

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> MARCH 2008		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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## STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

## SUMMARY

This report outlines the decisions made by the former executive between the 21<sup>st</sup> January and the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008. For ease of reference these decisions have been summarised under seven themes and the titles of individual reports are highlighted in bold. Since the Council meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February, Cabinet is meeting on a monthly basis and the decisions made by the executive on 17<sup>th</sup> March will therefore be reported verbally at the meeting.

This report also provides an update on Traffic Regulation Order objections referred to the executive since the last executive business report was presented to Council in January 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 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet gave in principle approval to establish a **SOUTHAMPTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)** in central Southampton. Support was given for the Council to act as the Billing Authority and for the inclusion of one off 'Invest to Save' funding of £84,000 within the revenue budget to complete the development of the BID. In addition delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive as voting

officer to exercise his discretion and represent the City Council's view in a referendum in relation to any council hereditaments included within the BID and the Solicitor to the Council was authorised to enter into any agreements necessary to facilitate the BID, should it proceed.

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

On 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet considered the **ADOPTION OF DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO CONTROL THE GRAZING OF HORSES ON SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL LAND** and gave delegated authority to the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods as a measure of last resort to commence impoundment procedures if a horse is deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to public safety, to private property, is adversely affecting public rights to recreation, or is significantly damaging the environment.

In addition, on 18<sup>th</sup> February the Cabinet considered the **2007/08 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – THORNHILL PLUS YOU** report and noted the transfer of two schemes from the unapproved section of the Economic Development and Regeneration Portfolio to alternative Portfolios. Cabinet approved capital expenditure totalling £1,050,000 funded entirely by contributions from the Thornhill Plus You programme, to progress Street Scene/Energy Efficiency works and a 'Playways' Scheme in the NDC area.

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

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet considered the **HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 MID YEAR REVIEW** and authorised bringing forward £845,000 of prudential borrowing from the 2008/09 capital programme into the current year to fund additional road maintenance expenditure. Cabinet formally approved this expenditure to enable eight Road Maintenance Schemes listed within the report to proceed in 2007/08.

In addition Cabinet approved a new **POLICY FOR THE IMMOBILISATION AND TOWING AWAY OF VEHICLES** from City Council Off Street Car Parks and the Highway to enable a proactive approach to be taken to the recovery of any outstanding income from the issue of Penalty Charge Notices.

At the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> February Cabinet approved the **INTRODUCTION OF CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT** with the implementation of Band 2 for all Penalty Charge Notices issued under the Traffic Management Act 2004. Cabinet also agreed that the new contraventions outlined in the report should be introduced when the Head of Highways and Parking Services, in consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, is satisfied that they are legally enforceable. In the meantime Cabinet agreed that the Head of Highways and Parking Services should carry out a feasibility study into the enforcement of parking and traffic contraventions by closed circuit television cameras and to report back to Cabinet on the outcome of this study.

At the same meeting Cabinet approved a revised **CONCESSIONARY FARES 2008/09** scheme to reimburse operators at a rate of 36p in the £, plus 8p per generated journey in accordance with the guidance given by the Department for Transport and to use a figure of 50% for return ticket sales in the average fare calculation.

In February the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport also approved the **PROPOSED SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE FOR JUNE 2008** to promote the City Council as a centre of excellence on sustainability issues, noting that the maximum liability for this conference of £10,000 should be recouped from income.

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

On 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning considered a **SECONDARY SCHOOL SITES: UPDATE** report outlining progress on feasibility studies to relocate Regents Park Community College to the St Marks CE Junior School site (incorporating the Civil Service Sports Ground) and to relocate the Sholing Technology College to the Itchen College site. The Director of Children's Services and Learning was authorised to progress a number of issues relating to these sites and to seek Southampton's inclusion in the national "Building Schools for the Future" programme at the earliest possible date, following the expected announcement by the government of a reprioritisation of this programme. Authorisation was also given to the Director of Children's Services and Learning to prepare and submit the necessary application to the Department for Children, Schools and Families to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for the procurement of the two new Academy buildings through the "Academy Building Programme National Framework".

On 18<sup>th</sup> February the Cabinet considered the **APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT RIVERSIDE PARK FOR USE BY BITTERNE PARK INFANT, JUNIOR AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS** including the outcomes of pre-statutory consultation with parents, the community and the governors and the staff of these schools. The Cabinet approved further detailed investigations into the appropriation of the land for the use of Bitterne Park Infant and Junior Schools with the investigations being funded from the two schools' devolved formula capital funding as agreed by their school governors. Cabinet also instructed the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning to report back on the outcome of the feasibility studies and to seek authorisation for the publication of statutory notices for the appropriation of the leisure land as appropriate.

