

DECISION-MAKER: COUNCIL
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION: 18 NOVEMBER 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 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.

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 21st September and the 26th October 2009 which will progress these priorities. For ease of reference the titles of the individual decision making items are highlighted in bold throughout this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

GETTING THE CITY WORKING

4 The following initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority:

- Acceptance of a grant secured through the Council's participation in a **PUSH SUB REGIONAL BID TO THE FUTURE JOBS FUND**, which will create up to 274 new jobs in the city. The £338,000 grant that will be received by the City Council will enable approximately 52 individuals to be employed as apprentices with a further 27 people benefitting from placements within the organisation. Cabinet also agreed to develop further bids to the Future Jobs Fund to address graduate unemployment, unemployment within the city's priority neighbourhoods and sectors experiencing skills shortages in the city.

- Approval of **THE CITY COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO PARKING DURING THE RECESSION** which reduces the cost of car parking in Southampton within four council owned multi storey car parks for individuals purchasing 'Pay as you Park' Discount Cards and in all council car parks for those purchasing season tickets. The cost of parking in the under used Six Dials and Trinity Road Car parks has also been reduced by 50% with take up being encouraged from PCT staff, RSH hospital visitors and local residents. In addition Cabinet agreed to promote the existing £250 overnight parking season tickets for owners of city centre properties without parking spaces to help boost property sales, to offer free site-specific travel planning advice to organisations purchasing 50 or more Parking Discount Cards for their employees and to implement a comprehensive marketing strategy for parking in the city engaging directly with businesses as well as other potential clients.
- Approval of the highways, street lighting and sustainable transport initiatives contained within the **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2009 – APPROVAL TO SPEND** report totalling £2.1M in 2009/10 and £270,000 for measures to enhance the Chantry Road pedestrian footbridge.
- Endorsement of the **THORNHILL SUCCESSION STRATEGY** to ensure improvements that have been delivered in this area are sustained beyond 2011 as well as the proposed investment of £1.6M by Thornhill Plus You in the Hinkler Parade redevelopment scheme.

INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

5 The following initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority:

- Approval as a school organisation decision maker to the **PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A SIXTH FORM BY BITTERNE PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL** from September 2012. Cabinet also agreed to accept a grant of £6.38 Million from the Learning and Skills Council to cover the capital and revenue costs associated with the creation of a sixth form at Bitterne Park school.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £2 million to be met from the **TARGETED CAPITAL FUND** to carry out the planned phase two improvement works and additional work to enable post 16 provision at the Great Oaks School, as well as preliminary work for the roll out of 14-19 Diplomas.
- Endorsement of the **2009/12 ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS PLAN (FORMERLY 2009/10)** and recommendation to Full Council for its approval.
- Agreement to formalise the **LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD POOLED FUND** by entering into a formal agreement between all partners to support the functions of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
- Approval of a response to the recommendations contained within the report on the **SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING.**

KEEPING THE CITY CLEAN AND GREEN

6 The following initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority:

- Endorsement of the **MINERALS AND WASTE CORE STRATEGY – PARTIAL REVIEW, DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION** with delegated authority being given to the Head of Planning and Sustainability, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation, to fine tune the consultation document prior to its publication.
- Approval to undertake a consultation exercise to secure the development of **A GREEN CODE FOR PARK USERS** which will clarify issues relating to the public use of the City's parks and green spaces and where appropriate amend Council Policy and Byelaws.
- Acceptance of a £1.1 Million grant from the Parks for People lottery scheme for works to progress the planned **ST. JAMES' PARK IMPROVEMENTS**.
- Approval of conditions for **ACCEPTING THE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY'S LOW CARBON INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS** to reduce CO2 emissions in the city by enabling the Council to receive, administer and be the accountable body for the receipt of funding to secure the installation of a proposed district energy network within the Woolston Riverside development and to enable the Gantry development to be connected to the city centre district energy network.

LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE

7 The following initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this priority since the last Council meeting:

- Agreement of proposals totalling £2.1 Million in 2009/10 and £150,000 in 2010/11 as set out in the **VARIOUS SCHEME APPROVAL PHASE III 2009/10 – HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) CAPITAL PROGRAMME** report. These planned improvements will benefit council tenants and leaseholders across the city and include a roof replacement programme, water tank and pump replacements, communal facility improvements within sheltered housing schemes and heating system upgrades. Cabinet agreed expenditure totalling £681,000 for the provision of two new external lifts at Milner Court and to progress feasibility studies at Neptune Court and Manston Court.
- Approval of the **ESTATE REGENERATION PROGRAMME** to procure a redevelopment partner to redevelop flats and maisonettes, sheltered flats, sheds, shop units, garages, Shopping Parade, service yards and other open areas in Townhill Park, Harefield, Weston and Millbrook.
- Approval of capital expenditure totalling £300,000 to progress the proposed **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT 81-97 PORTSWOOD ROAD** which will secure the completion of approximately 101 new affordable homes in the city.
- Acceptance of an award of £480,000 2009/10 and £480,000 in 2010/11 for the **MANAGING MIGRATION PRESSURES PROJECT**.

KEEP PEOPLE SAFE

- 8 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 decision has been made by the executive to help progress this priority:

- Approval of the Cabinet's **RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO THE POTENTIAL LINKS BETWEEN CRIME AND DISORDER AND ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL.**

PROVIDING GOOD VALUE, HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

- 9 The following initiatives have been approved by the executive to progress this over-arching priority since the last Council meeting:

- Approval in principle to seek the **ATTORNEY GENERAL'S APPROVAL ON THE PROPOSED FINANCIAL PROCEDURES FOR ART DISPOSALS** to enable the potential re-investment of receipts from any art sales in the Sea City Museum project. Consultation with the public, interested bodies and key stakeholders is continuing and will inform the final decision that will be made by the Council.
- Approval of the **2010/11 GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX – MAJOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION** report.

CITY PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

- 10 Since the last Council meeting, the **Southampton Partnership Policy Board** held its second meeting and considered a paper from Business Southampton and the Chamber of Commerce outlining the **challenges facing the business community** and how other sectors can provide support; a paper from the Wheatsheaf Trust and Fairbridge outlining the **challenges facing young people with regard to training, support and employment** and how other sectors can provide support; and a paper from the Later Years Partnership outlining the **challenges facing older people** and how other sectors can provide support. A range of actions were identified for follow up by partners. The SP Policy Board also received a **six-month progress report** from the Chair of the SP Delivery Board.

- 11 The **Southampton Partnership Delivery Board** continues to meet on a monthly basis and since the last Council meeting it has met with the Audit Commission and provided feedback to their **draft Area Assessment for Southampton**. It has also received a presentation from the Chair of the City Brand Group proposing an **enhanced digital footprint profile for the city** and agreed to progress this work by commissioning a fully costed delivery plan for consideration in February 2010. The SP Delivery Board approved the **Thornhill Plus You Succession Strategy**; noted the latest position regarding the **Economy & Enterprise Board Review**; received an update on the **proposed Marine Skills Development Zone**, noted the **local position regarding Vestas** and agreed to **develop a joint 'Backing Young Britain' proposal with Portsmouth**. The **Volunteering Action Plan** was approved and a 6-month update on the **Neighbourhood Management** initiative was considered. The Board also considered **Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring** reports and is currently undertaking its **annual self-assessment** to identify

any **learning & development needs**.

- 12 Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership 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

- 13 The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16th November covering the period December to March 2010 and will publish its next plan on the 17th December covering the period January to April 2010. Details of all forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:
<http://sccwww1.southampton.gov.uk/decisionmaking/internet/forwardplanindex.asp>

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

- 14 Not applicable.

Revenue

- 15 Not applicable.

Property

- 16 Not applicable.

Other

- 17 None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- 18 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:

- 19 Not applicable

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 20 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: N/A **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: None