

ITEM NO: 5

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 th SEPTEMBER 2008		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

SUMMARY

This report outlines the decisions made by the executive since the 16th July Council meeting.

In October 2007 the executive published its Vision and Values, which set out nine key policy priorities. The decisions made by the executive that will help progress these priorities are therefore set out under the appropriate headings in this report. For ease of reference the titles of individual reports are also highlighted in bold.

The report also provides an update on partnership activities in the city since the last executive business report was presented to Full Council.

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. **Business and the Economy**

On 28th July Cabinet agreed a **PROPERTY SWAPS - ACQUISITION OF 183 HIGH STREET AND DISPOSAL OF 2-16 EAST BARGATE AND 30-33 HANOVER BUILDINGS** report to consolidate the Council's freehold ownership in the West Quay 3 area to allow greater scope for the Council to influence and guide the future form of any redevelopment in this part of the city and to facilitate the bringing forward of plans for the future potential refurbishment or redevelopment of East Bargate and Hanover Buildings.

At the same meeting the Cabinet Member for Economic Development agreed to enter into an 18 month Exclusivity Agreement with Kilmartin Property Group on the basis of the draft heads of terms set out in the report to secure the future potential redevelopment of the **ROYAL PIER SITE**.

Cabinet also approved the operation of a **STREET MARKET IN BITTERNE PRECINCT** for 6 months to be organised by the Bitterne Village Traders Association following them obtaining all of the necessary permits, consents and permissions and subject to the project remaining self – funding.

2. **Education and Skills**

On the 28th July Cabinet agreed to formally enter into the **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE** interim wave programme following acceptance by the DCSF of the Council's 'Readiness to Deliver' submission. Cabinet gave delegated Authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning to recruit a Project Director, project team, procure external professional and technical advisors as required and prepare and submit a Strategy for Change Part 1 document to the DCSF following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Learning. The Chief Executive was also authorised to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the delivery of the BSF programme with Partnerships for Schools / the DCSF as required and delegated authority was given to the Solicitor to the Council and Chief Finance Officer to monitor, review and vary the governance arrangements for this initiative as required.

In addition on the 11th August Cabinet accepted an **ACADEMIES: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT** of £450,000 to fund proposed improvements at the Oasis Academy: Mayfield and the Oasis Academy: Lord's Hill. The Cabinet also authorised the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources to place orders for the proposed environmental improvements at the Academies up to the value of the grant allocation.

In July Cabinet also approved a **SCHOOLS DEFICIT BUDGETS 2008/09** report, to allow ten schools in the city to adjust to changes in their pupil numbers without making significant cuts in staffing or other costs and detrimentally affecting standards within these schools.

On the 28th July the Cabinet Member for Children's Services authorised a new **LEARNING PORTAL PROCUREMENT PROCESS** and in September the Cabinet authorised the **ACCEPTANCE OF TRAIN TO GAIN FUNDING FROM THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL** totalling £675,000 to enable 450 people in the city to improve their skills. Delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning, following consultation with the Solicitor to the Council, to do anything necessary to enter into contracts to accept this funding and to deliver services to local residents in accordance with the Train to Gain Scheme.

3. **City Roads and Transport**

On 28th July Cabinet considered the results of the **EXPERIMENTAL REMOVAL**

OF OVERNIGHT BUS AND LORRY PARKING BAN and authorised the Solicitor to the Council to make the removal of the overnight bus and lorry parking ban in the city permanent.

In September 2008 Cabinet also approved a **NEW BUS SHELTER CONTRACT** and delegated authority to the Executive Director of Environment to terminate the existing contract and procure a new contract for the provision and maintenance of all bus shelters in Southampton for a period of up to 25 years from 2009.

4. **Community and Environmental Improvements**

Subject to the outcome of further consultation with tenants and leaseholders, in July the Cabinet approved a new basis for determining **TENANT HEATING CHARGES** and agreed that 400 households living in 19 blocks of flats across the city should be offered individual heating supply meters at an estimated cost of £290,000 to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account capital programme Energy Savings budget. Further investigations into the feasibility of installing individual meters into the remainder of council managed properties on communal heating will also be carried out.

At the same meeting Cabinet approved **SOUTHAMPTON'S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2008-13** to meet the Council's statutory obligation under the Homelessness Act 2002 to carry out a review and to publish an updated Homelessness Strategy every 5 years.

In addition the Cabinet approved the **GRANTING OF A LEASE TO BTC CLUB ON LAND AT STONEHAM LANE** to provide long-term security of tenure to the Club to enable it to access grant funding and to provide certainty for its continued operation.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport gave **DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO APPOINT INSPECTORS FOR THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT** to the Head of Environmental Health & Consumer Protection.

The Cabinet also approved a new **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY** for a six week period of public consultation with Southampton residents and businesses before coming back to Cabinet in October for formal approval. Delegated authority was given to the Head of Planning & Sustainability to monitor the application of the finally adopted Policy, to conduct any necessary reviews of the policy, to make any necessary changes to the policy and to prepare a simple guide leaflet setting out the main elements of the Policy.

On 1st September Cabinet endorsed the **WESSEX YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT) ANNUAL YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2008/9** and recommended its approval to Full Council as part of the Policy Framework.

5. **Older People, Social Services and Health**

On 28th July the Cabinet gave its **APPROVAL OF A SECTION 75 AGREEMENT AND A FACILITIES AGREEMENT FOR THE OAK LODGE PROJECT IN BITTERNE** between the City Council and Southampton City Primary Care Trust (SCPCT) to enable the payment of a Registered Nursing Care Charge by the SCPCT to the Council for the commissioning of nursing care by the Council under Section 49 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001. In addition the

Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care was authorised to enter into a facilities agreement with BUPA for the provision of food and beverages to Day Care users at Oaklodge from the care home's kitchen.

