

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 SEPTEMBER 2014		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None			

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting in July 2014.

### **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**

2. Not applicable.

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

#### **INTRODUCTION**

3. Following approval of the Council Strategy by Full Council on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014, this report highlights the contribution of different portfolios towards the new council priorities outlined below:
  - Jobs for local people
  - Prevention and early intervention
  - Protecting vulnerable people
  - Affordable housing
  - Services for all
  - City pride
  - A sustainable Council.
4. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of both the Nuffield Theatre and the City of Southampton, Guildhall Square was converted into a unique pop-up venue, Nuffield Playing Field, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014. The Art at the Heart Festival, a festival of theatre, film, music, visual art and dance was presented by the Nuffield Theatre in partnership with Art Asia, City Eye, John Hansard Gallery, Mayflower Theatre and Turner Sims. This is a precursor to the opening of the new arts complex in 2016.
4. We continue to be recognised for the excellent work we do and since the last

report I am delighted that we have been recognised for:

- The quality of Southampton's parks and open spaces. St James' Park, Weston Shore, Mansel Park and Mayfield Park are officially some of the very best in the UK. These parks and open spaces have received the prestigious Green Flag Award handed out by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent facilities. A huge amount of work from both our staff and voluntary groups is required to keep these areas in such fantastic condition and these awards are a testament to the collective hard work and dedication of local people.
- Our inspired and well-crafted communications campaigns. We have been nominated for the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards 2014 for our My Journey "Love handles?" cycling campaign. It has been shortlisted in two categories: Best Public Sector Campaign and Best Integrated Campaign. This is the result of a team effort between our Communications, Transport and Design Teams.
- Our work to help keep our city safe. The Citywatch team keep a watchful eye over us day and night and in recognition of their work to reduce crime over the last ten years the team has been presented with a "Western Area Commanders Certificate of Congratulations" award at the Southampton Business Against Crime (SoBAC) 10-year celebration. This is a real honour as these certificates are not often given to people outside of the police.
- Our partnership working with the private sector. The National Outsourcing Association (NOA) has shortlisted the council and Capita for the Best Contribution to the Reputation of Outsourcing Award and the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the 2014 NOA Awards. The winners will be announced on Thursday 20th November 2014.
- Achievements in delivering excellence in frontline service. The council has been nominated for 3 awards at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Local Government Service Awards 2014. Our Section 106 Employment and Skills Programme has been nominated for Best Employment and Equality Initiative, our work on improving garden waste collections has been nominated for Best Service Team - Waste Management and Recycling, and our Bin It to Win It initiative that rewards residents who recycle has been nominated for Best Information Technology and Communication Initiative. The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

## **JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE**

5. Early ideas for the planned Royal Pier Waterfront development were on display to the public on 11th July 2014. The event took place at Westgate Hall and was well attended by both residents and local interest groups who viewed the plans and provided comments. Feedback from the event has been taken on board by the Council's selected development partner RPW (Southampton) Ltd, a joint venture between Morgan Sindall Investments Limited (MSIL) and the Lucent Group, in preparation for the planning application scheduled for 2015.
6. Following the publication of the GCSE results the Council's Skills and

Regeneration Service teamed up with No Limits and local training providers to run drop-in sessions on Thursday 21 August for school leavers, providing information, advice and support. No Limits advisers were able to help with a whole host of other issues such as health, housing, work, training and apprenticeships. This is particularly relevant because as from this year the age at which young people are required to remain in education or training increases to 18, an extra two years after GCSEs. The aim is to give all young people more opportunities to gain the qualifications and skills they need to get on.

7. At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Cabinet approved the expansion of Springwell School by the total of 16 additional places from September 2014. This decision will help drive up education standards and attainment for children with SEN by enabling a greater number of students to access the educational support that they need. It will also allow a greater number of those students that have a preference to attend Springwell School to do so.

