

**DECISION-MAKER:** COUNCIL  
**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE BUSINESS  
**DATE OF DECISION:** 15 JULY 2009  
**REPORT OF:** LEADER OF THE COUNCIL  
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
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None
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## SUMMARY

This report outlines the decisions made by the executive since the May 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 11<sup>th</sup> May and the 29<sup>th</sup> June which will progress these priorities. Any major issues arising from the decisions that will be made by the Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009 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

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

The Cabinet endorsed the **PUSH BUSINESS PLAN 2009-11** as the basis for the operation of the joint PUSH joint committee in order to combat the effects of the recession and to ensure that the planned long term economic growth within the sub region will benefit city residents.

### 5. INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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

- Approval of the **BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE - STRATEGY FOR CHANGE PART 1 AND PRIORITISATION OF SCHOOLS (WAVE 6a)** proposals to enable the long term educational vision and the strategy for taking forward the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme to be submitted to the Partnerships for Schools ('PfS'), including the prioritisation criteria for sequencing projects throughout the lifetime of this programme, and the initial selection of the schools that will form wave 6a as follows:
  - Bitterne Park School
  - Chamberlayne College for the Arts
  - St George Catholic VA College
  - The Sholing Technology College
  - Upper Shirley High School

Cabinet also gave delegated authority to officers to approve any further changes required to the document following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and to commence the work required to prepare an Outline Business Case for approval by the Cabinet and submission to the PfS in due course.

- Agreement to commence pre statutory consultation to progress the **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS REVIEW** to ensure that the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs within the city can be met through the inclusion of learning centres at the 5 secondary schools within wave 6a of the BSF programme as well as changes to the specialist provision within the Cantell Maths and Computing College for children with learning difficulties. A further report on the outcome of the pre-statutory consultation, including recommendations for statutory proposals if appropriate, will be brought to the Cabinet in the Autumn.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £250,000 in 2009-10 to secure the **DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY YEARS PROVISION - FACILITY AT PORCHESTER ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON** so that a provider can offer early years' education and childcare for children aged 3 and 4 from this venue pending the completion of the riverside development (Centenary Quay) at Woolston.
- Approval of the **NEWLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL REBUILD** with £7.5 million being added to the Children's Services and Learning Capital programme to enable a two form entry primary school with Early Years provision on the site.
- Endorsement of the **PURCHASE OF TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS FOR ST. MARY'S PRIMARY AND FAIRISLE JUNIOR SCHOOLS** to accommodate extra pupils in these two schools with effect from September 2009 to be funded from the Modernisation Allocation, Basic Need Grant and a contribution from St Mary's School.
- Approval of **SCHOOLS DEFICIT BUDGETS 2009/10** for Sinclair Primary School, St. Monica Infant School, Townhill Infant School, Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Redbridge Community School, Chamberlayne College for the Arts and St. George Catholic VA College to enable them to adjust to unexpected changes in pupil numbers over the next year without having to make significant cuts in staffing or other budgets which could have an adverse impact on educational standards within these schools.

- Acceptance of a **HOME ACCESS TO ICT** grant of £135,000 sourced from the DCSF/ Becta with formal approval being given to progress this initiative through the Children and Services' capital programme to enable up to 180 looked after children to obtain ICT provision within their homes in order to progress their educational development.

## 6. **KEEPING THE CITY CLEAN AND GREEN**

- Since the last Council meeting the Cabinet confirmed the available **FUNDING TO PROCURE CITY CENTRE PEDESTRIAN WAY FINDINGS SIGNS AND OTHER LEGIBLE CITY PROJECTS** to enable the OJEU process to begin to secure appropriate design and manufacture contracts to make the city an easier place for people to find their way around - with £285,000 included within the Environment and Transport capital programme in 2010 -11 to roll out the next phase of this initiative.

## 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:-

- Consideration of the **VARIOUS SCHEME APPROVAL PHASE II 2009/10 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME** report resulting in the approval of approximately £1.2M to progress the Decent Homes Programme within the Peartree/Sholing area of the City, electrical improvements to tenants homes, Crime Reduction and Safety initiatives, the upgrade of communal areas and bedsits within sheltered accommodation as well as work to progress the estate regeneration initiative at Hinkler Parade.
- Endorsement of the **FAMILY HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD)** to support the application of H12 of the Local Plan to help secure the provision of larger family homes in the city pending the formal adoption of the Core Strategy.
- In addition the Cabinet decided to **RECONSIDER THE DECISION TO CLOSE WHITEHAVEN LODGE AND BIRCH LAWN RESIDENTIAL HOMES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF NEW FACTORS** noting the implications for residents involved in residential home closures identified in legal proceedings related to other recent home closures and acknowledging the audit of residents' needs set out in the confidential appendix. Cabinet resolved to uphold the original closure decision with the Executive Director of Communities, Health and Care being instructed to implement a closure plan for the two homes taking full account of the needs of individual residents.

