

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS IN THE FIRST 100 DAYS
DATE OF DECISION:	21 AUGUST 2012
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY:	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY:

This report summarises the work that has been undertaken in the first 100 days in response to the priorities of the new administration. It also sets a backdrop to the revised Council Plan 2012-16 to be considered by the council in November 2012. This will reflect the council's strategic direction of travel.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To note the report
- (ii) To agree that a revised council plan will be presented to Cabinet on 16th October 2012 and to the full council meeting in November 2012 for consideration.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The new administration has signalled a change in priorities and in the interests of transparency, the Leader and Cabinet want to report back on the work undertaken in the first 100 days.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED:

- 2. None

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out):

- 3. This report summarises the priority actions that have been pursued by the new administration in its first 100 days. These have been progressed through seven working groups comprising councillors and officers and chaired by the relevant Cabinet Members. This approach has enabled the administration to gain insight into a number of key issues with a view to making informed decisions. The details of the activities undertaken by the 7 working groups are included in Appendix 1. Initial work in key areas also enabled the Cabinet to take decisions to make modest additional investment at their meeting in July 2012. It is important to highlight that in some cases, the work undertaken by the working groups has been of a cross cutting nature so that the lead for a particular service area may fall within one Portfolio but the work has been undertaken by another working group. For example, while the lead for skills falls within the Communities Portfolio, the discussions about apprenticeships have taken place within the Children's working group.

4. The 6 main cross Portfolio areas of achievements to highlight in the first 100 days are:
- a) Supporting residents and enabling them to voice their views on local issues:
 - Approval to draw down government funding for developing a local programme to support families with complex problems and launching the local *Families Matter* programme
 - Full Council agreed a motion put forward in July on a “Referendum” which will be progressed as soon as reasonably practicable on the basis of legal advice. A copy of the letter sent to the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government is attached as Appendix 2.
 - b) Improving the environment:
 - Development of a programme of 12 – 16 StreetCREDs (Crime and Environment Days) to tackle ASB, HMOs and environment related issues in neighbourhoods
 - Reviewing options to increase recycling, deliver waste collection and disposal savings, car parking policies.
 - c) Affordable housing:
 - Pursuing options to increase the number of affordable homes being developed in the city so that we can achieve, on average, one affordable home per day.
 - d) Innovative partnership approaches:
 - Appointment of a Chief Scientific Adviser with the University of Southampton
 - Developing a partnership approach with other front runners for our future energy policies and strategy.
 - e) Skills, employment and enterprise opportunities:
 - Development of a project plan for a 'dragons den' style initiative to offer spare capacity to young business people and identification of 24 full apprenticeship placement opportunities across the Council
 - Youth Contracts: targeted work placement opportunity for 100 unemployed 16/17 year olds in the City. These placements are supported via Wheatsheaf Trust and City Limits and by the establishment of a 6 week 'hit squad' to achieve the target
 - Pre-apprenticeship funding through a match bid of £35k to support 70 young people to access a pre apprenticeship course to provide young people with the necessary skill/support/confidence to apply for an apprenticeship
 - Agreement for 2012/13 scheme has been reached with bus companies, colleges and the council to support reduced bus fares for any 16-19 year old attending a Southampton college, and free of charge to those who qualify for a bursary. This subsidised bus transport for 16-19 year olds attending Southampton colleges will help offset the loss of Educational Maintenance Allowance.

f) Developing a motivated workforce:

- Southampton model to retain and retrain staff - the Southampton Transition to Employment Programme (STEP) will be considered by the Cabinet and Council in September 2012
- Constructive discussions with the Unions on resolution of the dispute which started in 2011

Further streamlining of the council's structures with a view to reducing costs – resulting in the new Environment and Economy Directorate.

5. The current Council Plan covers the period 2011 – 2014 and as we want to set the direction of travel for the next three years, this plan is currently being redrafted to cover the period up to 2016. It is due to be considered by the full council at its meeting in November 2012.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue:

6. None

Property/Other:

7. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

8. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (General Power of Competence) together with the Local Government Act 2000 to the extent that it defines the powers, functions and duties of a Local Authority Executive.

Other Legal Implications:

9. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS:

10. None

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line

Appendices:

1.	Report back from the working groups
2.	Letter to the Minister of State for Housing and Local Government

Documents In Members' Rooms:

1.	None
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Integrated Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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Other Background Documents

Integrated 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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