

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:	16 MARCH 2016		
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 report to Council on 18 November 2015	
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)	
3.	This report highlights the contribution of different Portfolios towards the Council's priorities since the last Full Council meeting on 18 November 2015.
4.	You will be aware that we started consultation on our budget proposals in November 2015 and received over 500 responses from a range of stakeholders. I am pleased that the feedback showed overall agreement with our budget proposals for 2016/17, with 42% agreeing with the proposals, against 26% disagreeing. After considering the feedback, we withdrew two proposals, relating to personal budgets and disabled parking. Consultation has started on a further set of proposals were presented to Cabinet in February 2016.
5.	I am keen to develop a variety of ways to engage our residents and over the last 2 years, we have been developing different approaches. I am very proud that we are the first council to develop a 'Citizen Science' project with around 100 members of the People's Panel. 'Citizen Science' is defined as scientific work undertaken by members of the public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions. In this case the participants are supported by the Council's Strategy Unit, as well as

	<p>academics from the University of Southampton and the University of Manchester. Citizen Science has been used often in the natural sciences but the social science application is more recent and this is one of the largest cohorts of participants ever in the UK for a project of this type. The project is focussing on what prevents residents from recycling and what could help them recycle more. The participants have framed research questions and are in the process of designing methodologies.</p>
6.	<p>Congratulations to our Legal team who, at the recent LLG (Lawyers in Local Government) awards, received 'Highly Commended' in the Practice Management / Development Services Team of the Year 2015 category. The award recognised their work developing highly innovative training opportunities for aspiring young lawyers in the Solent region.</p>
	<p>JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE</p>
7.	<p>I am pleased to report that The Council's Apprenticeship Action Plan has had a significant positive impact, with apprenticeship recruitment in the City outstripping other areas in the South East. As part of this, there is a work stream focussed on raising the profile and status of apprenticeships as a career option for young people, making them aware that apprenticeship opportunities are available to degree level. We now have a team of young 'Apprenticeship Ambassadors' who we are supporting to go into schools, colleges and other settings to inspire young people, families and carers. In November 2015, we held our first Apprenticeship Awards Ceremony in the O2 Guildhall, to recognise the achievements of Southampton apprentices and give parity with the graduation events held there for university students. The event was attended by hundreds of apprentices and their guests, and we have booked the venue for a similar, and even bigger event again this Autumn.</p>
8.	<p>Highfield Church of England Primary School has been accredited for the third time by NACE, the National Association for Able Children in Education. Highfield C of E Primary School is only the eighth school in the country to secure a third accreditation. Portswood Primary School was the first in the country to achieve a third accreditation. All schools gaining a NACE Award have undergone a rigorous, evidence based assessment including an assessment day and sampling of the quality of teaching and learning. Other Southampton NACE Challenge Award schools include Bitterne Park School, Ludlow Infant Academy and Springhill Catholic Primary School.</p>
9.	<p>Congratulations to three of our secondary schools for their recent successes. St Anne's Catholic School who have been named as regional finalists in the Pupil Premium Awards 2016, celebrating the schools making a real difference in supporting their disadvantaged pupils. Upper Shirley High School (USH) has been awarded the Discovering Democracy Award from the British Youth Council. The award recognises those schools who encourage pupils to take an interest in the democratic process - both within the school or through social action projects in the local community. USH was judged against four themes and eleven different criteria and are extremely pleased that the hard work of their Student Leadership Team and staff has been acknowledged. Oasis Academy Mayfield has been recognised by the national schools group PiXL as the winner of The E4Education Award for</p>

