

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	4 JUNE 2014		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report outlines Executive Business conducted since the last Council meeting on 19th March 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

Not applicable

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

INTRODUCTION

2. This report highlights the contribution of different Portfolios towards the Council's priorities since the last Council meeting on 19th March 2014.
3. At a recent Group Leader's meeting we agreed to a pilot process whereby the Executive would take questions on notice at Cabinet meetings. The Cabinet meeting on 15th April 2014 saw the first trial of the process when two Members 4 questions asked of the Executive. The pilot will continue into the new municipal year.
4. Feedback from residents is really important and therefore I am pleased to report that the first City Survey since 2010 has been completed. Working with Southampton Connect, the Safe City Partnership and the CCG we commissioned the City Survey, to find out what residents think of Southampton and the services we all provide. The telephone survey, undertaken in March/April this year by ICM Research reached out to 1,500 households and the results will help shape priorities and services in the City. The full results of the City Survey will be available in June 2014.
5. Southampton's 50th anniversary of City status celebrations go from strength to strength. A number of events have taken place across the City featuring the 50th Anniversary branding, including the Sport Relief Mile. A day of

activities culminating in a spectacular diving display in Guildhall Square will mark the Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay on 4th June 2014. From 4th to 30th June 2014 the Southampton Music Hub will celebrate Southampton's 50th anniversary with 50 musical events at schools as well as some concerts available to the general public. In total 54 schools and approximately 3,000 young people will be taking part in the celebrations.

6. 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:

- Our email marketing service, Stay Connected, has been praised nationally by SOCITM (the Society of Information Technology Management) in its report 'Better Connected', which identifies good practice in the development of local authority digital work and websites.
- We've been shortlisted for an award in the Local Authority Innovation category at this year's National Recycling Awards.
- The work of the Southampton Youth Offending Service (YOS) has been recognised nationally by the Youth Justice Board, which has held it up as an example of emerging good practice. The YOS's accredited arts programme and work around victim impact and risk-taking behaviour are now included in the YJB library of effective practice. Both pieces of work are supported by the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner, and delivered by the YOS and local partners. This important work aims to reduce re-offending and improve outcomes for young people.
- Our partners Balfour Beatty Living Places and Capita have been shortlisted for the Business South Commitment to the Region Award category in the South Coast Business Awards 2014. The award recognises a business or organisation that has demonstrated real commitment to its region as a major employer and by getting involved with the community. I'm pleased the work from partners to support the local economy and increase the skills of our younger population by working with schools and other education providers has been recognised. The awards ceremony is on 11th July 2014.
- Balfour Beatty Living Places has also been shortlisted for the prestigious Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) Streets Award for designing and constructing the Oxford Street scheme. The CIHT Awards are highly regarded in the industry and showcase best practice and innovation from across the UK. The awards ceremony is on 11th June 2014.
- The Centre for Public Scrutiny have shortlisted the Apprenticeship Inquiry, undertaken by Scrutiny Panel B from April to September 2013, for the Good Scrutiny Awards. The awards ceremony is on 10th June 2014.

7. LGA Peer Review Action Plan update:

- The Council has been a lead player in commissioning the City Survey on behalf of Southampton Connect and other partners. The results from this will be used by Southampton Connect to develop the City Vision and

priorities for the next 10 years, to be developed and finalised as the City Strategy in July 2014.

- We have worked with Southampton Connect to streamline partnerships, strategies and plans and have developed a framework which sets out the key strategic documents we need as a Council, linking them to our key priorities. I expect this streamlining to significantly reduce the time spent by our officers on strategies and plans. We have also developed a Council performance scorecard, which will be available on a quarterly basis and includes performance measures in the current Council Plan. These will be reviewed in August after we have approved the new Council Strategy (2014 – 17) at the Full Council meeting in July 2014. In the meantime, work is underway in directorates to agree the final scorecards for 2014/15. I am also pleased to report that we have started publishing quarterly performance information on the Council's website in an easy to understand format.
 - The Chief Executive has been working with her management team to develop a plan to achieve the transformation and savings over the next 3 years. This will include progressing a number of projects identified in the budget report in February 2014, e.g. libraries transformation and business support review.
8. The Safe City Partnership and the City Council recently commissioned colleagues from the Local Government Association to conduct a Peer Review of Community Safety and Youth Offending in Southampton. This involved a series of interviews and workshops with staff, partners and residents focusing on how community safety priorities are being met, the governance of the Safe City Partnership, and how we manage performance and deliver our Section 17 obligations of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. We were pleased the peers recognised the good relationships between agencies, evidence of significant crime reduction over a number of years and the highly motivated Youth Offending Service (YOS). The report includes a number of key recommendations on strategic priorities, governance and leadership, improving performance management arrangements and improving the golden thread. The Safe City Partnership is now working on an action plan in response to the recommendations.

