

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	15 <sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013		
<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 on 20<sup>th</sup> March 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 last report outlined the Cabinet's commitment for the Council to work as ONE Council and indicated that future reports to Council on Executive Business will highlight the contribution of different Portfolios towards:
  - Promoting Southampton and attracting inward investment
  - Inspiring our citizens and bringing together all parts of our community
  - Tackling inequalities and protecting vulnerable people
  - Raising aspirations and outcomes for our young people
  - Encouraging new house building and improvements in existing housing stock
  - Ensuring effective and efficient management of the Council's resources.
4. The most significant milestone for the Council since the last report has been the assumption of public health responsibilities by the Council from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. One of the first decisions of the Cabinet was to approve the Southampton Joint Health and Well being Strategy 2013-16, detailed later in this report. This Strategy now provides the overarching framework for action and delivering change. Delivering the results needed to meet challenges identified in the strategy will require commitment not only from the Council and the CCG, but also from NHS provider trusts, social care providers, and the host of voluntary organisations who operate in the City.

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

5. Cabinet approval was given for the following which set out a vision for city centre development:
  - The City Centre Action Plan (Proposed Submission) and the City Centre Master Plan. The City Centre Action Plan sets out a strategy for how the city centre will evolve as a place. It will form part of the development plan and allocates a wide range of sites for development.
  - The City Centre Master Plan has a longer term horizon, setting out a visualisation of the approach and includes a more detailed design strategy.
  - The Core Strategy Partial Review which incorporates the “presumption in favour of sustainable development” set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and reducing the target for office development (2006 – 2026) from 322,000 sq m to 110,000 sq m and for retail development from 130,000 sq m to 100,000 sq m to reflect the effects of the recession, of changing office working practices, and internet retailing.
6. Progress continues to be made on city development and of particular note in this period are:
  - The planning application was received for Watermark West Quay on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and is currently subject to public consultation
  - Contracts have been signed for
    - Centenary Quay – between Crest Nicholson with the HCA, Radian Housing and Spectrum Housing to enable Phase 3 of Centenary Quay to take place. This will include 329 residential units, a supermarket, cafes, restaurants and a public plaza creating an attractive leisure and amenity area and continuing to regenerate the area for all to enjoy.
    - Centenary Quay Marine Employment Quarter – between the developer and the HCA to facilitate this employment site. A revised planning application is expected to come forward shortly.
7. In support of the Council’s travel and transport ambitions, we are constantly exploring opportunities for external funding. Successes in securing external funding not only improve infrastructure through additional investment but also bring in opportunities for skills development and jobs for local people. I am pleased to report that we have been successful in securing the following:
  - Department for Transport Cycle Safety Grants funding to improve the roundabout at the Central Bridge/Itchen Bridge Roundabout.
  - £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.
8. In addition we have submitted the following bids for external funding:
  - The Cycle City Ambition Bid – a joint bid is being developed with our City Deal Partners for just under to make improvement to deliver cycle infrastructure improvements in both cities.

- Pinch Point funding for North of Station improvement – a bid has been submitted for over £4m to implement improvements to the public realm and interchange to the area north of Central Station. This is one of the Council's City Streets Improvements.
  - Pinch point funding for Bridges to Prosperity - Financial clearance to accept the £2.47m grant is planned at this Council. Meanwhile officers are preparing to commence the design and delivery dates are being arranged to carry out the works over the next two years.
9. Progress on road improvements included:
- Issuing of the annual instruction to Balfour Beatty to carry out the road surfacing programme for this financial year with £4.582m of planned expenditure on surfacing roads and footways in the City and other highways related works.
  - Continuing work on road surfacing on Redbridge Roundabout, which is due to be completed in early May. This £2m scheme will see all the circulatory carriageway and three slip roads on the busiest junction in the City resurfaced. The contractor has carried out most works at weekends and in the evenings to reduce congestion and delays as far as possible.
  - Starting on site of the £12,348,800m Platform to Prosperity Scheme with utility companies moving their services in readiness for the main contract to start in June 2013.

#### **INSPIRING OUR CITIZENS AND BRINGING TOGETHER ALL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY**

10. The Council's Fostering Service has been working with the City's faith groups on recruitment of new foster carers and has supported the faith groups' campaign 'Families for Forty'. This was launched on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013 with the aim of recruiting 40 new foster carers. This provides an opportunity for the City Council's Fostering Service to work closely with some of the City's faith groups to raise the profile of fostering and awareness of the shortage of carers.
11. The refurbishment of Woolston Community Centre was completed during the last three months and the official opening of the building took place at the end of February. The building was considerably extended for use by people with learning disabilities who jointly manage the building with the Community Association. This joint approach to community provision, which will also offer a community café, replicates the approach taken in Freemantle and St. Denys. These centres have each been shown to bring very positive benefits by increasing understanding the needs of people with learning disabilities and supporting service users to contribute to their local communities.

#### **TACKLING INEQUALITIES AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

12. Southampton Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16 was approved by Cabinet following an extensive consultation exercise in the summer and autumn of 2012 to generate a city-wide discussion on what the most important issues were. The strategy is structured around three themes:
- Building resilience and prevention to achieve better health and wellbeing
  - Best start in life
  - Ageing and living well

Each theme has a number of actions identified to deliver improvements to health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. Measures have been identified, mainly from the national outcomes frameworks, against which progress will be tracked.

