

Cabinet Lead for Communities and Housing –

Councillor Gwen Robinson

1. Community relations, including sport, leisure and play parks

1.1 Horizon Wellbeing Hub – Meridian Shopping Centre

The Health Hub is a partnership between HBC and Horizon Leisure Trust. Since its opening in July 2023, it has seen 501 people through the doors, including:

- 84 onto the foundations programme to encourage target groups to be active, helping break down barriers to participation including anxiety around attending traditional leisure centre environments.
- 87 Health checks.
- 330 onto targeted group exercise sessions, predominantly through the HBC Get up and Go programme. This includes Ladies that lift, men's over 55's weightlifting and low impact circuits classes.

1.2 Eastoke Corner Playpark Refurbishment

Submissions for the refurbishment of Eastoke corner play area are currently being evaluated and will be awarded shortly. The whole site will use an investment of £200k CIL funding to remove all old equipment and replace with new. This will include separated areas for play and exercise as well as a new enclosed multi use games area. Work will be scheduled to commence in February 2024 to be completed by the Easter Holidays.

The Community Payback team have been scheduled to clear any existing growth from the existing landscaped area that borders the current facilities. This work is currently underway. Following this, the Civil Engineering and Landscaping Team will reinstate the existing sleeper beds and prepare the ground for new planting. The community team will then work with youth charity Motiv8 to install new plants which have been secured free from the Woodlands Trust. This work is anticipated to be complete by the end of November.

1.3 Bidbury Mead Play Area Refurbishment

Officers are pleased to inform that the £110K refurbishment to the play area at Bidbury Mead is now complete and the play area is open.

Works have taken a little longer than anticipated, this was due to contractor delays on projects prior to this one and then once on site the weather disrupted works. The play area aims to offer a challenge to children and young people of all ages whilst allowing them to play together. Climbing units, swings, roundabouts, trim trails and more have been included.

The project has created a destination site for residents from within the borough to travel to, as well as those slightly further afield.

1.4 Spencers Field Play Area Refurbishment

Works to install new play equipment at Spencers Field is due to start mid November and last for approximately 3-4 weeks, depending on weather. The play area has dwindled in provision for many years with no investment. This project is supported by the Spencers Field Community Group who have raised money and driven the project locally.

The refurbishment will provide play provision for local families and residents in a location where the current offer is considered poor, the space will allow children to learn, be active and socialise.

1.5 Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund

In partnership with Horizon Leisure Trust, a capital bid has been submitted to Sport England's Swimming Pool Support fund aimed at increasing energy efficiency of public swimming facilities. The application is for £196,000 for Waterlooville Leisure Centre, for Solar PV Panels and £40,000 for Havant Leisure Centre for enhanced LED lighting and building management systems. The funding decision is due in December 2023.

1.6 Support for Ukraine

- Over the last 12 months officers have provided eight face to face drop-in sessions for Ukraine hosts and their families at The Plaza. 26 local

organisations have provided valuable advice and support on a range of subjects such as Housing, employment, English courses, volunteering, mental health, children's activities and more. The next drop-in event will take place on 28th November, 11am – 2pm.

- Officers held a successful 'thank you to hosts and recruitment' event which is in conjunction with the Hampshire wide Host Campaign. Officers worked with Strong Island Media to film comments from Ukrainian guests and hosts, this will be available on our website. The evening was well attended, the Two Colours Choir performed and thank you gifts and cards were handed out to those hosts who attended.
- New ESOL classes have begun, entry level 1 and 2. These classes are taking place at the Pallant Centre in Havant and are being run by tutors organised through the Rural Refugee Network. These sessions support the formal ESOL lessons at Havant and Southdowns College. This is the second such set of courses and some who attended the first courses have already secured employment.

1.7 Havant Community Lottery

The Havant Lottery currently has 110 registered Good Causes and 739 players are purchasing tickets. Over £233,000 has been raised for local Good Causes since 2018.