At the same meeting the Cabinet also approved a **REVIEW OF NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL CARE CHARGES AND CONSULTATION ON A REVISED SCHEME** and authorised officers to consult on options for a modified charging policy and its application with service users and other key stakeholders, including advocate group, and to report back on the findings to Cabinet on the 29th September.

In addition Cabinet approved the **SOUTHAMPTON ADULT PLACEMENT SCHEME** with effect from 1st September 2008 with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care to set the fees and charges associated with this scheme

On the 1st September 2008 Cabinet authorised the **MODERNISATION OF SOUTHAMPTON DAY SERVICES: PHASE 3** and agreed proposals to extend the Woolston Community Centre and to accept a grant of £749,000 from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to enhance the learning dimension at Freemantle Community Centre. Formal approval for the schemes was also given subject to the addition, by Full Council, of £950,000 to be met by the LSC Grant and earmarked capital receipts.

6. **Leisure Opportunities**

On 28th July Cabinet considered the **DELIVERY OF SPORT AND RECREATION SERVICES ON THE COUNCIL'S BEHALF** and approved the principle and proposed procurement approach to secure a partner, or partners, to deliver Sport and Recreation Services in the city. Cabinet also agreed to recommend to Full Council that when the detailed revenue budget for 2009/10 is prepared, £240,000 should be included within the Leisure Culture and Heritage Portfolio to enable the procurement to be completed and that £612,000 should be spent on essential health and safety repairs, prior to the commencement of any contractual relationships.

In September the Cabinet approved the proposed **ARTS AND HERITAGE STRATEGIC VISION** to co-ordinate and focus strategic thinking and support for the Council's priorities in the Arts and Heritage sector over the coming years to meet the stated priorities within the City of Southampton Strategy, to respond to a recent Council motion, raise Southampton's cultural profile with key stakeholders and inspire confidence and active interest in supporting the City's heritage and arts plans as a vital strand in the overall advocacy and fundraising strategy for key capital projects in the city.

At the same meeting Cabinet also approved £50,000 in relation to the **SOUTHAMPTON SOLENT UNIVERSITY PILOT SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMME** to deliver extended sports services in a range of City schools. Cabinet also delegated authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning to ensure the effective delivery of the programme and to procure additional services outside the pilot programme within approved budgets as

required, subject to compliance with the Council's contract procedure rules.

7. **Council Tax and Resources**

On 28th July 2008 the Cabinet noted the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF JUNE**. Cabinet also noted the forecast overspend of £102,800 at the end of the year in the **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF JUNE 2008** report.

In addition on the 28th July Cabinet noted the completion of 351 new affordable homes in 2007/08 as outlined in the **HOUSING GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008/09- AFFORDABLE HOUSING** report and approved the revised Housing Association Programme, enabling the release of £2.6 Million to fund new affordable housing schemes in the city in 2008/09 and 2009/10 - including the provision of additional homes via a family housing exemplar competition.

Cabinet also considered the **2008/09 1st QUARTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING OF THE CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN** report, noting the progress made against the approved targets for 2008/09 and requesting officers to ensure that appropriate reporting arrangements are established for all of the new National Performance Indicators as well as all other stretch targets included within Southampton's Local Area Agreement.

In July Cabinet approved the **WEST QUAY ROAD – RENAULT SITE – RENT REVIEW** which will achieve an increase in revenue for the Council, following the trigger of the rent review clause within the existing lease for these premises. Cabinet also agreed a new 4 year **LEASE RENEWAL FOR UNITS 29-31 CITY INDUSTRIAL PARK, SOUTHERN RD** with a tenant-only break clause after 2 years on these premises.

Finally, in September the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning considered a confidential report on **WORKFORCE ISSUES** and approved a sum from the Strategic Reserve to complete the investigatory work into a number of Equal Pay claims.

8. **Partnerships**

The Executive has undertaken a **review of the current structure and operation of the Southampton Partnership** and developed proposals to strengthen existing working arrangements to ensure that partners with responsibility for the delivery of services in the city can "be held to account" for their actions. The proposals also reflect Government guidance which expects local authorities to take on a more visible leadership role within strategic partnerships that will be tested through the new Comprehensive Area Assessment process undertaken by the Audit Commission in 2009.

The Leader of the Council has consulted with other Group Leaders and written to partners proposing the replacement of the existing Southampton Partnership Strategy Board with a new Policy Board that will meet on a six-monthly basis. In addition an annual conference is proposed, which will be based on the Local Area Agreement (LAA), as well as pro-active support for the annual City Lecture

hosted by Southampton City Council and the University of Southampton. The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board will continue to meet on a monthly basis and be chaired by the Chief Executive. Cabinet Members will also attend the relevant sector partnerships that align with their portfolios and act as the Chair/Co-Chair or the Vice Chair of these sector partnerships depending on the extent of the Council's role in these areas.

Comments have been invited from partners on these proposals by the 22nd September to enable the structure and working arrangements of the Southampton Partnership to be clarified.

In the meantime the Southampton Partnership Delivery Board has continued to meet on a monthly basis and, since the last Executive Business report in July has considered the new **Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan**; received a presentation from SEEDA on the **current economic climate's projected impact on the Regional Economic Strategy**; considered the forthcoming Place Survey and received the **Local Area Agreement Quarter 1 monitoring report**.

Further information on the SP, its meetings, agendas and reports can be viewed at www.southampton-partnership.com.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16th September covering the period October 2008 to January 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 17th October covering the period November 2008 to February 2009. 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.
