

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 NOVEMBER 2015		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last report to Council on 16 September 2015.			
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)			
3.	This report highlights the contribution of different portfolios towards the Council's priorities since the last Full Council meeting on 16 September 2015.		
4.	The 15 local authorities and two LEPs in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight (HIOW) area are continuing to work up proposals for devolved powers and funding from central government, to boost local economic growth and productivity and transform public services. HIOW was the only area nationally to propose foregoing Revenue Support Grants in exchange for retention of 100% business rates, and this initiative was subsequently announced for national roll-out at the Autumn Conservative Party Conference. In addition, local proposals focus on accelerated housing delivery, business growth, skills and employment support, transport and infrastructure investment, as well as integrated working across public sector agencies. At the time of drafting this report, a challenge session is being arranged with Greg Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in November.		
5.	<p>Given our financial constraints and the level of savings we have to make in the future, we cannot delivery everything we currently do. We have to make difficult decisions and in identifying our main priorities, we have considered the feedback from residents on our priorities consultation. We have agreed that as a Council, we will focus on three main outcomes to become a high performing and sustainable Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people get a good start in life • Strong and sustainable economic growth 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton is a vibrant modern city that functions for residents and businesses, a place where everybody works together to keep it looking clean and attractive.
6.	<p>Over the last 18 months, we have been making efforts to significantly improve opportunities for citizens to engage with us. In addition to the traditional approaches of working with residents and tenants, this has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in the way in which we communicate and consult on our budget proposals, greater use of digital technology, easier methods for people to engage in specific issues • Working with the University and the Southern Policy Centre to pilot innovative techniques such as ‘citizen science’ and ‘deliberative consultation’ and our pledge in 2014 to establish a People’s Panel, as part of the 50th anniversary of gaining City status.
7.	<p>I am delighted that we now have over 1,000 members who have signed up for the People’s Panel and have now completed a dozen polls and 3 surveys, averaging a response rate of over 65%. These consultations have covered a range of topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the best thing about living in Southampton? • Are you aware that health and social care are going to be working more closely together to provide a joined up service? • How strongly do you feel you belong to your local area? • Do you know who your local councillors are? • If you could change one thing about research and consultation from public bodies in Southampton, what would it be? • Which of the following modes of transport do you use most often? • Have you heard about the Dino Encounter exhibition coming to SeaCity Museum from 13th June 2015? • Overall, how often in the last 12 months have you volunteered or given unpaid help to any group, club or organisation? • Have you ever heard of a council statutory notice? • Which of the following items would you dispose of in your recycling bin with a blue lid? • What would be your ideal way of reporting a pothole? • Which of the following events did you attend this summer? • City markets • Community safety • Priorities
8.	<p>Citizen science is a research approach that allows local people to get involved in the whole research process. It is essentially science conducted by residents with support for professionals or academics. The benefit of this is the understanding of local areas and the honesty that can come from the research being conducted by a neighbour or local person rather than an external body. We are working with the University of Southampton on this and we are one of the first councils to use this research methodology in the country. ‘Understanding barriers to recycling’ is the topic for the first citizen science research pilot for the People’s Panel. We held two information drop-ins with members of the People’s Panel and interested individuals and have over 40 people who want to become citizen scientists for this pilot.</p>
9.	<p>As mentioned in my report to July Council, we have worked with the</p>

	<p>Southern Policy Centre to pilot a new approach in community engagement, “deliberative consultation”. The first session in July was attended by around 40 participants recruited through the People’s Panel, and focused on issues around ‘Prevention and Early Intervention’. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive and they wanted to see more such events, and were particularly pleased that the Council was enabling them to play such a constructive part in formulating its policies. We are working with the Southern Policy Centre to run another deliberative consultation session on 28th November 2015, focusing on issues around Housing and Planning policies.</p>
10.	<p>Our budget consultation process will include easy to understand presentations, an online questionnaire with paper copies for those who are not be to access online forms and comprehensive information sheets on what we are proposing and the potential impacts of our proposals.</p>
	<p>JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE</p>
11.	<p>I am pleased to inform you that work on the exterior of the new arts complex in Guildhall Square is now complete and the complex has been returned to the council to be fitted out. When it opens late next year, it will feature a 447 seat auditorium, 135 seat studio, screening, rehearsal and workshop spaces, a café and a bar. The complex will play a vital role in boosting the city’s cultural offer and will create 300 new jobs.</p>
12.	<p>It is pleasing to report in a very successful Apprenticeship Award Ceremony held on 2nd November 2015, attended by 192 people including 114 apprentices. We have received positive feedback from a number of apprentices who felt it was good to be recognised. This is so important for the aspiration and opportunities for our residents, particularly young people, and also to underpin the growth and productivity of the City. The event is a great foundation to build on in future years.</p>
13.	<p>Congratulations to the Council’s Legal team who have been shortlisted in the the final three in the Lawyers in Local Government awards for the category ‘Practice Management/Development of Legal Services Professional/Team of the Year’ for their work with interns and apprentices.</p>
14.	<p>The City Deal Youth Programme started in Southampton at the beginning of September. In the last 6 weeks or so the 3 key workers have worked hard to engage and support 30 NEET young people and are already reporting some successes with a very vulnerable group of young people. Two of the key workers are integrated with the Early Help services and one with YOS and Pathways and the teams are working well together to co-ordinate support and provide information and advice to young people and their families. The Family Nurse Partnership has also been key in referring young people and helping young parents to provide for their children. The City Deal Youth Programme is working across Southampton, Portsmouth and the surrounding urban areas and aims to reduce the NEET rate, particularly amongst the more vulnerable cohort, and co-ordinate information and activity for youth employment and training.</p>
	<p>PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION</p>
15.	<p>A range of events have been led by the Council focusing on work with our partners on prevention and early intervention. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful Early Years and Childcare conference was held at the end of September, attended by more than 230 delegates to consider how we can ‘narrow the gap’ in attainment between children from households with

