

DECISION-MAKER: COUNCIL
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION: 13 MAY 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 March 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.

Six policy priorities were approved by the Council at the budget setting meeting in February 2009. This report sets out the decisions made by the executive between the 16th March and the 27th April which will progress these priorities. Any major issues arising from the decisions that will be made by the Cabinet on the 11th May 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:

- (i) That the report be noted.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

CONSULTATION

2. Appropriate consultation has taken place on each of the decision items summarised in this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Not applicable.

DETAIL

4. GETTING THE CITY WOKING

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

- Approval of the **SOUTHAMPTON PARTNERSHIP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN** covering the period 2009-2012 to address the impact of the recession and to improve the overall prosperity of the city, its residents, businesses and the people who work here.
- **ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL REGENERATION STRATEGY 2009-2012 (FORMERLY LOCAL REGENERATION AND RENEWAL STRATEGY 2009-2012)** and approval of the Council's contribution to this strategy which is central to improving economic inclusion within the city, reducing poverty and

improving the overall quality of life in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and communities.

- Approval of **THE CITY'S 14 – 19 LEARNING, SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY STRATEGY 2009-12 (FORMERLY THE CITY'S 14 – 19 STRATEGIC PLAN)** to ensure that all young people in the city make a positive contribution to city life through accessing high quality learning and skills provision which is informed by the local labour market as well as other economic and social changes within the city. The Cabinet also endorsed the progress made to prepare for the transfer of responsibilities from the Learning and Skills Council to the council for commissioning post 16 learning and skills and agreed to receive a further report detailing the implications arising from the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill once enacted.
- Endorsement of the **FAMILY HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT – DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION** to obtain further comments from stakeholders under the statutory consultation process in order to provide further guidance to developers and other stakeholders on the application of Policy H12 within the Local Plan Review.
- Approval of **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/10** variations totalling £453,000 as well as new capital expenditure totalling £9.6 Million in 2009/10 to improve roads, pavements and transport arrangements across the city.
- Approval of the **MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR MULTI-STOREY CAR PARKS 2009/10** totalling £927,000 in the city centre which are operated by the council to be funded from borrowing, with the resultant capital financing costs being met from the On Street Surplus Account.

5. 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:-

- Recommendation of the **ADOPTION OF 2009-12 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN** as part of the Council's policy framework to support the well being of children and young people in the city by setting out ten key improvement priorities that the Council and its partners on the Children and Young People's Trust will focus on over the next three years.
- Endorsement of the proposed **APPROPRIATION OF LAND AT RIVERSIDE PARK FOR DEDICATED USE BY BITTERNE PARK INFANT, JUNIOR AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS** following representations from the schools effected as well as local residents and community organisations with the proviso that if, in the future, the land is no longer required as playing fields by the schools it will revert back to public open space / recreation ground.
- **DETERMINATION OF SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2010/11** following consultation with schools and other relevant admission authorities, including the proposal that the priority given to siblings in applications for secondary school be the same as that given to siblings in applications for primary and junior schools, to delete the provision within the arrangements for 2009 that applications for year 3 places in primary schools be determined at the same time as places in junior schools and that the published admission

number for Newlands Primary School be increased to 60 for 2010-11.

- Approval of the revised **PRIMARY STRATEGY FOR CHANGE** for submission to the Department for Children Schools and Families to secure future capital funding allocations to improve the quality of primary schools within the city.
- Agreement not to support a **PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SCHOOLS' FORUM TERMS OF REFERENCE** to increase the Non Schools Membership to include a support staff member with full voting rights with future changes to the Terms of Reference being delegated to the Solicitor to the Council following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
- **APPROVAL OF PROJECT EXPENDITURE FOR SCHOOL MODERNISATIONS** in accordance with the Council's financial procedure rules totalling £732,000 which will secure improvements at St Monica Junior School, Townhill Junior School and St Monica Infant School.
- Agreement of the **STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE PROPOSALS – REORGANISATION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES, CENTRAL, FREEMANTLE AREAS OF THE CITY** to secure the strategic development of the primary estate alongside the Building Schools for the Future programme to raise standards, achieve educational transformation, promote integration, deliver the outcomes of the statutory Children and Young People's Plan and to increase the number of places to meet the forecast rise in school aged children within these two areas of the city.
- Approval of **LORDSHILL RECREATION GROUND – APPROPRIATION AND DISPOSAL (LEASE) OF AN AREA OF LAND FOR NEW ACADEMY SITE** to enable the redevelopment of the land for the Oasis Academy Lord's Hill.