PROMOTING SOUTHAMPTON AND ATTRACTING INVESTMENT

9. In April 2014, Hammersons submitted detailed designs for phase one of the Watermark WestQuay scheme, comprising a landmark 10-screen cinema and up to 20 restaurants alongside a major high quality public piazza. This major development has been the subject of substantial pre-application discussions with ourselves, key stakeholders and local community groups who have provided extensive and positive feedback.

10. Over 50 high-quality units are available for new bars, restaurants and cafés at locations across the City including Admirals Quay, the Arts Complex, Centenary Quay, Royal Pier Waterfront, and Watermark WestQuay. On 13th May 2014, the Chief Executive and I hosted an event at Savills' head office in Oxford Circus, London with six developers currently building in the City. This was to showcase the range of opportunities in Southampton for developers and occupiers in the dining and hospitality sector. The aim was to attract more occupiers, agents, investors and developers to our City. The Chief Executive, Kevin Marsh (Savills) and I presented to over 100 delegates including representatives from some really exciting brands. The event was a great success and we were able to make some fantastic contacts throughout the day. I had some very interesting conversations with businesses who are eager to join us here in Southampton. It was a great opportunity to gauge the bubbling interest from major brands who want to come and set up shop in our City.
11. I was also impressed with the delicious breakfast dished up by four talented City College catering students. It was devised by Southampton's own Michelin star chef, Paul Ainsworth, and I'm sure this display of culinary skills helped impress the delegates who were hungry to find out more about the talent in our City. I am very excited by the relationships we've made and look forward to the future of dining in Southampton.
12. We are celebrating three of our top attractions receiving the prestigious Full Museum Accreditation from Arts Council England (ACE). While Southampton City Art Gallery has had its accreditation renewed, SeaCity Museum and Tudor House & Garden have achieved accreditation for the very first time. They have been given the award by the ACE Accreditation Scheme which sets high national standards for museums and galleries and recognises and promotes good practice across the industry. We also await the outcome of the decisions made by Arts Council South West in respect to our joint Major Partner Museums (MPM) bid with our Hampshire Alliance partners and the National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) bid submitted for Southampton New Arts Complex (SNAC). A formal announcement will be made on all Arts Council funding decisions on 1st July 2014.
13. Capita, alongside Council staff, have been out and about delivering workshops to local SME businesses and the third sector community about our procurement processes. Together, we've hosted four procurement workshops since launching the programme last year. The workshops aim to help businesses work with the Council more effectively and cover a range of topics including financial assessments, responding to opportunities and e-tendering.
14. One of the largest shipment and logistics companies in the world will be opening a new distribution centre in Millbrook on 30 May 2014. UPS (United Parcel Services) is currently recruiting for its new centre, and over the past few weeks, 23 local and unemployed residents have been attending a pre-employment training course to gain new job-specific skills required by UPS. As a result, 10 people have already secured direct employment at UPS, and three others now have jobs with other employers in the logistics sector. Participants had been unemployed for an average of six months, while some

had been unemployed for a number of years. This activity is part of our Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) programme for major developments in the City. It is an excellent example of our work to support local unemployed people into work.

