

ITEM NO: 5

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 th NOVEMBER 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 September Council meeting. The report also provides an update on the Southampton Partnership's activities since the last executive business report was presented to Full Council.

In October 2008 the executive set out six key policy priorities. The decisions made by the executive to progress these priorities are set out under the relevant heading in this report. For ease of reference the titles of individual reports are also highlighted in bold.

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. **Promoting Economic Prosperity in the city by improving the city's infrastructure, facilitating business growth and enabling more residents to enjoy rewarding employment**

A wide range of initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority. It is therefore disappointing that Defra have recently informed the City Council that it has been unsuccessful in its bid to become the home of the new Marine Management Organisation (MMO) given Southampton's prestigious maritime heritage and the breadth of marine related industries within the city today. Decisions since the last Council meeting which will help to progress this priority are as follows:-

- Adoption of a new **VISITOR DESTINATION DEVELOPMENT PLAN** as the

basis for promoting and developing Southampton's visitor economy.

- Approval for the **DEMOLITION OF FORMER TYRRELL & GREEN DEPARTMENT STORE AND FUTURE PROPOSALS FOR THE SITE** subject to the tender costs being contained within the sum available in the capital programme in order to facilitate the remarketing and disposal of the site together with other potential property interests within Northern Above Bar to secure the delivery of a revised regeneration scheme incorporating a new arts complex.
- Agreement of the **CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT – PROPOSALS FOR INCORPORATION** to establish the City Centre Management function as a not-for-profit Company limited by guarantee in which the Council retains a minority interest. Subject to consultation with union representatives and staff approval was also given in principle to the transfer of staff in accordance with TUPE regulations into this new arrangement at the appropriate time.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £3M for bearing replacement works on the **REDBRIDGE AND MILLBROOK FLYOVERS** to ensure that essential maintenance work is carried out on the Western Approach as one of the main transportation gateways into the city and Port of Southampton.
- Endorsement of the **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY STRUCTURE PLAN, POLICY H4 MONITORING PAPER 2008** and the recommendation made on 28th April 2008 by the Strategic Planning Joint Advisory Panel that no reserve sites should be released on the basis that there is enough housing land coming forward to meet the regional planning guidance requirement up to 2011.
- Approval of the **RESPONSE ON THE SOUTH EAST PLAN (PROPOSED CHANGES)** to ensure that Southampton's interests are promoted on key issues contained within the draft document which will provide future statutory planning guidance for the SE region.
- Approval of the **TUDOR HOUSE MUSEUM, SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATION TO THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND** to progress the refurbishment of this important historic asset. Cabinet also approved capital expenditure of £150,000 towards the final phase of the Tudor House Interpretation capital scheme in 2008/09 to enable work to continue on this project, whilst the HLF assesses the application.
- Approval to provide support, guidance and assistance (subject to there being no conflict of interest) to the **SPITFIRE TRIBUTE FOUNDATION** to secure an appropriate spitfire tribute within the city in recognition of the iconic nature of the plane, to celebrate the work of RJ Mitchell and to commemorate all those who built the airplane in the city.
- Approval of the **SOLENT BUSINESS CENTRE, MILLBROOK ROAD WEST - LEASE RENEWAL** for 5 years to secure future self employment opportunities, affordable small business space within the city and an annual income for the city council.
- Endorsement of the **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY SUBMISSION DOCUMENT** to Full Council to initiate the publication of the revised Core Strategy for public consultation and

submission to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Statement of Community Involvement in order to secure the right developments within the city in the right place, to the required quality and at the right time.

2. **Raising Educational Standards and attainment in the city, and promoting greater choice and diversity**

A number of initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority since the last Council meeting as follows:-

- Agreement of the **APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT RIVERSIDE PARK FOR USE BY BITTERNE PARK INFANT, JUNIOR AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS** subject to receiving no objections through the statutory consultation process with in principle approvals also being given to construct a security fence around the land to ensure the safety of users and to divert or stop up the public footpath as necessary.
- Approval in principle for the **REGENTS PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE: RELOCATION** from its current site on King Edwards Avenue to the site of St Mark's CE Junior School on Shirley Road, following appropriate consultation exercises being undertaken with local residents and other interested parties.
- Agreement of the **BITTERNE PARK SCHOOL – VARIATION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE** to enable the transfer of £100,000 within the Children's Services Capital Programme to carry out works to provide additional specialist construction, fitness, ICT and media facilities at the school.
- Approval of the **EARLY YEARS CAPITAL AND SURE START CHILDREN'S CENTRES CAPITAL 2008 – 2011** proposals to progress a number of capital expenditure projects in these areas totalling £4.4 Million following consultation with parents and agencies across the city. Delegated authority was also given to officers to take all steps necessary in obtaining any consents required by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families or other government departments to implement the proposals set out in the report.
- Agreement of the project management and governance proposals set out in the **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE – APPROVAL PROCESS FOR STRATEGY FOR CHANGE** report to secure the renewal of secondary schools, including special schools with secondary age pupils in the city, and to facilitate their co-location with other key community based services. Cabinet also agreed that the prioritisation of school projects should be based on objective criteria and gave delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning to submit a draft Strategy for Change Part 1 and Project Initiation Document, to Partnerships for Schools, two weeks prior to the Remit meeting; and to submit an expression of interest to Department for Children, School and Families by 30th November, for all remaining secondary schools in Southampton to participate in a future wave of the BSF programme.
- Approval of **CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CALCULATING EARLY YEARS FUNDING FOR THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS** to implement a new early years funding formula that funds settings at a different rate according to the flexibility of the early years care on offer. The proposals

