

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2013		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Suki Sitaram</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 023 8083 4428
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the report be noted

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not applicable

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This report highlights the contribution of different Portfolios towards the Council's priorities since the last council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013.
  - I want to emphasise the following developments since my last report:
  - City Deal update: I was part of the team which led the City Deal pitch to Government in the summer, including promoting Southampton's marine and maritime strengths, enabling business growth, unlocking development sites and support skills and employment of Southampton and Portsmouth residents. Officers from both cities continued to work hard to agree the detail and funding with the Cabinet Office and relevant government departments, and I pleased to report that the City Deal was signed on 12 November. Government funding of over £61M has been secured and is expected to bring in public sector leverage of over £300 M. This will support the creation of more than 4,500 new jobs, unlock significant new employment floor space, enable 500 small businesses to grow, help employers to access the skills they need and provide employment support for more than 2,500 unemployed people and those facing redundancy. The City Deal has also enabled us to strengthen our relationship with Solent LEP,

Portsmouth City Council and central government, which will place us in a stronger position to influence Southampton's economic growth in the future.

- Consultation with residents and staff on our medium term priorities – this was considered when we finalised our draft budget proposals for 2014/15. This will not be a one off event as I consider it very important for us explore new ways of providing information to residents and getting regular feedback from them on a wide variety of issues. Therefore I was encouraged that over 599 people have expressed an interest in joining a Residents' Panel and over 881 people expressed an interest in using Stay Connected as a channel. In the coming months, we hope to establish a Residents' Panel reflecting the diversity of the City's population so that we can seek their views regularly.
- I am very proud to say that Southampton City Council picked up the top local authority award for Transport City of the Year. This was no mean feat as we beat other worthy candidates (Aberdeen City Council, Coventry City Council and Centro, and Nottingham City Council). We were recognised for our impressive multi-dimensional transport programme underpinning the economic growth strategy for Southampton and benefitting residents and visitors to the City.
- Further to the devastating announcement of the loss of jobs at BAE Systems in the Portsmouth dock yard, I have been working to ensure that the necessary support is available for those affected. With over 40% BAE employees being Southampton residents, this is a major issue for the City. The Council is playing its full part in the Task-Force that has been set up to oversee support services for the employees and wider supply chain. We have received feedback from Ford that the Task Force we convened and chaired to address the Ford closure was effective, with fewer than 5% of the 750 people affected having made welfare benefit claims in the period following the closure. We are now adapting this model for BAE. I have also been working with Portsmouth City Council and Solent LEP to lever additional resources into the area for activities to mitigate against future economic shocks.
- I am delighted that Stuart Love will be joining us as Director, Place (Environment and Economy) on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Stuart brings a lot of experience and knows the City and sub region and will no doubt make a significant contribution to achieving our priorities. I would also like to place on record thanks from my Administration to John Tunney who has covered the role of interim director with great skill and determination. His excellent contribution has been received positively by the Cabinet Members he has supported, his managers and peers.
- A successful Community Safety conference was held on 29<sup>th</sup> October at the Central Hall. Thanks to the close working between many

agencies through the Safe City Partnership, there were 26 stalls of information, creating quite a buzz! We want to hold this event annually, in the summer, perhaps linked to another event so that we are able to reach out to more residents.

- The Go Rhino campaign created a lot of fun in the summer and was appreciated by many residents and visitors to the City, particularly those with young families. I am therefore delighted that the council, with Capita, participated in the auction of the Rhinos and we were successful in bringing back 'Glint' to the Civic Centre.
  - Fairness Commission update: Progress has been made on developing the Southampton Fairness Commission. The Chair and Vice Chair have now been appointed and the short-listing for the commissioner roles is underway. There has been interest from wide range of representatives and the quality of candidates has been impressive. An initial framework of themes has been developed and the first meeting will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013.
2. We have been successful, with our partner SCRATCH, in getting £670,000 from the European Regional Development Fund. This is for a project known as CRUMBS (Coordinated Re-use Makes Business Sense). This will offer supermarkets and office based businesses a sustainable and cost-effective alternative to landfill waste disposal. It will :
- Establish a recover-recycle-reuse network focussed on 'in-date' perishable food and office equipment
  - Increase the amount and value of business waste diverted from landfill
  - Reduce carbon emissions
  - Support 50 residents into volunteering and paid work
  - Alleviate the food poverty being experienced by our most disadvantaged residents
  - Support local charities and SME start-ups through the redistribution of unwanted office furniture and equipment.

