

ITEM NO: 5

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| DECISION-MAKER: | COUNCIL | | |
| SUBJECT: | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 18 th MARCH 2009 | | |
| 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 19th January 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.

The executive confirmed their six key policy priorities at the budget setting meeting in February. This report therefore sets out the decisions made by the executive between the 19th January and the 25th February to progress these priorities. Any major issues arising from the decisions that will be made by the Cabinet on the 16th March will be reported verbally at the meeting. For ease of reference the titles of the individual decision making items are highlighted in bold throughout this 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. GETTING THE CITY WOKING

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

- Approval of the **ECONOMIC RECESSION: CITY COUNCIL ACTION TO SUPPORT BUSINESS AND RESIDENTS** programme setting out a number of actions to mitigate the impact of the current adverse economic conditions upon all those who live, work and do business in the city.
- Following the success of the pilot scheme the Cabinet approved a **STREET MARKET IN BITTERNE PRECINCT** for 3 years from 15th April 2009, which will be organised by the Bitterne Village Traders Association (BVTA) subject to them obtaining all of the necessary permits, consents and permissions and

remaining self – funding. Any profit made from the street market will be used for improvements to the area to secure the economic, social or environmental well-being of the market's customers and the local community. The Cabinet also gave delegated authority to Head of City Development and Economy to grant street market licences throughout Southampton up to a maximum of two schemes to organisations of general interest and or social enterprises.

- The **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME** was endorsed by the Cabinet for submission to the Secretary of State for her approval. This scheme will come into effect as soon as possible to guide future developments within the city.
- Agreement was given for the **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2008-2009: APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURE** report resulting in additional capital expenditure of £750,000 in 2008 – 2009 for Principal Road improvements as well as a proposed response to the **GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON "DELIVERING A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SYSTEM"**.
- Cabinet also agreed the **MILLBROOK ROUNDABOUT – SCHEME COMPLETION REPORT** noting the final outturn figure of £2,591,000 and approved the proposals set out in the **STREET LIGHTING PFI PROCUREMENT** report.

2. **INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

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

- Approval of the **CONSULTATIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE REORGANISATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN CENTRAL AND FREEMENTLE AREAS OF SOUTHAMPTON** thereby authorising the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning to conduct pre-statutory consultation on options for primary education within these areas - including the permanent addition of 30 places at St Mary's C of E Primary and Nursery from September 2010, the subsequent addition of 30 places at Maytree Infant and Nursery and at Mount Pleasant Junior school. It was agreed that Bevois Town Primary should remain at its present size 1FE (30) for the immediate future but that this situation should be reviewed with the possibility of extending or rebuilding the school at a larger size if justified by further growth in pupil numbers.
- Endorsement of the **REGENTS PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELOCATION: STATUTORY PROPOSALS** giving delegated authority to the Director of Children's Services and Learning to publish statutory notices to secure the relocation of Regents Park Community College from its current location on King Edward Avenue to the site of St Mark's CE Primary School on Stafford Road.
- Approval of £300,000 for the provision of a new **FOUNDRY LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL KITCHEN** phased £200,000 in 2008/09 and £100,000 in 2009/10 to enable children to receive nutritious cooked meals on site.
- Approval of the **ACADEMIES: CAPITAL PROJECT** subject to Full Council's approval to funding of up to £1,025,000 to cover the Academies

build related costs which cannot be charged against the Partnership for Schools (PfS) funding allocated through the Academies Funding Allocation Model. These costs include anticipated infrastructure, section 106 and section 278 costs as well as the cost of other associated works.

- **ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING TO DELIVER VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-19** totalling £285,000 in order to provide voluntary placements for young people within the Childrens' Services and Learning Directorate.

