

## Leaders Report for Full Council 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Chairman,

I submit the following leader's report as a summary of the achievements of last year by the Conservative Led Administration.

The achievements during 2020 / 21 include:

- **Investment in Venture Quays** for some £1 million. This acquisition has secured jobs in marine manufacturing, clothing manufacturing and will enable the development of a digital innovation centre and local housing for the future benefit of Island Residents.
- **Investment in Branstone Farm** (from the Isle of Wight Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership) of over £2 million. This investment will ensure the provision of 42 affordable homes, a biosphere centre and light industrial business providing jobs and homes for Islanders in a unique rural, mixed-use scheme
- **Investment to secure the last leg of the Tour of Britain cycle race** in September 2022. This major national event will help to support our hospitality industry as well as put the Island on the International map as a major tourist destination.
- **Investment in a permanent provision for the homeless on the Island.** Accommodation for up to 26 people will ensure that those less fortunate than many have a roof over their heads and receive a package of support to help them rebuild their lives
- **Investment in the Island Line.** A joint approach between the Isle of Wight Council, the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, Southwestern Trains and the Government ensuring a total investment exceeding £28 million providing newly updated rolling stock for the Island Line and upgrade of the infrastructure which will significantly improve the service for Islanders
- **Investment in St Marys Junction** (formerly St Mary's roundabout) as part of the wider improvements for the Newport Road network. Using funds of £6m secured from the government.
- **Investment for the Camp Hill Estate** which will secure major improvement in the roads and footpaths which is of high social value to this community. Using funds of £6.3 m secured from the government.
- **Investment for West Wight School** which ensures modern facilities and educational improvement for the children of West Wight. The Investment exceeding £4 million of funds secured from the government
- Continued investment in Island Roads through the highways PFI contract making the Island's roads amongst the best in the country
- **Investment in our Waste Contract.** This has ensured we have one of the highest re-cycling rates in the country and have reduced landfill by 99% an outstanding position
- **Investment in our IT Provision** – This enabled members and staff to be able to immediately work from home and continue service provision during the Covid 19 Pandemic.
- **Financial Sustainability** – following five previous lawful and balanced budgets setting a budget this year which maintains the financial sustainability of the council and at the same time makes significant provision to deal with the long term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the council's financial position

But I think the greatest achievement during the last year has been the support provided to and with the community during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Working closely with our partners in health, the police, the fire service and the wider voluntary sector and the providers of lifeline services, the administration ensured people were well informed, were cared for and kept safe and with a vaccination programme which has been recognised as one of the best in the country this remains the case. Also, the work to quickly distribute over £100m in government grants to keep local businesses afloat cannot be understated. I cannot thank those involved enough and as the outgoing chair of the Local Outbreak Management Board I pay tribute to every person who has done their part in this unique situation.

I conclude this summary by giving my thanks to our officers and staff including our senior management team who have been truly outstanding throughout my administration, to all members for their support for me as leader and to the Island Community as a whole who enabled me to have the opportunity to lead the Isle of Wight Council for the last four years. Finally, I wish all new councillors well and hope to see the Island go from strength to strength building on the solid foundation the Conservative Led Administration has provided.

Dave Stewart – Council Leader