

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	19 NOVEMBER 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 in September 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 17th September 2014.
3. Among the many important things we are responsible for here at the council, promoting local democracy is one of the big ones. We are consulting about possible changes to the electoral cycle and asking residents what they think the appropriate number of councillors should be and their thoughts on having an elected Mayor for Southampton.
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:
 - City Council employees have been nominated in three categories for the Social Worker of the Year awards. Congratulations to Sarah Holden, finalist in the 'innovative and creative practise' category for her work in play therapy, Theresa de Olivera for her nomination for 'newly qualified social worker of the year' and to Aishea Ziya and her team at the Behaviour Resource Centre who are up for team of the year. This is a fantastic result, not just for the nominees but for the service as a whole and the council.
 - The Head of the Drugs and Alcohol Unit in the Home Office, visited

Southampton to see the effects of the Licensing Act 2003 in practice and to discuss various issues with those involved in delivering the regulation and working under it. Following a guided tour of our major night-time economy areas (the Above Bar and Bedford Place/London Road cumulative impact policy areas) and discussions with key stakeholders he indicated that he was very impressed with the partnership work within the city and the initial feedback from the trade was also very positive.

- The Polygon School have successfully achieved the International School Award. This is the culmination of 18 months of work by the school to embed the themes of internationalism and globalism which has resulted in an enriched curriculum and starting pupils on the road towards learning about their community and the wider world.

JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

5. At its meeting on 21st October 2014, Cabinet approved the sale of the former Town Depot Site, now known as Chapel Riverside to developer Inland Homes. The 3.6 hectare site, north of the Itchen Bridge, is a key waterfront site for the city and through the development agreement the council and developer are signing the site will be transformed into a complex featuring marine sector businesses, creating up to 700 new jobs, a mixture of 350 houses and flats and a new park.
6. Public consultation on initial designs is set to be launched next year, with a planning application expected to be submitted in 2016. Work could then begin on site in early 2017. This development, alongside the former Meridian site, where a planning application has now been submitted, will act as a catalyst for the transformation of the Itchen Riverside.
7. The first phase of works to rejuvenate Southampton's Station Quarter is almost complete. The finishing touches are now being made to the 9 month long programme of works that has seen a complete refresh of footpaths and roads north of Central Station into the city centre.
8. Work to enable phase two is now underway and, subject to a final agreement being approved with Government in the coming weeks, funding will be available to enable the next phase of improvements. This will include the creation of an amphitheatre style events area that will provide a permanent home for the Station Quarter Farmers Market. Other changes will include improved traffic management, as well as new pedestrian crossings and advanced stop lines for cyclists. The improvements will result in better connectivity and a more pleasant environment.
9. Solent Skills Festival 2014 took place at the City Cruise Terminal on Wednesday 22nd October 2014. The event, organised by Solent Education Business Partnership with support from the council and the European Social Fund, provided school students, parents and carers with an opportunity to access information on careers and local industries. The event provided a

platform to promote apprenticeships in Southampton with a number of local apprenticeship providers, including businesses and colleges, in attendance. As part of the Apprenticeship Action Plan the council are committed to the creation of 6,600 new apprenticeships in the city over the next three years.

PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

10. To promote healthy living and ways to keep in shape Central Library hosted a Health Fayre on 16th October 2014. Residents were invited to learn how to do breast and testicular checks, have their blood pressure read and find out their lung age. Members of 14 charities and retail shops were in attendance to offer help and advice to members of the public on a wide range of health issues.

PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

11. In support of World Mental Health Day on 10th October 2014 information about mental health and local services was displayed in the Civic Centre foyer. There was also an event at Sembal House organised by Southampton Service User Network and Creative Options, featuring talks from people with real experience of mental health problems, afternoon tea and a performance by the Recovery Choir. It is hoped that events such as these will promote greater understanding and will be a force for good in helping to remove the stigma that's still attached to mental health. The Health and Wellbeing Board will host a major local conference on the mental health challenges facing the City, with full backing from Southampton Connect, on 4th December 2014.
12. The Council was informed at its previous meeting that following a change in the rules for the pay for performance element of the Better Care Fund (BCF), a revised submission had to be made to the Department of Health by 19th September 2014. The revised submission has been now been assessed through a National Consistent Assurance Review process and assessed as "Approved with support". This very positive assessment means that the local plan is recognised as being strong, with few areas for improvement that, when addressed, will secure full approval from NHS England later this year. Discussions on the City's BCF bid also took place with the Cabinet Office Policy Implementation Unit on 30th October 2014 which elicited further positive feedback.

GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

13. A report is on the Cabinet agenda for decision on 18 November 2014 seeking agreement in principle for proposals for a further Designation in Southampton of a Licensing Scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for the electoral wards Freemantle, Shirley, Millbrook and Bassett. This would be for all HMOs and is considered to be a proportionate response to proactively improving property standards and management in HMOs in this area. The report seeks approval to initiate a twelve week consultation on these proposals with residents, landlords and others.