### **PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

8. Southampton is one of eleven areas in the country to receive a grant of £500,000 from the Big Lottery Fund. The grant is for HeadStart, a project aiming to improve the emotional wellbeing and resilience of 10 to 14 year olds, who sometimes struggle with the transition from primary to secondary school, puberty and new decisions about issues like drugs, alcohol and sex. This is welcome news for the City and for our teenagers. The grant has been provided for the first year with the potential of securing a five year programme worth £10 million.
9. We have received the welcome news that our Families Matter programme can be expanded to help us to improve the lives of families with difficulties including rent arrears, youth offending, health issues and family conflict. The expanded programme will help children from “troubled families” in the City get a better chance in life through various initiatives such as intensive parenting courses, closer work with schools and colleges, and support and advice with health issues and family dynamics. Since 2012, our Families Matter programme has helped to turn around the lives of 455 families in the City and I am confident that we will build on this success to reach even more families in need.
10. Work is being undertaken by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group on the latest iteration of the Better Care Southampton Plan. This Plan provides a blueprint for the future of health and social care services in the City, aiming to completely transform the delivery of care in Southampton so that fully integrated health and social care will be delivered as locally as possible with people at the centre of their own care. A series of clusters are being developed which will be the building blocks in a new system which will bring together community nurses, therapists, geriatricians, mental health workers, primary care, social care, housing and the voluntary sector to work in an integrated way. Neighbourhoods and communities will have a valued role in supporting people and there will be a much stronger focus on prevention and early intervention.
11. The Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group were required to submit proposals for a Southampton Better Care Plan to the Department of Health

in March 2014. Whilst indications from the Department of Health on the Southampton Plan were favourable, the government has changed the rules for the pay for performance element of the fund. Consequently all local areas are being required to submit a revised Better Care Plan to the Department of Health by 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

### **PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

12. We want to continue to support more people to live and remain independent in the community, in their own homes for as long as possible. To help enable this to happen Cabinet, at its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014, authorised the Director of People to initiate a process of consultation on the way some of our directly provided services, commissioned respite and day care services are delivered. The principles behind the proposals are to:
- Make best use of community resources to improve outcomes for those using the services
  - Meet the Care Act 2014 requirements
  - Ensure Council funding achieves the best outcomes for those who receive care services.
13. We are consulting on the following:
- The closure of Woodside Lodge Residential Home
  - Re-provision of respite care services for adults with a learning disability, currently provided at Kentish Road
  - Redesign and re-provision of all the Council's in-house day services for those with a learning or physical disability or mental health conditions.
14. There are no formal proposals being put forward for the last two items as we want to work with the service users, their families and carers and staff to design a service which is modelled on best practice and fit for the future. This is the right thing to do as we want to make sure that people get high quality services that best meet their individual needs and support people to live their lives as they choose. It is not just about saving money but primarily about achieving better outcomes. Consultation on the proposals began on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and will close on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014. The feedback will inform the subsequent Cabinet decision on the future of services.
15. At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Cabinet approved the re-commissioning, through a tender process, of advocacy services for all adults, inclusive of all elements of specialist and dedicated advocacy currently provided across the City. Procuring an advocacy service which amalgamates the current fragmented funding streams, totalling £259,200 per annum, will enable the services to be redesigned in order to meet current demand, local need and achieve parity of service access.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

16. A community event to celebrate the completion of extensive improvement works to Kingsland Estate took place on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014. In partnership with British Gas the improvement works have retained the original, iconic 1940 architectural features of this neighbourhood whilst making homes more energy efficient, helping to reduce energy bills for residents.
17. Further demonstrating the hard work of our housing service Ventnor Court, one of our supported housing establishments, has received a facelift with new lifts, newly refurbished community rooms, new mobility scooter storage

facilities, improved security and a new community garden.

18. Work to bring empty homes back into use in Southampton has, for the twentieth year running, reached its target of filling at least 100 empty properties. As a result, more than 2,000 homes have reopened their doors to Southampton families since the target was introduced in 1994. This is the equivalent of providing a new neighbourhood the size of the Weston estate over a 20 year period.

