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| DECISION-MAKER: | COUNCIL |
| SUBJECT: | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 20 MARCH 2013 |
| REPORT OF: | LEADER OF THE COUNCIL |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | |
| None | |

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting in November 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)

INTRODUCTION

1. The Cabinet is keen for the Council to work as ONE Council and as a reflection of this approach, this report highlights cross Council work, with the contribution of different Portfolios under the following headings:
 - Promoting Southampton and attracting inward investment
 - Inspiring our citizens and bringing together all parts of our community
 - Tackling inequalities and protecting vulnerable people
 - Raising aspirations and outcomes for our young people
 - Encouraging new house building and improvements in existing housing stock
 - Capital Programme and property disposals
 - Progress on work programme of working groups.
2. The Cabinet and I spent a significant amount of time since May 2012 getting to grips with the financial challenges, developing budget proposals, undertaking consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and rebuilding relationships with staff and unions. We are also looking forward to assuming responsibilities for Public Health from April 2013 and have been working to ensure a smooth transfer.
3. We have commenced this year with a focus on changing the way we work and reshaping the organisation to be nimble and fit for future. We have made interim arrangements for ensuring a smooth transfer of responsibilities with the appointment of Dawn Baxendale as interim Chief Executive from

1st March 2013. A number of other appointments have also been made since December 2012 and will provide the Council with the leadership, experience and capacity it needs at a senior level, to meet the future financial and service challenges we face. The new team includes the interim Director of Environment and Economy, the Director of People who starts on 8th April 2013 and the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services. We also commissioned Price, Waterhouse, Cooper (PwC) to work with and support senior managers in the Council to develop seven workstreams to reshape and redesign services. These are designed to provide a firm foundation for the establishment of the People Directorate in April 2013.

PROMOTING SOUTHAMPTON AND ATTRACTING INWARD INVESTMENT

4. Facilitating economic growth is a priority for the administration and in pursuing it; we have achieved significant milestones since the last Council meeting. They include:
5. City Deal: The Council played a critical role in developing an excellent and innovative joint City Deal proposal with Portsmouth. It has been given the green light which is expected to bring thousands of new jobs and homes to the Solent region. This will give us powers and freedoms to drive economic growth and we hope to have the deal signed off by July 2013. The proposed City Deal, which has huge support from the private sector; is focused on the expansion of a globally-competitive maritime economy in the Solent area. Success would mean expanding Southampton port (4,000 new jobs), redevelopment of Royal Pier (6,000+ new jobs) and investment in the Itchen riverside to create new homes, retail and business opportunities.
6. Strategic City wide approach to energy and low carbon commitment: In pursuing these aims, Cabinet:
 - Approved the development of a strategic action plan for the delivery of low carbon and renewable energy for the Council, the City of Southampton and the Solent region.
 - Re-confirmed the Council's commitment to the Low Carbon City Strategy as well as years two and three of the Delivery Plan to provide a framework from which to base future decisions and policies.
7. Watermark West Quay: the planning application for this project was received on 28th February 2013.
8. Pooled budgets for strategic investment in communities: Cabinet endorsed the multi-agency strategic investment model and to accept, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules, funding from external agencies, and act as Lead Accountable Body for the administration of the funds.
9. New Arts Complex project: Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to officers to establish the Holding Company and Operating Company, appoint Council Representatives to the Company Boards and take any other action necessary to progress the project. As the administration, we are committed to supporting the establishment of the Southampton New Arts Complex (SNAC) as it has great potential to stimulate economic regeneration and contribute to the cultural quarter.

10. Transport: Southampton will play a lead authority role for the delivery of a South Hampshire Smartcard for Public Transport and Legible Cities projects procured by SCC as lead authority for Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH). This will be from Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) funding and include developing a joint back office as agreed at TfSH Joint Council committee on 25th September 2012, for which the Cabinet agreed to include a scheme of £5M in the capital programme.
11. Tender for a contract for City centre markets, events and other activities: Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to officers to produce, finalise and approve the range of documents necessary for the tender of a contract for City Centre markets, events and other activities using the most appropriate procurement route.

INSPIRING OUR CITIZENS AND BRINGING TOGETHER ALL PARTS OF OUR COMMUNITY

12. Supporting the community and voluntary sector: Cabinet agreed grant allocations to voluntary organisations totalling £4,977,756 over a three year period, including £1,777,345 in 2013/14. This was based on a new outcomes based commissioning model and included nine organisations which were allocated revenue grants for the first time by the Council.
13. Community Right to Bid: Cabinet agreed the decision making processes and guidance in response to this initiative.

