

Leader of the Council Portfolio Holder Statement 2017-18 - Councillor David Jukes

My Responsibilities:

I have overall responsibility for allocating Cabinet portfolios and overseeing the delivery of the Council's long term plans within the framework of the Council's Budget and Constitution.

I also lead on driving progress on our major projects as set out in our refreshed Five Year Plan. I have made it clear that I want to run the Council as a business by increasing our income streams and making the organisation run efficiently.

Functions and Services:

As well as my role as Leader of the Council, I am Cabinet Member for Major Projects and responsible for the following service areas, with oversight of the annual budget setting, medium term financial strategy and a budget for my portfolio of £2,852,590.

- Policy & Governance
- Strategic Partnerships
- Community Engagement
- Human Resources and Learning & Development
- Facilities
- Property

I also lead on a range of key issues and projects including:

- Property and Asset Management
- Strategic and business planning
- Encouraging business/employment opportunities
- Major projects set out in the Five Year Plan (in particular, a new theatre, new office accommodation and an aim to redevelop the Civic Complex).

Key Plans and Strategies - Specific plans for which I have responsibility:

- The Council's Five Year Plan
- Annual programme of community projects
- West Kent Equalities Aims & Commitments
- Asset Management Plan
- Communication & Engagement Strategy

Achievements in 2016/17:

- For the sixth year in a row the Council delivered a balanced budget and unqualified annual audit.
- The Council progressed the Civic Complex programme to RIBA Stage 3 in April and a further Heritage Lottery Fund bid was submitted in May for the Cultural and Learning Hub project.
- Demolition work to progress the Southborough Hub started in March.
- The Five Year Plan was reviewed and a refreshed version was considered by Full Council in April 2017.
- The Council continued to promote the interests of residents in delivering services – in working towards negotiations in 2018 for a new Recycling/Household Waste contract, the Council will consider including the kerbside collection of glass.
- The Council proactively managed its asset portfolio in 2016/17 – generating a clawback revenue of £26,500 into the Council's general fund.
- The John Street car park development was completed in June 2016.
- Acquired 33 Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells as a commercial property investment in December 2016.
- As part of the government's 'devolution revolution', the Council worked with neighbouring authorities and KCC to have a direct influence over the commissioning of preventative public health services.
- The Council supported Royal Tunbridge Wells Together in its first year in developing the town as a well connected and attractive place for businesses to grow.

Priorities for 2017/18:

- Working with KCC and neighbouring councils towards the devolution and joining up of services across the West Kent Partnership.
- Continuing to dispose of non-performing assets and investing the proceeds in income-generating schemes.
- Submission of a stage 2 HLF bid and planning application for the Cultural Learning Hub.
- Continue to develop a scheme for a new Theatre that is fit for the future, new offices and associated car parking, as well as a scheme to give the Civic Complex a viable economic use.
- Explore, in partnership, the possibility of providing a university or further education facility in Royal Tunbridge Wells.
- Work with the County Council and a developer to deliver a new primary school in Hawkenbury.
- Develop and finalise plans for Phase 2 of the Public Realm works for Mount Pleasant Road around the civic centre for delivery in 2018/19.

Contact:

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