### **SERVICES FOR ALL**

19. Southampton's garden waste collection scheme is proving to be very popular with nearly 11,500 households signing up since April 2014, and this number is growing all the time. This impressive level of take up shows that our residents are keen to recycle their garden waste and appreciate the convenience of doorstep collections.
20. Major environmental improvement work to Queen's Park and Queen's Terrace is underway to resurface the walkways, improve drainage and expand Queen's Park. The work will include improvements to the planting, street furniture, lighting and connections to Queen's Terrace. The developments, made possible through the 'Platform for Prosperity scheme' will significantly enhance Queen's Park, reconnecting it to Oxford Street and improving its links to the City Centre. The £1.1M improvements are being funded by the Department for Transport and the Council and contribute to the City Centre Master Plan ambitions for growth and prosperity.
21. A total of £2.4M funding from the Department for Transport was secured in 2014 by the Council for a number of schemes as part of a wider project to manage network 'pinch points' across the city. Other 'pinch point' works include the current Central Bridge waterproofing project, waterproofing of Northam River Bridge that will start once Central Bridge is complete, and the improvements to the Western Approach Rail Bridge, which were completed earlier this year.

### **CITY PRIDE**

22. To celebrate the anniversary of the signing of Southampton's Armed Forces Community Covenant, the City's statement of support for our Armed Forces personnel (past and present) and their families, an annual report has been produced highlighting the key achievements in 2013/14. The report has been recognised by the Ministry of Defence as good practice and acknowledges the stronger working relationships we are forging with our Armed Forces communities in Southampton, demonstrated by the Council's decision to amend the Housing Letting policy to include members of the Merchant Navy.
23. A number of Southampton's 200 plus Junior Neighbourhood Wardens (JNWs) took part in a special sports day to mark their achievements this year. The JNW scheme encourages children aged 7 - 12 to take pride in their neighbourhood and become young champions of the community. Throughout the year, the JNWs accompany the 'leaders' (Wardens aged 13 – 16 year olds), the Council's Neighbourhood Wardens and other services to improve their local area. Regular events are organised including litter picks, clean ups, painting projects, graffiti removal sessions, recycling, environmental and garden projects, fundraising for charities, sports days and

more. The scheme is free to join, helps to keep children occupied during the school holidays and makes communities stronger. Well done and thank you to all our JNWs for their work this year.

#### **A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL**

24. We have recognised that the scale of transformation required will need investment, for instance in new technology and have identified that we will need to invest £3-5M per year over the next 3 years. The Cabinet approved that the underspend of £3M in 2013/14 will be used to fund the Council's Transformation Programme in 2014/15. I will be reporting on further work that is being undertaken in the coming months. We have agreed details about the next phase of the One Council Transformation Programme and have prioritised improving experiences of the Council's customers and have agreed a single approach to our customers and putting in place a new model for business support. This includes the establishment of a single 'front door' for customers of services within the People Directorate (adults, housing and children) as part of the customer model.
25. We have agreed governance arrangements for the transformation programme with the establishment of 3 boards to lead on the three transformation workstreams – customer, infrastructure and service design. The Cabinet is fully engaged in the programme with Cabinet Members representation on each of these boards as well as on the Assurance Board. We are conducting a staff survey and have started the activity analysis work to establish the gap between where we are now and where we need to be to meet our financial pressures and manage future demand.
26. The transformation programme includes working with our public sector partners to exploit opportunities for joining up assets and services, and in doing so releasing surplus buildings to generate receipts and savings. At the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July Cabinet approved a number of recommendations that will enable the Council to achieve this and become more sustainable.
27. To provide the Council with additional options over and above those currently available to it with regard to the disposal, sale or use of its assets, Cabinet approved the creation of a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) between the Council and a private sector partner, Public Sector Plc Facilitating Limited (PSPF). This relationship will bring funding opportunities which have not traditionally available to the Council. The formed LLP will be required to demonstrate its value before projects are agreed for delivery.
28. In order to generate ongoing revenue savings Cabinet also approved the next phase of the Accommodation Strategy to enable the potential vacation of One Guildhall Square (OGS), followed by the vacation and disposal of service property with moves into the Civic Centre, once OGS has been vacated.
29. To help us to improve the services we offer to our customers the Council's website is being refreshed. We have ensured that the development takes into account resident and staff feedback and we are now at the stage where the website design is being finalised. The new website will be launched in October 2014 and will enable additional transactions to be undertaken online, saving the Council money and meeting the needs of residents, many of whom expect to be able to access information and services digitally. This development reflects the Council's commitment to become a modern,

efficient organisation focussed on and valued by its customers.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

### Capital/Revenue

30. N/A

### Property/Other

31. N/A

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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

## POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

33. Council Plan 2014-17

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	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)

1.	None	
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