TACKLING INEQUALITIES AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

14. Equalities: Cabinet approved:
 - The revised Equality Policy and the new Equality objectives to be monitored through an Equality Action Plan.
 - A Mobility Scooter Storage policy to ensure that guidance on the storage and recharging of mobility scooters is clear.
15. Adult social care non-residential services policy: Following recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Cabinet deferred the decision to approve changes to the non residential care contributions policy for adult social care to a future meeting of Cabinet.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS AND OUTCOMES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

16. Early Years and support to schools: Cabinet:
 - Approved the Early Years Provision Improvement Strategy
 - Endorsed the outcome of the pre-statutory consultation relating to City centre primary school expansion to commence four weeks of statutory consultation in November and December 2012 on proposals to increase places in Bassett Green Primary School, Bevois Town Primary School and St John's Primary and Nursery School.
 - Approved the commencement of three separate, six weeks, pre statutory consultations on discontinuance of:
 - Bitterne Park Infant and expansion of Bitterne Park Junior to accommodate 4-11 year olds
 - Oakwood Infant and expansion of Oakwood Junior to accommodate 4-11 year olds

- Tanners Brook Junior and expansion of Tanners Brook Infant to accommodate 4-11 year olds; discontinue St Monica Junior School and expand St Monica Infant School to accommodate 4-11 year olds.

ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVEMENTS IN EXISTING HOUSING STOCK

17. Estate Regeneration: Cabinet approved:
 - The necessary approvals and delegated authority to officers for them to progress estate regeneration – Weston Lane shopping parade redevelopment. This included financial expenditure of £1,325,000 from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), phased over three years and the appointment of Bouygues (UK) Limited as preferred bidder.
 - The vision and themes of the Townhill Park Regeneration Framework based on the modified Central Park option, and approved, in principle, the redevelopment of Townhill Park in three phases.
18. Housing: Cabinet approved:
 - The licensing scheme for houses in multiple occupation and the designation of Bevois, Bargate, Portswood and Swaythling wards as being subject to additional licensing, from 1 July 2013 for a period of five years.
 - A Tenancy Strategy
 - The Housing Revenue Account and Business Plan
 - Policies in relation to discounts and exemptions for second homes and empty properties.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND PROPERTY DISPOSALS

19. The Cabinet agreed a number of recommendations relating to the Capital Programme and Property Disposals:
20. Capital Programme decisions included:
 - Cabinet approval of the revised General Fund Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16, which totals £140.3M (as detailed in paragraph 4) and the associated use of resources.
 - Children's Services: Capital expenditure of £77,000 in 2012/13, £462,000 in 2013/14 and £11,000 in 2014/15, for the provision of additional school playing facilities and associated ground works at the former Civil Service Sports Ground.
 - Transport: Addition of transport funding to the capital and review programmes including a decision to accept grant funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and add to the capital programme:
 - £9.013M split between Capital £7.193M and Revenue £1.819M over the following three years 2012/13 to 2014/15.
 - £330K to deliver Real Time Information (RTI) Phase 4 capital works
 - £50K from Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF) to fund Capital expenditure of £40K and revenue expenditure of £10K in 2012/13.

- Recycling: Acceptance of the Government grant funding of £8.28M with the aim of increasing the City's recycling rates and enhancing collections.
 - Housing and Leisure: approval of
 - Capital expenditure for the design work of the community facilities including the replacement library in Centenary Quay.
 - Series of virements, totalling £2,289,000 from the uncommitted provision for Future Decent Neighbourhoods Schemes, to provide budgets for specific schemes, in Shirley, Holyrood, Leaside Way, Beechfield Court and Wyndham Court and Estate Improvement Programme.
 - A sum of £263,500 for play area development.
21. Property disposals decisions included:
- To not uphold the objections in relation to the proposed disposal of part of Mansel Park by lease to Bush Hill Football Club and authorised the grant of a lease of part of Mansel Park for a period of 10 years subject to planning permission being granted for the proposed use.
 - The disposal of the Council's freehold at Marland House subject to a leaseback to the Council of the offices at a peppercorn rent until September 2014, and to include the simultaneous disposal of the Council's freeholds at 5 to 13 Civic Centre Road and 36 Windsor Terrace.

PROGRESS ON THE WORK PROGRAMME OF WORKING GROUPS

22. A report considered by Cabinet on 21st August 2012, detailed the work programme to be progressed through seven working groups comprising councillors and officers and chaired by the relevant Cabinet Members. This approach was to explore a number of key issues with a view to enable informed decisions. Details of progress made since August 2012 (and not reported to Cabinet or Council) are available in Appendix 1.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

23. These are considered in reports to Cabinet on individual topics, as relevant.

Property/Other

24. These are considered in reports to Cabinet on individual topics, as relevant.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

25. These are considered in reports to Cabinet on individual topics, as relevant.

Other Legal Implications:

26. These are considered in reports to Cabinet on individual topics, as relevant.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

27. These are considered in reports to Cabinet on individual topics, as relevant.

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KEY DECISION? No

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| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | All |
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

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| 1. | Progress on the work programme of working groups |
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Documents In Members' Rooms

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| | None |
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Equality Impact Assessment

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| 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)

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| 1. | None | |
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