

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT
DATE OF DECISION:	14 NOVEMBER 2012
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting in September 2012.

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.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not applicable.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

3. Decisions made by Cabinet to aid economic growth and sustainability:
 - Approval was given to facilitate the development of vacant land at Mayflower Plaza in order to improve the environmental, economic and social well being of the area in which the land is situated, subject to points detailed in the report.
 - Approval of funding for the Station Quarter project with a capital expenditure of £415,000 in 2012/13 from the Leader's Capital Programme to carry out works at the Station Quarter Southside.
 - Approval of arrangements in respect of Mayflower Park and the Royal Pier Waterfront to acquire land associated with an extended Mayflower Park.
 - The approval to sign the European Commission Covenant of mayors on Climate Change as a commitment to meeting and exceeding the EU 20% CO₂ reduction target.
4. Southampton and Portsmouth are working together to bid for radical new powers to boost local growth as part of a second wave of City Deals. If the bid is successful, Portsmouth and Southampton could unlock over £1bn each of economic development across the two cities, with the potential to create more than 16,000 new homes, more than 30,000 new jobs, and an expansion in both cities' core economic sectors.

5. We have also been working on:
- developing innovative energy related initiatives with partners including other councils;
 - working with the LEP and Eastleigh Borough Council in establishing a Redundancy Task Force to support people affected by the recent decision by Ford.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO

6. We have supported schools in their response to the demand for school places by:
- Cabinet endorsement to the proposals to expand city centre primary schools and to commence 6 weeks of pre-statutory consultation in September 2012. These proposals aim, from September 2013, to increase schools places by 30 places each in Bassett Green Primary School, Bevois Town Primary School and by 30 places in St John's Primary and Nursery School from September 2014. These will be supported by a £3,000,000 Children's Services Capital Programme funded from non-ring-fenced Department for Education Basic Need Grant.
 - Cabinet approval of:
 - the expansion of Weston Park Infant School to form an all through primary school;
 - the closure of Weston Park Junior School;
 - the change the age range of Weston Park Infant School from 4-7 year olds to 4-11 year olds;
 - expansion of Weston Park Infant School from a 270 place infant school to a 750 place all through primary school;
 - discontinuance of Weston Park Junior school from 1 January 2013;
 - the proposed expansion of Springwell School from the 5th November 2012 by the addition of eight places (one class group) in Year R and continuing incrementally in subsequent years, subject to demand for additional places in future years.
7. We endorsed the Local Authority Sign Up To "Every Disabled Child Matters" Disabled Children's Charter and gave approval for Oaklands School Change Of Use Consent and to apply to the Department for Education for consent to dispose of the Oaklands site as no longer required for Educational purposes.
8. Other ongoing work includes priority to the Safeguarding Action Plan for children in response to the recommendations from Inspectors earlier this year.

COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO

9. Cabinet gave their:
 - Approval for the Youth Contract Delivery and for entering into the funding agreement to deliver the Youth Contract as a sub-contractor to Skills Training UK Ltd.
 - Endorsement Of The Southampton Youth Offending Service (YOS) Annual Youth Justice Plan 2012/13.
 - Endorsement of the Social Fund Transition: Local Support to replace the Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for living expenses. We have agreed to develop a way forward following consideration of the work of the Scrutiny Inquiry on Welfare Reforms and multiagency local assessment on the impact of the Welfare Reforms on local residents and services. Our aim is to develop and implement a sustainable and holistic way forward that enables vulnerable residents to become more self reliant in the future.

10. We are very pleased to report on the following:
 - Appointment of highly skilled, dedicated officers to take forward the Families Matter and we expect to develop this programme further, based on the excellent work being undertaken in the city by a range of statutory and voluntary organisations.
 - Confirmation by the Department of Communities and Local Government to release the Accountable Body (Southampton City Council) from financial liabilities incurred during delivery of the Thornhill New Deal for Communities (NDC) programme. The removal of financial liabilities on SCC is welcome news and an endorsement of SCC's procedures during the operation of the Thornhill NDC programme. The Council now has local discretion to remove or retain what protections it has in place on the use of the assets purchased with NDC grant. Removal of clawback restrictions may help enable PYL develop business models that fully utilise the value (£) of its investments.
 - StreetCRED got underway in October with the City Council and its partners launching a series of action days to tackle environmental crime and anti-social behaviour. The aim is to restore pride in Southampton's neighbourhoods by joining forces with its partners and local residents to get the city's neighbourhoods sparkling in a series of days of action.

EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVEMENT PORTFOLIO

11. The first quarter performance monitoring for 2012/13 report was noted and that 72% of the Council's Key Critical Performance Indicators set out in the Council Plan are reported to be on target. The new grant application process is underway and we expect to bring forward recommendations early in the new year.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

12. Cabinet approval was given for:
 - the centralisation of Building Control joint service with Eastleigh Borough Council to extend the existing Building Control Partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council for a further 5 years
 - the appropriation of Vokes Memorial Gardens and part of Queen's Park, to enable the construction of the Platform Road scheme.
13. We are awaiting an announcement from central government in respect of our waste bid.

HOUSING AND LEISURE SERVICES

14. Cabinet gave their endorsement to the Resilient Collections – Arts Connect Funding and subject to the Arts Council England (ACE) confirming a grant award of £250,000, gave their approval to direct these funds to identified projects.
15. Cabinet also noted the Phase 2 Estate Regeneration Programme and approved capital expenditure of £347,000 phased £284,000 in 2012/13 and £63,000 in 2013/14, for highway and sewer diversion works associated with the Cumbrian Way Shopping Parade redevelopment.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

16. The main focus has been developing budget proposals for 2013/14 and endorsement of the Southampton Transition Employment Project (STEP), approval of the high level principles for STEP, including the extension of the redeployment period from 3 to 4 months and the implementation of a short and long term strategy.
17. Other work included the following Cabinet decisions:
 - Approval of the corporate revenue financial monitoring for the period to the end of June 2012 detailing the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) revenue financial position for the Authority for the three months to the end of June.
 - Agreement of changes to the existing revenue and capital budgets
 - Approval of the efficiencies, income and service reductions and noted the high level forecast for the General Fund for 2013/14 to 2015/16
 - Approval of the Minerals and Waste Plan: Further Changes document.
 - Agreement of the Energy Contracts Renewal to procure energy via the replacement flexible framework 2012 -2016, and where appropriate to provide a managed service, with a the total value of circa £6.9M over the 4 year period.
 - Approval of the proposed lease of part of Mansel Park to Bush Hill FC subject to the outcome of public advertisement/consultation.
 - Approval for the acquisition of the land for Pan Handle Car Park, Eastern Dock, Southampton.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

18. Detailed in individual Cabinet reports.

Property/Other

19. Detailed in individual Cabinet reports.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

20. Detailed in individual Cabinet reports.

Other Legal Implications:

21. Detailed in individual Cabinet reports.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

22. Detailed in individual Cabinet reports.

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?	No
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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	