

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 JULY 2013		
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 Council meeting on 15th May 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

2. Not applicable

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

INTRODUCTION

3. The agenda for this Full Council meeting includes consideration of the draft Council Plan 2013-16 which has the following priorities:
 - Promoting Southampton and attracting investment
 - Raising ambitions and improving outcomes for children and young people
 - Improving health and keeping people safe
 - Helping individuals and communities to work together and help themselves
 - Encouraging new house building and improving existing homes
 - Making the City more attractive and sustainable
 - Developing and engaged, skilled and motivated workforce
 - Implementing better ways of working to manage reduced budgets and increased demand

Therefore, my report highlights the contribution of different Portfolios towards these priorities since the last Council meeting in May 2013.

4. I would like to highlight the following work since the last report:
- Recruitment of new Chief Executive: The external advertisements for the recruitment of the new Chief Executive were placed in late spring and interviews took place on 24th/25th June 2013. The recommendation from the Chief Officer Employment Panel is contained in a separate report on this agenda.
 - We have been working on a number of strands relating to our City Deal bid in preparation for our presentation to government ministers on 17th July.
 - I would like to highlight a correction to my previous report which stated that we have been successful in securing £3.5m from the Regional Growth Fund for the Redbridge Roundabout for the creation of a priority access corridor for strategic traffic exiting the City on to the M271. This was an editing error as the outcome is expected in August this year and we are hopeful of securing this funding.
 - The City has benefited from the following successful bids which have all brought more money into the City:
 - Staff at St Marys School and in Housing services have worked with St Marys Tenants and Residents Association and the Saints Foundation to secure £140,000 funding for a multi-use games area for the children and community of Golden Grove.
 - Our application to the PUSH Joint Committee for £86,000 for the public realm scheme project at the Southampton Station Quarter.
 - £50,000 from Sport England towards a £175K project at Lordshill Recreation Ground to improve the drainage.

PROMOTING SOUTHAMPTON AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

5. The Interim Chief Executive and I attended a successful event hosted by CBRE in London at which we showcased the wealth of investment and development opportunities available in Southampton. We presented to around 100 prospective investors, developers and occupiers and showed why Southampton is THE place to be on the south coast. The event enabled us to create a number of new contacts who are looking to invest and can help us realise our City Centre Master Plan vision.
6. The Council is keen to see poor quality office accommodation that is at the end of its life be used for alternative uses. As an example of this, planning permission has been granted for Portcullis House, Platform Road to provide 36 self-contained students flats.
7. SNAC – the Council has approved additional resources to ensure that the project goes ahead. Approval for the sale of the upper floors above the Frog and Parrot next door will provide a complementary space to SNAC. This will be through providing a refurbished upper floor space above the Frog & Parrot pub to provide at least 2,500 square metres of creative industry orientated innovation space, focussing on arts and digital media, with public access via an arts branded foyer within the currently vacant unit 176 next door.

8. On Sunday 26th May we saw a new development in the City centre - the Antiques and Collectables market. There was a marked increase in the footfall in the City Centre for a Sunday and will be a monthly feature until November. If this proves to be successful, the markets could become a permanent feature.
9. Cabinet approved that additional funding to be added to the Environment and Transport capital programme relating to:
 - The award of £2,470,000 of Local Pinch Point funding from the Department for Transport (DfT)
 - £410,000 funded from the 2015/16 Itchen Bridge Maintenance Fund (Revenue)
 - £400,000 funded from the 2014/15 Local Transport Plan Government Grant
 - Capital variations totalling £910,000 in 2013/14
 - £4,190,000 on the Bridges to Prosperity scheme with phasing of £1,590,000 in 2013/14, £2,190,000 in 2014/15, and £410,000 in 2015/16.
10. Another significant milestone was reached in progressing the City's cultural quarter ambitions when Cabinet gave delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Economy, after consultation with the Chief Financial Officer, to spend up to the overall new scheme value, and to enter into any documentation necessary to enable the Southampton New Arts Complex Scheme to proceed.
11. Officers from Planning, Transport, and Economic Development met representatives from the Marine Management Organisation, Environment Agency, and Natural England to agree a pilot approach to regulation which will trial a new way of working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This is a real coup for Southampton and will allow us to work closely with central government to deliver the Royal Pier scheme in particular.