At the same meeting the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning approved **CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL FAIR FUNDING FORMULA 2008/09** used to calculate individual school budget shares, with the effect of changes within the Social Need, and Learning Need Special Education Needs funding being tapered over a 3 year period.

5. **IMPROVING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

On 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet considered the continued **PROVISION OF AN INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE** and approved the proposed contractual arrangements for a 2 year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 between Southampton City Council and the Hampshire Partnership Trust to deliver Integrated Service Provision for people with severe and enduring mental health problems. Cabinet also gave delegated

authority to the Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care to establish a Partnership Board to oversee and manage this service.

6. **HOUSING AND HOMES**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January the Cabinet approved a **SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR FAMILY HOUSING** for public consultation in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Sustainability to amend the Local Development Scheme to enable the incorporation of the Supplementary Planning Document and to make any further minor changes to the document. The Cabinet Member for Resources was also requested when approving terms for any property disposals involving residential developments to support the family housing objectives set out in this document.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February Cabinet approved the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET REPORT** and agreed to recommend to Full Council that the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £58.29 should increase by 5.8% with effect from the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Cabinet endorsed the same percentage increase for garages, parking spaces and service charges for the non-care element of warden services, as well as additional funding to support disabled adaptations, crime reduction and safety and estate regeneration, and the new approach to the decent neighbourhoods budget included with the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programme.

IN February the Cabinet also noted the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL CAPITAL AND REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2007**.

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

On 21<sup>st</sup> January Cabinet considered **REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR PARKVILLE ROAD CAR PARK** and agreed that the Council should enter into an exclusivity agreement with Carecapital Limited with a further report to Cabinet setting out the proposed terms of disposal.

At the same meeting Cabinet approved the **PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR THE JOINT DISPOSAL OF LAND AT STUDLAND ROAD, MILLBROOK** with the Council entering into an agreement with the owner of Rosebank Cottage. Delegated authority was given to the Head of Property and Procurement to negotiate the detailed terms of the agreement and to progress the sale of the combined site on the open market on the basis of a sealed tender following receipt of planning permission for residential development, of which 30% would be earmarked for family housing. Approval was also given in accordance with Section 77 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998, for a general consent for the proposed disposal of 0.72 acres of playing field land at Studland Road.

In addition the Cabinet Member for Resources approved the **SALE OF THE FORMER NETLEY COURT SCHOOL SITE, VICTORIA ROAD, NETLEY** to the recommended bidder and delegated authority to Head of Property and Procurement to negotiate final terms.

In January the Cabinet Member also considered the **WEST QUAY ROAD, JOHN LEWIS WAREHOUSE – RENT REVIEW** and approved the proposed increase with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Cabinet also approved the **USE OF SOUTH EAST CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE (SECE) FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS** for construction procurement projects and the use of SECE Tier 1 and 2 framework agreements where appropriate with delegated authority being given to the Head of Property and Procurement to sign the Partnering Agreement.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February Cabinet agreed the proposed **IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE AND APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL'S VULNERABILITY POLICY**. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, to agree with Capita the costs of implementing a Local Housing Allowance in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Strategic Service Partnership contract and within the limit of the Government grant.

In addition Cabinet considered a **CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR CONTRACTS** report and authorised the continued use of existing supply arrangements with delegated authority being given to the Head of Decent Homes to use such agreements for any essential requirements which cannot be deferred until appropriate compliant frameworks are in place.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February the Cabinet considered the **GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2007/08 – 2010/11** and noted the position on the forecast roll forward budget for 2008/09. Approval was given for the Cabinet Member for Resources to finalise the Executive's proposals in respect of the Budget for 2008/09 in consultation with the Leader, for submission to Full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

In addition Cabinet considered the **GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/08 – 2010/11** and approved the revised General Fund Capital Programme and use of resources, including the addition of new spending priorities to progress the Accommodation Strategy totalling £10.1M, £4.3M for the North South Spine scheme, £1.0M for the Re-charge scheme for renewable energy loans, £300,000 to the Children's Services and Learning capital for Sports Development, £1.6M for Disabled Facilities Grants and £1.003M for the Workplace Fast Forward scheme within the Resources capital programme.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February 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 DECEMBER 2007** report and noted the underspend of **£285,000**, an overall forecast programme overspend for all schemes of **£537,000** and that action plans are in place to ensure capital expenditure remains within allocated budgets.

At the same meeting Cabinet noted the progress made at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2007/08 in relation to **HUMAN RESOURCES EMPLOYEE MONITORING INFORMATION** and considered a composite **2007/08 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING** report. Cabinet noted that the current 2007/8 General Fund revenue budget monitoring position

(on net controllable costs) at the end of December was a forecast under spend by the year end of **£1,335,000** and that 70% of the performance indicators and 95% of the commitments set out in the 2007/08 Corporate Improvement Plan were on target at the end of December.

