

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	18 SEPTEMBER 2013		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Suki Sitaram	Tel: 023 8083 4428
	E-mail:	suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting on 17th July 2013.

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

Not applicable

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

INTRODUCTION

1. This report highlights the contribution of different Portfolios towards the council's priorities since the last council meeting on 17th July 2013.
2. I would like to highlight the following since the last report:
 - o Following the appointment of Dawn Baxendale as Chief Executive, we have commenced recruitment for the Director, Place (Environment and Economy) and expect to agree a recommendation by the end of September.
 - o To help us to become an outstanding council, the Chief Executive and I invited the Local Government Association (LGA) to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge of the council from 22nd- 25th July 2013. This involved an experienced team, including the Leader of Bury Council, a chief executive, directors and a senior officer from the Audit Commission. This LGA contribution is part of the benefit we receive for our membership of the LGA and the review provides an independent assessment of the progress we are making and help us learn from best practice elsewhere. The review team spoke to various groups of staff, councillors and partners and I will be ensuring that we take advantage of all the help the LGA are offering to implement the actions they recommend.

- I am delighted that the A Levels and GCSE results show tremendous achievement of our children and that we have improved significantly when compared to last year. As a teacher I know that this could only have been achieved through hard work and commitment of our children and young people, supported by excellent partnerships between their families, schools and the council. I would like to congratulate everyone on behalf of the council.
- I am also pleased that we continue to make excellent progress in the support we offer as a City to young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
- We have been leading the co-ordination of Southampton response to Solent Local Economic Partnership (LEP) European Union structural funds consultation (attracting investment).
- I chaired the South Coast business awards for sponsorship of new category of young entrepreneur.
- We have been successful in our expression of interest to join new national network to roll out Whole Place Community Budgets.
- The City has benefited from the following successful bids which have all brought more money into the City:
 - £241,941 over 2 years from the Big Lottery “Chances for Change Programme” (joint bid with Portsmouth City Council)
 - £457,000 from the Environment Agency for a study of the flood alleviation scheme for the river Itchen, which will be considered by Cabinet on 17th September 2013
 - £633,000 from the Department of Transport’s Bus Technology Fund for installing new hi-tech bus engine management systems to reduce carbon emissions and pollutant from exhausts. This is expected to bring in approximately £703,000 of private sector match funding.

PROMOTING SOUTHAMPTON AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

3. I was part of the team which led the City Deal pitch to Government in July, including promoting Southampton’s marine and maritime strengths, enabling business growth, unlocking development sites and support skills of residents. Officers from both cities are continuing to work hard on the detail and I hope to be the bearer of good news at the next council meeting. The Government’s aim is to have our City Deal approved by the Autumn Statement – work is ongoing to achieve this including securing some Regional Growth Fund resources.
4. A development that will contribute to our commitment to social inclusion and economic development is Cabinet approval of a Wireless “limited period free to user” services concession within the City of Southampton. This is to Arqiva for an initial 5 year period which will enable residents and visitors to be able to use free Wifi at key locations across the city.
5. Work is continuing on our Section 106 Employment and Skills Plan delivery creating apprenticeships, placements and supported employment including this quarter: Mayflower Halls, Admirals Quay, Costco, Churchill Retirement Homes, Centenary Quay, Parkville Road.

6. Ford donated one of their last Ford Transit vehicles to be built at the Southampton plant to Southampton City Council for community use and the Mayor, Cllr Ivan White, accepted it on behalf of the council. I would like to thank Ford for the donation of this Transit mini bus which will be used to benefit community organisations in the city. This nine-seater Transit mini-bus will be maintained and insured by the council for community use. While the closure of the Transit assembly plant has had an impact on the City, I am pleased that we Ford is still retaining a significant presence in Southampton and that we have supported Ford employees into employment and training through our chairing of and involvement in the Multi Agency Task Force.
7. Cabinet approved:
 - procurement and delivery of the “North of Station Quarter” capital scheme and delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Economy to make the necessary decision within the overall approved budget.
 - Capital expenditure of £796,000 in 2014/15 and £19,000 in 2015/16 from the Economic Development and Leisure Capital Programme for completion of the replacement library for Woolston in Centenary Quay and authorise the Director of Environment and Economy to do anything necessary to give effect to the proposal.