	achieving outstanding GCSE results in 2015 after recording a 17% increase in students obtaining 5 A*-C grades including English and Maths.
10.	A group of students from Compass have won the prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Challenge 2015. Each challenge provides an opportunity for students (11-14) to use their STEM skills in a real-life context and over 400 UK schools have taken part in the last three years.
	PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION
11.	Southampton Connect has agreed a new Prevention and Early Intervention Approach for the city which includes a set of principles for all Southampton Connect partners to work to. As a Council we are committed to prevention and early intervention and our work to date shows that we can be more effective with a citywide approach where public, private and voluntary sector organisations working in partnership with residents. It is important for residents to improve their own health and wellbeing by taking preventative steps, early action and taking an active part in their communities.
12.	Following the introduction of the new duty to prevent radicalisation and extremism, the Safe City Partnership has set up a multi-agency Prevent Working Group chaired by the Chief Executive of the Southampton City Commissioning Group (CCG). This Group will co-ordinate work across the city and includes representatives from all organisations who have specified duties under the Government guidance. The Council has received a one-off grant of £10,000 from the Home Office to implement the Prevent Duty and we have used this funding to provide 'train the trainer' sessions and awareness raising sessions for councillors and a range of frontline staff, including those who work at the council and in schools. Two community engagement events have also been held to help residents learn more about how people can work together to make Southampton a safer city. All these events have been well-attended and have generated a lot of interest.
13.	The HeadStart programme is about early intervention and prevention of mental health problems in 10-16 year-olds. The programme is in a pilot stage in Southampton and we are the only city on the south coast to be part of this national pilot project. We will be bidding for further funding from The Big Lottery Fund in February. The pilot has so far seen activities such as 1:1 counselling, peer mentoring, emotional first aid for parents and staff, performing arts and sports activities, and mindfulness training for staff in some primary schools. The bid will aim to make the programme available for all secondary schools in the city with a whole school approach to mental wellbeing.
	PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE
14.	The work of the Youth Offending Team has been commended for the reduction in youth offending in Southampton over the past two years. A local priority is to prevent serious youth crime, defined as young people becoming involved in gangs / groups, drug distribution and serious violent crime. To further this work, a Peer Review took place in February 2016, during which a team of seven reviewers engaged with 108 stakeholders across a broad partnership base. Its objectives were to support the development of an informed, evidenced-based view of how Southampton is delivering on its serious youth crime prevention ambitions and priorities and identify practical

	<p>actions to further improve outcomes and partnership working. The overriding position of the review team is in line with our local assessment: that there is no evidence of a current street gangs issue in Southampton. Rather, there are organised crime gang links from elsewhere exploiting those with existing vulnerabilities. The provisional feedback given by the team highlighted a number of strengths, as well as some areas of excellent local practice which they will highlight nationally, such as the Junior Neighbourhood Warden scheme. They will also make a series of recommendations in their final report.</p>
15.	<p>The Southampton Youth Offending Service has achieved The Restorative Justice Council Restorative Service Quality Mark for their work with young people and victims of crime and their Restorative Practice in Schools Project.</p>
16.	<p>In February 2016, Cabinet gave approval to proceed with Phase Two of a preferred new service model to integrate crisis response, rehabilitation, reablement and, at a later date hospital discharge functions across the City Council and Solent NHS Trust. The new model joins up health and social care teams and changes the way in which rehabilitation and reablement support is provided. National evidence suggests that rehabilitation and reablement are often more effective when they are provided in someone's home as the support is tailored to the individual's home environment. Home-based reablement has been proven to prolong people's ability to live at home as independently as possible and reduce their need for on-going homecare. However, as home-based reablement is not suitable for all people, bed based reablement will still be available in the new service model. The implementation will mean the closure of bed-based provision at the City Council facility, Brownhill House, and a redirection of resources into domiciliary care and more community focussed options of flexible bed-based provision, for example Extra Care Housing. It is therefore a significant shift of investment towards a more domiciliary/community based model of rehabilitation and reablement care and delivers a key aim of the Southampton Better Care Plan to transform health and social care to achieve significant benefits for clients and reduce service costs.</p>
17.	<p>Carers are an important and often invisible fabric of our society and as a Council we are committed to supporting carers who provide many hours of free support to their family members and / or friends, thus saving the public sector millions of pounds a year. I am pleased to report that the Council has supported carers and key organisations in the public and voluntary sector with the development of a new Carers Strategy 2016-20. The Strategy will provide a platform from which support for Southampton's 20 -30,000 carers can be improved and enable them to continue in their caring role whilst remaining healthy. The Strategy has six priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carer Identification and Recognition • Information and Advice • Collaborative and Innovative Support • Support in Maintaining Health, Wellbeing and Safety • Planned and Unplanned Breaks from Caring • Young Carers Protected and Supported to Learn and Thrive. <p>A Steering Group will monitor progress and services and organisations will use this strategy to develop action plans during 2016.</p>

