

## **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND HOUSING TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2016**

- **Planning Committee**  
The March meeting of the Planning Committee considered the second key application for the waste contract enabling upgraded facilities for on-Island recycling at Forest Park.
- **Planning Advisory Service (PAS) Review**  
Member and officer peers from PAS attended on 1 and 2 March for a two day review of the committee process. Members, officers and key stakeholders were interviewed as part of the process. I look forward to reading their report and recommendations.
- **IT improvements**  
Work has now commenced on an online facility for viewing historical maps to ease the process and staffing pressures for searching for historic applications and to provide a smoother service at the point of contact for the customer. This service improvement has been specifically requested by developers. In addition, work has commenced on an online custom build register to meet our new statutory duty. Both systems should be up and running by 1 April.
- **Area action plans**  
The Planning Policy Team is hard at work reviewing and collating the consultation responses to the area action plans and feeding those responses into updated versions. I hope to have further progress to report by early summer.
- **Brighstone Neighbourhood Plan**  
The public consultation for the plan has now closed and we now await independent examination.
- **Appeals and ongoing monitoring**  
Residential completion figures for 2014/15 are the highest since 2011/12 (and second highest since 2008/9). The council has also resolved to permit (permissions pending decision notice) over 1,100 dwellings in a number of sites in 2015/16, which will increase the likelihood of completions within the next five years.
- **Supporting People**  
We are moving forward with awarding the contracts for the Supporting People service, which includes working with a range of providers for both accommodation provision and floating support to enable families and individuals to remain in their homes.

- **Housing**  
Spectrum Housing Association are now out to consultation on their allocations policy, to which the council will be responding.
- **Homelessness**  
I have been working closely with the night shelter and soup kitchen volunteers to find alternative premises for the remainder of the winter and will continue to work with them to find a permanent solution.
- **The homelessness monitor**  
Further up to date research on homelessness can be found in the homelessness monitor, a five year study that provides an independent analysis of the impact on homelessness of recent economic and policy developments in England. The key areas of interest are the homelessness consequences of the post-2007 economic recession and the housing market downturn. The other main thrust of inquiry is the likely impacts of the welfare, housing and other social policy reforms, including cutbacks in public expenditure. It can be found at:  
<http://www.crisis.org.uk/pages/homelessnessmonitor.html>

#### **Since last Full Council**

- I attended the Friday Report on Isle of Wight Radio.
- I attended a Partnership for Urban South Hants members' workshop on behalf of the Leader.
- I met with a number of residents to assist them with individual housing circumstances.
- I attended the campaign launch for Fight for the Wight.
- I met with the MP to advocate for homeless people with the night shelter volunteers.
- I attended a three day Planning Leadership Essentials course; Understanding Developers and Development Economics.

**Councillor Julia Baker-Smith**  
**Executive Member for Planning and Housing**