

## **Cabinet Lead for Coastal –**

### **Councillor Liz Fairhurst**

#### **1. Coastal Management**

##### **Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy**

Final amendments are being made to the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA), Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment. We are continuing to work with regulators with the intention that they will be able to provide an 'in principle' acceptance of the Strategy in the Spring.

Following this, the project team will work on the Statement of Environment Particulars and HRA Derogation before issuing the Strategy and environmental documents to the Secretary of State.

The benefits and economics assessment will be revisited to ensure the Strategy captures the latest cost and benefits information. This task has been pushed back by 2 months because it needs to be dated within 6 months of going to the Environment Agency (EA) for approval.

The Strategy's programme has shifted to allow more time for regulator review and approval of the environmental documents. This means that HBC approval on the Strategy will be sought in the Summer and EA approval in the Autumn. Expected completion is late Autumn.

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

We are coming to the end of the current Beach Management Plan (BMP), which ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Over the past 7 years this project has maintained a healthy beach at Eastoke, which takes the brunt of the storm waves. These works are fully funded (£3.2m) by the Environment Agency and protect up to 1,500 properties at high risk of flooding.

A business case was prepared and submitted to the Environment Agency in December 2023 to secure funding for the next 5 years of beach management (2024-2029). We are currently working through questions from the Environment Agency, and the outcome of the application will be known by April 2024.

The final beach management campaign is scheduled to start on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024, lasting for 3-4 weeks on site. Beach material will be recycled from beaches between the Coastguard Revetment and Inn on the Beach, back to the Eastoke frontage to reinstate the beach profile in front of the properties. We will also be importing up to 5,000t of beach grade shingle via road to add to the beach and provide a wider beach crest. The works will be completed before the start of the Easter holidays and will ensure the frontage is safe and accessible ahead of the summer season.

### **West Beach – Monitoring and Adaptive Management.**

A policy decision was taken in 2008, by Havant Borough Council, that once the coastal defences reach the end of their serviceable life or become a health and safety risk, the structures should be removed, and the beach allowed to evolve, in line with the shoreline management plan policy. The first section of defence was removed in 2012, a further section was removed in 2020 allowing the coast to erode.

The coastline is monitored for erosion into the 'rebound zone.' Routine seafront inspections are made for health and safety purposes, with exposed debris on the beach removed by Norse. Recent swell waves and high tides (Feb-2024) have caused more significant beach cliffing and exposed old concrete structures. A review is underway to assess this risk and implement appropriate controls and clear-up works for public safety.

The coast is dynamic and has changed shape through natural processes for many years. Officers are developing partnership opportunities with the Councils' neighbours at the Golf Club and owners of Inn on the Beach to collaborate towards an adaptive 'Do Minimum works' which would build resilience for partners respective objectives and find affordable ways forward to gain more certainty how the coast will continue to evolve for the next fifty years. If this proactive collaborative opportunity is successful, then this initiative will support the Councils' Beach Management activities to recycling beach material back to Eastoke helping to reduce the risk of flooding to the community. However, there are not significant numbers of properties at risk at West Beach to attract central government funding to undertake long term engineering works, which would also find difficulty securing the numerous consents in such an

environmentally designated location and as such the Council does not envisage being able to reinstate the previous West Beach car park or beach hut offer.

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

This year, the Langstone FCERM project team have continued to work collaboratively with AECOM to progress the detailed design from 80% to 100% design which is now being finalised. Certainty of project costs have improved following the receipt of the 100% design cost estimate from cost consultant, Atkins Realis (formerly Faithful & Gould) in December 2023. With improved cost certainty the team have incorporated these costs into the overall project finances and forecast. The updated construction cost for the core scheme is £17,563,506 including risk, excluding future maintenance (£498k).

The Project Team have and continue to assess and identify potential funding sources for the scheme while outcomes of current funding bids are awaited. An official approval letter from the Environment Agency is still expected for the inflation uplift claim following the National Project Assurance Service approval for £818,000 in November 2023. The project team are also waiting to have the £1.9million bid for additional OGD funding confirmed by the EA, in which there is high confidence of being successful. A Capital Bid made to Havant Borough Council is made for an additional £2.5million of funding. If successful, this funding will be used through construction to scheme completion.