14. The Council has been successful in obtaining substantial funding from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to support the development of the Thornhill District Energy scheme. This is the 3rd round of funding through DECC's Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) and almost £2.4 million has been offered to 32 local authorities across England and Wales to support the development of heat network projects, designed to provide more efficient heat to buildings and potentially lower heating bills. The £215,000 award to the Council for the Thornhill project was one of the highest received for this round of funding.

SERVICES FOR ALL

15. To continue to deliver modal shift away from the private car to other forms of transport, develop supporting infrastructure to promote walking and cycling and deliver a 'Freight Traffic Control' system Cabinet, at its meeting on 21st October 2014, agreed to accept £996,500 of revenue grant from the Department for Transport (DfT) Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). This funding will enable us to deliver a further years' extension to the Southampton Sustainable Travel City programme currently being delivered in the city that has, since the start of the programme, seen a 12% increase in the number of daily cycling trips and reduced daily vehicle traffic by over 3%.
16. We have announced plans to improve the condition of Southampton's residential roads. £4million will be spent each year for the next ten years on long-term repairs to the city's road surfaces. To help inform the council residents were encouraged to send in suggestions for roads that are most in need of improvement in Southampton. The road improvement programme will be announced later in the year following analysis of resident feedback.
17. A report on the Future Transformation of the Southampton Library Service is on the Cabinet agenda for decision on 18th November 2014. The report represents the start of a journey of transformation for the Library Service. The ultimate aim being to develop and deliver a comprehensive and efficient service which is modern, creative, innovative, inclusive and affordable that reflects the changing needs of the Southampton community.
18. The report proposes key priorities, shaped by the strategic context of the city and the council but also key drivers for change including changes in customer behaviour and information technology. It is proposed to run an extensive consultation process, giving people the opportunity to make representations on the proposal and offer alternatives for consideration. The feedback from the consultation will be evaluated and where appropriate, amendments will be made to the existing proposals and any alternatives put forward will be assessed before the final recommendations are submitted to Cabinet for decision in July 2015. The implementation of any changes to the Library Service will follow thereafter.

CITY PRIDE

19. At the Cabinet meeting on 21st October 2014 we approved the revised Planning Enforcement Policy. The policy has been updated to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework. An important component of the revised policy is that it clearly sets out what customers (complainants and those complained about) can expect from the service, the procedures that will be followed and the possible outcomes flowing from those procedures. To help promote the revised policy a guidance leaflet will be produced and made available to the public.
20. No city could run smoothly without the generosity of volunteers. One great example of this is the 'Love Thornhill' volunteer litter picking team who were out in force on Saturday 11th October and picked up half a truck load of litter. It's an all-age group activity, the youngest participant was 5 years-old and the oldest was 90. The team, led by the churches of Thornhill, heads out three times a year and is open to anybody who wants to lend a hand.
21. To help mark the 50th anniversary of City Status a firm fixture in the City's cultural calendar, Music in the City, returned over the weekend of 4th and 5th October 2014. Thousands of music lovers flocked to 15 venues across Southampton, including God's House Tower, the City's medieval vaults and steam ship SS Shieldhall to watch 120 acts perform. The festival was rounded off by a concert at the City Art Gallery which featured the City of Southampton Orchestra, Southampton Philharmonic Choir, Flautissimo and the Courtyard Quintet.

A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL

22. The council's new website went live on 8th October 2014 and I am sure you'll agree that it's a huge improvement on what we had before. We have used the feedback from focus group with customers to change some of features. The new site is focused on transactions, with better search options, more services available online and improved smartphone and tablet access to reflect the changing requirements of our customers. The new, more user friendly site will help the council to reduce costs whilst also meeting the needs of residents, many of whom expect to be able to access information and services digitally. This is the first stage and there will be more improvements to come.
23. The new look Gateway opened its doors on 13th October 2014. The service has been remodelled to allow customers to complete their transactions more quickly and easily saving them valuable time. The new Gateway is filled with new technology and more innovative ideas continue to be rolled out to promote self-serve, improve our customers' experience and achieve savings.
24. The council is in the process of looking at our priorities, outcomes, processes and resources, and designing a new Operating Model. Operating Models help organisations to decide how best to integrate working practices, improve performance, establish areas for investment, and explore different operational options based on their merit in order for us to deliver our

priorities and key outcomes within our financial constraints.

25. Developing a new way to operate will not be easy. It will challenge the way we think and the way we have previously done things. To help us think through this challenge we have commissioned KPMG who are working with the Cabinet, the Council's Management Team and Heads of Service to develop a model which will enable us to deliver the Council Strategy 2014-2017 within significantly reduced resources. These developments reflect the council's commitment to become a modern, efficient organisation focussed on and valued by its customers.
26. A report on the General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/16 to 2017/18 will be presented to Cabinet on 18 November 2014 for decision. The report will summarise the current budget position and outline the initial draft budget and council tax proposals of the Executive for 2015/16 which will be used as the basis for consultation with a range of stakeholders over the coming months.
27. The results of the consultation exercise will be reported alongside the Executive's final proposals which will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2015 and recommended to Council on 11 February 2015.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

N/A

Property/Other

N/A

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.

Other Legal Implications:

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

Council Plan 2014-17

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)