

**DECISION-MAKER:** COUNCIL  
**SUBJECT:** EXECUTIVE BUSINESS  
**DATE OF DECISION:** 18 MARCH 2015  
**REPORT OF:** LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last report to Council on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

### **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**

3. This report highlights the contribution of different portfolios towards the Council's priorities since the last Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014.
4. We continue to be recognised for the excellent work we do and since the last report I am delighted that we have been recognised for the following:
  - The Council's Behaviour Resource Centre (BRS) won the silver award in the 'team of the year' category at the Social Worker of the Year awards. This is a fantastic achievement in itself and a reflection on the excellent work being done across the board in Children and Family Services.
  - Southampton Music Hub (and Hampshire Music Hub) won the prestigious Will Michael Award, which recognises excellence and outstanding commitment to educating young jazz musicians. The award ceremony took place at London's Southbank Centre, where the joint bid fought off other regional authorities to be named the best in the UK. Significant investment and a string of exciting initiatives - including free jazz improvisation workshops, composition masterclasses and working alongside leading professionals - helped to secure this fantastic achievement.
  - The My Journey sustainable travel campaign has attracted further national recognition. 'Love handles?' is all about encouraging people to cycle more and it's certainly turning heads. In December 2014 the

campaign picked up 4 awards including finalist at PRCA Awards 2014 in Best Public Sector Campaign category, and Silver Awards at CIPR PRide Awards 2014 in Best Integrated Campaign category.

- In January 2015 the Department for Transport identified the Solent Go 'smart ticketing' project, led by the Smart Cities team, as a case study of how to deliver smart ticketing to improve access to transport.
- Southampton City Council came top out of 25 local authorities listed in a new Local Authority Energy Index, beating amongst others Brighton, Bristol and Milton Keynes. Launched in December 2014 at the House of Commons, the index rates how well Councils are doing to ensure residents minimise energy bills, how well we manage energy across our own estate, and the positive influence we have on the local energy market.

### **JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE**

5. Southampton's 50th Employment and Skills plan was launched for the WestQuay Watermark development in January 2015. This milestone plan, which will create around 2,500 jobs, is the biggest we've ever delivered since the policy was introduced and supports the creation of one of our key city centre VIP developments that is scheduled to open in autumn 2016. This represents a great opportunity for us to support residents to forge a career and will create a significant number of new jobs and apprenticeships, alongside the creation of a major landmark development for the city that we can all be proud of. The Employment and Skills plans continue to help us to not only support our residents, but to bring about continued and positive change for the City.
6. The Council's Skills team has joined forces with colleagues from Transport and have secured funding to develop an innovative new HGV Skills Training Programme which aims to address the shortage of qualified HGV drivers in the region. Working closely with a consortium of local hauliers, the teams have developed the new programme which will support local unemployed people into work and provide a supply of new drivers for the industry. This is another fantastic example of partnership working with the private sector, and our responsiveness to local skills and recruitment issues.
7. The number of pupils requiring a place in the city's secondary schools is set to increase as the current (and expected) high numbers in the city's primary sector progress to secondary. To help the Council meet its statutory duty to provide a school place to all young people who require one, Cabinet, at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015, approved an increase in pupil numbers at Bitterne Park Secondary School from 1500 to 1800 pupils, increasing the Published Admission Number to 360 from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The school is currently oversubscribed and will need to expand to take account of parental choice. This expansion will be funded by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) under the Priority Schools Building (PSB) Programme.

### **PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION**

8. The Southampton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) hosted a conference addressing the issue of 'Domestic Violence and its Impact on Children and Young People' in December. The event was attended by 175 professionals and managers from across the city. Delegates heard from local and national experts, and most importantly from children and young people who spoke bravely about their own experiences within their families and

relationships. The new Southampton Against Violence & Abuse Plan 2014 - 17, developed through the LSCB and the Safe City Partnership, was presented at the conference. The plan will fully implement a coordinated community response to this important issue and drive innovative practice to tackle domestic violence and abuse in Southampton.