3. **KEEPING THE CITY CLEAN AND GREEN**

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

- Approval of the **PORTSWOOD RESIDENTS' GARDENS CONSERVATION AREA** which will have the effect of removing Permitted Development rights within the area with the Solicitor to the Council being authorised to advertise the making of this direction by local advertisement and notification to individual owners and to receive any representations relating to this matter.
- **ADOPTION OF A REVISED NON-STATUTORY LOCAL LIST OF HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES** within the city.
- Approval of the proposed **TRANSFER OF DELIVERY OF THE THORNHILL PLUS YOU (TPY) NEW DEAL FOR COMMUNITIES (NDC) PROGRAMME TO PLUS YOU (PYL) LIMITED** so that it is available for active use from 1st April 2009 with delegated authority being given to the Solicitor to the Council for any minor amendments to the revised TPY constitution for the TPY Board and the revised and updated Accountable Body Agreement setting out an agreed position on Accountable Body functions between TPY and the Council. Cabinet also noted that the Council will continue to provide support to the TPY programme and employ the TPY staff team and will pursue redeployment for all TPY staff during and at the end of the programme as appropriate, in line with council policies and procedures. It was also agreed that the TPY Director must seek approval from the Council's Head of Organisational Development about all future HR decisions given the potential financial implications they may have for the council.
- Endorsement for the proposed **INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN PORTSWOOD** to increase the No Waiting Restrictions to 15 metres at the junction of Abbots Way.

4. **LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE**

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

- Agreement of the Terms of Reference and appointment of a new **CORPORATE PARENTING COMMITTEE** with the membership comprising of the Cabinet Members for Children's Services; Young People and Skills; Resources and Workforce Planning; Economic Development; Health and Social Care as well as key Opposition Members.

- Approval of the **CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME – ADDITIONAL CATEGORY OF ENTITLEMENT** to enable residents in receipt of the War Pensions Mobility Supplement to receive a concessionary fares bus pass. Cabinet also noted the Government's intention to extend the statutory bus concession in England by 1st April 2011 to include Service personnel and veterans under the age of 60, who were seriously injured in service and who are resident in England, and therefore gave delegated authority to the Head of Planning & Sustainability to add this category of entitlement to the Southampton Concessionary Fares Scheme as soon as legislation enables this to be done.
- Approval of the **CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME 2009/10 OPERATOR REIMBURSEMENT** to be implemented from 1st April 2009 which will reimburse operators at a rate of 33p in the £, plus 9p per generated journey in accordance with the guidance given by the Department for Transport's Reimbursement Analysis Tool and to retain a figure of 50% for return ticket sales in the average fare calculation. Delegated authority was also given to the Head of Planning & Sustainability to make any necessary variations or amendments to the 2009/10 year scheme arising from the determination of any outstanding appeals.
- Agreement to the **SUBSTITUTE PRESCRIBING AND CARE CO-ORDINATION SERVICE – STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS** to facilitate the potential transfer of 3 Council staff (2.6 FTE) to the successful Service Provider following a competitive tender for the Substitute Prescribing and Care Coordination Service for Drug Users.
- Approval of the **LOCALITY GOVERNANCE** proposals to enhance the provision of information and, therefore, the role of the ward councillors, a Community Engagement Strategy and approach to community engagement, revised arrangements for the local management and co-ordination of services as well as revised arrangements concerning the Southampton Partnership.
- Approval of a **GRANT AWARD FROM EU INTERREG 2 SEAS PROGRAMME** to secure external funding of up to €2.31million (approximately £2.14 million) on behalf of project partners to tackle social exclusion.
- Approval of the **RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO FUEL POVERTY** with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods to take any further decisions in relation to the recommendations where further investigation is required.

5. **KEEP PEOPLE SAFE**

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.

6. **PROVIDING GOOD VALUE, HIGH QUALITY SERVICES**

In addition to noting the **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2008**, the

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2008 and the 3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT the executive have:-