6. **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 **PROJECT INTEGRA DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2009 TO 2014** setting out the strategic context for the waste management partnership in Hampshire, proposed actions over the next five years and the resources and performance management arrangements to secure the objectives of sustainable and ethical recycling; eliminating landfill; commercial materials management; securing value for money and promoting leadership within this area nationally.
- Approval of the **BEDFORD PLACE WALK-TO-WORK PROJECT** and capital expenditure totalling £497,000 in 2009/10 to investigate, design and deliver the first phase of improvements to progress this initiative.
- The release of £200,000 from the 2009/10 General Fund Contingency Budget to provide **ADDITIONAL ROAD MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE ON REPAIRING POT HOLES** in 2009/10 to improve the condition of the city's roads and pavements.

7. **LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE**

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

- Approval of the **2009/10 GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS** totalling £2.2 Million with delegated authority being given to officers following consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to allocate any grant reserves, under spend or return of grant awards. Cabinet also agreed to undertake a corporate review of grants including advisory services by the end of July to ensure that grant aided organisations are given sufficient notice of any proposals that might result in significant changes in their grant allocations during the next funding cycle.
- Endorsement of the **AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN – SHORT BREAKS** proposals resulting in £368,800 being added to the Children's Services Capital Programme funded from the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant, with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Children's Services to begin a procurement process for the provision of short break services subject to clarification of the PCT's contribution to this initiative as a joint commissioning project. Cabinet also noted that agreement had been given as an exception to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules for up to £100,000 of the 2009/10 revenue grant to be used in advance of the main tender to ensure that additional short break provision is up and running this Summer/ Autumn.
- Approval of a proposal to undertake an options appraisal to refocus **IN-HOUSE DOMICILIARY CARE PROVISION** to the provision of an initial response and re-enablement services with a further report being brought to the Cabinet in due course to consider this matter and the preferred options further.
- Agreement was given for **COMMISSIONING A SERVICE EXTERNALLY RESULTING IN TUPE TRANSFER OF SPECIFIC MENTAL HEALTH STAFF** jointly with the PCT rather than continuing to provide this service in-house. This proposal will result in the cessation of the Health and Community Care Division working in primary mental health services resulting in the potential transfer under TUPE of 2 Council staff to the successful Service Provider following the competitive tender for the provision of a primary care based mental health service.
- **ADOPTION OF THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY 2009-12** with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care to approve changes to the plan to ensure that it is kept up to date.
- Approval by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services of a two year contract in conjunction with the PCT to secure a **YOUNG PEOPLE SUBSTANCE MISUSE SECTION 75 AGREEMENT** with the option of a further two year extension with the partners establishing and maintaining a pooled fund to jointly commission young people's substance misuse services within the city.
- Agreement of a **CAPITAL SCHEME FOR BUILDING WORKS AT THE HOME OF A CARER WITH SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP** with £55,000 being added to the Children's Services Capital Programme in 2009/10 and approved to provide a capital grant for building works at the home of carers of children unable to be looked after by their birth parents. Delegated authority was given to officers to take all reasonable steps to secure the delivery of this project and to safeguard the Council's Grant arrangements.

- Consideration of a **VARIOUS SCHEME APPROVAL PHASE I 2009/10 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME** report resulting in the approval of £19.8 Million to progress the decent homes programme within the Central and Swaythling / Lordshill areas of the city as well as lift refurbishment, estate improvement, energy saving, crime reduction, disabled adaptation and window replacement works for the benefit of council tenants across the city.
- Approval of the **RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO INCREASING INDEPENDENT LIVING THROUGH HOUSING** with delegated authority being given within existing budget provisions to the Executive Directors of Neighbourhoods, and Communities Health and Care following consultation with appropriate Cabinet Members to take further decisions in relation to the inquiry recommendations where further investigation is required.

