

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 11th June 2015

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
24/04/15	Housing and Sustainability	Set up a Development Company to deliver city wide development	1) That in setting up the board for the Development Company (DevCo) consideration is given to including non-executive experts as advisers.	Noted	
			2) That Cabinet ensures that during the development of the business case, and in the establishment of the DevCo, that its' financing, planning processes and future development are transparent to both the public and Council.	Noted	
			3) That further information is provided on the HRA and General Fund borrowing ability.	<p>The HRA borrowing cap refers to the Government imposed limit on the total borrowing levels of the HRA at any one time. The figure for Southampton is £199,600,000, although Council agreed, in February 2014, to retain a borrowing headroom at budget setting of £6,000,000. The HRA Business Plan, therefore, works within a maximum borrowing level of £193,600,000.</p> <p>The current 30 year HRA Business Plan and Capital Programme, approved by Council in February 2015, shows borrowing levels reaching this peak level in 2016/17. However, the remaining years of the plan show a profile of reducing total borrowing levels, as debt repayment exceeds new borrowing.</p> <p>The General Fund doesn't have a borrowing cap, as such. The Local Government Act 2003 introduced a system for borrowing</p>	Completed

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				<p>based largely on self-regulation by local authorities. The basic principle of the system is that local authorities will be free to borrow, as long as their capital spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.</p> <p>Authorities must have regard to a Prudential Code, which sets out a number of indicators that must be set and monitored each year. The key indicator of prudence is the Capital Financing Requirement and Gross debt. The indicators seek to ensure that, over the medium term, debt will only be for a capital purpose.</p>	
24/04/15	Housing and Sustainability	Homelessness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That details be provided regarding whether alternative funding would be identified for the next financial year for local welfare provision, and when a decision would be made. 2) That the Homelessness Team continue to pursue social letting opportunities with landlords and letting agencies, which had been discussed at the Southern Landlord's Forum, resulting in a recommendation within the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel Inquiry into Homelessness. 3) That it be investigated whether the wording of the Council tax summons could be amended to reflect the fact that Council tax debt might not necessarily lead to a Court order. 	<p>Funding of £245,500 has been identified from the SCC Medium Term Financial Risk Fund to be made available for Local Welfare Provision for 2015/16.</p> <p>Agreed to pursue via Southern Landlords Association following Government guidance being available on changes to young people's out of work benefits as likely to impact on housing.</p> <p>Agree</p>	Completed

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24/04/15	Housing and Sustainability	Homelessness	4) That the Safe City Partnership provide details on how begging in the streets was managed.	<p>The City Centre policing team has a 'Community Priority' dealing with street and aggressive begging around the city centre and links to the Newtown & St Marys area. This is a multi-agency plan to deal with those involved, including local businesses, outreach drug services, housing, and the police for enforcement.</p> <p>There are focused patrols in the area and interventions with those responsible. Consideration is being made for Public Spaces Protection Order under ASB legislation, as evidence is gathered from local traders, residents and stakeholders.</p> <p>- Supt Fulton</p>	Completed