will be introduced for private, voluntary and independent sector settings from 1 April 2009, and for maintained settings from 1 April 2010. Cabinet also approved the introduction of a funding rate supplement for each setting that takes account of its “best fit” with one of five bandings of staff qualification levels and “average” deprivation levels within the setting. Cabinet also approved the introduction of an indicative budget to each setting as a minimum guaranteed funding level for the coming financial year.

- **IMPLEMENTING THE LIBRARY STRATEGY** including the approval of a virement in 2009/10 within the Leisure, Culture and Heritage Capital Programme to generate the funding required for the introduction of a Radio Frequency Identification Data system which will improve services to customers and generate operational efficiencies within the library service.

3. **Minimising and Recycling Waste, promoting energy initiatives and improving the city’s environment.**

A number of initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority since the last Council meeting as follows:-

- Endorsement of the **ANNUAL PARKING REPORT FOR 2007/08** in accordance with the Traffic Management Act 2004 with delegated authority also being given to appropriate officers to issue civil penalty notices in the Toys R Us car park and to respond to appeals against the issue of any notice.
- Consideration of the **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT POLICY – REPORT ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION** with approval being given to the adjustments in the wording of the policy to reflect the feedback received and delegated authority being given to the Head of Planning and Sustainability to monitor the application of the adopted Policy, conduct any necessary reviews of policy and to make any changes to the policy necessary to give effect to any change in legislation, guidance or as required by the Head of the Planning and Sustainability Division, any planning inspector, Statutory regulator or the Local Government Ombudsman. Delegated authority was also give to the Head of Planning and Sustainability to prepare a simpler user guide of the adopted policy setting out the main elements of the policy and any future updates that prove necessary.
- Approval of **ENFORCEMENT POLICIES FOR COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC BINS OBSTRUCTING THE HIGHWAY** to ensure that they are dealt with in a fair, consistent and timely manner with delegated authority being given to officers to take all necessary action under these enforcement policies including issuing fixed penalty notices where appropriate.
- Approval of the **REFURBISHMENT OF TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGNS** with the addition of £850,000 to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme to be funded from the on-street parking account. Cabinet also approved capital expenditure of £150,000 in 2008/09 for traffic signals works within the Shirley Town Centre capital scheme as well as £250,000 for the refurbishment of traffic signals and variable message signs in 2008/9 and 2009/10.

- Approval of the **GREEN SPACE STRATEGY** including the Action Plan and Technical Document providing the evidence base for the action plan. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Head of Neighbourhood Services to make minor amendments to Southampton's Green Space Strategy prior to its final publication and to implement the action plan and to provide progress update reports to the Cabinet Member twice a year.

4. **Improving the Well-Being of all Residents and supporting older people especially those with medical, care, social or financial needs**

A number of initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority since the last Council meeting as follows:-

- Approval of the **NON-RESIDENTIAL CARE SERVICES: MODIFIED CHARGING SCHEME** to simplify the current charging arrangements and to change the way that the Council calculates charges for non-residential care from an hourly to a weekly basis. Cabinet also agreed that further public consultation should be carried out on the proposals to explore the potential impact of the policy changes on service users.
- Endorsement of a **PROPOSED REVIEW OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE STRUCTURES** in order to work with the Southampton City Primary Care Trust to explore the potential for extending joint structures as a way of further improving adult health and social care services and public health promotion within the city.
- Agreement for the implementation of the results of the **REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME PROVISION IN SOUTHAMPTON** culminating in the closure of two SCC provided residential homes, (Whitehaven Lodge and Birch Lawn) due to over-provision in this area with the management of this process taking into account the best interests of each individual customer. It should be noted that this decision is subject to a call-in from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the executive will therefore be asked to either confirm or to reconsider its decision at a meeting on the 14th November.
- Approval of the **VARIOUS SCHEMES APPROVAL PHASE III 2008/09 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL** report with £450,000 being spent on the provision of additional car parking in Council Housing Areas and £13.7 Million being spent on planned improvements for the benefit of council tenants including decent homes works being carried out in Millbrook, Shirley, Harefield and Townhill Park, Lift Refurbishment works, Door and Window upgrades, external improvements and the continuation of the Disabled Adaptations programme.