8. **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. The executive has therefore made a number of decisions to help progress this priority:-

- Endorsement of the **SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP, STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT AND PARTNERSHIP PLAN – 2009 UPDATE** to enable the Council to work with key partners to keep residents safe and to reduce crime in the city with a specific focus on reducing violent crime and criminal damage which currently make up almost half of all crimes in Southampton by prioritising the safety and well being of children and young people, improving safety in local neighbourhoods and tackling alcohol related harm.
- Approval of **PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS (TRO)** at three junctions to improve road safety following concerns raised by residents and local bus companies about parked cars obstructing the access and visibility for road users at the junctions of Foundry Lane/Somerset Terrace, Jurd's Lake/Victoria Road and Malmesbury Road/Norfolk Road.

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

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

- Endorsement of the **TUDOR HOUSE MUSEUM PHASE 2** project with the formal approval of capital expenditure totalling £5.231 Million to progress the final phase of this project subject to the successful award of £3.532 Million from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Agreement of the **REFRESH OF SOUTHAMPTON'S LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT** targets to enable them to be formally signed off by partners within the city and representatives of government departments.
- Endorsement of the **ANNUAL REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO FEES AND CHARGES** by the Cabinet Member setting out the proposed increases for 2009/10 and authorising the Solicitor to the Council to take any steps necessary to implement the proposals.

- Agreement to grant permission for **THE CO-ORDINATION OF REQUESTS TO FILM IN SOUTHAMPTON** on Council land or premises making a charge where applicable and wherever possible to act as the city liaison point to promote filming at privately owned locations in Southampton and to retain a location finders administrative charge where applicable in these circumstances.
- Approval **TO SPEND CAPITAL FOR IT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT** in accordance with financial procedure rules of £139,000 in 2009/10 which will secure improvements in information sharing between different IT systems as well as Health and Adult Social Care providers within the city.
- Agreement of the proposed **RELOCATION OF SERVICES FROM TOWN DEPOT FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT WORKING** with Eastleigh Borough Council with a further report being submitted in September 2009 recommending a way forward.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £992,000 in 2009/10 to progress the **HERITAGE CENTRE (FORMERLY ENTITLED SEA CITY MUSEUM)** development to be funded from council funds and an award from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Endorsement of the **CUSTOMER ACCESS STRATEGY** for 2009 – 2012 with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning to make any final amendments to the Strategy.
- Approval of the **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY** for 2009 – 2012 and phases 1 and 2 of the plan with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning, to make any final amendments to the Strategy.
- Approval of the Corporate **PROPERTY STRATEGY** for 2009 – 2012 with delegated authority being given to the Executive Director of Resources, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Workforce Planning, to make any final amendments to the Strategy including building in the results of the service property review.
- Approval of the **SALE OF FORMER CITY COLLEGE ANNEX SITE AND ADJACENT LAND, PAGET STREET, SOUTHAMPTON** offer with delegated authority being given to officers to negotiate final terms and to enter into legal documentation to progress the sale

10. **City Partnerships Update**

Since the last Council meeting the **Southampton Partnership Delivery Board (DB)** completed its work on **refreshing Southampton's Local Area Agreement (LAA)** which was approved by the Secretary of State of Communities & Local Government on the 9th April (visit: www.southampton-partnership.com/performance/local_area_agreement.asp). The Delivery Board also considered and agreed **additional LAA pump-priming grant allocations** to three of the city's twelve stretch target areas to accelerate progress towards their final 2009/10 targets. The DB also received a presentation on **Neighbourhood Management** and endorsed the proposed model acknowledging that partner agency engagement is crucial to the success of this initiative. The Board received

a presentation from the Audit Commission on the **Comprehensive Area Assessment** outlining its linkage to the work of the Southampton Partnership, the high-level timetable for the assessment and potential issues that the Commission wish to explore with stakeholders and partners in the city. The DB also continued to **focus on the economic down-turn** and received **monthly monitoring reports** to secure partner action and input to help mitigate the recession's impact on residents and businesses within the city.

Finally, the DB considered the **Quarter 4 SP Framework progress report** outlining the activities undertaken by the partnership family over the last quarter and is currently developing the **Southampton Partnership 2009/10 Business & Communications Plan** which will be circulated to members in due course.

Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership and its 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 16th April covering the period May to August 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 16th May covering the period June to September 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

11. Not applicable

Revenue

12. Not applicable

Property

13. Not applicable

Other

14. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. 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:

16. Not applicable

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. 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:

KEY DECISION?

Not Applicable

No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

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