

<p><b>Current key projects</b></p>	<p><b>Ensuring a professional working relationship between Members, CMB and staff</b>  Part of the ongoing work of a new administration is one of creating new relationships between key Members and staff within the Council. This requires adjusting to new ways of working, as well as adapting to the changing direction of the Council. Ensuring a professional working relationship on both sides is crucial for Elmbridge to continue its work as a high performing Council.</p> <p><b>Ensuring portfolio holders understand the issues involved in their area, as well as ensuring proactive management of their portfolio areas</b>  Alongside the above, any relatively new administration must adapt to its new roles and responsibilities. Part of the role of Leader is to support Portfolio holders in recognising the issues faced within that area, as well as supporting a proactive management of these issues as and when they arrive.</p> <p><b>LGA Peer Review</b>  We recently completed an LGA peer review. The peer team worked onsite over three days to gain an understanding of the issues we face as a Council, as well as with the aim of exploring barriers, opportunities, and potential areas for improvement. The review consisted of a number of interviews and focus groups with Members, staff, partner agencies and residents all taking part.</p> <p>The peer team's initial feedback was very positive, and did well to highlight some of the key successes of how Elmbridge works. As we await the full report, we will soon be able to get to work; making sure that any key recommended actions are followed through. Crucial to embedding some of these recommendations is to ensure that we have a clear and comprehensive and new Vision for the Borough.</p> <p><b>Waterside Drive Sports Hub</b>  We are on schedule to open the Xcel Sports Hub in September. The Hub will be managed by People for Places (who also manage the Xcel and Hurst Pool) and we are working with them on a community open day to launch the hub, being planned for September 17. The Xcel Sports Hub will be a fantastic facility not only for our residents but we hope, will also be a sporting facility with regional significance.</p>
------------------------------------	--

<b>Key achievements</b>	<p><b>New Grass Verges Contract</b></p> <p>In the summer of 2016 it became very clear to our residents, officers, and Members that our contractor was not maintaining our valued green spaces to the level we expect. Following numerous meetings to try to resolve the situation, it became clear that a more drastic solution was needed. Earlier in 2017, we novated the contract to our previous supplier which has restored confidence among officers, Members and residents.</p> <p><b>Planning Compliance</b></p> <p>The Team is now at full strength, having recruited two officers, who are now in post. One replaces an Officer who left recently and the other is the additional post to increase resources within the team. There will be launch of the new Planning Compliance Team later this summer.</p> <p><b>A flexible car parking strategy</b></p> <p>We continue to undertake on-street parking enforcement on behalf of the County Council which when undertaken with parking enforcement in our car parks, allows us to deliver an effective and efficient combined enforcement service. The County Council is looking at how best to deliver the future requirements for on-street enforcement in Surrey, and we along with other Councils are helping explore the options.</p> <p>We are continuing to improve the operation of our car parks, including easier and more ways to pay for parking and we have agreed a substantial financial package for much needed repairs and improvements to our overall car park portfolio. Parking concessions to encourage increased visitor numbers to support local shops have been introduced.</p> <p>The parking requirements and needs across the Borough are varied and challenging as car ownership and use seems to rise each year and parking spaces become more in demand. To meet these rising demands, we will be considering a range of initiatives to better manage the use of our car parks, including a pay on exit scheme.</p> <p><b>CCTV</b></p> <p>The CCTV switch over from Runnymede to Luton has been successful. After a short delay caused by BT engineer availability, CCTV monitoring commenced at Luton Town Hall on 1 June 2017 with 36 Cameras now</p>
-------------------------	---

	<p>recording live images on a 24/7 basis both proactively and reactively. Moreover, the agreed 15 cameras for turn off have been removed from their columns and stored securely at the Civic Centre. Work is underway on installing the computer in the police wing of the Civic Centre so that images can be burned to disk for evidential purposes. There are contingency arrangements in place to transfer images until the police computer is installed next month. Surrey Police are satisfied with the new arrangements and have been using the system to gather crucial information. Pre-planned maintenance has been undertaken on the cameras which highlighted a few minor faults which are being addressed. Moving forward, an asset review will be undertaken to ensure maximum effectiveness of the CCTV estate, with a contract monitoring meeting with the provider and partners taking place next month.</p>
<p><b>Key challenges</b></p>	<p><b>Delivery and maintenance of services while facing reduced support from central government and Surrey County Council</b></p> <p>For any local government in the current financial climate, reduced support is one of its critical challenges in the years to come. While Elmbridge is, without a doubt, in a better position than most authorities, there is still so much to do to ensure that we are delivering and maintaining our services to the high standard our residents expect and deserve. To maintain our strong financial position, we are still working towards becoming grant free by 2020.</p> <p>To achieve this, we are reducing our expenditure wherever possible (but not at the expense of our residents), however, we are also continuing to create opportunities for revenue generation, for example, renting out office space in the Civic Centre, continuing to offer the popular pre-application planning advice service and perhaps most importantly continuing to invest in property assets.</p> <p><b>A Credible Local Plan</b></p> <p>The Local Plan is one of the biggest challenges facing the Council. While progress on the new Elmbridge Local Plan has been delayed due to both the general election and delays to Government policy, the Council is looking to publish a report on the issues raised in response to the Strategic Options consultation as soon as it is able to do so.</p>