On 18<sup>th</sup> February Cabinet also considered an **ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY UPDATE 2008** report and subject to funding approval by Council on 20<sup>th</sup> February, approved the proposed changes to projects to progress this strategy. In addition the Cabinet authorised the Head of Property and Procurement to agree detailed terms and enter into a lease for new offices in Northern Above Bar 2 on the basis set out in report provided that the costs are contained within the amounts set out in the report and to incur expenditure as required to carry out any investigations, feasibility studies, preparatory works, project management and accommodation planning necessary to implement the strategy.

#### 8. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

On 18<sup>th</sup> February the executive received a report on the **CUMBERLAND PLACE/BEDFORD PLACE – NO LEFT TURN** and resolved to remove the banned left turn from Cumberland Place into Bedford Place in the light of concerns raised by local businesses.

#### 9. **SOUTHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The new **Southampton Partnership Strategy Board** held its second meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and received an **update from the SP Delivery Board** setting out its role, membership and the business undertaken since the final meeting of the previous SP Executive on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The Board also undertook an interactive **Southampton Today & In The Future** workshop involving a photographic montage and the promotion of key statistics with the aim of providing Board members with an opportunity to get to know more about the city, current performance and future development opportunities. The Strategy Board also considered specific actions that could be taken to implement the refreshed draft **Safe City Partnership Plan**.

At its 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 meeting, the **SP Delivery Board** received feedback on a series of **meetings with Sector Partnership Chairs and the SP Chair** examining the current roles and relationships with the Southampton Partnership. The Board also considered the **Local Area Agreement Quarter 3 monitoring** report and a progress report on **developing the Refreshed LAA and identified Improvement Priorities** - noting that the **LAA Stakeholder Event** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January was attended by 93 representatives from a variety of local, regional and national bodies. Reports outlining work in progress to develop an **Arts and Heritage Position Statement** and **City Image and Identity project** and its priorities for 2008 to 2011 were also considered alongside an outline **Think Family bid** for £250,000. A report on the **2008/09 Southampton Partnership support requirements** including the operating budget, staffing and future chairing arrangements was also agreed by the Board.

An independent programme evaluation of the Southampton-specific **Area Investment Framework (AIF)** is currently underway and its findings are due

around the time that the programme ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008.

In addition the **Accountability & Scrutiny Pilot** delivered by the South East Progress through Partnership (PtP) Programme has been completed and its findings were presented to a joint meeting of Members and City Partners on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The recommendations contained within the report aim to provide the foundations for a 'mutually beneficial scrutiny process' outlined in the City of Southampton Strategy.

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

## 10. **PUSH DEVELOPMENT**

The key tasks undertaken since the last executive business report have been the preparation of the draft PUSH Business Plan and Multi Area Agreement.

A near-final draft of the **Business Plan** will be considered by the PUSH Joint Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March. The budgetary information within the plan is less fully developed than originally anticipated largely because other bodies' funding positions are not yet confirmed (e.g. SEEDA and English Partnerships) because of their own corporate and business planning processes.

The draft Business Plan has been based on the Programme of Development prepared for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) last October (updating the information wherever possible) and an **Economic Development (ED) Strategy** prepared by DTZ Consultants. Extensive consultations have been carried out with Job Centre Plus, the Learning & Skills Council, Business Link and SEEDA, as well as local authorities, in preparing the ED Strategy. A further meeting of key stakeholders will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the ED Strategy, the Business Plan and the emerging MAA.

The first draft of the **MAA** will be submitted to the DCLG in the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March. This is still work in progress at this stage, however the aim is to give a firm indication of the likely outcomes covered by the MAA and the enabling measures / freedoms and flexibilities being sought from the government which will add value to what could be achieved without the MAA. The intention has always been that the MAA would be based on the PUSH Business Plan and relevant aspects of the Transport for South Hampshire Business Plan, hence the focus on putting the Business Plan in place first. PUSH has played an active part in several MAA conferences and events recently, which has further raised the profile of South Hampshire nationally.

Officers and Members from PUSH authorities attended a joint Transport for South Hampshire / PUSH **Workshop** on 7<sup>th</sup> March to consider the emerging TfSH 'Statement', setting out their proposals in response to the various studies carried out over the past year, and the PUSH Business Plan. Four capital-funded projects should be completed this month, covering public realm works in West Street Fareham, Park Road Havant, the Botley Road bus link (around Hedge End) and site acquisition for environment mitigation works in Eastleigh.

In addition the 18<sup>th</sup> March meeting of the PUSH Joint Committee will consider the adoption of a **common policy framework for sustainability** to be integrated by individual authorities into their Local Development Documents and the first meeting of the PUSH **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** is

scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## **FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 15<sup>th</sup> February covering the period March to June 2008 and will publish its next Plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> March to cover the period April to June 2008. Details of all 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

**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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