

DECISION-MAKER:		COUNCIL	
SUBJECT:		EXECUTIVE BUSINESS	
DATE OF DECISION:		17 th MARCH 2010	
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 January 2010 Council meeting. The report also provides an update on Traffic Regulation Order objections referred to the Executive and 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 18th January 2010 and the 17th February 2010 which will progress these priorities. 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

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

CONSULTATION

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

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Not applicable.

DETAIL**1. GETTING THE CITY WORKING**

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

- Approval of the **FUNDING FLEXIBILITIES FOR TRANSPORT INITIATIVES** report to enable Local Transport Plan capital funding to be swapped with On Street Car Parking Account revenue funding to fund future transport studies and initiatives. Cabinet also approved the addition to the Environment and Transport Portfolio's revenue estimates, of a Transport Initiatives Feasibility Study budget of up to £195,000 in 2009/10 and up to £500,000 in 2010/11, funded by contributions from the On Street Car Parking Account.

- Approval of the **HIGHWAYS SERVICE PARTNERSHIP – APPROVAL TO CALL FOR FINAL TENDER** report with delegations to officers following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport, to take all necessary steps to close the dialogue, issue the Call for Final Tenders and appoint a preferred bidder. Approval was also given to lease office and depot space at Castle Way, Town Depot and the future Dock Gate 20 City Depot to the successful provider for a period commensurate with the term of the contract (or such lesser period as may be required) with the final terms and conditions of any such leases being delegated to the Head of Property and Procurement.

2. INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Cabinet considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Young People and Skills detailing the **APPRENTICESHIPS, SKILLS, CHILDREN AND LEARNING ACT** and noted the changes made to the scheme of executive delegations to give effect to these proposals.

The following initiatives and decisions have been approved by the Executive to progress this priority:

- Approval of the **RESPONSE TO THE SCRUTINY INQUIRY INTO THE CHILDREN'S ANNUAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT** with authority being given to the Executive Director of Children's Services and Learning, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to take further decisions in relation to the inquiry recommendations where further investigation is required.
- Agreement of **PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH NEW SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS LEARNING CENTRES AT SIX SECONDARY SCHOOLS** in the city. The Schools concerned are Chamberlayne College for the Arts, Upper Shirley High School, St. George Catholic College, Cantell Maths and Computing College, Bitterne Park School and The Sholing Technology College. Delegated authority was also given to officers, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to do anything necessary to give effect to the recommendations and to take any action necessary to comply with the requirements of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998.
- **APPROVAL OF MODERNISATION PROJECT EXPENDITURE FOR FAIRISLE JUNIOR SCHOOL** totalling £440,000 from the Children's Services Capital Programme to progress this scheme.
- Approval of **NEWLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL REBUILD** capital expenditure totalling £7.5 million from the Children's Services and Learning Capital Programme to progress the construction of the new school.

3. KEEPING THE CITY CLEAN AND GREEN

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

- **ADOPTION OF A CORPORATE CARBON REDUCTION POLICY** to ensure the Council can meet its obligations under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme and manage energy effectively within Council operated buildings. An annual report will also be brought back to Cabinet

outlining the progress in delivering the Action Plan together with recommendations for further improvements.

4. **LOOKING AFTER PEOPLE**

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

- Agreement of **PROPOSALS TO SPEND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 'COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK' GRANT FUNDING** totalling £3.062 Million for the development of a joint health and social care assessment system.
- Approval of the **CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME 2010/11** so that it will remain in operation from 1 April 2010 until further notice, pending the publication of revised guidance from the Department for Transport (DfT) with the continued reimbursement of operators at the 2009/10 rate of 41.2p in the £, plus 15p per generated journey, in accordance with the guidance given by the Department for Transport's Reimbursement Analysis Tool with a figure of 50% being retained for return ticket sales in the average fare calculation. Delegated authority was given to officers following consultation with the Cabinet Members for Environment & Transport and Resources to make any necessary variations or changes to the scheme arising from any outstanding appeals and to determine the arrangements for operators to claim additional capacity and capital costs.
- Agreement of the **LOCAL AUTHORITY 'NEW BUILD' SCHEME APPROVAL** report to enable a grant £ 970,804 to be accepted from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to build new Council homes under the LA New Build scheme on 2 sites in the city at Leaside Way and Cumbrian Way. The Cabinet also approved overall capital expenditure of £1,941,608 from within the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme for 2010-2011 and 2011 – 2012 to progress these schemes. Delegated authority was given to officers, following consultation with Cabinet Member for Housing and Local Services, to undertake all necessary actions to deliver this initiative such as entering into the Homes and Communities Agencies grant contract, all consequential contracts, and rent setting for the new homes.