	<p>None of the Members of the Council want to give up any areas of the Borough's Green belt to development and will consider all options in order to protect it. However, in order to produce any Local Plan, the Council needs to follow due process, without which it lays itself open to challenges.</p> <p><b>Defending Drake Park</b></p> <p>As Members will be aware, an appeal has been lodged by the developer, against the refusal of planning permission for the proposed new garden village comprising up to 1,024 new residential units on the site known as 'Drake Park'.</p> <p>Officers have instructed senior counsel and a junior barrister to lead the Council's case and are currently preparing the case against the development which will be heard at a public inquiry scheduled to commence on Tuesday 31 October. This appeal has been 'recovered' by the Secretary of State due to its scale and location, which means that it will be scrutinised at the highest level possible for a planning application in this country.</p>
<p><b>Areas for action/ Forward planning and next projects etc.</b></p>	<p><b>Joint Waste Contract Delivery</b></p> <p>Despite the initial waste collection difficulties at the start of the new waste collection contract, Amey's performance is improving and a high percentage of refuse and recycling is now being collected on the correct day.</p> <p>Both Amey and Elmbridge Borough Council have been working hard to implement an extensive catch-up exercise to ensure this service is brought back to the high standard we expect.</p> <p>It is now a key task of ours to ensure that once we reach the agreed levels of service provision, we work in partnership with Amey and Joint Waste Solutions to ensure that waste collection in Elmbridge remains at the high standard required.</p> <p><b>5 Year Vision and Forward Planning</b></p> <p>Work to update the Council Vision is now underway, with five key themes currently emerging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Character and Environment – preserve/enhance the character of the Borough, strive for higher environmental standards – protection from over-development, better air quality, zero carbon developments, anti-Heathrow etc</li> </ul>

- Quality of core services – continue to deliver quality services including community facilities, infrastructure and public assets. This means safeguarding what we already deliver and improving the community facilities that residents have access to.
- Protecting the vulnerable, meeting local need/providing support and care - including housing.
- Well-being - facilitating maximum opportunity to live a full and active life in the Borough, good quality of life, activities, engagement etc.
- Community leadership – advocating for the interests of Elmbridge residents and businesses, calling others to account for their activities in the Borough – health, Police, SCC, transport, utilities etc.

### **River Thames Scheme**

As a Borough within the River Thames corridor, we are within one of the largest and most at risk developed but undefended flood plains in England. With much larger floods anticipated in future, the River Thames Scheme is a key action towards helping to defend our communities from flooding, as well as our local economy. The Scheme is, however, vastly underfunded. Elmbridge must continue to play a key partnership role in the Scheme to help it progress in future years.

### **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Back in April, the Strategic Spending Board considered ten applications, for a total of £1,388,773 funding. Eight of these were then recommended and subsequently agreed by Cabinet.

Regarding the Local Spending Boards, five of the Council's six Local Spending Boards met to consider CIL applications. All seventeen applications considered had been supported, and agreed by Cabinet, with a total sum of £728,693 recommended for approval.

The Levy is a great asset to our community, and while the number of applications for this round was relatively low, we need to make a constructive effort to promote the scheme and encourage applications for great new community projects.

	<p><b>Lower Green</b> The Lower Green Community Centre has been temporarily closed to enable Elmbridge Borough Council to address concerns it has regarding the governance and condition of the building. Work has been carried out by the Council and its appointed contractors, focusing initially on ensuring that the building could be safely opened temporarily for use as a polling station so that the hall can be available for the upcoming county and general elections. More recently 2 public meetings have been organised for the local community with a view of recruiting new trustees for the building. This work is ongoing, and we will need to continue working closely with Surrey County Council (Streets Apart Project) and Surrey Community Action.</p> <p><b>Hersham closures</b> With the temporary closure of Hersham Village Hall, which awaits a discussion with the community regarding what sort of facility they require, as well as the Hersham Centre for the Community, which is closed for essential repair work, we are looking to assess all the options available to provide our residents with community facilities in Hersham.</p> <p>Community Centres are important and essential to the fabric of our communities. We have seen from the success of the Molesey Centre for the Community, that our Centres are real community hubs providing the residents of the area not only with a variety of lifestyle activities but also offering support and friendship to the older and more vulnerable people in our community. We will work to ensure that we continue to offer facilities that make a real difference in our community</p>
--	--