18.	<p>The Southampton Fairness Commission was established as an independent and entirely voluntary body in late 2013, to make recommendations on how to make Southampton a fairer and more equal place to live and work. The Commission undertook an extensive programme of consultation and engagement over 2014/2015 and identified 13 recommendations in its final report, covering the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fairer Employment • Fairer Living • Fairer Organisations and Fairer Communities. <p>As a Council we support the recommendations and will play our part in implementing the recommendations. I look forward to working with the Fairness Commission as it continues to work with partners over the next three years to develop a performance management framework to measure progress towards Southampton becoming a fairer city.</p>
19.	<p>Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse is a priority for the Council and its partners as the impact on our most vulnerable residents is life changing. Of the 1,000 vulnerable children living in the highest risk households last year, DVA was a factor in more than 50% of all safeguarding children's referrals. I am pleased that we took an innovative way to commemorate the White Ribbon Day on 25 November 2015 by using a 'selfie' campaign to raise awareness of the scale and importance of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and get as many people and organisations as possible involved in saying 'enough is enough' to this issue. As part of the campaign, hundreds of people took selfies of themselves holding a message on a placard.</p>
20.	<p>Attachment Aware Schools (AAS) is a new and exciting initiative recently launched in Southampton. The Educational Psychology service and Virtual School for Children Looked After have worked alongside external partners to ensure the training and resources for AAS are inspirational and promote best practice. The aim of the programme is to raise understanding of the needs of pupils with attachment difficulties and all schools will be offered four half-days of free training. A resource pack has been written to accompany the training and to provide a stand-alone reference guide for those working with Children Looked After in schools. It is hoped that this training and resource pack, alongside the dedication and engagement of staff in our Attachment Aware Schools, will promote and improve the educational outcomes for Children Looked After in Southampton.</p>
21.	<p>The Families Matters work within Southampton continues to be successful. Over the last 12 months, the programme successfully supported 82 families into work through both Sure Start and Early Help. This exceeds the number achieved for the whole of the three year programme in Phase 1.</p>
	<p>GOOD AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING</p>
22.	<p>Townhill Park is an extensive redevelopment programme, replacing the existing blocks with a variety of new modern homes of different tenures, improved green spaces and traffic calming of Meggeson Avenue. Recent changes to Government Housing and Planning Policy on Affordable Housing and the Welfare Bill on Southampton's Housing Revenue Account has resulted in a revision to the procurement and delivery of Phase 1 which is now to be marketed primarily for Starter Homes and affordable housing. Following</p>

	<p>successful relocation of residents from seven of the eight blocks in Phase 1, work has just begun on demolishing the vacant blocks and will continue through to September 2016. The planning application for the area has been submitted and on approval, will achieve detailed consent for Phase 1 and outline for Phases 2 and 3. Phase 1 contains 269 apartments and seven houses and subsequent phases have 264 apartments and 135 houses. The proposed timetable will see a successful developer appointed by the end of December 2016, enabling building work to start in summer 2017 once vacant possession of the site following demolition is secured.</p>
23.	<p>The Additional HMO Licensing Scheme was introduced in 2013 and covered all HMOs (excluding those subject to mandatory licensing) in Bargate, Bevois, Swaythling and Portswood. The scheme aims to deliver safer properties, better conditions for tenants, reduce the impact of HMOs on established communities and deter bad landlords from operating in our city. It has been successful in improving housing conditions in thousands of properties in the four wards, and ensuring the health and safety of many residents of Southampton. Following consultation, the scheme has been extended to Bassett, Freemantle, Millbrook and Shirley. This means that any property in these areas occupied by three or more people (including children) who form two or more households will require an HMO licence. This includes shared houses, bedsits and flats where there is some sharing of the kitchen and/or bathroom.</p>
24.	<p>I am pleased to confirm that a new supported housing with care scheme will be opening in Summer 2016 at Erskine Court, Lordshill. The scheme will be desirable for older couples wishing to stay together where either one or both have care needs. Owned and managed by Southampton City Council, the complex will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 54 fully self-contained flats, 37 of which will be two bedroom flats and 17 one bedroom flats • Communal facilities where residents from the complex and the wider older community can meet and enjoy events and activities • The privacy and independence of your own flat with the reassurance of on-site support and 24-hour care.
25.	<p>On 18th November 2015 Cabinet approved in principle, a proposal to redevelop two adjacent sites at Woodside Lodge to provide 80 'housing with care' units at Woodside Lodge and a 'general needs' block of 9 x one bed and 6 x 2 bed units at Wimpson Lane. These will be self-contained units, enabling people to live independently, whilst having access to support and personal care. There will be a combination of one and two bed apartments, as well as communal space for a lounge, kitchen etc. which could be used by others within the wider area.</p>
26.	<p>In my report to Council in the November 2015 I mentioned that we would be hosting a People's Panel event on housing on 28 November. The event was very successful, attracting around 40 residents. It used the 'deliberative consultation' approach which was also used to deliver a similar event in the summer. Participants were invited to discuss four important questions about housing in the city, and had the opportunity to listen to and question a panel of experts who helped facilitate a lively debate. At the end of the event participants reviewed their initial opinions on the questions and found that some of the views had changed through the course of the discussions. The</p>