9. Following Cabinet approval on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Southampton can now progress its Better Care Plan with the establishment of a Better Care pooled fund by 1 April 2015. Southampton's vision for Better Care is to completely transform the delivery of care in Southampton so that it is better integrated across health and social care, delivered as locally as possible and person centred.
10. Over the last 12 months extensive work has been undertaken by the Council working in partnership with Southampton City CCG and other stakeholders to develop Southampton's Better Care Plan, under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The final plan was signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board, Chief Executive of the City Council and Chief Operating Officer of the CCG on 19 September 2014 and submitted to Ministers. This has been approved following the Nationally Consistent Assurance Review which identified no areas of high risk within the plan.
11. At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 Cabinet approved the award of domiciliary care contracts to a multi provider framework. This offers stability to the successful providers enabling officers to work with them to build capacity within the market. The new contracts commenced in mid February 2015, for a period of 4 years. The model of provision has been designed to support four main outcomes:
  - To improve quality within domiciliary care services
  - To ensure the best value available within the market
  - To ensure services are able to respond to changing needs and demands
  - To support the development of personalisation across the city.
12. On the 4th December 2014 the Health and Wellbeing Board held Southampton's first 'Mental Health Matters' round table event. The event aimed to highlight key issues and challenges facing service users, commissioners and providers of mental health services and explore the future of mental health in the city. The event was attended by over 80 people with representation from NHS and voluntary sector providers, service users, carers, local authority, police and commissioners and served as a good starting point for what needs to be a process of continued engagement with stakeholders across Southampton.

### **PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE**

13. Following extensive consultation Cabinet, at its meetings on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, approved a number of measures that will help to promote more personalised forms of care, where individuals can exercise more choice and control over the support and services they access, and support more people to live and remain independent in the community, in their own homes for as long as possible.
14. Cabinet agreed to close Woodside Lodge when all of its current residents have been supported to move to suitable alternative care settings; approved the phased closure of Kentish Road residential respite service, and

authorised the restructured Southampton Day Services service to cease service delivery out of two centres, (St Denys and Freemantle) and all satellite bases when all of their current service users have been supported to move to suitable alternative care settings and to restructure the remaining service to provide an alternative model of delivery that is fit for the future needs of Southampton residents and users. The principles behind the proposals are to:

- Make best use of community resources to improve outcomes for those using the services
  - Meet the Care Act 2014 requirements
  - Ensure Council funding achieves the best outcomes for those who receive care services.
15. Cabinet committed the Council to ensuring that the needs of current service users, and their carers, will be thoroughly assessed prior to and following their moves to ensure that their needs continue to be met and to reduce any impact on their wellbeing.
16. A Dementia Awareness Day was organised at Central Library in January 2015, and by any standards it was a resounding success. More than 200 people attended across the day, with 40 joining the guest lecture while the agencies received dozens of referrals from people seeking advice and support. One visitor provided some welcome feedback. He said: "Marvellous. We came here today very worried about an elderly relative who has been diagnosed with dementia but now we are leaving happy and very much reassured."
17. In February 2015 the Serious Case Review relating to the tragic death of Blake Fowler was published. The Serious Case Review highlighted missed opportunities to help Blake and a number of significant failures in our child protection system. The errors made in this case were simply unacceptable and Southampton City Council apologises that Blake did not get the help that he needed.
18. Our local safeguarding services in Southampton have significantly improved since Blake's death. Over the past two years we have been working to transform child protection services but we are not complacent. Progress has been made but our work is not yet finished, we are committed to doing everything possible to ensure that children in Southampton today are safe from abuse and harm.

### **GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

19. To progress the regeneration of Townhill Park, Cabinet, at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014, agreed to:
- Accept grant funding of £750,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency to part fund phase one of the redevelopment of Townhill Park
  - Serve Final Demolition Notices on any secure tenants remaining in occupation of properties on the phase one redevelopment sites
  - Approve (once vacant possession and planning permission has been obtained) the demolition of a number of buildings and structures.
20. When completed the redevelopment of Townhill Park will provide a mixed tenure environment with quality accommodation, together with significant improvements in the public and private realm. This will promote a cohesive

and sustainable community and deliver much-needed new housing.

