

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2008		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None

**SUMMARY**

This report outlines the executive decisions made between the 26<sup>th</sup> November and the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008. For ease of reference these decisions have been summarised under six themes and the titles of individual reports are highlighted in bold.

In addition the report provides an update on Traffic Regulation Order objections referred to the executive since the last executive business report was presented to Council in November as well as key partnership activities within the city and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the report be noted.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

**CONSULTATION**

Appropriate consultation has taken place on each of the decision items summarised in this report.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Not applicable.

**DETAIL****1. DEVELOPING THE CITY AND LOCAL ECONOMY**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the Cabinet approved the Heads of Terms for the **PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE FORMER GANTRY SITE** and delegated authority to the Head of City Development and Economy to finalise the terms of disposal which will secure the regeneration of the combined former Gantry Theatre, Mr Exhaust and Magistrates Court car park site.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 Cabinet considered a report on the **WEST QUAY 3 CENTRAL AND WESTERN SITES** and approved capital expenditure of £335,000 on professional fees to secure the development of these sites. In

addition, the Leader of the Council gave **APPROVAL FOR THE HEADS OF TERMS FOR THE WEST QUAY CENTRAL SITE** to facilitate the redevelopment of this site with delegated authority being given to the Head of City Development and Economy to finalise the terms of disposal. The Solicitor to the Council was also given delegated authority to enter into all legal documentation necessary to secure the redevelopment and disposal of this site, to consult on the closure of the Albion Place and Castleway car parks and to amend the present parking arrangement at the Quays north and south car parks.

## 2. **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES AND ENSURING COMMUNITY SAFETY**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November the Cabinet noted the report on **COURT LEET PRESENTMENTS** and agreed that each Cabinet Member would ensure that responses were sent to the individuals making presentments in their areas as soon as possible.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December Cabinet considered the **THORNHILL PLUS YOU DELIVERY PLAN 2007/11** and agreed as the Accountable Body for the New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme to receive funding that will support the outline Thornhill Plus You Delivery Plans for 2007/8 and 2008/11. Cabinet also noted that it would receive further detailed reports as required to progress the delivery of Council sponsored projects within the Plans.

In addition on the 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration considered the **SUCCESSION STRATEGY – THORNHILL PLUS YOU** report and resolved that the Executive Director for Communities, Health and Care, after consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, be authorised to undertake all necessary matters to create and fully establish a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee and a Community Interest Company as part of the succession strategy for Thornhill Plus You. Approval was also given for Thornhill Plus You Board Members appointed by the Council to be appointed as Members and Directors of the new companies at the appropriate time, with a further report being brought to Cabinet regarding the proposed transfer of any assets to the above companies together with any implications for staff and all related matters.

## 3. **IMPROVING THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November Cabinet approved the **STREET LIGHTING PFI PROJECT AND THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** and authorised the Solicitor to the Council, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Environment, to agree and sign the Joint Working Agreement with Hampshire and West Sussex County Councils. The Cabinet also noted the progress made in the development of the Street Lighting PFI contract including the approval of a procurement budget of £300,000 and funding for the base case affordability gap of £1.3 million per annum for the duration of the contract term. The Cabinet delegated authority to appropriate officers to make all of the necessary decisions in relation to the procurement and negotiation processes, up to but excluding, the selection of a preferred bidder and the entering into of a contract for the delivery of the project which will be the subject of a further report to Cabinet. In addition Cabinet noted the

intention of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to introduce regulations to ensure that there will be no effect on the charge to the revenue account if PFI schemes become “on balance sheet.”

At an Urgent Business meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> November the Cabinet considered the report of the Chair of the Environment and Transport scrutiny panel concerning the **CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION NO CAB078-11/2007: CONCESSIONARY FARES 2008/09** and resolved to re-affirm it's previous decision taking into account Scrutiny recommendations (i), (ii)(a) and (iii) as well as the views expressed by the Bus User Group .

On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet considered a report on the **OAKMOUNT TRIANGLE CONSERVATION AREA : CHARACTER APPRAISAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD DESIGN STATEMENT** and endorsed the proposed process for adopting a document for consideration based upon the draft Character Appraisal and Design Statement to enable the amended document to be considered by Cabinet and approved for public consultation purposes, with the results of the consultation exercise being reported back to Cabinet.