### **PROMOTING SOUTHAMPTON AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT**

3. I am delighted to report to Council that contracts have been exchanged with Grosvenor Developments Limited for the construction of Southampton's New Arts Complex and work is due to start on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013. This will form a major part of a new mixed use development on the eastern side of the Cultural Quarter and fronting onto Guildhall Square. This news will, I am sure, be welcomed by all Members as the Arts Complex will at last now be built after so many years in project development. The building of the Arts Complex will complete the City's cultural quarter and bring in many more visitors to the City and enrich the cultural life of Southampton residents.

4. I am also pleased that we have exchanged contracts with Enterprise House for the refurbishment of the adjacent building to provide workspace for creative industries. I hope to see a strong synergy between this project and the Arts Complex.
5. Southampton City Council's (SCC) Planning & Development team is trialling the Coastal Concordat principles as part of the waterfront 'Royal Pier' proposal. The idea was first developed by DEFRA with Southampton City Council and as a result we are one of the first early adopters and have worked with the DEFRA bodies to trial the approach on Royal Pier. This has resulted in a joint scoping report between the Council and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), with the Council leading on it. In return, the MMO will lead on the Habitats Regulation Assessment, the resulting negotiations with the developer, and writing up the joint report, but with the council retaining involvement throughout, as the competent authority. This has been a very welcome initiative locally, especially given historical issues that have arisen through a lack of cohesion across regulatory parties in the past. This scheme has enabled planning for a major Southampton city waterfront development to become joined up and effective by working across regulatory bodies. It has led to a streamlined approach for progressing the necessary consents, while ensuring full scrutiny also takes place, which I know will be of great benefit to other areas around the UK.

#### **RAISING AMBITIONS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

6. I am pleased that we have exceeded the national average for our Key Stage 2 results for the first time. These are the tests taken by 11-year-olds in their last year of primary school. This news comes after our secondary schools recorded their best ever GCSE results. All credit goes to the pupils, their families, staff and governors.

#### **IMPROVING HEALTH AND KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE**

7. Redesigning and commissioning integrated health and social care services will improve quality and outcomes and result in more effective use of resources and cost avoidance and as a consequence release savings. Towards this end, Cabinet agreed the establishment of a joint Integrated Commissioning Unit (between the council and the Clinical Commissioning Group) within a single management structure overseen by an Integrated Commissioning Board. Accountability for commissioning decisions will be retained by the Cabinet and CCG Governing Body.
8. It has been identified that some investment will be required to attract the skill set needed into some of the more senior posts to ensure the leadership, experience and rigour necessary to achieve the change required at scale and pace. Cabinet approved the establishment of an Integrated Commissioning Unit and related additional cost of to the Council of £90,800 from 2014/15 onwards which is included in draft budget proposals. Cabinet also agreed delegated authority to agree and execute the Memorandum of Understanding.

9. Cabinet approved Southampton's Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2013-2018. The Homelessness Act 2002 requires the Local Authority to review all forms of homelessness in the City and produce a new Homelessness Strategy, based on the review findings, every five years. The new strategy builds on achievements of the past few years by strengthening the focus on prevention, rather than tackling the crisis of people losing their home. This is increasingly important in the current financial climate. The Government's Welfare Reform agenda introduces unprecedented change which, along with the current economic conditions, has the potential to seriously impact on Southampton residents and result in increased homelessness. The strategy considers the future challenges Southampton faces and the likely impacts on the City's residents and services.