RAISING AMBITIONS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

15. The Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and to review the LSCB started on Wednesday 21st May 2014. Members will all be aware that Children's Services are on an improvement journey which in its first phase of transformation has developed the multiagency Early Help team and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) which were successfully launched at the end of March 2014. This is an opportunity to provide details of our improvement journey and the huge commitment of our staff and partners to improving outcomes for children in the City.
16. Cabinet approved the admissions policies and the Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for community and voluntary controlled schools, including Bitterne Park for the academic year starting September 2015. This allows for the admissions process to begin for all schools in September 2014. This followed the admissions consultation with Southampton Admissions Forum, schools, other relevant admission authorities, and the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses.
17. Last year we submitted a proposal to the Department for Education to be one of four local authorities involved in phase two of a national project to develop a strategy to recruit more male volunteers and staff within 'early years education and childcare'. I am very pleased to say we have been successful and although the opportunity does not bring any financial support, it does come with support and advice from the Fatherhood Institute which will help us develop our approach. We'll also be able to make good use of links to other local authorities involved in the project. This is a fantastic opportunity to help establish a stronger male presence in this sector, which I am sure will have a positive impact on the lives of many children.

IMPROVING HEALTH AND KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

18. Following a motion passed by the Council on commencing the consultation process on a proposed new Late Night Levy, discussions were held with both the Chief Superintendent of Police for the City and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). Cabinet then approved a report which examined the statutory procedures and consultation process prior to the formal consideration of introducing a Late Night Levy on premises authorised to sell or supply alcohol between midnight and 6 am. It examined the process and consequences of doing so and explained the options available to the Council to design the levy as a basis for consultation in partnership with the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner. This includes consultation on the need for a Levy Board to advise on levy spend/priorities and a range of activities on which to spend the levy which are or may be provided to tackle the late night alcohol related crime and disorder, and community safety services connected to the management of the night time economy.

19. The Health & Wellbeing Board continues to progress work on the Better Care Fund and is working closely with key providers of NHS hospital services (including those from the independent care sector) on arrangements for successful implementation from 2015.
20. Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director, People, to revise the service specification for the School Nursing Service and following the necessary consultations, to re-commission the service. This followed the work of the Council's Public Health Team which identified a number of gaps in unmet child health needs. The re-commissioned School Nursing Service will be expected to align to the outcomes set out in the Healthy Child Programme and provide better public health outcomes for the City's 5-19 year olds. The re-commissioned service will also provide a fresh focus for the City's Healthy Schools initiative as an integral component of a wider Healthy City programme.
21. Cabinet approved the awards of 2 contracts to commence on 1st September 2014 for a period of 3 years for Support Services for Adult Carers in the City and to provide Supported Services Targeted at Young Carers. The City Council, in partnership with Southampton CCG, is investing £1 million over the next three years to support the invaluable contribution of carers to the City's care services. Through the award of these contracts, the Adult Carer service will move away from the current short term and ad hoc funding approach currently in place for a number of services and the new Young Carer service will be able to continue to provide current level of high quality support while incorporating new initiatives in line with emerging evidence.
22. The City's provision and support for people living with a disability has taken a step forward thanks to the award of just over £212,000 from Sport England and other partners. This follows the award by our Short Breaks team of £34,000 to Active Nation to provide a sports programme for disabled children in the City over the next two years. With the new funding, our partner Active Nation is about to launch a sports programme for disabled adults in Southampton; meaning each of our seven sports and leisure venues in Southampton will be delivering weekly activity programmes which will make a big difference to the lives of so many of our residents. Active Nation is aiming to attract more than 9,000 visits over the next three years, which will help continue to boost participation in sport among disabled people and redress the existing imbalance in participation levels between people living with a disability and those who don't. We look forward to working closely with Active Nation to make this multi-agency project a real success

HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO WORK TOGETHER AND HELP THEMSELVES

23. The Freemantle and Shirley Network received approval and a small grant from the Our Place programme in March 2013. Since then work has been underway to involve ward councillors, local agencies and community activists to raise awareness of the potential of the project. The big issues and ideas for the area are being identified whilst encouraging people to sign up to get involved. This culminated in two community launch events on 7th and 14th May 2014. The events were well attended with over 60 people representing community and faith groups, neighbourhood groups, voluntary services and

agencies in attendance. A development strategy will be submitted by the end of May 2014 to the DCLG, who will hopefully endorse the project, unlocking further consultancy support and another small grant. The work to establish an operational plan for the area, to be implemented from 1st April 2015, will get underway between June and October 2014.