RAISING AMBITIONS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

8. A Level and GCSE results are provisional and may change slightly as results are adjusted over the coming months. The A Level results for 2013 showed Southampton students performing in line with the national picture with 98% of Level 3 entries (A* to E at A-Level or equivalent) passing. When looking at the wider range of qualifications available for post 16 students in our colleges, 97% of the students successfully passed.
9. GCSE results for 2013 showed a further improvement for young people in our schools. The headline measure of 5+A*-C GCSE including English and Maths went up by over 3% to 58% this year. Four schools had improvements of 10% or more. This continues the year on year improvement that has been achieved with results going up by nearly 15% over the last five years.
10. We worked with partners to deliver Information, Advice and Guidance for young people delivered in the City Centre for young people on GCSE and A level on results days.
11. The City’s NEET percentage, at 5.8% is lower than the England average of 5.9% and is the lowest among all Southampton’s eleven statistical neighbours (cities with similar populations which averaged 9%) and the lowest among the nine core cities (the largest cities outside of London which averaged 8%).
12. Cabinet approved the Early Years Expansion Programme and capital expenditure of £1,361,000; phased £67,000 in 2013/14 and £1,294,000 in 2014/15, from the Children’s Services Capital Programme.
13. In terms of setting policy direction, Cabinet:
 - adopted the new Special Education Needs Strategy 2013-2016
 - approved the revised School Attendance Policy.
14. We have also:
 - re-launched the 16-19 transport scheme to include transport support for apprentices as well as young people in Southampton colleges.

- Started the delivery of the pre-apprenticeship scheme to provide 26 weeks support and progression for young people with funding from SCC and PUSH.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

15. Key members of the Council's Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team including the Manager will be retiring soon. The team have worked together over the past 10 years to keep employees and the public safe during incidents such as the Shirley Towers Fire, the Swine Flu Pandemic and at times of adverse weather. These retirements have prompted a review of arrangements and the team is now part of Regulatory Services. We have now recruited a new Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Manager to lead this important area of work and there will be a handover period. In addition, a cross Directorate Board chaired by the Director of Public Health will oversee the councils Emergency Planning and Business Continuity arrangements in recognition of the wider corporate responsibilities and those of the Director of Public Health.
16. Following a successful tendering exercise, a new service for the provision of community equipment in Southampton and Portsmouth has been commissioned jointly by the two authorities and their health partners. The service started operating in July and is provided by a local company, Millbrook Healthcare. The service has a base in both cities and works in tandem with the Clinical Advisory Service Team, who are also located on the premises. The service is responsible for the supply of equipment and minor adaptations to vulnerable children and adults in the community. Both local authorities and their health partners are jointly managing and monitoring the service.
17. Following submission of a joint bid with Portsmouth, the Council has been awarded £241,941 over 2 years from the Big Lottery "Chances for Change Programme". The funding will be used to deliver a number of projects designed to improve health in some of the most deprived communities in Southampton. The 3 main projects are Healthy Start Project, Healthy BME Communities project and Mental Wellbeing project. The programme will be administered by the council and delivered by West Itchen Community Trust (WICT), Clear Life Education and Action for Refugees (CLEAR), Workers' Educational Authority (WEA), Sure Start Southampton, Two Saints and NHS Solent Homeless Healthcare.

HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP THEMSELVES

18. The council co-ordinates 2 Time Banks at Woolston and Freemantle which continue to demonstrate the wide range of benefits that can come from people working together to help themselves. There are now almost 200 Time Bank members involved, who between them have exchanged more than 1,800 hours of activity. Recent examples include several members have been able to use their time banking activities to gain a reference for the first time with two people successfully gain employment, support for a Time Bank member with health problems and less isolation.

19. The feedback from Time Bank members about the 3 most important things to them about being in a Time Bank:
 - Putting something into the community and helping someone else
 - Having a sense of belonging and feeling more at home where you live through meeting people from different backgrounds, making friends or useful contacts
 - Getting help when it is needed - even with things you didn't think you could get help with.
20. We are engaging with individuals, students, schools and community groups across the City to empower residents to recycle better, and also provide them with the tools to educate residents in their local area. Key to this is resident involvement in Street CREDs across the City to raise awareness and reduce fly-tipping, bins left on pavements, dog fouling and help people to recycle for Southampton and keep the city attractive and a great place to live in.
21. Cabinet agreed to award a grant of £386,000 to West Itchen Community Trust for the refurbishment of the Acorn Enterprise Centre in Empress Road subject to conditions and delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Economy to enter into a grant agreement with West Itchen Community Trust and to do anything necessary to give effect to the payment of the grant.
22. For the academic year which ended on 31st July 2013, we delivered, through successful commissioning, community learning to over 6,000 learners including targets for unemployment residents, BME communities, disabled learners and those in priority neighbourhoods.

ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVING EXISTING HOMES

23. Cabinet agreed:
 - To amend the basis for the future operation of the landlord controlled heating account as and a one-off contribution of £391,000 from available HRA balances in 2013/14 to reduce the current deficit on the heating account
 - that charges to tenants for landlord controlled heating are limited to an increase of 2.5% from 7 October 2013
 - to thank the Tenant Resource Group for their input to the charge setting process and to note their endorsement of the recommendations above.

MAKING THE CITY MORE ATTRACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

24. Cabinet considered and approved the following which will contribute to improving local neighbourhoods:
 - Reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions in the City's street lighting service
 - Approved funding for the Eastern Cycle Route (LSTF) (Local Sustainable Transport Fund) Project
 - To let the Energy Company Obligation – Delivery Partner Procurement
25. Cabinet agreed recommend the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, the statement of Statutory Compliance (contained within

the Charging Schedule) and the Community Infrastructure Levy Instalments Policy to Council for approval and approved the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document.

26. Houndwell Park play area has been completely re-furbished and opened to the public at the end of July. The new play area provides a range of exciting play experiences for children of all ages and abilities in a play environment which is fun, exciting and challenging. The play features are linked to the city's heritage and include 'the Bargate' and 'the Titanic'. The popular new play area has revitalised the Central Parks and provides a very attractive and sustainable facility in the city centre for residents and visitors to enjoy, in the first weekend of opening the play area attracted over 10,000 visitors.
27. Cabinet agreed to extend management arrangements for the St Mary's Leisure Centre by delegating authority to the Director of Environment and Economy, to grant a 2nd Service Concession to Southampton Solent University for the management and operation of St Mary's Leisure Centre as a publicly accessible facility from 1st August 2014 to 1st August 2017 with an option to extend for a further 12 months by agreement to 1st August 2018.
28. Cabinet agreed to amend the Strategic Level Parking Policy to allow the establishment of the principle of charging for evening parking charges and delegated authority to officers to determine detailed proposals for evening charges, in accordance with the new policy.
29. In relation to implementing budget proposals Cabinet approved, in principle:
 - the introduction of a charge of £30 for the issue of a first resident's parking permit (for new applicants to the scheme) for all residents' parking schemes in Southampton that are outside of the City Centre, where a charge for a first permit does not already apply
 - a charge of £15 for the issue of a 3 month temporary parking permit (for new applicants to the scheme) for all residents' parking schemes in that are outside of the City Centre.

DEVELOPING AND ENGAGED, SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

30. Investment in new technology, which includes in-cab technology to track waste collections has upskilled the workforce and enabled the waste and recycling service to respond to customer issues more quickly. The union learning centre is important to enable staff to improve literacy and numeracy skills where needed for frontline staff. The service is also developing the training of frontline staff to be drivers, which helps both retain staff and motivate them.

IMPLEMENTING BETTER WAYS OF WORKING TO MANAGE REDUCED BUDGETS AND INCREASED DEMAND

31. The development of new communications tools to target residents to recycle more and better will help reduce failure demand and help us better manage demand for services. The Waste & Recycling service has also launched a brand new mobile app called 'Recycle for Southampton' which will help residents check household waste and recycling collection dates, set reminders for collection days, find their nearest recycling point and check which items in the home can be recycled. All residents are currently receiving by post, updated recycling information and collection date

household 'stickers'.

32. I am pleased to report that the introduction of an 'Attendance Management Task Force' early in 2013 has already resulted in a significant increase in attendance within the Waste and Recycling collection teams. The Task Force, led by the Head of City Services and officers from the waste management team, has brought frontline support staff together with colleagues from the Capita HR Pay team to tackle the issue. In the recent months long term sickness has reduced by over 50% and short term sickness has also reduced. The task force has worked together to revamp the return to work system for frontline staff, introduced new light duties and made relevant changes to encourage staff back to work. Consequently, the total number of days lost due to sickness fell from 1,221 days for the first quarter of 2012/13 to 771 days for the same period in 2013/14. It is recognised that attendance levels remain a little below the average but the trend is certainly in the right direction and providing targeted support to staff to help them return to work is paying off as this has significantly reduced sick pay and temporary cover costs.
33. We have worked with schools and unions to agree and introduce new approach to performance management.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

34. N/A

Property/Other

35. N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

36. As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.

Other Legal Implications:

37. N/A

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

38. N/A

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
2.	

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	
2.	

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes/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.		
2.		