

Leader of the Council –

Councillor Alex Rennie

1. Policy development/lead for inter authority relations, engagement with Government, community and key stakeholders

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.

Since the last Council meeting the Local Government Finance Settlement (the Settlement) has been published. The key headlines from the Settlement are as follows:

- Council Tax referendum limit remains at 2.99% or £5.
- All councils will receive a 3% minimum increase in Core Spending Power before any Council Tax increases
- New Homes Bonus allocations calculated with same methodology as in previous years and with no legacy payments
- Locally retained business rates; councils will be compensated as if business rate multipliers had increased by CPI
- No business rates reset in 2024/25

This information will be fed into our budget and medium term financial strategy planning.

2. Council performance against corporate strategy

Since the last report we have continued our work on delivering the corporate strategy priorities.

- Approved the extension of the vacant shop scheme to include Leigh Park
- Ran a workshop with business and community groups to help deliver the vision for Havant's town centre regeneration plans
- Ran a series of engagement events with residents and businesses to gather views and ideas on the strengths, challenges and opportunities of Waterlooville Town centre to inform our Waterlooville masterplan

Performance data has been collated and is published Corporate Performance Scorecard which is available on our website.

In term of performance data:

- Housing: The number of temporary accommodation placements in Q2 was around half what it was in Q1 (going from 202 to 107), which is a welcome trend.
- Environmental Services: a new dashboard as been developed for the service. Missed bins (waste and garden waste) have decreased due to work of Client Team and this is supported by reduction in complaints. Contamination levels are still high and will be looked at in terms of targeted campaigns to raise awareness.
- Customer Services – complaints are significantly down mainly due to the work of Environmental Services client team – waste complaints 166 in Q1 down to 55 in Q2 and this downward trend has continued into Q3. The Capita Customer Service centre call response times are within target and Capita revs and bens processing times are also within target.
- Planning - Planning metrics are generally within target, although there remain issues with the validation of all applications and the deciding of discharge of conditions applications being well below target
- Climate - We are tracking utilities usage in the Plaza (electricity, gas and water) as well as printing, as proxy measures for the council's carbon footprint.

Highlighted within the corporate performance scorecard are the Office for Local Government (Oflog)'s metrics that will be reported on areas such as waste, planning, fly tipping.

3. Regeneration

Waterlooville

- 3.1 The Council have appointed Feria Urbanism to deliver a masterplan for Waterlooville Town Centre. The Consultation process has already begun and has been well received by members of the public, elected members and other stakeholders. The next stage the Festival Ideas is due to take place at the end of January and we're using a currently empty retail unit on the High Street to deliver this.
- 3.2 Concept artwork has been developed for banners to be placed in the Highstreet and again through consultation these have been well received by members of the public.
- 3.3 The vacant shop scheme for Waterlooville is continuing and we are in the final discussions with applicants and hope to be able to make an announcement soon. The original pot of money made available is unlikely to be fully spent and we hope to relaunch this in the New Year.

Havant Town Centre

- 3.4 The first Havant Town Centre board was held and well attended in December. The board is made up of residents, councillors and traders with an interest in the town centre with a view to coming up with initiatives that improve and promote Havant as a commercial area.
- 3.5 Work on Bulbeck Road continues and a report recommending the demolition and site disposal will be coming forward shortly in the new year.

Leigh Park

- 3.6 The Leigh Park Vacant Shop scheme has been announced and will be launched in January 2024 once we have appointed someone to manage the project. The initial response to this initiative has been positive from both landowners and businesses.

3.7 The Council put forward a bid to Hampshire to get money for a master planning exercise in Leigh Park and we were successful in being the preferred bid for the Hampshire area into the one public estate fund, I hope to be able to give more details after the full application has been submitted and determined.

Hayling Island

3.8 Plans for an accessible platform to the beach for those with Physical Disabilities have been drafted and were shared with an interest group with Physical Disabilities in Hayling in December. This was a useful workshop and we now hope to have something in place at Chichester Avenue by Easter 2024.

3.9 The Council has begun talks with land owners at West Beach in order to look at protecting ours and their assets. Meaningful discussions around this should take place shortly once a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed.

4. Communications

4.1 Highlights include:

- Public confirmation of council position going forward on the Mill Pond - Wade Lane sea wall at Langstone
- Promotion of Dog PSPO, resulting in 930 public responses
- Production of the second edition of *Your Borough*, distributed to all households in the borough from the 18th of December
- Support in promoting the Waterlooville Town Centre Masterplan and related activities

4.2 November Stats

Website information

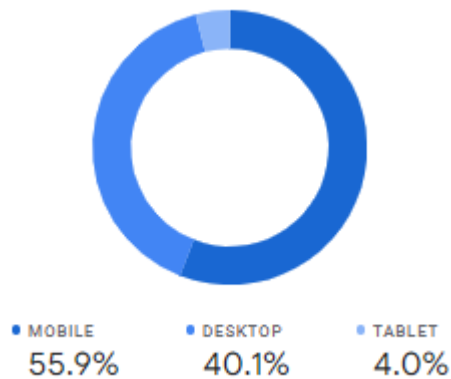
Users

Users	New users	Average engagement time ⓘ
46K	37K	58s

Content

Page title and screen class		↓ Views	Users
		129,894 100% of total	43,764 100% of total
1	Homepage Havant Borough Council	16,799	10,420
2	Search Havant Borough Council	7,587	3,021
3	Council Tax Havant Borough Council	4,913	3,408
4	Search and comment on planning applications Havant Borough Council	4,872	2,711
5	Contact us Havant Borough Council	4,861	3,408
6	Planning applications and appeals Havant Borough Council	4,345	2,286
7	Search and comment on planning applications - Overview Havant Borough Council	4,215	2,107
8	Where I Live Havant Borough Council	4,170	1,103
9	Bin collections Havant Borough Council	3,754	2,831
10	Paying your council tax Havant Borough Council	3,028	2,202

