community School, was launched during the first week of the new academic term. Park Community School worked together with the Link Up Leigh Park Coordinator to create a referral process that referred 16 school leavers transitioning to HSDC onto the programme. Of the 16, 8 have engaged and have received consistent support from the coordinator. To maximise the coordinator's caseload, work is being done in partnership with Havant's Youth Hub and

internal college referrals so that there is consistent support being delivered to a total of 10 young people from the PO9 postcode.

In December, there will be a meeting to develop the plans for the 2nd launch of the coordinator's role, piloting a mentoring programme with current Park Community School pupils in their final years of secondary school.

Youth Forum

The Youth Forum, being led by the Link Up Leigh Park project team, has worked together with a group of young people to create an identity for the group. With the decision including young people, the forum will now be recognised as an ambassador network named 'Connect Youth Ambassadors'.

The group of ambassadors have been involved in providing feedback to local NHS trusts regarding the mental health and community services undergoing transformation, embedded in 'Project Fusion' which is a project merging five NHS trusts together to provide a more consistent and improved service to residents across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.