The autumn Community Fund round is now open for applications, registered Good Causes are able to apply for up to £2,000 to support their community projects and activities. A panel made up of Councillors, officers and other community representatives will assess each application in November and decide which projects are funded. Funding from this pot has supported many projects in the past. A few examples include; supplies for a Foodbank, youth counselling sessions, tools for an environmental group, a cookery project for families, a community centre garden project in Emsworth and outdoor equipment for a Bowling club.

1.8 Springwood Community Centre

The Expression of Interest process to secure a new managing organisation for Springwood community centre has now closed. A healthy number of robust community focussed organisations have expressed an interest and officers will be working through this process to secure a long-term arrangement with the new operator.

1.9 Grow it, Cook it, Eat it

This project is continuing to gain momentum and officers are working with volunteers to prepare the land for the Winter period ready to plant up early next year. More and more community groups are getting involved. The next allotment day will be 11th November.

2.0 CA Havant

Demand for Havant Borough's advice service is continuing to increase.

- Monthly clients support totalled nearly 8,800 over the last twelve months, averaging 733 clients supported per month across the twelve months, this was 47% above the previous year as high-volume support with the cost-of-living crisis continues.
- Clients presented with 16,600 issues and CA Havant supported with 33,700 interactions
- Advice areas covered are benefits (31%); debt (13%); housing (12%); relationships (9%); employment (6%) and utilities (6%)

2.1 New Developments

Development at Camp Field on Bartons Road has commenced for 70 dwellings. The show homes have almost been completed and building on the housing association plots are underway. Phase one of the Lower Road development is now complete, with some planting remaining outstanding. Work at Sinah Lane continues with 50 dwellings complete to date.

2. Community Safety

- 2.1. A review of the Council's Preventative Services team has been carried out that looked to enhance the services visibility and performance when dealing with issues such as litter and fly-tipping as well as focusing on improving our partnerships with agencies that try to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- 2.2. The proposed new structure is currently in the informal consultation phase and I should be in a position to talk about the new service in a months time when the formal consultation is completed.

2.3 Neighbourhood Quality

Havant Borough Council has re-engaged with colleagues from the National Probation Service's 'Community Payback' teams. HBC was among the first to work with the NPS back in the late nineties with those carrying out community service, doing everything from quick litter picking, removal of fly-tipping, removing dens and low-lying undergrowth, up to laying of crushed limestone footpaths across council land.

Following the disruption of lock-down and social distancing, officers from Neighbourhood Quality and the Communities Teams are back working with Community Payback with more land clearance, digging of a community allotment in Leigh Park and some beach litter picking.

Justice Minister, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, recently visited a Community Payback crew who working on West Beach, Hayling Island and which received national press coverage. During his visit he was impressed with the works carried out in the borough and is in discussion with officers regarding something similar in his East Hants Constituency.

Neighbourhood Quality will be working with NPS to create a reporting process for work such as this in your wards, and this will be passed on as soon as possible.





3. Affordable Housing

3.1. Affordable Housing delivery

Q2 23/24 affordable housing handovers were confirmed as 18.

Vivid Homes have report that 15 new homes were delivered across 3 sites:

Forty Acres, Bedhampton - 2 no 3 bed houses for Shared Ownership

Woodcroft Farm, Cowplain- 9 no 2 bed flats for Affordable Rent

St Thomas's Mead, Lower Road, Bedhampton- 4 no 2 bed bungalows for Affordable Rent.

This site is a small, spacious, semi-rural development of 50 new homes by Bargate Homes. 15 have been secured as affordable housing and will be owned and managed by Vivid Homes. The remaining 35 homes have been or will be available on the open market as the development progresses.



Part of the affordable provision consisted of four brand new 2-bedroom bungalows which were advertised through the councils housing register, and due to the rarity of this kind of accommodation generated significant interest.

