

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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6 September 2019

Dear Cath

Reigate and Banstead 2020-25: Draft Corporate Plan Response from Horley Town Council

Horley Town Council is grateful for the recent informative presentation on the RBBC Draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 delivered by you and Cllrs Brunt, Knight and Schofield at our offices together with this opportunity to present our views on this important public consultation.

Our members have been widely canvassed and the views presented in this response follow in-depth discussions by both the Planning Committee and later endorsed by Full Council. As we are in the process of formulating our own revised Town Plan 2020-25, much thought has been given to this Council's vision and future ambitions for Horley and this is further reflected in our comments detailed below.

Horley Town Council welcomes the proposals contained in the 'Reigate and Banstead 2025 Five Year Plan' and predominantly supports the commitments expressed therein. However, from our own perspective, we do feel that there are a number of priorities that need to be considered within the Plan and these encompass the following key points:

- **The need to improve communication links with RBBC, including more frequent and transparent Borough updates so that our residents are aware of improvements in their local area and have a good understanding of how public money is being spent.**
- **A renewed and proactive focus on the regeneration of Horley.**
- **A strong commitment to secure relevant and appropriate Post 16 Education for the growing Horley population.**
- **Implementation of a range of Affordable & Social Housing Schemes and increased employment prospects for local residents to have the opportunity to work nearby.**
- **More accessible community centre services and support for vulnerable residents.**
- **An enhanced digital infrastructure to drive economic growth.**
- **Increased environmental and community recycling initiatives.**

Since an extensive review of the Plan by our members has now been carried out, we can provide you with our detailed comments on RBBC's proposed priorities up to 2025, under the three specific themes illustrated within in the draft document, as follows:

1. PEOPLE

- More affordable and social housing schemes for rent as we feel there is, at present, not enough supply to meet the needs of young people, vulnerable residents and low-income families.

- Greater support and recognition for community groups who do valuable work for the community e.g. litter pickers and conservation groups which also reduces RBBC expenditure.
- Better support for community events and car parking concessions being introduced to reduce charges incurred on organisers as many of these are not for profit with any surplus revenue being reinvested back into the community, for example the Christmas lights in Horley Town Centre.
- A definitive pledge to the support of community services at a reasonable cost for patrons together with some subsidised or free transport to and from the centres.
- A strong commitment to ensure that Post 16 Education is relevant and appropriate to meet the requirements of Horley residents and that this is kept under frequent, careful review.
- A firm commitment to increasing GP capacity within Horley along with additional Health and Wellbeing initiatives being introduced.

2. PLACE

- Ensuring that community and recreational facilities are kept in the best possible condition so that residents can take pride in the place where they live.
- Improving roads, pavements and street signs to rejuvenate the town and increase footfall in Horley as a popular destination.
- Making Horley a place that people want to come to by facilitating better quality shops, including more car parking options with convenient payment methods and more effective parking enforcement.
- Providing increased and affordable office space and facilities for short term casual use, including 'Pop-up-Shop' options for new traders to test the waters of physical retail before making a large investment.
- HTC aspires to excellent digital and mobile infrastructure for Horley and would like to see the planning process made easier for full fibre Broadband and 5G installations.
- Supporting new strategies and enterprise to help new businesses stay afloat and for Horley to be actively marketed as an appealing location to attract large retail chains.
- A stronger focus on the ongoing regeneration and investment in Horley either directly by RBBC or on projects led by HTC.
- Continuing partnership working to get the best value for infrastructure and community improvements funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy and greater transparency on what Section 106 funds are actually being spent on where this relates to Horley.
- Promoting the importance of environmental awareness and climate change through community initiatives and providing more recycling options along with accessible recycling centres at an affordable cost to improve recycling rates.
- Creating awareness about the use of wind or solar energy to reduce impact on the environment.

3. ORGANISATION

- Increased partnership working between local authorities to improve and maintain high quality services and facilities together with attractive public spaces. (This includes routine maintenance, grass cutting of verges and kerb/gutter clearance, to eliminate the concerns of many residents.)
- HTC would like to suggest a commercial activity to contribute to the financial resilience of RBBC with the provision of property management services to carry out the role currently fulfilled by property managers acting as agents by the developers of new-build estates.

In summary, we appreciate being consulted on this important consultation and request that our comments be given due consideration. We understand that some of our feedback may not fall solely within the jurisdiction of the Borough Council but is nevertheless considered relevant to underpin important factors necessary to sustain economic growth and prosperity throughout the Borough in these modern times.

We very much look forward to our continued partnership working with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council to achieve our collective aims of delivering best value for our residents and to make our community a more prosperous place to live in years to come with more open opportunities available to everyone.

We will await the outcome of the consultation and thank you for agreeing to return to our venue on 6 November, to share the results once the comments and feedback received have been considered.

Yours sincerely,



Joan Walsh
Town Clerk

cc: County Cllr Kay Hammond - Horley West Ward, Salfords & Sidlow
Borough and County Cllr Graham Knight – Horley East & Salfords
Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council