RAISING AMBITIONS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

12. I would like to congratulate the following schools on their successful outcomes from recent OfSTED inspections:
 - Mansbridge Primary School and Maytree Nursery and Infants' School which were both judged as 'good' in their recent OfSTED inspections.
 - The Community Learning Service was inspected by OfSTED in May this year and was awarded a judgement of 'good', an improvement on the 'satisfactory' grading achieved some three years ago. The Council commissions a wide range of local organisations and therefore the credit for this is shared with our partners.
13. Cabinet noted and accepted the risks in relation to the conversion of the City's three PFI schools (Cantell Maths and Computing College, Redbridge Community School and Woodlands Community College) to academy status.

14. In relation to Primary school development, Cabinet considered the outcome of statutory consultation and approved the implementation of published proposals to discontinue:
 - Bitterne Park Infant and extend the age range of Bitterne Park Junior, to establish a primary school from the 1 September 2013
 - Tanners Brook Junior and extend the age range of Tanners Brook Infant, to establish a primary school from the 1 September 2013
 - Oakwood Infant and extend the age range of Oakwood Junior, to establish a primary school from the 1 January 2014.
 - Heathfield Junior and extend the age range of Valentine Infant, to establish a primary school from the 1 January 2014.
15. In relation to Primary school development, Cabinet also considered the outcome of statutory consultation and approved modification to the published proposals to:
 - Discontinue St Monica Junior and extend the age range of St Monica Infant, to establish a primary school from the 1 January 2014. The modification will have the effect of changing the implementation date from 1 January 2014 as originally published above to an implementation date of 1 April 2014 as requested by the Governing Body of each school.
 - The modified proposal is to discontinue St Monica Junior and extend the age range of St Monica Infant, to establish a primary school from the 1 April 2014.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

16. We were invited to make a presentation at the Department of Health last week on the Liverpool Care Pathway review to Dame Julia Neuberger and Lord Guthrie and others. This is to increase improve understanding of the role of safeguarding in those cases where poor end of life care practice is found and to improve End of Life Care in nursing homes and specifically for people with dementia.
17. The Council's Housing Services currently provide monitoring of the personal alarm system in all of Portsmouth City Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes through a contract agreement. This contract has been in place since 1999 and is currently, after agreement from all of Portsmouth City Council's Sheltered Housing Schemes through a contract agreement. The contract has been in place since 1999 and is currently, after agreement from both parties, being updated as part of normal contract and business arrangements. Therefore Cabinet approved a time limited extension to the existing service with Portsmouth City Council for the provision of telecare alarm monitoring services, for the maximum period May 2013 to March 2015. .

HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP THEMSELVES

18. I was immensely privileged to sign the covenant to build on support for the armed forces today on behalf of the people of Southampton. As a Council we are committed to doing all we can to support those that have served in our armed forces both past and present. On Monday 24 June, Southampton City Council consolidated its support for serving military and veteran communities by signing the 'community covenant' was signed with

representatives from the armed forces at the Civic Centre in Southampton followed by the annual flag raising ceremony. Very appropriately, this was timed at the start of Armed Forces Week which culminated with Armed Forces Day on Saturday 29 June.

19. This was an opportunity for us to publically thank those who continue to put themselves in danger to protect the free and democratic society that we Britain's are able to enjoy today. The Council has produced an action plan to support this pledge of support which outlines how organisations in the City will work together to ensure the armed forces community is supported to integrate into civilian life and able to access the same services as all other residents in Southampton. Cllr Derek Burke is the City's first armed forces champion to ensure that the Council stands by this commitment.
20. We were one of 100 local authorities targeted by the Big Lottery fund as one of the geographical areas to be considered for funding through "Fulfilling lives: Ageing Better" and have submitted an expression of interest following consultation with a range of stakeholders. We have detailed our approach to supporting older people at risk of social isolation and await to see if we will be selected, initially to the shortlist of 30 areas to go ahead to the next stage.
21. Cabinet agreed the establishment of an independent, time-limited Fairness Commission to consider issues of fairness and equality in Southampton and nominated Cllr Darren Paffey as the Council's representative and vice chair of the Commission. A Fairness Commission is group or body of senior influencers, often independently chaired which explores and recommends ways to increase fairness and reduce inequality for residents. The commitment to establish a Fairness Commission for Southampton was included in the 'Southampton Transition Plan: The first 100 days (May 16th 2012- August 2012). Cabinet have also delegated authority to officers to undertake detailed work on the issues and impacts of introduction of a Living Wage will inform further work within the Council.
22. Cabinet approved the Community Asset Transfer Strategy and delegated authority to officers to progress applications for community asset transfers so that they can be presented for Cabinet consideration. The implementation will be on a phased basis, starting with a pilot programme focused on and community buildings. The Council expects a proactive community asset transfer programme to help retain valued local provision, support community empowerment and capacity building through the use of local skills, experience and knowledge. Decisions will be made by Cabinet on a case by case basis and will need to demonstrate financial viability, long term sustainability and external investment.
23. The drivers are the Localism Act, the Council's financial position, commitment to support community development and speculative interest from organisations. Community Asset Transfer is one of the three priorities for the Council's Change Programme. Community, voluntary and faith organisations in the City have owned or managed buildings and land for many years. In Southampton this includes buildings owned by the Council and leased or licensed to local organisations. As part of its transformation agenda, the Council is committed to extending this much further through a proactive work programme on Community Asset Transfer (CAT) over the