With careful assessment of all the applications for the new homes, the team were able to ensure that those properties went to residents that had the greatest need. Two of the bungalows were available to existing tenants in social housing only, thereby allowing the resultant vacancies to be advertised on Hampshire Home Choice. Four new homes subsequently created suitable accommodation for six households, including a more mature couple who required separate bedrooms due to medical issues, an elderly mother who needed accommodation for both her and her carer daughter, and a mother with a teenage son suffering from autism who needs could be best met in this type of setting.

Aster Homes continues to deliver on the Pebble Walk site, off Sinah Lane on Hayling Island. Three new Shared Ownership homes were handed over by Barratts in August 2023.



Further units are forecast between now and the end of this financial year. However, this development has, and continues to experience multiple delays, and Aster have confirmed that they are currently waiting for further updates from their development team in relation to new anticipated handover dates.

3.2. Pipeline of new build affordable homes

Other ongoing development sites that will continue to deliver new build affordable housing across the borough through VIVID during the remainder of 2023 and into 2024 are:

Harbour View- Bedhampton,

Woodcroft Farm- Cowplain,

Manor Farm- Bedhampton.

4. Homelessness

4.1 Homelessness Delivery Service

Q2 **July September 2023**

TA –Temporary Accommodation

BB – Bed and Breakfast

SC - Self Contained

SH – Shared Facilities

Supported – Brent House

Total BB Inside Borough	Total BB Outside Borough	Total TA end of Quarter Inside Borough SC	Total TA end of Quarter Outside Borough SC	Total TA end of Quarter Inside Borough SH	Total TA end of Quarter Outside Borough SH	Total TA end of Quarter Supported Inside Borough	Total TA end of Quarter Supported Outside Borough	Total
1	9	18	35	3	8	25	0	99

Service had 613 customers requiring housing and homelessness advice or assistance this is inclusive of clients homeless on the day, drop-in service, appointments and referrals from other Local Authorities and organisations.

July – September 2023

Homeless on the day = 154

Hot Drop in = 273

Appointments = 115

Duty to Refer = 64

S198 = 7

The Housing Team has had several successes in preventing customers from becoming homeless by negotiating with private landlords. Including in one case, obtaining a 2-year private tenancy for a household at risk of homelessness.

Intervention from the Housing Advice and Prevention Team has also prevented a customer going into TA (Temporary Accommodation) by negotiating with their landlord to allow them to remain in their home. These negotiations included arranging for the customer's family to top up their rent payments. This is to be reviewed in the New Year.

Country-wide Pressure on Temporary Accommodation Services

The District Councils' Network (DCN) recently surveyed its members including Havant Borough Council and this revealed that 96% of its member councils reported an increase in use of temporary accommodation – four-fifths of them describing this as 'significant'.

Despite the work that Havant Borough Council and other Councils have been doing to help those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, unfortunately the supply of permanent, affordable housing has fallen across the country while the impact of the rising cost of living is making housing too costly for many people.

An unprecedented number of people are turning to councils as the last option for support when they face homelessness. As a Council we are proud of the help we give to people when they need it, but to do so we have had no option but to escalate our use of temporary accommodation with the associated increased costs.

The level of concern was demonstrated when 158 Councils, including Havant, attended a 31st October summit on the issue, organised by the District Councils' Network (DCN) and Eastbourne Borough Council.

Representations are being made by the District Councils' Network to central Government to ask for help to tackle these issues and as a Council we will advocate on behalf of the people of Havant to continue to improve the support we can give to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Housing Association Liaison

Regular in-person quarterly catch-up meetings are held with The Guinness Partnership, our largest provider of social housing with over 4000 properties across our borough.

Meetings are attended by Cllr Gwen Robinson, manager representatives from the Housing Services team, Clare Easton-Regional Head of Customer Service, Ian Joynson- Executive Director of Asset Management, both from TGP, and enable discussion relating to both strategic and operational matters.