	<p>topics discussed included ensuring that there is sufficient housing for local people, student housing, affordable housing and infrastructure requirements for new developments. The views gathered at the event will help inform the new Housing Strategy being developed this year.</p>
	<p>CITY PRIDE</p>
27.	<p>The Southampton Music Hub has continued to provide high-quality musical opportunities to the children and young people in Southampton, reaching in excess of 8,500 families between November and January. Exciting achievements by Southampton's young people included Richard Taunton's Sixth Form College's 'Jazz Combo' performing at the Schools Proms at the Royal Albert Hall in November. Southampton Music Hub also won the prestigious Will Michael Jazz Award for Jazz Education at the 2015 Music Education Awards.</p>
28.	<p>In January 2016, over 200 vocalists from a range of schools, colleges and community choirs took part in the Music Hub's 'Vivaldi Big Sing Project', while young people, teachers and residents took part in two days of activities with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, which included a special composition project with Rosewood Free School, with students from the school performing alongside the orchestra.</p>
29.	<p>The 2016 Be Your Best Southampton Rock Challenge and J Rock heats took place at the O2 Guildhall from 22 February. I am delighted to report that there was success from day one, with Upper Shirley High School winning the overall first place alongside a host of other awards for excellence. Bitterne Park School and Sixth Form also won awards including Excellence in Entertainment and Student Leadership. Woodlands School won overall third place with Great Oaks School and Redbridge Community School also winning awards. Regents Park Community College claimed fourth place in the heats with awards also for The Sholing Technology College and Richard Taunton College. In total, eighteen Southampton schools took part in this year's challenge, winning awards from Excellence in Performance Skill to Soundtrack and Lighting. Our congratulations to all the schools, pupils and staff who worked so hard to achieve such great results.</p>
30.	<p>The Southampton Christmas Festival took place in Above Bar in the city centre between 14th November and 23rd December 2015. This year the Southampton Christmas Festival was under new management and featured brand new bespoke chalets, daily entertainment, arts and craft, food and drink stalls and a giant advent calendar. The highlight was a unique, twice daily free show which involved Father Christmas flying over the Bargate monument, The overall quality and layout was significantly improved with small but important touches, such as more walkways to make Above Bar less congested and additional benches and bins. The new festival was well received.</p>
31.	<p>The Hampshire Farmers' Market took place in Guildhall Square for the first time. Despite the weather, the market was well attended and provided visitors with an opportunity to buy top quality local produce. The next market will take place in May 2016.</p>
32.	<p>At the end of December 2015, Southampton had a recycling rate of 29%, an</p>

	<p>increase of 1%. At present we are the only council in Hampshire with an improved performance for dry mixed recycling rate. Residents can recycle paper, cardboard, aerosols, food and drink cans, plastic bottles along with glass bottles and jars as well as using the textile and glass banks across the city to recycle as much as they can. The Waste and Recycling team undertake targeted work across the city to help residents recycle more and more. For example, there are still materials in rubbish bins that can be recycled and we can all improve the quality of recycling by making sure these are placed into recycling bins. Our recent recycling “Bin loose and don’t bag it” advertising campaigns have focussed on this. Reducing the amount of waste we generate at home, and just recycling the right materials and recycling just a little bit more will help us continue to improve the city’s recycling rate.</p>
	<p>SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL</p>
33.	<p>The Council’s Customer Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 18 November 2015. This commits the Council to provide high quality online and digital services to customers, providing them with the opportunity to interact with us at times, and in places, that are convenient for them. Digital services are significantly less expensive for the Council to provide, enabling us to focus our resources in a more targeted way. Customer focus groups were involved in shaping the strategy through the People’s Panel; they were in favour of the Council’s approach, sharing our commitment to better online services and also our commitment to ensure more vulnerable members of the community, and those without access to the internet, will not be disadvantaged. They also provided useful feedback which has led to some changes in wording and layout, as well as suggesting areas for success measures.</p>
34.	<p>As part of the ‘One Public Estate’ programme, the Council has leased this self-contained area (adjacent to the Central Library entrance) to the Police for their Southampton Neighbourhood Patrol team. They will operate on a 24/7 basis, with most officers using bikes to get round the city. The Police are paying a market rent to the council, generating new income and they will also be fitting out the space for their own use and have been preparing for these works to commence since the autumn of 2015. The conversion work is now underway.</p>
35.	<p>Cabinet agreed in December to the disposal of the following properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former Woolston School, Porchester Road • Former Kennels at 131A Warren Avenue • Woolston Library, Portsmouth Road • Seymour House, Seymour Road • Nutfield Court Nursery <p>This releases properties that are surplus to Council requirements which will raise a capital receipt for both the General Fund and the HRA. The exception is Nutfield Court, which will be leased to a new social enterprise company established by current Council staff, thus producing revenue. It will facilitate provision of support services to former users of the council-run service (a day care service for adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues in a horticultural setting).</p>

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
36.	N/A
<u>Property/Other</u>	
37.	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
38.	As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
39.	N/A
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
40.	Council Plan 2014-2017

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	No
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
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