	<p>lower incomes and others in the city, and between boys' and girls' educational achievements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tenth Emotional Literacy Conference, reflecting the importance of children's emotional and mental health led by the Council's Educational Psychologists have held their 10th. A range of events have been held around Southampton aimed at ending the stigma associated with mental health as part of World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2015. These included a park run, theatre and a pop-up village.
16.	<p>We have been encouraging more parents of two-year-olds in Southampton who are eligible for free early education to claim their places at a childminder, preschool or nursery. The offer of free early years' education is open to the most disadvantaged two year olds with the aim of supporting them to be nursery and school-ready. The places give children the chance to make friends their own age and take part in play-based activities that they may not be able to do at home.</p>
	<p>PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE</p>
17.	<p>The Council's Fostering Services are trialling a number of innovative new methods to try and attract new foster carers and reach a wider cross-section of the population. Some of the city's foster carers have supported these events, attending and talking to prospective foster carers about the challenges and rewards of fostering. The most recent of these events was held at Sainsbury's in Shirley on the 2 October 2015. This event was a success, with a number of enquiries received.</p>
18.	<p>The Redbridge and Lordshill Primary Federation has been selected to become a Stonewall Training Partner, promoting equality in schools and tackling bullying. The school cluster will be the only training partner within a 40 mile radius, with Fairisle Junior School and Oakwood Primary leading the way. This is a project supported by the Department for Education and funded by the Government Equalities Office which allows the schools to deliver equalities training to other schools in Southampton and beyond. They will be offering 'Train the Trainer' courses, so that schools can share this vital training to all staff.</p>
19.	<p>In light of the Syrian refugee crisis, I am proud that as a city we have agreed to receive 25 refugee families into the city over the five year period. We are working with local statutory, voluntary, community and faith organisations to ensure that those who arrive are welcomed into the city and supported as they seek to build a new life here in the coming months. We have made it clear that our offer is on the understanding that any additional expenditure will be covered by government funding.</p>
20.	<p>The new enhanced Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) early intervention and prevention service began on 1 November 2015 with implementation phased in over the period to August 2016 when it will be fully resourced. The contract was awarded to Southampton Rape crisis (SRC) as lead for a partnership of current providers of services locally. The main focus of the new service is to prioritise support, early intervention and prevention for families in the community to prevent escalation of need and to support them to stay in their homes. Something families have said they prefer where feasible and which will support new legislation to remove perpetrators from their homes for up to 28 days.</p>
	<p>GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p>

21.	<p>Council residents of 1,500 homes at Thornhill, Shirley Towers, Milner Court, Albion Towers and Sturminster House are receiving £27m in energy-saving improvements, with work having started in October. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New windows • New heating – tenant controlled • External wall insulation • New roofs • Coloured rendering <p>The improvements are part of a scheme being delivered in partnership with Southampton City Council and British Gas, under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO), which obliges larger suppliers to deliver energy efficiency measures to domestic premises in Britain. Residents of International Way, Weston, recently received similar energy-saving improvements in more than 500 homes.</p>
22.	<p>The Council has provided tenants with advice on how to reduce condensation and its impact. We have also signposted them to the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service website to help prevent fires in the home, particularly with regard to having an open fire.</p>
23.	<p>On 20 October 2015, Cabinet approved the Ethelburt Avenue Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan which replaces the original Design Guide published in 1993. This Plan was developed following extensive consultation and is designed to ensure that residents within this conservation area have a clear set of guidelines and policies that will enable them to plan future changes in a manner consistent with the significance of the area. A key element of this was agreeing how changes to windows could be enabled which would be both cost-effective and environmentally friendly for the home-owners, and in keeping with the design of the buildings.</p>
24.	<p>The Environment Centre in partnership with Southampton City Council and Southampton City CCG has just won a British Gas Energy Trust Bid worth £500K. A range of interventions will be offered with the aim of reducing the impact of living in cold homes particularly for those on low incomes and with chronic health conditions.</p>
	<p>SERVICES FOR ALL</p>
25.	<p>On 20 October 2015, Cabinet approved the Policy and Strategy documents which form part of the revised Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP). This will ensure the Council adopts an effective methodology for maintaining highways assets, and that most cost effective service is provided. The Government, through the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme, has decided that 10% of the future annual maintenance allocation of the Local Transport Plan will be issued through an Incentive Fund. In order to achieve the highest allocation through the fund, it is necessary to have in place a comprehensive HAMP and be able to demonstrate that it is at the heart of spending decisions and influences how the council approaches the management of assets.</p>
26.	<p>The council is continuing to encourage residents to recycle more. Recently a new advertising campaign has been launched regarding home composting bins and the 'Green Johanna' food composter, both available at less than half price, for residents.</p>
	<p>CITY PRIDE</p>