At the same meeting the Cabinet considered a **PARTNERSHIP WORKING FOR BUILDING CONTROL WITH EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL** report and agreed, subject to certain conditions, that the Council should enter into formal partnership arrangements with Eastleigh Borough Council to deliver a joint Building Control Service with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. This partnership will be for an initial three year period, with the Council acting as the Lead authority in these arrangements for future employment purposes and being subject to the implementation of a single management and staffing structure for the new partnership, with a single Head of Building Control, the use of a single IT and administrative system within twelve months of the partnership being formed, formalised governance arrangements which will enable the officers and members of both authorities to oversee partnership working but not to take decisions on behalf of the other authority and the creation of a common financial agreement whereby costs, income and any savings across the partnership area can be shared to the benefit of the partnership. The Cabinet also agreed not to pursue formal partnership working with Eastleigh Borough Council across the full Environmental Health service but agreed that more specific opportunities for joint working or commissioning should be investigated with a further report being brought to the Executive and/or Council should the final proposed governance arrangements require any changes to the Constitution.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport considered **PROPOSED ENHANCED TRADE WASTE CONTROLS AT CIVIC AMENITY SITES** and approved the introduction of an access permit scheme for Southampton residents who use commercial type vehicles to carry waste to civic amenity sites within Hampshire as a joint initiative between the Southampton, Portsmouth and Hampshire authorities covering 26 sites. Delegated authority was also given to the Head of Waste and Fleet Transport to determine the final arrangements for the permit scheme and to introduce number plate recognition and security cameras at the chapel civic amenity site or any replacement site, if required to support this scheme,

following appropriate consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport and the Solicitor to the Council.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 the Cabinet endorsed the **Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH) Business Plan** following its approval by the TfSH Joint Committee which sets out the proposed activities over the next two years to ensure that the transport network in South Hampshire supports planned economic and residential growth within the sub region.

#### **4. PROMOTING LEARNING AND SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE**

At the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning endorsed the **SCOPE OF THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS REVIEW** and agreed to adopt the draft protocol and principles for the review of primary education in Southampton. The Cabinet Member also agreed to engage stakeholders in the Spring Term of 2008 in the development of a vision for primary education in Southampton over the next decade, making appropriate links with changes already agreed for the secondary phase and enabling a coordinated approach to the development of services for children and young people, their parents and the wider community. This vision will be the subject of a further decision on 31st March 2008 and the Director of Children's Services & Learning was therefore requested to develop a strategy for the Primary Capital Programme in parallel with this vision, so that the city can take full advantage of the first allocation of resources in 2009, which will enable the improvement and replacement of primary school buildings, ensuring it is fully integrated with the secondary "Building Schools for the Future" programme as well as other appropriate regeneration or transformational projects. Agreement was also given to consult with stakeholders on the timescale and scope of a series of area reviews which will be conducted on a rolling basis with the first two reviews taking place in the City Centre/Freemantle and Mason Moor/Newland areas.

On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet considered the **LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL'S CAPITAL GRANT FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING IN DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME** and agreed to add a sum of £70,000 to the Children's Services and Learning Capital programme to enhance learning at the Freemantle and St Denys Community Centres. Approval was also given for this expenditure which will be fully met by the £70,000 grant from the Learning and Skills Council and for the Council to lead and manage the purchase of any required capital equipment working in partnership with local community associations.

At the same meeting Cabinet approved the **PROPOSED RELOCATION OF MULTI USE GAMES AREA FROM GROVE PARK BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE COLLEGE TO BELLEMOOR SCHOOL** and agreed the construction of a new MUGA at Bellemoor School to be funded by the Big Lottery. The Cabinet also noted the position regarding the ownership and liability for the MUGA once it has been constructed.

In addition on 10<sup>th</sup> December, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning gave **AGREEMENT OF THE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2009** and approved the proposed

admission policies, arrangements and numbers for the academic year 2009/10 for statutory consultation. The Cabinet Member also endorsed the proposed schemes for the co-ordination of admissions and the relevant area for consultation which were agreed on 1st October 2007.

5. **IMPROVING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet considered the **CITIES IN BALANCE PROJECT** and accepted a bid of up to £272,200 for ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) grants and to administer the funds for the Cities in Balance INTERREG 1Vb Bid in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, the Partnership Agreement and project bid requirements. The Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Executive Director of Communities Health and Care to sign and enter into the required Partnership Agreement to progress this initiative.