A number of engagement events have been undertaken with key stakeholders and the public this year, including five topic-specific drop-in sessions which were held for the Langstone community for their input and discussion as the design developed towards the 100% milestone. A number of 1-2-1 meetings with residents and stakeholders have been held throughout the year and continue to be held as necessary to discuss specific details around the scheme and design. The 100% design was presented to the public at an exhibition held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This event presented twenty-seven information posters covering key topics and a frontage-by-frontage design breakdown. The event was also supported by a public questionnaire, feedback demonstrated a 90% level of support for the scheme.

## **Broadmarsh Coastal Defence Scheme – Detailed Design**

Broadmarsh Coastal Defence Scheme was submitted to the HBC Capital Programme, with a bid for £1,258m to fund Stage 2: Detailed Design, Licensing, and Consents. The project is recognised as one of the Council's corporate Priority Projects. While awaiting the outcome of the bidding process and we continue work with Defra at a national level as part of their prioritisation project, in the hope of unlocking future funding for coastal landfill sites at risk of erosion.

Essential maintenance to the revetment to contain the chalk bund and landfill contents was completed in November. Ongoing monitoring of this key sea defence infrastructure has continued over the winter period to check for damage caused by storms.

## **Langstone Sea Wall Old Mill to Wade Lane**

During the year, the Council has led a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to find the right approach for the short- and long-term preservation of the area. Coastal Partners have continued to monitor this section of coastal erosion throughout the year. Recent site visits indicate that the community activism is still on-going at this location.

The Leader of the Council wrote to the Minister for the Environment Quality and Resilience, and the Minister for Heritage, together with letters to the senior officers of Natural England, the Environment Agency, and Chichester Harbour Conservancy. These letters expressed our support for protecting the habitats around the Mill Pond, and to ask for support to the wider Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan.

In October Chichester Harbour Conservancy published an Independent Assessment Report, and in December a joint public Drop-In Session on the report was held. The session was well attended and representatives from all the agencies were available to discuss the report.

The Leader has now also had the opportunity to chair a meeting with the consenting organisations. Good progress was made, and a Statement of Common Ground was agreed setting out maintenance of the Mill Pond wall and the Maintenance of the Coastal path, on its current route by construction of a footbridge towards Wade Lane.

There is agreement that these priorities are reached in a wider principle of supporting environmental social and economic adaptation to climate change. A wider Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan is proposed for determining the longer-term actions for coastal management.

### **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:

- **Habitat Compensation and Restoration Programme (HCRP)** The HCRP identifies and delivers habitats to replace those that are being lost due to coastal squeeze. Below is an update on key initiatives linked to this.
- **Solent wide coastal grazing marsh study:** In January, we submitted a business case to the Environment Agency to fund this study and we are awaiting the outcome. The study will identify important terrestrial habitat creation opportunities across the wider Solent that will sustain our internationally important network of environmental sites – and enable future FCERM delivery.
- **Solent Dynamic Coast Project update:** Following Environment Agency approval of funding for this study (£236k), data analysis work has commenced. The study will help us understand future coastal habitat changes more accurately, so that we can better plan habitat creation opportunities in a changing climate.
- **Monitoring and communication at Southmoor:** We are currently finalising the business case to unlock funding to monitor and communicate the natural coastal defence breach at Southmoor. We are aiming to submit this in March.
- **Hayling Island Coastal Management Strategy – additional studies:** We have been undertaking further analysis of two potential opportunities for intertidal habitat

creation on Hayling Island, currently focussing on the need, location, and cost of any 'set back' coastal defences / site landscaping.

### **Langstone FCERM scheme – Saltmarsh Feasibility Study**

We are continuing to investigate opportunities to restore the degraded and poor-quality saltmarsh habitats in the vicinity of Langstone Village and Wade Lane. We have applied for additional funding from Defra's 'Climate for Nature' underspend, as well as continuing to explore other potential funding opportunities, so we can start to consider a wider opportunity here, with the potential to restore up to 12ha of saltmarsh on the degraded foreshore at this location.

### **Chichester Harbour Investment and Adaptation Plan (CHIAP)**

CHIAP will help guide the future management of Chichester Harbour's coastline and waters, addressing people, property, and environmental challenges in one place. Working together with regulators, stakeholders, landowners and the community, this plan will set out adaptation options and pathways for key focus areas within the Harbour, defined by triggers for action. This will provide a much-needed holistic plan for the harbour.