27.	The Southampton Cenotaph designed by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens was originally unveiled on 6 November 1920, and was later updated to commemorate servicemen and women who lost their lives in other conflicts. More recently the names were becoming illegible so were transferred to glass panels to make them more accessible. The Cenotaph was first listed in 1981 as Grade II (two), then upgraded to II* (two star). It has now (28 Oct 2015) been upgraded again by Historic England to Grade 1 (one). The listing includes the new glass panels.
28.	<p>It has continued to be a successful couple of months for events in Southampton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 18 September 2015, the Art Gallery opened a major new exhibition by artist Ben Johnson. 'Spirit of Place' has attracted considerable interest, and has featured on BBC Radio 4. • The Southampton Boat Show ran between 11 – 20 September and more than 100,000 visitors attended the annual maritime event. It remains the largest on-water boat show in Northern Europe. • An annual fireworks display was held on 7 November in Mayflower Park and was arranged by the Round Table. • The annual Remembrance Service was held on 8 November at the Cenotaph and Guildhall Square. • There were also a range of arts-based events which the council supported, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Music in the City which was held on 3 and 4 October 2015. This annual music event specialises in music in unusual places and attracted an estimated 15,000 people to various venues across the city centre. ○ Southampton also held its first festival of words, SO: TO SPEAK, between 23 October and 1 November 2015. This took place in venues across the city, attracting local writers and comprising a range of literary events. ○ Black History Month was also a significant success, with a wide range of events being held, including theatre, music, cinema and exhibitions.
29.	A number of charitable events took place, including Seven Weeks of Worship, a series of events held in Guildhall Square and the city's parks which included the creative arts, during which local residents have collaborated with schools, colleges and universities to raise hope, awareness and funds for 30 countries that have been traumatised by persecution, hostility and injustice through the work of 'Release International'. Another new event, Run for Chocolate, will be held on 14 November 2015. This will take place on Southampton Common, with runners celebrating fitness and wellbeing being rewarded with chocolate.
30.	An online resource library aimed at small community groups has been developed, and is hosted on the council's website. It comprises 'how to' guides, templates and policies to help them improve their experience of getting involved in their local community.
	A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL
31.	A report on the General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 will be presented to Cabinet on 18 November 2015 for decision. The report will summarise the current budget position and outline the initial draft budget and proposals for 2016/17, which will be used as the basis for consultation over the coming months. The results of the consultation exercise will be reported alongside the final proposals to Cabinet on 9

	February 2016 and recommended to Council on 10 February 2016.
32.	Considerable work has been underway on transformation and this work is reflected in the budget report to Cabinet. Work has focused on key themes including making it easier for our customers and employees to access services and work using digital technology, reducing duplication and improving efficiency, ensuring we recover the full cost of some of the services we provide and changes to how we work and operate as a Council.
33.	As part of the wider digital work, Council tenants can now view their rent accounts online, making it easier for them to access their balance at their convenience. The Council will no longer be issuing paper statements. Residents have been informed of this change and will receive their final paper statement in January 2016. The Council will ensure help is available to support residents to access this.
34.	On 24 September 2015, the Sports Centre Improvement Plan consultation went live. The document outlines a range of ambitious options for improving Southampton Sports Centre through investment from a range of partners. The Council has previously engaged with residents who live close to the Sports Centre, sports clubs and organisations that use the facility and The Friends of Southampton Sports Centre (FOSSC) over a lengthy period of time and is now keen to present the results of that process to a wider audience in order to conclude the process. The consultation concludes on 18 th December 2015.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

28.	N/A
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Property/Other

29.	N/A
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LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

30.	As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.
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Other Legal Implications:

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

31.	Council Plan 2014-2017
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KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. None

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. None

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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Privacy Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment 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	