5. **Reducing Crime and Anti Social Behaviour and improving the protection of residents from crime**

This priority continues to be actively progressed with the Police and other organisations in the city to ensure that Southampton is a Safe City for residents and visitors alike. The following initiative has been approved by the executive to further progress this priority since the last Council meeting:-

- Approval of fixed term **SAFER COMMUNITIES – EXTERNALLY FUNDED POSTS** following the formal acceptance of funding from the Department of Children Schools and Families totalling £250,000 to set up a Challenge and Support project (to be delivered in partnership with the Wessex Youth Offending Team). Agreement was also given to accept external funding totalling £780,000 over the next three years to set up a team to progress the “Think Family” initiative.

6. **Delivering Value for Money and Efficient Services, avoiding excessive taxation, ensuring good city governance and working with neighbouring authorities, partner agencies and with appropriate strategic partnerships such as the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire**

A number of initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority since the last Council meeting as follows:-

- Approval of a **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS SUPPLY CONTRACT - APPOINTMENT OF SUPPLIER** report to enable a single provider to be appointed for the majority of construction and other associated materials with delegated authority being given to officers to finalise the negotiations with Wolseley and to agree a contract. Cabinet also approved, £50,000 on physical improvements to the Council’s Stores and the acquisition of a bar coding facility for stock records, provision for which exists within the approved HRA capital programme for 2008/09.
- Approval of **THE PRINCIPLE AND DETAILED TERMS OF PROPERTY DISPOSALS UNDER THE PROPERTY DISPOSALS PROGRAMME** by auction with confirmation of the reserve price and the authority of the appointed auctioneer to sign the contract for sale for the relevant property, immediately after the auction has taken place and to deduct the auction costs from the sale deposit proceeds.
- Cabinet noted the **2009/10 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX - MAJOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION** and approved the Executive’s Policy Priorities, the high level forecast for the General Fund for 2009/10 and the budget setting timetable. Delegated authority was also given to the Head of Communications, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning, to fine tune and implement the consultation proposals and methodology set out in the report.
- Approval of the **CAPITAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2009/10 (NON-HOUSING)** totalling £2M to secure the completion of a 3 year Capital Repair Programme as well as rephasing within the total 3 year programme.
- Endorsement of the **REVIEW OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S DEPARTMENT** prepared by the Chief Executive as the Head of Paid Service to improve the Council’s focus on economic regeneration and strengthen cross organisational working and communication.

7. **City Partnerships Update**

The Executive has completed its review of the current structure and operation of the Southampton Partnership (SP) and agreed terms of reference and membership for a new **Southampton Partnership Policy Board**, to replace the previous SP Strategy Board. The Leader of the City Council will chair the Policy Board since the council is the body that is ultimately responsible for the Southampton Partnership (as the local strategic partnership) in line with the requirements set out in the “Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities” statutory guidance.

The board will have a membership of fifteen, largely drawn from the Chairs of key organisations, Local Area Agreement delivery partnerships and other significant thematic partnerships, to ensure that a strategic focus is maintained on securing actions that will address the key challenges facing the city as follows:-

• Southampton City Council (Leader)	1
• Business Southampton Board	1
• Children & Young People’s Trust	1
• Communities & Renewal Partnership	1
• Economy & Enterprise Board	1
• Hampshire Police Authority	1
• Health & Well-being Partnership	1
• Later Years Partnership	1
• Safe City Partnership	1
• Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce Board	1
• Southampton City Primary Care Trust Board	1
• Southampton Heritage & Arts People (SHAPe)	1
• Voluntary and Community Sector	3

A standing invitation will also be offered to a representative from the Government Office South East; South East England Development Agency and the Southampton Partnership Delivery Board. Representatives from neighbouring local authorities and local strategic partnerships within the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) area may also be invited to attend as appropriate to discuss cross cutting issues within the sub region.

The new Policy Board will hold its first meeting in early 2009 and keep its membership under review to ensure appropriate representation is in place, with the first review taking place in early 2010 after its first full year of operation.

The **Delivery Board** (DB) has continued to meet on a monthly basis since the last Council meetings and amongst other things has received a presentation from SEEDA on the current economic climate’s projected impact on the delivery of the Regional Economic Strategy; commissioned work to monitor the impact of the economic down-turn in Southampton on a monthly basis; received updates on the city’s GCSE results and the forthcoming launch of the Southampton Skills Development Zone coupled with the proposed public signing of the Employment & Skills Pledge by key public sector organisations within the city. Over the next quarter the Delivery Board will continue to monitor the current economic down-turn and its forthcoming role in the new Comprehensive Area Assessment process. It will also be receiving a number of partnership updates on the Southampton City Brand and SHAPe, as well as progress in delivering the stretch

targets within the LAA.

A quarterly progress report outlining all of the key activities within the Southampton Partnership has been produced for the first time outlining key developments such as the work undertaken by the **Children & Young People's Trust (CYPT)** on a new Children and Young People's Plan through to the launch of the new **Southampton Energy Partnership** and the success of the **Later Years Partnership** in progressing initiatives such as the appointment of a "winter crisis" worker for six months and obtaining grant funding through the EU Cities in Balance programme to promote inter-generational activities in the city. A copy of the quarterly progress report together with further information about the Southampton Partnership can be found at: www.southampton-partnership.com.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17th October covering the period November 2008 to February 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 14th November covering the period December to March 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.