Coastal Partners will lead, manage, and undertake the work to deliver the Plan on behalf of both Havant Borough Council (HBC) and Chichester District Council (CDC), but also working closely in collaboration with our key project partners, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE) and Chichester Harbour Conservancy (CHC).

We are currently going through HBC approvals to seek Cabinet approval to apply for funding from the Environment Agency, and for delegated authority to spend the funds once approved. We have briefed the Executive Leadership Team and Portfolio Holder, been through the Corporate Governance Board and Cabinet Briefing, in preparation for Cabinet on the 6 March. In parallel we have also been going through the CDC approvals process, where we have briefed the CDC Portfolio Holder and the Environmental Panel before going to CDC Cabinet on the 5 March. Once we have a decision from both Councils, we will submit a business case to the Environment Agency to request funding.

## **2. Delivery of Civil Engineering Services**

### **HCC Transforming Cities Fund and HBC CIL Fund**

CELT were commissioned to design five transforming cities projects and to supervise four of these projects in the Havant area. All projects have been successfully completed on time and in budget. Additionally, CELT have also been commissioned to conduct the landscape elements of the work along Elmleigh Road. The works started on site 19 February 2024 and will be completed mid-March 2024.

### **Multi Use Games Area conversion to a car park at Havant Rugby Club car park HBC CIL Funded**

Following the completion of the car park, funding for street lighting has been approved. Scottish and Southern Energy (SSEN) will be completing the works during the spring. Installation dates are subject to agreements with SSEN.

### **Hobby Close PCC Commission. Lottery and HBC CIL Funded**

Due to the expiry of the existing planning application A new application has been made. To avoid bird nesting season the site clearance work to provide access to the site started 26 February 2024. Subject to the planning application approval it is anticipated works will start on site late spring 2024 for 12 weeks.

### **Rusty Cutter link road Active Travel Improvements HBC CIL**

Continuing from the developer's S278 works to the Forty Acres site, CELT are adding value by designing a cycle scheme to link the Rusty Cutter roundabout to the Tear Drop roundabout and improving access to Harts Farm Way and A27 cycle routes. We will also be bidding in the spring for National Highways Designated Funds. The preliminary design is to continue using CIL, in readiness for the bid submission.

### **Elettra Avenue / Milton Road HBC CIL**

Elettra Avenue design is complete and approved by HCC. The Elettra Road project will be on hold until S106 funding is made available by HCC.

The Milton Road element, including the link to the Hambledon Road (south) service road, has a completed design and is progressing through CELT's internal approval process. Once approved it will be handed to HCC to instruct the next stage.

### **Waterlooville To Denmead Active Travel Corridor HBC CIL + HCC**

The design has been amended and was discussed with HCC as part of the Hambledon Road LCWIP Capability Fund feasibility report. The exhibition with the public is expected to take place late summer 2024. It is anticipated that this project will be a multi phased project with a potential start on the first phase in spring 2025, subject to funding.

### **Somborne Drive Greywell car park Drainage improvements HBC S106**

This project is to remove the flooding issues in Greywell car park. The design is complete. Works will be split into three phases. The phase one will start in March 2024 at the eastern section of the car park to remove the flooding issues. Phase two is expected to start Summer 2024 which is in the central area of the car park. Phases one and two will include sustainable drainage. Phase three will be conducted in the Autumn which will include tree planting.

### **Future of Billy Trail (feasibility) HBC CIL Funded**

This feasibility study looks at securing a route for the next 25 years, including alternative routes where the existing path is more vulnerable to flood or erosion. The report also looks at a preferred surface so as the path can be used pedestrians, wheelers, and horse riders. It includes extending the route to the sea front. The study is nearing completion. The shared path across Sinah Common is under construction. The drop kerb across Sea Front from Staunton Avenue is expected to be complete late spring 2024.