### **HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP THEMSELVES**

10. The council and Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group are working together to develop an Integrated Person Centred Care Programme. This will involve local people at all stages in planning, shaping, designing and delivering services. Integrated Person Centred Care focuses on managing people's individual needs through co-ordinated multi-agency planning and service delivery placing the individual at the heart of the process. The majority of NHS and social care funding is used for people with complex health, social, psychological and domestic problems and while these numbers are set to rise, the available additional funding is limited. The overall aim of the programme is to intervene early to avoid, reduce or delay the use of costly specialist services, including hospital and residential care, whilst promoting independence, and self-management in the community.
11. The council has been invited to bid for the NESTA Mobilising Volunteers for Impact funding stream. If successful, this will fund a two year programme, with a focus on volunteering, skills and the economy. In addition, early discussions have also started about potentially bidding for "Our Place" funding, to trial community budgeting in the City.

### **ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVING EXISTING HOMES**

12. The Council is in the process of securing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. This is a significant opportunity to secure insulation, heating and hot water improvements to parts of the Council's housing stock. An ECO funded energy improvement programme will support the Council's strategic aspirations to improve insulation and heating in its housing stock, and to provide support to residents with the aim of responding to fuel cost rises and tackling fuel poverty. As part of this investment programme council is today requested to approve the next stage of development for a District Energy (DE) scheme in the Thornhill area of the City. Such a scheme has the potential to provide fuel bill savings for residents, achieve significant carbon reductions, provide a long-term revenue stream for the Council and generate local employment opportunities.

## **MAKING THE CITY MORE ATTRACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE**

13. Cabinet agreed to progress the development of key sites in the Lordshill area (Oaklands Community School, Lordshill Housing Office and Lordshill Community Centre) in a single package to secure best value for the council and enabling the delivery of investment and new homes. This will include progressing the refurbishment of the Oaklands Swimming Pool building, bringing a community facility back into use and progressing negotiations with Lordshill Community Association to relocate resulting in an enhanced community facility for local residents.
14. With regard to the pool, Cabinet also agreed capital expenditure of £90,000 in 2013/14 from the Economic Development and Leisure Capital programme, subject to the revised scheme value being approved by Council today.
15. The historical significance of our Central Parks has been recognised by English Heritage and they have been awarded the prestigious Grade II\* listed status on English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest. Southampton's Central Parks are made up of five open green spaces - Andrews (East) Park, Hoglands Park, Houndwell Park, Palmerston Park and Watts (West) Park, which cover 21 hectares in total.
16. The people making a real difference to transport across the UK were recognised at the prestigious National Transport Awards in London this week (the transport equivalent of the Oscars). This is the first year that the council has entered and we were nominated for two categories. In our first category - for frontline employee of the year we received a commendation for Jess Eden for her commitment to have sustainable transport recognised as a viable option for children in social services. It's fantastic to see individuals recognised for their dedication and going the extra mile.

## **DEVELOPING AND ENGAGED, SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE**

17. A review of our pay and allowances has been overdue for some time. We know that there are inconsistencies and complexities to our current pay and allowances that cause potential problems in respect of equality of pay, are unfair and also make any necessary organisational changes very difficult to implement. We must ensure that the council has a fair, equal and affordable pay and allowances structure and has a consistent and transparent approach to pay and allowances across the organisation. Therefore we have commenced consultation with staff and unions on a number of proposals.

## **IMPLEMENTING BETTER WAYS OF WORKING TO MANAGE REDUCED BUDGETS AND INCREASED DEMAND**

18. Considerable work is now underway within the People's directorate to undertake transformational service redesign. Work is also underway on the development of a transformation strategy and plan, in line with the recommendations of the LGA Peer Review.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

20. N/A

**Property/Other**

21. N/A

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

22. As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.

**Other Legal Implications:**

23. None.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

24. Council Plan 2013-16.

**KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	None
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Equality Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
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**Other Background Documents**

**Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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