

## **Portfolio Holder Report – Council 16 April 2014**

**By Cllr Tony Briggs – Leader & Finance Portfolio Holder**

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### **Ministerial visit to Dunsbury Hill Farm**

Michael Fallon MP, the new Minister for Portsmouth, visited strategic economic sites in the Portsmouth/South Hampshire area in February. I joined the Leader of Portsmouth City Council, the Deputy Leader of Hampshire County Council and David Willetts, MP in a visit to a key employment site in our borough – Dunsbury Hill Farm. Mr Fallon and his civil service support staff gained an appreciation of the potential importance of Dunsbury Hill for the local area and the Solent region. They were very interested in our plans for the site.

### **Borough Development**

On 12 March I attended a seminar organised by the Grainger Trust, the organisation managing the majority of affordable housing on the Berewood Development. The session was an opportunity to meet with Bill Flood the Project Director who presented some background to their organisation and their vision for the future. Discussion.

### **Hampshire-wide economic development meetings attended**

- **Bridging the Gap** - I attended as the Hampshire Leader on this Panel. Phase 1 of the funding programme has been supporting new business start-ups and SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) in Portsmouth, Gosport and Havant. Phase 2 has just been rolled out to the Southampton area.
- **Transport for South Hampshire & Isle of Wight (TfSHIoW)/Solent local Transport Board (LTB)** - I am on this board representing Hampshire District Leaders. Funding to help unlock the Dunsbury Hill Farm site has been supported by these public service partnerships with a focus on transport in the region.
- **Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) – Joint Committee of all Leaders** and I am also the new Chairman of the **Quality Places Panel**, a part of the partnership that focuses upon improvement of Hampshire-wide projects that enhance and protect the quality of the offer to businesses and employees in the area.

### **Property work - Emsworth Museum**

The new 21 year lease of the Museum has now been completed enabling the museum to continue to provide a valuable service to residents and visitors to the Borough for many years. The facility is popular and well run with constantly changing displays. The Trust operates the museum completely independently of HBC, and is not grant dependent

### **Healthier communities in Havant**

The Cabinet had a productive session with representatives from HCC; Cllrs Liz Fairhurst (Health & Social Care Portfolio) and Cllr Peter Edgar (Education Portfolio), Paul Archer (Director of Policy) and Dr Ruth Milton (Director of Public Health). The discussion focussed on what the Borough Council could do to support the County Council in tackling health inequalities given our responsibilities in services that have

an impact on healthy communities i.e. Housing, Environmental Health, Leisure. I also emphasised the important links between a healthy community and a well educated and economically active population; the data from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, undertaken by Public Health, shows that Havant fares poorly in many areas of health and this impacts on the ability of people to achieve good academic results and secure employment. Taking this forward, I have asked for a meeting with education representatives to discuss the scale of the challenge in Havant and importantly what influence we can bring to bear on service providers in this area.

### **Hampshire Partnership**

I attended the Hampshire Partnership meeting this month. The main items on the agenda that were discussed included:

Broadband – We received a presentation on the current situation with broadband in Hampshire. It is anticipated that only 80% of the County will be able to access faster broadband speeds by the end of 2014 through the commercial market and further investment is needed to reach more people. There will be a three year programme of improvements to bring faster broadband to everyone in Hampshire. The County Council is already starting to draw up plans to deliver superfast broadband to at least 95% of the county by the end of 2017.

Flooding – A presentation was made by the Fire Service. They highlighted the key achievement of agencies in Hampshire working together. There were also some interesting statistics. Throughout the County there were 275 miles of road flooded, 15 bridges need to be inspected by divers, and repairs are likely to cost £25 – 36 Million and they also outlined the Central Government funding mechanisms.

### **Mayor's Civic Day**

I was pleased to be invited to give a presentation at the Mayors Civic Day and took the opportunity to showcase the Plaza and the benefits of partnership working and the principles of a one stop shop. Following the presentation the guests were given a tour around the Public Service Plaza