

## ITEM NO: 5

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2009		
<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 executive since the 19<sup>th</sup> November 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 its six key policy priorities. The decisions made by the executive between the 24<sup>th</sup> November and the 22<sup>nd</sup> December to progress these priorities are set out under the relevant policy heading in this report. Decisions made by the executive on the 19<sup>th</sup> January will be reported verbally at the Council meeting. For ease of reference the titles of individual decision making items are highlighted in bold within the report.

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

- Approval of the Baseline Service Agreement for the provision of council services in the city centre that support the **BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUSINESS PLAN PROPOSAL**, which will be the subject of a

referendum with local businesses on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

- Responding to a **CONSULTATION ON THE PARTIAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SOUTH EAST PLAN** by objecting to the 4 options for apportioning the number of pitches for Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople to individual local authorities across the region, since they do not take into account the likely availability of suitable sites within the area, which is key to demonstrating that the proposals can be implemented.
- Approval of the development and proposed content of a **SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR FAMILY HOUSING** to secure larger homes within new development schemes in the city which are suitable for families.
- Agreement to withdraw a previous decision to grant a lease for the development of the **BITTERNE PARK FIVE A SIDE FOOTBALL CENTRE** following further consultation and feedback from residents in response to a planning application submitted by the proposed developer.
- Agreement of the sale of council owned land to facilitate **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR PARKVILLE ROAD CAR PARK SITE, SWAYTHLING** comprising of landmark high rise, mixed use scheme, made up of a medical centre, 2 community use units, a retail convenience store and 81 new flats, 62 of which will be affordable housing units.
- Approval of the **EXCHANGE OF COMMON LAND AT FREEMANTLE COMMON, PEARTREE AVENUE, SOUTHAMPTON** with other council owned land in the city, to progress highway improvements that will enable the sale and redevelopment of the former Ridgeway House School.
- **ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING FOR CHILD POVERTY PILOT BID** totalling £346,000 from the Department for Children, Schools and Families to tackle unemployment in families, through the provision of enhanced employment expertise and support at 3 Sure Start centres located in the Woolston, Weston and Central areas of the city.

## 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:-

- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £5.146 Million to deliver **PLANS FOR THE REBUILDING OF HAREFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL** which will provide modern learning facilities for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils at the school as well as environmental enhancements within the new building, lower annual maintenance costs and community use of the sports facilities within the school hall.
- Approval of a **POLICY POSITION ON POST 16 PROVISION** for education and training, which places existing education and training providers in the city at its heart.
- Endorsement of a **REQUEST TO THE SCHOOLS ADJUDICATOR FOR VARIATION TO THE PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER FOR 2009/10 ACADEMIC YEAR** which will increase the number of pupils at Maytree Infant School and St. Mary's CE Primary School, together with building works at the

schools to ensure that reasonable offers of primary school places can be made to all children living in the city centre in response to a significant increase in the number of 4 year olds within this part of the city.

- Approval of **JOINT COMMISSIONING AND POOLED BUDGET ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES** within the city for a period of ten years, which will enable the Council to act as the host for the pooled funding and to lead and commission joined up services for people with learning disability and their carers, to ensure that their needs are appropriately met.
- Approval of proposals for **THE ACQUISITION OF AN ACCESS TO OASIS ACADMEY MAYFIELD** to facilitate developments at the school.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £5.34 Million and the redesign of the school to enable the planned **REDBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL REBUILD** to proceed.

### 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 proposed cremation fee increase with effect from the 1st January 2009, following a call in by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to help support the **INSTALLATION OF NEW CREMATORS AND MODERNISATION WORKS AT SOUTHAMPTON CREMATORIUM** in order to comply with statutory mercury abatement emission requirements and improve service provision.
- Approval of the **WASTE DISPOSAL CONTRACT – TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT** between Southampton City Council, Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth City Council setting out shared responsibilities for the management of the waste disposal contract with Veolia.
- Agreement of the **MARCHWOOD ENERGY RECOVERY FACILITY (ERF) CONCILIATORS REPORT ON PASS-THROUGH COSTS** as part of a complete and final settlement to the Waste Disposal Contractor by Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council for the provision of bespoke energy recovery facilities across the County. Cabinet also approved capital expenditure of up to £4 Million to meet the Council's share of these pass-through costs as a one off rather than an annual payment, subject to the approval by Full Council of the addition of this amount to the Environment and Transport Capital Programme.
- Progress on the **SOUTH COAST STREET LIGHTING PFI:SERVICE SPECIFICATION DEVELOPMENT** and the requirement for the base case affordability gap of £1.3 million per annum (2007/08 prices) for the duration of the contract term (Council decision item 3(b) 14 February 2007) was noted by the Cabinet. Delegated authority was then given to the Executive Director for Environment, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to agree the final service specification and to close the competitive dialogue phase of the scheme to enable final tenders to be

submitted.