5. **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.

- Agreement of the **PROPOSED COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS FOR SPECIAL CONSTABLES AND PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF 65** under S13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 in accordance with the qualifying criteria in respect of the "pensioners" element and the "Special Constable" element of the Scheme for 2010/11 with authority being given to the Executive Director of Resources to take any further action necessary to give effect to this decision.

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

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

- Approval of **SALE OF LAND AT TOWN DEPOT ADJACENT TO AMERICAN WHARF** by way of a conditional agreement for the grant of a long lease for less than best consideration to enable the conversion and reuse of this site.
- Endorsement of the revised **GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**, which was subsequently approved at the budget setting meeting of Full Council in February together with the **GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2009/10 – 2012/13**.
- Agreement of the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET** report which was agreed at Full Council in February setting out a proposed rent increase of 2.45% with effect from 5th April 2010 - with no increase being applied for garages, parking spaces and service charges for tower block wardens or the concierge service in 2010/11. The revised Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme, which includes total spending of £82.214M on work that meets the definition of “affordable housing” in the city, was also agreed by the Cabinet and subsequently approved by Full Council at the budget setting meeting in February.
- The executive noted the **CORPORATE FINANCIAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2009**, the **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT FINANCIAL REVENUE MONITORING FOR THE PERIOD TO THE END OF DECEMBER 2009** and the **3RD QUARTER FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**.
- Endorsement of **SOUTHAMPTON’S 2010 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT REFRESH** to enable re-negotiated “designated” targets to be formally agreed by partners and representatives of government departments for submission to the Secretary of State by the 17th March.
- The **SELECTION OF PARTNERS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION PARTNERSHIP** report was agreed by the executive following consideration of the objections received. This matter was subsequently “called in” by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Executive will therefore be reconsidering this matter at the Cabinet meeting on the 15th March.

7. **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Executive received a report on **PROPOSALS FOR PERMIT PARKING IN VERMONT CLOSE AND TALBOT CLOSE IN BASSETT** outlining a number of objections to the design of the proposed parking scheme as advertised and an objection to the proposal to allow Special permits to be issued to visitors to Red Lodge Community Pool for the duration of construction work at Great Oaks School. The executive resolved to amend the advertised proposed parking arrangements at Vermont Close and Talbot Close to include additional spaces from Winchester Road to Vermont Close with the permit parking scheme being reviewed in 9 months to establish whether a satisfactory long term arrangement can be made for parking provision for visitors to Red Lodge Community Pool off the highway.

8. **City Partnerships Update**

Since the last Council meeting, the **Southampton Partnership Delivery Board**

(DB) has approved the final recommendations of the **Economy & Enterprise Board Review** which has rationalised or re-aligned a number of boards with the principle aim of ensuring that the Boards operating in the economic/regeneration arena are focussing on the delivery of the Southampton Economic Delivery Action Plan (SEDAP) and the Regeneration Strategy and their associated targets and initiatives, ensuring that there is no duplication of effort.

The SP Delivery Board has also approved the establishment of a **Marketing Southampton** strategic marketing alliance for the city which will be facilitated by Business Southampton with effect from the 1st April 2010. A progress report from the **Think Family Pathfinder Project** was considered and a number of recommendations to accelerate progress in this area were agreed.

The Board also received a presentation on **Domestic Violence** and agreed that a business case for improving multi agency responses to medium and standard risk cases should be developed for further partnership consideration. A presentation from the Audit Commission was also received outlining the key issues to be explored in the **2010 Comprehensive Area Assessment**. In addition, the SP Delivery Board received a comprehensive briefing from key officers involved in the **Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole (BDP) Total Place Pilot** and the lessons learnt, and these will be considered as Southampton considers its Total Place approach to how we deliver better services at less cost, through effective collaboration and partnership working. The **Southampton Partnership Policy Board's** next meeting is on the 18th March 2010 and the outputs from that meeting will be reported to Council accordingly.

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

9. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 12th February 2010 covering the period March to June 2010 and will publish its next plan on the 17th March 2010 covering the period April to July 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

Not applicable.

Revenue

Not applicable.

Property

Not applicable.

Other

None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

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:

Not applicable

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

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.
