

# **REPORT FROM THE LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS, AND PUBLIC PROTECTION TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY 2017**

## **Introduction**

This report presents a summary of activities I have undertaken since election by Full Council to my current role as council leader on 18 January 2017, following the unexpected resignation of the previous council leader.

## **Priorities**

My first task was to form an executive team which I completed within the first few days of my appointment. I held my first informal Executive meeting the following week focusing on three priorities: a) to prepare and present lawful budget proposals by the deadline of 1 February b) to ensure core services received appropriate leadership and support from Executive members c) to look for opportunities to grow and regenerate our Island economy – essential to our future sustainability.

## **Meetings**

On 31 January I chaired our first Corporate Management Team/Executive Team meeting at which members were briefed on the strategic position and direction of the council as it stood after the previous administration's period of control ceased. We discussed a range of items including strategic partnership issues relating to the clinical commissioning group (CCG) and the fire service as well as receiving reports from Executive members and their portfolio officers to assist decision making and actions going forward.

## **Partnership engagements**

At a strategic level I have also held meetings with representatives from the CCG (regarding budget related matters), senior officers from Hampshire and Isle of Wight fire services (with discussions on the response to a recent fire on board one of our cross Solent ferries and proposals relating to the future of the fire and rescue service), attended and chaired a meeting of the Hampshire Police and Crime Panel (which confirmed the 2017/18 precept for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight) and attended a local conference on rural crime (at which I specifically addressed community concerns relating to perceived reductions in provision of roads policing on the Island).

I have also attended a meeting in London with MPs and local authority leaders from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in relation to future partnership working, devolution and alternative authority engagement. This remains an ongoing dialogue which is also considering more recent government focus on local transport and Infrastructure initiatives that could benefit the Island going forward.

## **Other matters**

During this initial month of my leadership of the council I have also held several internal meetings with the chief executive and his Senior Leadership Team, facilitated meetings with representatives from our education and business community in relation to opportunity awareness for our young people. I have attended briefings on major proposals for investment in the Island which could bring significant benefits for our Island economy. I have engaged with representatives of Southern Vectis on local community matters and have a further meeting with the managing director of the parent company at the end of March. I have also provided leadership and support to my Executive Team - who in my view have all risen to the challenges facing them and have shown a high level of commitment and professionalism in their duties which they have undertaken ethically and with integrity.

## **And finally**

Finally, and sadly, I also attended the funerals of two former councillor colleagues, Colin Richards and Morris Barton, both of whom provided a high level of public service to our Island community.

**Councillor Dave Stewart**

**Leader and Executive Member for Strategic and Community Partnerships, and Public Protection**