At the same meeting Cabinet considered the **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEGRATED PROVISION AND NON POOLED FUNDS IN RESPECT OF PREVENTION SERVICES** and approved the proposed contractual arrangements for a period of one year between the Council and Southampton University Hospital Trust (SUHT) to enable the Council to act as host partner of a non pooled fund towards the cost of implementing prevention measures to reduce admissions to hospital and to provide earlier community support. In addition the Cabinet approved the contractual arrangements for a period of ten years from 2007/08 between the Council and Southampton University Hospital Trust to act as host partner to provide a non pooled fund to provide care management services in the Accident and Emergency Department of Southampton General Hospital and to act as a host partner to provide a non pooled fund for the appointment of a social worker in the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Team located at the Southampton General Hospital. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care, after consultation with the Executive Member of Health and Adult Care and the Solicitor to the Council, to approve amendments to these partnership arrangements which will facilitate the addition of further community or health related Health Act Flexibilities and / or extend the duration of the partnership arrangements beyond their initial periods and to establish a Partnership Board to manage the arrangements.

On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 Cabinet considered a report on **BEST CONSIDERATION IN RELATION TO OAK LODGE, RESIDENTIAL PROVISION FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS** and resolved to exercise their discretion to sell the asset at less than best consideration in order to facilitate a partnership arrangement through a contract with BUPA to purchase 40 beds for Older People with mental health problems in the city. The Cabinet's decision reflects the unique benefits of this scheme which will bring improvements in terms of quality, local provision, market management and on site day centre provision.

6. **MANAGING THE COUNCIL'S RESOURCES AND IMPROVING PERFORMANCE**

On 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet considered the six month budget monitoring position for 2007/08 set out in **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2007** report and noted the forecast underspend for the year of £382,600. Cabinet also noted that the level of unspent contingencies was £400,000, after allowing for the preparation costs of the council tax discount scheme.

In addition the Cabinet considered the budget monitoring position for 2007/08 set out in the **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2007** and noted the forecast capital underspend of £987,000 in 2007/8 and the overall programme forecast overspend for all schemes of £638,000. Cabinet also noted that action plans are in place to ensure capital expenditure remains within allocated budgets.

Cabinet also considered the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL CAPITAL AND REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2007** report and noted the current HRA capital and revenue budget monitoring position for 2007/08 as at period 6 (September).

In December Cabinet noted the progress made at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2007/8 in relation to **HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYEE MONITORING INFORMATION** and also considered the **2007/08 2ND QUARTER PERFORMANCE OF THE CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**, noting the progress made at the end of September towards the targets set out in the 2007/08 Corporate Improvement Plan and requesting officers to ensure that timely and appropriate reporting arrangements are in place for all of the performance measures within the LAA where the Council is identified as the lead delivery partner.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> December the Cabinet considered a **REVENUE AND CAPITAL VIREMENTS** report and approved a virement of £72,000 from the Children's Services and Learning Portfolio to fund the costs of relocating part of the Children's Services and Learning Directorate to Marlands House. Cabinet also agreed a virement of £225,000 from the former Business Process Review Implementation Costs Budget to the Strategic Partnership Budget in respect of programme support to the Head of Partnership and a virement of £90,000 from the Business Process Review Team Cost and Procurement Cost budgets to the Procuring an SSP budget for additional legal and actuarial in support of the SSP. A virement of £150,000 was also approved from car parking income to fund a programme to complete the Highway repair backlog by the end of the financial year.

Finally in November the Cabinet Member for Resources approved **THE PRINCIPLE AND DETAILED TERMS OF PROPERTY DISPOSALS UNDER THE PROPERTY DISPOSALS PROGRAMME** report and agreed the principle of sale by Auction of the properties set out in Appendix 2 to the report with the auction costs being deducted from the sale proceeds.

## 7. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 the executive received a report on the **REVIEW OF PARKING CHARGES: OBJECTIONS** concerning the proposals to extend the operation times of parking charges within the city centre and the introduction of a new overnight parking charge in multi-storey car parks. Following consideration of the issues raised by the objectors the executive resolved to proceed with the proposals as originally planned.

## 8. **SOUTHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The new **Southampton Partnership Strategy Board**, which replaces the previous Southampton Partnership Executive, held its inaugural meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Comprising of 19 members it will help to ensure partner co-ordination within the city, the delivery of the 2026 Vision, implementation of the Sustainable Community Strategy as well as the development and delivery of the new Local Area Agreement by partners. Membership details and terms of reference for the Board can be found on the SP's website at [www.southampton-partnership.com](http://www.southampton-partnership.com).