- Agreement of proposals for **IMPLEMENTING THE ESTATE REGENERATION PROGRAMME** to help tackle economic deprivation and social deprivation within the city's council estates, including seeking development partners to work with the Council to deliver this programme, engaging with stakeholders and residents on the selection of the proposed redevelopment sites, undertaking a pilot project at Hinkler Parade in Thornhill and disposing of a number of small vacant parcels of land or under used garage blocks across Southampton to secure the delivery of at least 1,000 new homes within the city as well as other neighbourhood improvements.
- Approval of actions to address **UNAUTHORISED HOUSEBOATS ON MUDLANDS, PRIORY AVENUE** to address residents' concerns, including progressing tenancy or license arrangements with the owners of 2 established houseboats, to take Court action to remove more recent houseboat and barge arrivals and to issue notices and take Court action against any future unauthorised houseboats owners mooring at this site.
- Endorsement of proposed **COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES** to provide a comprehensive framework to embed sustainability across the organisation based on economic, social and environmental well being principles, to guide future policies and plans and to secure a more robust approach to the management of carbon reduction and other initiatives within the council.
- Approval of a **REVIEW OF ON STREET AND OFF STREET PARKING CHARGES** as well as changes to the overnight charging period, the introduction of season tickets in the renamed Bedford Place multi-storey car park and the introduction of parking charges and controls in Cemetery Road.

#### 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 **CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME 2009/10** to continue to provide from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 a local pass for disabled residents who meet the relevant criteria, for the provision of free travel at any time for registered blind residents of Southampton and the continuation of companion passes for pass holders who are unable to travel alone. Approval was also given for free travel between 0900 –midnight Mondays to Fridays and any time at weekends and bank holidays for all other Southampton pass holders and for Non-Southampton English National Concession pass holders, free travel between 0930 and 2300 Monday to Friday and any time at weekends and bank holidays in line with the national scheme.
- Endorsement of a new policy for **DISABLED ADPTATIONS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING** to enable as many residents as possible to be provided with appropriate housing and support within the resources available. As a result alternative accommodation rather than substantial adaptations will be offered to council tenants due to any under occupation of their existing property, the cost of the proposed works exceeding £30,000

and where the existing property, even when adapted, will not meet the long term needs of the disabled tenant. A new condition will also be included within Disabled Facilities Grants provided to home owners and private sector or registered social landlord tenants to enable the grant to be repaid if the ownership of the property changes within ten years of the disabled adaptation works being carried out.

- Agreement of the proposed age criteria within individual sheltered housing blocks, the retention of resident staff members within some blocks in response to tenant feedback and the approval of capital expenditure totalling £645,000 to carry out improvements to the communal areas of Manston Court, Bishops Crescent, Milner Court, Sarnia Court and Weston Court in order to progress the proposals set out in the **SHELTERED HOUSING SERVICE – FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS** report.
- Endorsement of the **MODIFIED CHARGING POLICY FOR NON-RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL CARE SERVICES** to bring greater consistency and clarity in the way that the Council charges for adult social care in the city and to enable service users to make more informed choices between the receipt of non residential and residential care.
- Approval of proposals for a **COMMUNAL TELEVISION SYSTEM UPGRADE IN READINESS FOR DIGITAL SWITCHOVER** consisting of the installation of a new digital TV system in approximately 13,000 council properties to enable tenants to continue to watch television in their homes after 2012.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £177,000 to deliver **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE QUAYS SWIMMING AND DIVING COMPLEX** in 2009/2010 in response to customer demand for more fitness stations and fitness classes, dedicated diving facilities and the provision of a greater variety of activities for young people.
- Approval of the rent increase arising from a 5 yearly **RENT REVIEW FOR 150 CAR PARKING SPACES AT SECOND AVENUE, MILLBROOK TRADING ESTATE.**

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

In addition to the formal approval of the **FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2008/10** detailing the food law enforcement practices that will be adopted within the city to safeguard the health and well being of local residents and deter unscrupulous practices, this priority continues to be actively progressed with the Police and other partner organisations to ensure that Southampton is a Safe City for residents and visitors alike.

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**

In addition to noting the **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2008**, the **2ND QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING FOR**

**2008/09 and the HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2008** the executive have:-

- Approved **REVENUE AND CAPITAL VIREMENTS** totalling £300,000 within the Housing General Fund Capital Programme to provide the funding to implement a scheme to improve insulation in privately rented homes within the city in order to enable vulnerable residents to live in safe, warm homes and to tackle fuel poverty.
- Noted the initial officer responses to the **COURT LEET PRESENTMENTS 2008** and agreed that individual Cabinet Members will ensure that appropriate responses are made to presenters regarding issues within their portfolios as soon as practically possible.

#### 8. **City Partnerships Update**

Preparations for the launch of the new **Southampton Partnership Policy Board** in February 2009 are proceeding well and the outcomes of its first meeting will be reported to Council on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. The **Delivery Board** (DB) continues to meet on a monthly basis and since the last Council meeting has, amongst other things, discussed the **Initial Findings of the Baby P Case**, received feedback from the **Employment & Skills Pledge signing ceremony and the launch of the Southampton Skills Development Zone**. In addition the Board has agreed the process for updating the **Southampton Compact**, explored **Customer Profiling Options** that would benefit partners through the adoption of a standardised approach and shared costs, considered the overview and linkages between the six key partnership strategies and plans that are currently being refreshed (**Children & Young People's Plan; Economic Development Action Plan; Health & Wellbeing Strategic Plan; Local Regeneration & Renewal Strategy; Safe City Annual Plan; and the 14 – 19 Strategy**) and reviewed the **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) Revised Draft Action Plan**. The Delivery Board is continuing to monitor the impact of the economic down-turn on Southampton on a monthly basis and to develop its response as issues are highlighted through this work.

Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership and its partnership family can be found at [www.southampton-partnership.com](http://www.southampton-partnership.com).

#### **FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> December covering the period January 2009 to April 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 16<sup>th</sup> January covering the period February to May 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
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**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:**

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

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