24. The annual “Your Health, Your Community, Your Vote” Participatory Budgeting event (PB) took place in Thornhill on 22nd March 2014. The Participatory Budgeting approach increases community involvement and social cohesion, and enables local residents to be directly involved in setting priorities and deciding on which local services and projects receive funding. In this case, the event focused on the allocation of funding for health and wellbeing projects in Thornhill. Over 115 people attended the event to have their say, and the Open University even came to film the event, highlighting the significant positive outcomes of our projects, and our sustained good practice to engage the community.
25. To help communities celebrate St George’s Day the Council offered a special Community Chest scheme for one-off grants of up to £100. The grants were for community celebration events held between Friday 18 and Sunday 27 April 2014. Eight applications were received for events held across the City, including bulb planting in a community garden, afternoon tea parties for the elderly and the visually impaired, an arts workshop, an evening community walk and a joint St George’s Day, Shakespeare’s Birthday and World Book Night celebration. All applicants were awarded grants, totalling £770 and grant recipients have been requested to send a short report about their event and some photos by 30th June 2014.

MAKING THE CITY MORE ATTRACTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE

26. The Council signed up to the My Journey Commuter Challenge in May 2014. This month long initiative was open to everyone who works in Hampshire and encourages people to switch their regular driving commute to walking, cycling, car-sharing, or using public transport to help them save time, money and get fitter. Last year over 1,500 people took part in the Commuter Challenge and saved a total of £70,000 on their regular commuting costs. Over 250,000 miles were travelled in a more environmentally friendly way and a staggering 4,000,000 calories burnt, simply by changing the way they travelled to work, in just one month.
27. Cabinet approved capital expenditure of £350,000 in 2014/15 for the Purchase of Compact Sweepers scheme, to procure five mechanical sweepers. The aim is to help secure the economy and effectiveness of the street cleansing service over next 5 – 7 years. The fleet of mechanical sweepers currently deployed by the street sweeping service is now fast approaching the end of its useful operational life. This capital investment will provide the opportunity to significantly reverse recent reductions in street cleansing service standards. This will be through a new and up-to-date street cleansing fleet, selected and specifically configured to improve street cleansing.

ENCOURAGING NEW HOUSE BUILDING AND IMPROVING EXISTING HOMES

28. I am pleased to report that The Solent Green Deal Board, has secured a £3.3m bid from Government to increase the amount of Green Deal works carried out in the county. This Board brings together local authorities from across Hampshire and is chaired by Cllr Payne. Southampton will share the funding with Portsmouth, Gosport and Eastleigh. In Southampton, opportunities will be sought to carry out Green Deal improvements alongside the Council's emerging programme of works for social housing under the Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) scheme, which are due to be outlined later this year once the Government concludes its' consultation on ECO.

DEVELOPING AN ENGAGED, SKILLED AND MOTIVATED WORKFORCE

29. The Council has developed a Social Media Usage Policy, in recognition of the importance of digital communications, and to help both exploit the potential exploit the potential and manage the associated risks,. As a Council we use social media to engage, promote, warn and inform. We have in the region of twenty accounts that Council employees administer, ranging from the niche to the general. The policy explains how employees and councillors should use social media in respect of their roles, highlighting the need to be careful and professional to avoid a range of easy pitfalls.

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

30. Cabinet delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer to award the banking contract to the preferred bidder for both general banking and merchant acquiring. This decision enabled the joint procurement with five other local authorities to proceed and ensure that the project to change banks can be implemented in time for the contract expiry date of 21 September 2014.
31. In April 2014 we rolled out our new automated telephone switchboard system. This is part of the wider channel shift programme which is designed to improve the experience of our customers when they contact the Council, as well as achieve savings under the revised contract with Capita. The new system allows customers to state the name of the person or service they want to speak to and the system will automatically put them through. The system was extensively tested with residents and staff to ensure that the roll-out went as smoothly as possible.

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:

35. N/A

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

36. Council Plan 2013-16

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	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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