21. The Council has been working and liaising closely with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding possible fire prevention measures within its properties, with specific attention to its tower blocks. At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015 Cabinet approved capital expenditure of £1,011,000 on fire prevention measures to Albion Towers, Sturminster House and Shirley Towers.
22. The works proposed consist of a pressurised sprinkler system being installed in all tenanted areas of the blocks and some communal areas such as bin stores. The system is designed to suppress the source of fire giving more time for the Fire Service to attend and deal with properly which results in less damage to an individual flat or block and a significant reduction in the volume of water which is needed to extinguish a fire resulting in less water damage to other properties.
23. It is proposed that the delivery of this project will coincide with the Council's ECO project previously agreed by Cabinet/Council for these three towers and will therefore form part of this overall programme of work reducing the disruption to residents and reduce procurement and contract management costs to the Council. It is anticipated that following final design and procurement, work will commence in the autumn of 2015. A full programme will be shared with residents once a contractor is appointed.

#### **SERVICES FOR ALL**

24. Oaklands Pool re-opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2015 following the completion of major works to fix leaks in the pool, replace the pool water and filtration system and bring the building back to a habitable state. The £1.7m investment from the Council has seen the facility repaired and made ready before being passed over to the new operators, Oaklands Community Pool Group, who are now managing the facility on behalf of the Council.

#### **CITY PRIDE**

25. The next phase of the Station Quarter project got underway in January 2015. The first phase was completed in December and focused largely on highway redesign and improvements. This year the entire public realm area to the north of the station will get a facelift, with a new design, a pedestrianised forecourt, improved seating and lighting, as well as a new bus interchange and improved links with the City Centre.
26. On Sunday 11th January the Central District's Neighbourhood Warden Team was recognised for the great work they do with the Sikh community in the inner city. Officers from Housing Services went to the Gurdwara in St Marks Road to take part in a celebration and to receive certificates on behalf of the Neighbourhood Warden Team. This award is further recognition of the fantastic job they do working in local communities to help improve neighbourhoods and residents' lives.

#### **A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL**

27. In February 2015 Cabinet and Council approved a New Operating Model for the authority. The model will help us to become a sustainable organisation, and fill a significant amount of the budget gap. The New Operating Model has been designed to put the customer at the heart of all we do, but is

flexible in order for us to consider a variety of options.

28. Our New Operating Model, scheduled to be fully implemented by 2017, will enable us to:
- Find the best way of doing things and make sure we all work that way consistently
  - Provide an infrastructure able to support the Council in delivering its outcomes and priorities
  - Reduce process duplication and fragmentation to deliver value for money. Maximise on how we innovate and continuously improve
  - Devolve decision-making as close to the customer as possible.
29. The Transformation team has been working with colleagues across the organisation to create the 'My Southampton' personalised web account. Customers will be able to sign in, store details and easily see information and services relevant to them. The account was 'soft launched' in February 2015, with a full launch planned for the summer. Getting as many services as possible available online so customers can get things 'done in one' is a key part of our Customer Strategy.
30. To ensure that residents views on services and life in the city is reflected in our decision making processes a People's Panel has been set up in Southampton. The People's Panel, a joint project with the CCG, with support from the University of Southampton, will be asked to take part in consultations and other activities to express their views on Council services, health services and living in Southampton. The results of which will be used to inform future decisions and services. We will also track resident's views over time to see how changes in the city affect their opinions and experience of the City.
31. Whilst recruitment is ongoing members of the Panel have already provided feedback on the 2015/16 Council budget and the 'Get on Line' campaign. Residents can sign up to join the People's Panel through the Council's [website](#).

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

32. N/A

### **Property/Other**

33. N/A

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

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

### **Other Legal Implications:**

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

35. Council Plan 2014-17

**KEY DECISION?**

No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	None
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	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	
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