The latest on 24/08/2023 covered topics including:

- TGP Internal Management Policy
- Solent House incident
- Terms of TGP tenancy regarding the upkeep of front & rear gardens
- Tenancy start dates, being advertised when works to homes not confirmed.
- Possibility that TGP could help HBC relieve some of their TA pressures?
- Pets' policy

Next meeting currently scheduled for 24/11/2023.

5. Hampshire Home Choice

Current active applications to Havant Borough Council through Hampshire Home Choice as at 02/11/2023:

Bedroom need	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	Total
1	3	76	679	39	797
2		28	533	12	573
3	2	20	335	3	360
4	2	16	62	1	81
5			2		2
6		1			1

Total	7	141	1611	55	1814
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Applicants are awarded priority on the housing register based on their needs (Urgent, High, Medium, Low). These priority awards convert to bands 1 – 4 with Band 1 being awarded to applicants with an urgent need to move.

The Accommodation Solutions Team were contacted by a housing officer from a Registered Provider regarding one of their tenants having an urgent need to move. The tenant was housed in a 1st floor flat that they were no longer able to return to after being admitted to hospital, causing a delay in their discharge. Working with the tenant, their family, the Registered Provider and the hospital, the Accommodation Solutions Team was able to approve an urgent move and award a Band 1. Within three weeks of the band 1 being awarded the applicant was successful in being nominated for a potentially suitable property on Hampshire Home Choice.

This case highlights perfectly that partnership working with other public bodies & professionals can make a significant difference to the outcome for our residents.

6. Health & Wellbeing

- 6.1. The Havant Health and Wellbeing Partnership is continuing to work together to address the health inequalities that are across the borough. Officers are working on a pilot project with Strawberry Health PCN and 'Switched on Havant' to support some of their most vulnerable patients with 'Warmth on Prescription'
- 6.2. Health and Community partners are driving forward with the Havant project to address the prevalence of cardiovascular disease (CVD) by increasing the numbers of residents that are checking their blood pressure. This is being encouraged in locations outside GP surgeries and a surgery pod will be moving into the Horizon Health Hub in the Meridian Centre.
- 6.3. Officers continue to collaborate with HCC Public Health and HCC Adult Social Care on targeted funded projects such as 'Middle Years', Whole System approach to obesity and 'Live Longer Better'. Officers are working with the Hampshire and IOW Integrated Care Board to try and secure more

resource to support Havant’s health agenda. It is increasingly being recognised and accepted that boroughs and districts have a vital role to play in supporting the health outcomes of their residents.

7. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

7.1. Strategic CIL

We were inviting expressions of interest/bids for Strategic CIL from Infrastructure Providers in the Borough. The closing date was 21st November 2023.

More information is available here: [Community infrastructure levy spending process | Havant Borough Council](#). Decisions on Strategic CIL spending will be concluded alongside the budget setting process allowing Capital expenditure to be captured appropriately.

Neighbourhood Portion CIL

We are pleased to be able to provide a summary of Neighbourhood Portion CIL spent since 1/9/23:

Ref	Name and Description	Date Funding Approved	Amount
247	Front Lawn Play Area	01/08/2022	£112,368

Delivery of this project was more fully reported in the Cabinet Lead report of 26th July 2023. Below is a photo of the completed project:



The following provisional allocation of Neighbourhood Portion CIL has also been made pending further details of the project and delivery:

Ref	Project title	Provisional allocation
297	Underpass Contribution in Emsworth	£9,000

The provisional allocation of these funds means the majority of the Neighbourhood Portion CIL funds for 1/4/23 – 31/3/24 have been committed.

7.2. S106

There is no up-to-date news to report on S106 spending presently.

Our public facing Exacom System (which we use to monitor Developer Contributions) provides up-to-date information on CIL and S106 income and expenditure and can be viewed via this link: <https://pfm.exacom.co.uk/havant/>.