### **ATF4 (north of Hayling Billy) [detailed design] HCC Funded**

CELT have completed the commission to conduct detailed design of the northern section of the Billy Trail (car park opposite Applegreen garage to North Hayling Halt car park). The design proposed a surface similar to the main-land section of the Billy Trail. The design was completed in November 2023. Public engagement took place 15 November 2023 at north Hayling Halt. Funding was secured by HCC from Central Government. The implementation is with HCC who are looking to start on site October 2024. For further information, please look at HCC web site.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/16012024Haylingbillytrailfunding> .

### **Victoria Road, Emsworth HCC Funded**

Design has been completed. We are now seeking design approval from HCC. Subject to design approval, likely start date mid-summer 2024.

### **Bridge Road Emsworth HCC Funded**

Design to reshape junction at Bridge Road, Emsworth is underway. Once the design is complete HCC approval will be sought, work on site to start late summer 2024.

### **Morelands Phase 3 (Gauntlett Park) HCC**

The design is complete and has been approved by HCC. The additional CIL funding of £29,268, to cover the cost of lighting, has been approved. The Planning Application was made 4 December 2023. Subject to the Planning approval implementation will be Summer 2024.

### **Hayling Island Boardwalk, Chichester Avenue HBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**

The design has been produced and is now out to tender. Specialist contractors have made a visit to see the existing boardwalk and to understand what we are looking to achieve with the replacement. CELT and Regeneration colleagues met with a local



disability group to understand their needs (the UKSPF funding is linked to disability access) and a comprehensive scope was put together following this meeting. A public engagement event is set to take place at the United Reformed Church, Hayling Island, on 19 March. Works to commence late Spring / early Summer 2024.

### **3. Property**

- Terms agreed with Poundstretcher (subject to contract) to occupy the former Wilko store in the Meridian Centre.
- New 25 lease granted to Springwood Community Foundation at the Springwood Centre, Waterloo, placing responsibility for management and maintenance of the building with the organisation.
- Key terms agreed with Horizon Leisure Trust (subject to approval at Cabinet 6<sup>th</sup> March) for the variation of the partnering agreement with the council and both leases, to help ensure the sustainability of the leisure and wellbeing offer and facilitate improvements at Waterloo Leisure Centre.
- 900 trees planted at Hooks Lane Recreation Ground for site defence and climate change purposes.
- Working in conjunction with Regeneration / Economic Development colleagues, have secured space for construction of a new 'Changing Places' toilet within the Meridian Centre. Works to commence in Q2 2024.
- Successful recruitment to the establishment post of Senior Estate Manager. New employee started on 4<sup>th</sup> March.
- Annual commercial rent roll increase of £209,000 compared to April 23 starting position.
- Level of rent collection remains high at 95% this quarter. Small increase in total debt by £12,348.

### **4. Customer Services**

4.1. The Household Support Fund Discretionary fund of £140,000 has now been fully spent and from 250 applications the Council have supported 75 vulnerable resident and enabled them to stay in their homes and prevent possible homelessness.

## 5. Cabinet lead for Digital (Capita Contract)

5.1. The service's exit work for the 5C Partnership contract for ICT in 2025

continues under the established three major project areas and as part of the Strategic Services Procurement Programme:

- 5.1.1. **Developing and procuring a new ICT Infrastructure and Security (ICT I&S 2025) provision.** The tender window ends at noon 19<sup>th</sup> February for supplier bids at which point resources will be focused on evaluation and leading supplier selection to presentations.
- 5.1.2. **Moving legacy applications to Software as a Service (SaaS) cloud provision in preparation of a new ICT provider** – all are dependents of the ICT I&S 2025 project:
- 5.1.3. **Planning Case Management.** A Project Management resource has started at the council to continue lead on this project through the implementation phase in line with the project timeline.
- 5.1.4. **Other regulatory case management (env. Health, licensing etc).** This project will be delivered alongside the Planning Case Management project utilising the same supplier and PM resource.
- 5.1.5. **Finance system replacement.** The project has awarded to a supplier and a dedicated Project Management resource will take over the lead at the end of February through to delivery.
- 5.1.6. **BAU work continues to support key council teams** including a refresh of the Elections assets and infrastructure support including the planned recruitment for a supportive assets resource to the Digital Services team. The team continue to work on 5C infrastructure initiatives and advise colleagues around security in a double-election year. The team's focus is, primarily, the procurement of the new ICT Infrastructure and Security provision at this time.