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Purpose: For Information

FULL COUNCIL

Date **18 JULY 2018**

Title: **LEADER'S UPDATE REPORT**

Report of **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

1. Introduction

This is my first report to you as Council Leader under the new process - a process agreed as a result of constitutional changes approved at our Annual General Meeting in May. It supports the Annual Report which I provided in June reflecting activities of the council during the past year and which is now available publicly on our website.

I hope this new reporting process will provide elected councillors and the wider public with greater insight into activities we are undertaking in line with our corporate plan.

I will also use my full council report to signpost coming activities which may be of interest and which will certainly impact on our Island community in the future.

I have set out the, in the following paragraphs, key points of information under each portfolio area within the Cabinet:

2. Leader & Strategic Partnerships

- Meeting with the MP and the Minister for Treasury Minister Robert Jenrick MP to discuss the Island's unique characteristics and consider the possible impact of the UK Prosperity Fund which will replace EU regional development funds after Brexit.
- Have been in discussions about creating an Islands' case to make to government, for all UK islands.
- Planning to move Cabinet meetings around the Island to give the public a better opportunity to attend and also so that the Cabinet can meet directly with local town and parish councils and discuss areas of common interest.

3. Adult Social Care and Public Health

- Continuing to consider all opportunities to integrate health and social care and supporting the IW NHS Trust in its work to improve its CQC ratings. Pressing both the Hampshire and Isle of Wight STP and both NHSE and NHSI for greater local control of health and social care services.
- Undertaking due diligence on a digital proposal to aid integration by improved sharing of data.
- The council is one of twelve to have secured funding of £20,000 from NHS Digital and the Local Government Association (LGA) to run a discovery phase on projects for using digital technology in helping people access social care and improve services.

4. Children's Services

- The Council's improvement in the delivery and management of its children's services has been such that the government has removed its former direction that Hampshire County Council should be our strategic partner for the planning and delivery of these services. This is testament to the strength of our partnership with Hampshire which we have already had the foresight to agree to continue for the longer term, before this result was known.
- Preparations for the opening of the new Sandown Bay through school in September are progressing well and I am looking forward to seeing this new and innovative approach for improving the quality of education in the Bay area.
- The Director of Children's Services has accepted Christ the King's latest financial plan for the repayment of the monies owed in connection with the provision of its sixth form facilities.
- It was pleasing to see the good work of our, and Hampshire Officers, in connection with troubled families recognised by government, Kathy Marriot attended a round table discussion at 10 Downing Street on this issue.

5. Regeneration and Business Development

- The draft regeneration strategy is ready for consultation and will be launched at the second regeneration conference to be held on Thursday 19 July.
- Bids for the master planning of the Newport Harbour regeneration scheme have been received and are being evaluated.

6. Infrastructure and Transport

- South Western railways have now submitted its proposals for Island Line to the government. The work of the Island Infrastructure Task Force, led by Christopher Garnett, has been considered in this submission and I have submitted a letter of support on behalf of the council, seeking consideration of the extension of the train network to Newport

7. Planning and Housing

- Work on the Island Plan review is continuing with an expected date of reporting in October.
- The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration, Planning, Housing and the Environment has completed an important piece of work on the delivery of affordable housing, a key priority for this administration, this is now being considered by the Cabinet member with a view to its adoption as council policy.

8. Environment and Heritage

- The Environmental conference held on 26 June, attracted over 180 delegates, and some significant key note speakers. The outcome of the conference will be a new environmental management plan for the Island.
- A key element of that plan will be successful outcome of the bid, launched at the conference, for the Island to be an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

9. Community Safety and Public Protection

- Councillor Tig Outlaw has now taken over responsibility for this portfolio and has worked quickly to prepare for the inspection of the fire service which took place in the week commencing Monday 9 July. The outcomes of the inspection are unlikely to be known before the end of the year.
- The consultation exercise on the potential for a new Combined Fire Authority is being finalised with an expected end date in mid October.

10. Corporate Resources

- Our most significant corporate challenge is still to be a financially balanced and sustainable council
- In 2017/18, through good financial management, the council is projecting overall spending of £2.9m less than was planned at the start of the year. This achievement will help us to become more resilient as we plan for budgets in future years and is testament to the sound financial management the authority has in place.
- As part of our planned approach to investments to generate income, the council has acquired two properties at a cost of just over £20m and which will generate a gross income of £700k pa to help fund key council services.

11. Procurement, Waste Management, Special Projects and Forward Planning

- Progress with the construction of the waste to energy plant is on progress, and mechanical treatment plant is expected to come into use in the late autumn.

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