The **SP Delivery Board** continues to meet on a monthly basis and has recently agreed an approach for the refresh of the city's **Local Area Agreement** including holding a specific LAA Stakeholder Consultation event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. The Board has commented on the **Executive's draft 2008/9 budget** and considered the impact of both the **Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** and the **DCLG's consultation draft 'Creating Strong, Safe & Prosperous Communities' statutory guidance** on the SP. It has also received updates from the **Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership**, the **Health & Social Wellbeing Partnership** and considered a presentation on **Active Southampton**.

The Southampton-specific **Area Investment Framework (AIF) Programme** ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and is on track to spend all of its £1.8m grant allocation from SEEDA for the current financial year. An independent evaluation of the programme has been commissioned which will start shortly and examine both the process and the impact of the overall 3 year AIF programme.

Following Southampton's successful expression of interest to the South East Progress through Partnership (PtP) Programme to be an **Accountability & Scrutiny Pilot**, South East Employers interviewed a range of stakeholders in December 2007 including all three Group Leaders. The outputs from these interviews will inform the Accountability & Scrutiny Pilot workshops which were advertised by e-mail to all Members on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007. A dedicated Elected Member only workshop will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (1030 to 1300hours) and a joint Elected Members/SP workshop will be held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008 (1030 to 1300hours). Members are encouraged to register for these workshops and further information can be obtained from Henry Pavey, Strategic Partnerships Manager, within the Corporate Policy & Performance Division.

Further information on the SP, its meetings, agendas and reports can be viewed at [www.southampton-partnership.com](http://www.southampton-partnership.com).

## 9. **PUSH DEVELOPMENT**

The first Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) **Joint Committee** meeting took place on 26th November 2007. The next Committee, which comprises the Leaders of all 11 PUSH authorities, will be held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January and one of the key items to be discussed at the meeting will be the draft PUSH Business Plan.

Work on the development of the **PUSH Business Plan** is progressing to ensure that it will draw together the conclusions of the economic development strategy, being developed by DTZ consultants, the emerging Skills Strategy which is which is being produced for PUSH by SQW Consultants, and the outcomes from a facilitated workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> January to examine the sub regional development programme and overall project priorities. The final version of the PUSH Skills Strategy will be presented to the PUSH Joint Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Following the announcement by the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government that PUSH will be one of 13 pilot **Multi Area Agreement (MAA)** areas, meetings have been held with GOSE and the DCLG on 6th November and 17 December to discuss the content and timescales for the production of the PUSH MAA. It is envisaged that the primary focus for the MAA will be economic development and enterprise and it will therefore be largely based on the emerging PUSH Business Plan as well as other key documents such as the **Sub-Regional Housing Strategy** which is being launched at an event on the 16<sup>th</sup> January and can be viewed on the website at [www.push.gov.uk](http://www.push.gov.uk).

**New Growth Point (NGP) allocations** were announced by the DCLG in December. The PUSH allocation comprises £7.5m in 2008/9 with an indicative allocation of £13.9m for 2009-11. Further allocations have been promised following consultation by the DCLG on funding mechanisms as well as an assessment of PUSH's performance in using existing New Growth Point funding. The PUSH allocation was the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest of 29 New Growth Point funding allocations and whilst it has been welcomed by partners the initial allocation falls short of the sums required to secure improvements in infrastructure across the sub region to support planned growth. The MAA which will be negotiated with the DCLG will highlight potential funding sources to support economic and housing growth in the sub region and in addition to potential additional New Growth Point funding allocations, further opportunities will arise through the new Community Infrastructure Fund for transport schemes which the DCLG and DfT will shortly be jointly inviting bids for. In addition discussions are taking place with SEEDA within the context of providing financial support for specific economic development initiatives in the sub region as well as supporting sub-regional partnerships.

## **FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> December covering the period January to April 2008 and will publish its next Plan on the 15<sup>th</sup> January to cover the



period February to May 2008. Details of forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:

<http://sccwww1.southampton.gov.uk/decisionmaking/internet/forwardplanindex.asp>

**FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital**

Not applicable

**Revenue**

Not applicable

**Property**

Not applicable

**Other**

None

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

This report is brought forward in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The powers to undertake the proposals summarised in this report are detailed within the individual decision making reports presented to the executive over the past few months.

**Other Legal Implications:**

Not applicable

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

None

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	None
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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**Background Documents**

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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**Background documents available for inspection at:** Not applicable

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**FORWARD PLAN No:** Not Applicable    **KEY DECISION?**

No

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:**

None directly, since this report is presented for information purposes.

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