

# **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND HOUSING TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JULY 2016**

## **Housing strategy**

At the July meeting of the strategic housing partnership it was agreed by partners to produce a joint housing strategy. The importance of a deliverable strategy involving all key stake holders is vital for the future delivery of housing on the Island. Historically the housing needs of the Island has not been met, and clusters of development coming forward while deliverable sites have stalled elsewhere has resulted in an inequity of housing provision. It is vital that the right balance of providing Island homes for Island people is struck, while conserving and enhancing our unique Island character. With a change in the national political focus now being on home ownership it is vital that we respond to that changing climate while securing the long term delivery of affordable rented homes for lower income Islanders.

## **Planning and housing enforcement**

I am pleased to report that in line with the new portfolio the planning and housing enforcement teams are working closely together to move forward a joined up and strengthened approach to enforcement.

## **Building control trading company**

Various options are currently being investigated for the formation of a building control trading company. Building control functions are carried out within a competitive market and as such the council needs to adapt to function within the wider market.

## **Brighstone Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The council's Executive supports enabling the plan to move to referendum and recognise the hard work of Brighstone Parish Council in bringing the plan forward. A date has now been set for referendum in September this year.

## **Area action plans (AAPs)**

The local planning authority is currently working through the various consultation responses and expanding the evidence base to include traffic modelling for Ryde, Newport and the Bay with a view to improving the network to boost economic regeneration in those key areas. This will also help to inform background work towards the combined authority requirements. The fast moving developments at a national and regional level require us to have both flexibility and patience in the development of the AAPs as it is crucial that the policy base is up to date and responsive to a rapidly shifting picture.

## **Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH)**

As part of PUSH a joint spatial position statement has been published, setting out the joint approach we will be taking with regard to growth in the housing market areas within the region under duty to cooperate. This is work that can be fed into further local spatial planning work that may arise from devolution opportunities.

## **Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

Government recently introduced new thresholds for contributions which we will now feed into the review of our SPD. We are now exploring the possibility of a change in our rural status with government in order to be able to build upon the positive joint work of the developer forum and housing partnership previously undertaken.

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