Devices



Social media update

Facebook

- Gained – 110 people
- Reached – 84K
- Posted – 46

Top Post: Leaf" it to the Probation Service to ensure our town centres are autumn-friendly #Waterlooville

Twitter

- Gained – 5 followers
- Posted - 37
- Followers – 4.2K

LinkedIn

- Our page reach was 2.2K
- Engagements - 95

5. Economic Development and Levelling up Priorities

5.1 Employment & Skills Plans

- The Economic Development team work closely with Portsmouth City Council and the Dunsbury Freeport team to develop Employment & Skills Plans (ESP) for new tenants of the site. End of use ESPs enable us to deliver social value outcomes through focusing on Work Experience, creating jobs for local people, and ensuring careers information and guidance is available for residents across the borough on a broad range of sectors. We have had an initial meeting with Inchcape Porsche to explain and outline our expectations, and we are in communication with Percussion Play.
- The Havant Thicket Reservoir ESPs are in the final stages of agreement and will be shared with all named stakeholders in January.

5.2 Employment & Skills Pop-Up Sessions

- The Economic Development team and Hampshire County Council's Business Multiply team went to Langstone Business Park on the 28th November and spoke with businesses based there about general business support, skills requirements, networking sessions, and signing up to our Business Newsletter. The Langstone Business Park team have asked us to attend on a regular basis.
- The team also hosted the first skills pop-up event in the Meridian centre on the 1st December in partnership with DWP, and Hampshire County Council's Multiply training team. We spoke with residents about free training available and jobs linked to Sector Based Work Programmes.

5.2 Business Support

- As part of UKSPF business support the HBC Economic Development Team have commissioned Incuhive to support start up businesses with business plans, access to finance, and general operational advice. They are tasked with supporting 100 businesses between November 23 and March 2025, which they will do by dovetailing with Regeneration and Economic Development projects such as the Vacant Shop Scheme.
- We have purchased a years license for Beauhurst Impact tool through Hampshire County Council's group discount for Economic Development teams across the county. It enables us to keep track of growing companies and allows us to have deeper conversations through insight into elements such as recent investment secured, growing headcount, and head office relocation, among many other things. Another feature proving to be popular with employers enables us to search for relevant grants and finance/investors interested in a company's sector.

6 Link Up Leigh Park Programme

6.1 Milestones achieved:

- The programme hosted an Intervention Development Workshop on 29th November, with activities facilitated by the University of Portsmouth. There was a total of 24 attendees which included 6 business representatives, 2 education partners, 2 public health colleagues, 1 ICB representative, 3 young residents, 1 community organisation and 4 HBC team members (Communities + Economic Development). There were four employer support interventions proposed that are currently being voted on by workshop attendees. A decision about which intervention(s) will be delivered in the final phase of the programme will be made at the start of January 2024.
- Phase 1 of the Transition Mentoring Programme, working in partnership with HSDC and Park Community School, has now

concluded. A total of 8 young people, referred by the secondary school, received regular, targeted support as they settled into the first term of their college experience. These students will continue to be contacted to provide any additional support throughout their first year to ensure that they continue to complete their post-16 education.

- Phase 2 of this programme will be launched w/c 8th January 2024 and will focus on targeted support for 10-15 Year 11 pupils at Park Community School.

7 Havant Youth Hub

7.1 Achievements (End of Nov 23)

- 156 young people into paid employment (56% into work v expected average for UC claimants 25-30%)
- 79% attendance for sessions during November (highest percentage for engagement in 2023)
- 195 young people attending training (accredited and non accredited to upskill)
- 278 young people support in total

8 Partnership Updates November – December

- Multiply running maths functional skills onsite for 7 young people to achieve a maths qualification in February 2024. Trajectories for these claimants include apprenticeships, further education and employment.
- National Careers Service remain on site once per week offering qualified Careers Advice and Guidance and CV writing for all young people attending the hub.
- Itchen College running regular employability courses on site including Digital Skills, Enterprise and Job Search sessions.
- DWP Work Psychologist on site assessing those furthest from the job market to enable tailored support to those who are at risk of no progress due to long term health conditions.

- Community First provided customer service training to 10 young people who are on track to find job roles in retail, hospitality and care sectors.

Widening Engagement and Participation

- The youth hub has attended Hayling Job Club to ensure that residents on the island can access the same support and we have been facilitating work on the island through Multiply maths qualifications available exclusively to Hayling residents. We also supported access to virtual programmes of work to remove travel barriers faced by young people in this area.
- We look forward to working more closely with Hayling Job Club to offer further opportunities in the new year.