13. Cabinet approved changes to the Non Residential Care (NRC) contributions policy for adult social care following consideration of details of further consultation undertaken, the response to the consultation and the response to the recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 19 February 2013.
14. The Council has been actively engaged in responding to the impact of the Welfare Reforms and as part of this work, published a magazine for tenants, residents and front line services affected by the changes to benefits from April 2013. It provides useful information about the changes and advice on how to deal with the impacts and has received very positive feedback.
15. The new Families Matter project is now underway, in partnership with a number of services and organisations. This new and innovative delivery model seeks to provide intensive whole family support to help families to turn around their lives. It aims to help at least 685 families by April 2015. The focus is on reducing youth offending and anti-social behaviour, school absence and costs to the public purse. I am extremely pleased that we now have in place 33.5 family workers posts (full time equivalent) based in 11 services and 6 agencies in the City. Almost half of the families supported by the project are known to social care and 78% have poor school attendance.
16. The Council worked with Barnardos to submit an application for Fulfilling Lives: A Better Start and has been selected to go through to the second stage of the application process. This is a major programme and if successful, could bring inward investment in the region of £30m over ten years.

#### **RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND OUTCOMES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

17. Since the last reports, we have approved the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for academic year 2014/15 and agreed the implementation of the proposed special schools, units and pupil referral unit funding formulas for 2013/14.
18. The annual Junior Warden and Junior Leader awards were held to recognise the outstanding contribution of young people in the City. This year represented the highest standard in the years since the awards started. The scheme continues to promote young people making a positive contribution to the City as well as setting them on a path to a positive future.
19. This year over 93% of parents applied for a school place online, the highest percentage to date. More parents got their first preference school as a direct result of the increase in school places put in place through the primary review:
  - 86.2% of children entering Reception (Year R) in September 2013 ( compared to 82.1% in September 2012)
  - 97.6% of children transferring from Infant to Junior school in September 2013 got their first preference (compared to 97.2% in 2012).

20. Cabinet approved statutory consultation on proposals to merge infant and junior schools, covering ten schools. This was to support the primary education sector and ensure all children have access to excellent education.
21. Performance of children's centres and schools continues to improve:
  - Now 75% of the schools in the city are good or outstanding. This is a record achievement.
  - Of the 24 schools inspected at the end of the spring term in March 2013:
    - 11 schools were graded better than in their previous inspection; 9 remained the same and in 4 schools, performance had regressed.
  - Swaythling Children's Centre's has been recognised by Ofsted as Outstanding.
  - Fewer young people aged 16-18 year olds in the City are unemployed, 6.1%, (386 young people) March 2013, making Southampton the third highest performing authorities in our group of statistical neighbours. This is due to the long term NEET strategy, developed three years ago which continues to yield results.

#### **ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS IN EXISTING HOUSING STOCK**

22. The Cabinet approved, subject to obtaining the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) capital grant, to completely rebuild a supported housing scheme for people over the age of 55 at Erskine Court, Sutherland Road, Lordshill. The rebuild of this as an extra care housing scheme will contribute to the Council's strategic housing objectives by providing new affordable housing, including the Council's wider public health and adult social care priorities around the provision of housing and care for older people.
23. A stalled site at 165 St. Marys Street and Former Chantry Hall Site is being taken forward for development by Drew Smith. A planning application has been made for the redevelopment of site for 3-6 storey building with 59 flats and is expected to contribute to the continued regeneration of the area.
24. Work has been completed to significantly improve the energy performance of 4 of the 5 towers to International Way. This work has received significant funding through the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) and has resulted in a 10 fold increase in thermal efficiency of the buildings as well as new efficient heating systems for the residents. This work will make significant steps to alleviating fuel poverty for many of the City's residents. Work is well underway on the 5<sup>th</sup> Tower for completion in the summer.

#### **ENSURING EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S RESOURCES**

25. Cabinet agreed to initiate a procurement process to set up a Sustainable Distribution Centre (SDC) for the benefit of organisations in and around Southampton including the City Council. An SDC is the next generation of consolidation centre offering services to intercept HGVs servicing city centre locations and consolidate the loads which results in a reduce number of

HGVs entering the City's road network. In some cases this has resulted in 75% less HGV traffic entering the City. The SDC will also provide short term and long term storage warehousing to its customers. There are many efficiency and environmental benefits to the SDC but at present market forces mean that it may not run commercially until a critical mass of users is established. The Cabinet agreed to procure an SDC on behalf of the wider Southampton City Region and a mechanism to subsidise the first few years of operation, using funding already secured as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) bid in order to kick start the process and generate that critical mass.

26. The Council approved capital investment to increase the number of early years places available in the City for disadvantaged two year olds.
27. Cabinet approved proposals to provide much needed temporary accommodation for homeless people through conversion of the ground floor of Oatlands House in Shirley and the former Children's Referral Unit in Selborne Avenue, Harefield. This would provide temporary accommodation for short term lets in the east of the City as currently there are no such properties in the east of the City. Cabinet approved expenditure in financial year 2013/14 of £1,270,000 (including fees) on the Homeless Temporary Accommodation scheme.
28. Cabinet approved the next steps in the Accommodation Strategy for Civic Buildings – to implement measures necessary to vacate Marland House. These include the use of flexible and mobile working, the potential conversion into offices of some spaces in the Civic Centre and renewal of the lease of 45 Castle Way on a more flexible shorter term. Cabinet approval included the addition of up to £1.2M, if required, to the Resources Capital programm;, phased £1M in 2013/14 and £200k in 2014/15 to ensure that any capital conversion works can be completed as necessary.
29. Since the last report, the Council has secured £472,000 of additional funding under DEFRA's Flood Resilience Community Pathfinder programme for a flood risk management project in St. Denys to improve household and community flood resilience.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

30. None

### **Property/Other**

31. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

32. None

### **Other Legal Implications:**

33. None

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

34. N/A

**KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	N/A
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

	N/A
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

	N/A
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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.	N/A	
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