next five years.

24. We have been chosen to be a pilot area for the Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) project which will give us an opportunity to influence national policy. This pilot aims to bring together investigators from the Department of Work and Pensions, Her Majesty's Revenues and Customs and Local Authorities in preparation for Universal Credit. Our Capita colleagues will be working on this project on our and will play a key role in the development of the SFIS project and help provide valuable lessons that can be used to inform the national rollout.
25. One of the key policy changes that will have a significant impact on many residents is Welfare Reforms. Cabinet were very pleased to consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee's report on the Welfare Reforms Inquiry and approved all the recommendations. Cabinet also agreed to allocate £128,800 from the General Fund Revenue Budget to provide additional resources to enable full implementation of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel A.

ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVING EXISTING HOMES

26. The Council has continued to make progress on stalled sites for residential development. Planning permission has been granted at 165 St Marys Street and Former Chantry Hall Site for the redevelopment of a site for 3-6 storey building with 59 flats (by local builders Drew Smith). This site on a prominent corner of St Marys has been vacant for a number of years.
27. Estate regeneration - A planning application has been submitted for the Weston Estate Regeneration project. The Hinkler Parade redevelopment will be formally opened on 2nd July 2013. Hants Fire Service USAR team did some training at the Exford Avenue Shopping Parade site on 5 June 2013 and again on 19 June 2013. Crews from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Hampshire Ambulance Rescue Team tackled an emergency scenario.

MAKING THE CITY MORE ATTRACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

28. Cabinet considered and approved the following which will contribute to improving local neighbourhoods:
 - Implement a recycling reward scheme for houses in phase 1 and a reward scheme for flats in phase 2.
 - Provide on street resident permit parking within the City Centre to allow occupiers of City Centre developments approved since 2001, the entitlement to on street resident permit schemes
 - Transfer of £429,000 from the unapproved Future Decent Neighbourhoods scheme to a new Estate Parking Improvements scheme within the Well Maintained Communal Facilities section of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme
 - Dispose of part of 164-176 Above Bar Street to the recommended bidder
 - Accept a grant of £472,000 from Defra through the Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder Scheme to deliver the flood risk management project in St. Denys.

29. The Council offered residents an exclusive discount on compost bins and food digesters as part of our commitment to reducing the City' s carbon footprint and the amount that goes to landfill.

DEVELOPING AND ENGAGED, SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

30. As at the beginning of June 33 people have successfully been redeployed as a result of introducing the STEP programme. Up to 75 people could still unfortunately be made redundant as a result of the 13/14 budget but only 3 to date have been compulsory.
31. We continue to make progress with our Trade Union relationships. We have resolved the dispute over Terms & Conditions and all parties have now signed the Collective Agreement. We are also holding informal discussions on whether we need to future proof ourselves against equal pay claims and how we might introduce greater fairness in reward including the introduction of the Living Wage.

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

32. We started the journey to radically improve safeguarding services with the assistance of additional capacity from external consultants in the latter part of 2012/13. This created an appetite for change and I am pleased to inform you that the new Director of People has maintained the momentum in driving the redesign of services to achieve long term improvements. An Implementation Board has been established, chaired by the Director to finalise and roll out the Implementation Plan. A Programme Manager has been appointed and additional project management capacity is currently being identified. The Interim Chief Executive had established arrangements for close oversight of Children's Safeguarding services to give it "intensive care". This is now being strengthened with the arrival of a new interim Head of Safeguarding until the position is filled on a permanent basis.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

33. N/A

Property/Other

34. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

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

Other Legal Implications:

36. N/A

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

37. N/A

KEY DECISION? N/A

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	N/A
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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.	Yes/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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