- Approved **REVENUE AND CAPITAL VIREMENTS** of £200,000 from the HRA capital budget for Energy Efficiency Works to the HRA capital budget for Disabled Adaptations in 2008/09 to enable more works to be undertaken and transferred £245,000 from the HRA revenue Responsive Repairs budget to the programmed repair budget for Boiler Servicing and Replacement in 2008/09 to enable this programme to be progressed.
- Endorsed the Corporate **PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2009-2012** and approved the **PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING CONTRACT SERVICES REPAIR WORKS** to secure the use of the Fusion 21 OJEU compliant framework agreement for a period of four years commencing January 2009.
- Approved the **CORPORATE IT STRATEGY 2009-2012** and the **WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2009-2012**.
- Approved **THE ACQUISITION OF 3663 FOOD WAREHOUSE, ASHLEY CRESCENT, SHOLING, SOUTHAMPTON** having complied with the Access to Information Procedure Rules.
- Endorsed the revised **GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND USE OF RESOURCES** for consideration at the budget setting meeting of Full Council in February as well as the **GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 – 2011/12** with approval being given for the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning to finalise the Executive's proposals in respect of the Budget for 2009/10 in consultation with the Leader.
- Approved the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET** report with a recommendation to Full Council that the current average weekly dwelling rent figure of £61.67 should increase by 6.27% with effect from 6th April 2009 but with no increase being applied for garages, parking spaces and service charges for tower block wardens or the concierge service for 2009/10. Cabinet also agreed the revised Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme which includes total spending of £83.007M on work that meets the definition of "affordable housing" in the city.
- Cabinet also endorsed the proposals set out in the **ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY UPDATE 2009** report including the implementation plan to deliver the Accommodation Strategy.
- Cabinet approved **SOLENT SKY REPAIRS – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE** totalling £297,300 to enable necessary repairs to be carried out at the museum to secure the short and medium term sustainability of the building with the work being undertaken in close cooperation with Solent Sky.
- Agreed the **PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF 65 AND SPECIAL CONSTABLES** under S13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in accordance with the qualifying criteria in respect of the "pensioners" element and the "Special Constable" element of the Scheme for 2009/10 with authority being given to the

Executive Director of Resources to take any further action necessary to give effect to this decision.

7. **City Partnerships Update**

The **Southampton Partnership Policy Board** (PB) held its inaugural meeting on the 11th February 2009. Chaired by the Leader of The Council it was a well attended, productive, business meeting which considered the key issues and emerging themes within the six partnership plans (**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**) as well as the linkages between the improvement priorities contained within the plans, their contribution to the overall delivery of the Southampton Partnership's 2026 City Vision and their relationship with other partnership activities. The Policy Board also received a **Delivery Board progress report** and identified a **range of strategic partner topics** for consideration at the next Board meeting in September. The agenda, reports and action notes of the inaugural meeting can be viewed and down-loaded from:

www.southampton-partnership.com/southampton_partnership/SP_Policy_Board/Meetings.asp

The **Delivery Board** (DB), which reports to the new Policy Board, continues to meet on a monthly basis and since the last Council meeting it has **increasingly focused its time on the economic down-turn** identifying a range of partner actions to help mitigate its impact including accelerating the work of the **Southampton Skills Development Zone** and establishing a **dedicated Marine sub-group**; reviewing the **support available to small and medium enterprises (SMEs)** in the city including **procurement opportunities within public sector agencies**; reviewing the **increase in volunteering enquires** received by the Southampton Voluntary Services; and examining the **potential short term uses for vacant city centre and district centre retail units**.

In addition, the Delivery Board has considered the implications of the new **Policing & Crime Bill** and the findings of the **Home Office Review into the Safe City Partnership**; received six-month progress reports on the **Think Family Pathfinder Project**; the **Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan**; the **NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Action Plan** and the **Southampton City Primary Care Trust's Systems Reform Programme**. The Board has also received the **Local Area Agreement Quarter 3 Performance Monitoring Report** (visit: www.southampton-partnership.com/performance/LAA08-09.asp) and the **Quarter 3 SP Framework progress report** (visit: www.southampton-partnership.com/images/SP%20Qtr3%20Progress%20Rpt_tcm23-220991.pdf) outlining the activities undertaken by the whole Southampton partnership family.

Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership and the partnership family can be found at www.southampton-partnership.com or by contacting the relevant partnership manager direct whose contact details can be found on the SP website by clicking on the 'Our Partners' page and then the relevant partnership page.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 13 February covering the period March to June 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 17th March covering the period April to July 2009. Details of all forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:

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

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| 1. | None |
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 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)

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| 1. | None | |
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Background documents available for inspection at: Not applicable

FORWARD PLAN No:

KEY DECISION?

Not Applicable

No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

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