## 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:-

- Approval of the **ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE YOUTH CRIME ACTION PLAN** totalling £348,395 from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to progress a range of initiatives including the removal of young people from the city's streets late at night, after school patrols, family intervention and restorative justice projects in order to keep children and young people and other residents in the city safe. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning to work collaboratively with the Police, Wessex Youth Offending Team and the Safe City Partnership to deliver this programme.
- Approval of the **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ENFORCEMENT POLICY** to reflect legislative changes and to ensure that the regulation and enforcement of housing standards in the city is consistent, risk based and targeted on landlords and agents who consistently breach regulations and provide poor standards of accommodation.

## 9. PROVIDING GOOD VALUE, HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

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

- Endorsement of the draft **2009/10 CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN** and recommendation to Full Council for its approval as part of the council's overall Policy Framework.
- Approval of a **STRATEGIC LAND PURCHASE** to progress the Environment and Transport Portfolio's objectives.
- Approval for the **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S COMMUNICATIONS FUNCTION** to enable the unification, centralisation and coordination of all Council communications and the adoption of a campaign-based approach to communications with the use of research and evaluation as the basis of decision-making in this area.
- Agreement of the **ARTS AND HERITAGE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2009-13**. Cabinet also gave delegated authority to the Arts and Heritage Manager to revise the policy if required, following consultation with the Cabinet Member.
- Recommendation of the proposed **CHANGES TO EXISTING REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS** to Full Council to reflect the impact of the recession on the Council's finances including the change in use of the current Transformation budget to progress the Council's Efficiency Programme by paying for an Efficiency Programme Manager, additional procurement staff and other support as necessary to fast track efficiency savings and support project management as appropriate. Additional efficiencies, income generation proposals, service reductions, and one-off expenditure of £279,600 in 2009/10 are also being recommended to Council as well as the re-phasing of the Environment and Transport Portfolio Capital Programme to bring forward up to £1.0M of expenditure on highway improvement schemes from 2010/11 to 2009/10.
- Adoption of the **CIVIC CENTRE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN** as the basis for management decisions regarding future changes to the Civic Centre and its surrounding areas which will form the basis for discussion and agreement with English Heritage for a new Heritage Management Plan.

## 10. **City Partnerships Update**

Since the last Council meeting the **Southampton Partnership's 2009/10 Business & Communications Plan** has been approved and hardcopies have been circulated to a broad range of stakeholders including all members. This document sets out the key partnership targets and initiatives for the year ahead.

The **Southampton Partnership Delivery Board (DB)** has continued to meet on a monthly basis and has considered proposals to **transform SHAPe (Southampton Heritage & Arts People) into a charitable company**; examined the **impact of the recession on the voluntary sector** with regard to capacity and new volunteering opportunities; received end of **2008/09 progress reports** on delivering the **Local Area Agreement and the City of Southampton Strategy**; as well as **partnership development activities** undertaken by the Children & Young People's Trust and the Safe City Partnership.

The Delivery Board has also received a presentation from the Lead Inspectors on the **Comprehensive Area Assessment** highlighting their initial findings for Southampton which will be refined and formally presented to partners in September; received a presentation on the **South East Progress through Partnership LSP capacity building programme** and the support it can provide; received a report **reviewing the Economy & Enterprise Board** setting out proposals to restructure it around the delivery of the Southampton Economic Development Action Plan; as well as a presentation on the **2008 Annual Report from the South East Regional Directors of Public Health** and an update on **pandemic flu and flood risk management** activities in the city. Throughout this period the Board has also maintained its **focus on the economic down-turn** and received **monthly monitoring reports** to secure partner actions to help mitigate the impact of the recession.

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) 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**

11. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16<sup>th</sup> June covering the period July to October 2009 and will publish its next plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> July covering the period August to November 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**

12. Not applicable.

### **Revenue**

13. Not applicable.

### **Property**

14. Not applicable.

**Other**

15. None.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

16. 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:**

17. Not applicable

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

18. 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.

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