

DECISION-MAKER:		COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:		EXECUTIVE BUSINESS		
DATE OF DECISION:		20 MAY 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 16 March 2016.	
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)	
2.	<u>Delivering priorities within the context of unprecedented financial challenges</u> We share our challenges with many other councils in the country and through the year we have made every effort to ensure people can understand the challenges we face and our proposals to balance the budget. We have held successful consultations, refined our priorities and proposals in light of feedback from residents and made some difficult decisions. During this period, we continued to focus on economic growth as this is the route to helping more local people get jobs and address the impact of welfare reforms for many residents. In the face of such challenges, it is easy to overlook the fact that the Council has continued to deliver a diverse and vast range of services to all residents, visitors and investors in the city.
3.	<u>Devolution</u> The past 12 months have seen exciting developments in the sub region in response to the government's proposals for devolution. We have been taking a lead in facilitating constructive dialogue to secure the best for our city through agreement for a devolution deal for the Solent area. Since March further negotiations led to eight Solent local authorities, Solent LEP and HM Treasury reaching agreement on a series of key proposals. These include devolved funds for infrastructure and transport, piloting of business rate

	retention, responsibility for skills funding and support for unemployed people, integrated approaches to public services reform and governance arrangements, including a directly elected Mayor for the Solent. Southampton is leading on overall programme management (with Portsmouth), governance, transport, skills and employment and design.
4.	<p><u>City development</u></p> <p>I am pleased that April 20th saw the culmination of a number of high profile development projects which often take a long time to incubate. This included the official Ground Breaking Ceremony at Meridian Waterside (Inland Homes) and the Watermark Topping Out ceremony on one day! WestQuay Watermark is one of Southampton City Council's VIP 'Heart of the City' investment projects, providing outstanding facilities and promoting the creation of jobs and economic growth for the city. WestQuay Watermark is being developed in two phases and phase one is expected to open in autumn 2016. It will be a mixed-use, leisure led scheme with a landmark 10 screen cinema, up to 20 restaurants and a new public plaza for the city. The second phase has the potential to include a hotel and residential tower with flexibility for retail and office space, subject to further planning approvals. Such milestones in inward incitement often begin with critical events such as the highly successful City Talks Event (Estates Gazette) in April 2016.</p>
5.	<p>I am pleased to report that plans have been agreed to create a large casino on Southampton's waterfront. Aspers, which has large casinos in London, will run the facility at the Royal Pier Waterfront, which is due to open in 2021. The casino will play a significant role in our long-standing commitment to regenerate the waterfront at Royal Pier and Mayflower Park. It will create a minimum of 180 new jobs and the council will receive £100,000 on the granting of the license and a further £150,000 on opening. The Council will also receive at least 2% of the gross gaming revenues from the casino and Aspers will pay £50,000 a year towards ongoing problem gambling initiatives. The wider development will also include 730 apartments, restaurants, up to 50 shops and a 250-bed hotel.</p>
6.	<p>I am pleased to report that the recent City Talks event organised by the estates Gazette was held at St Mary's Stadium and attended by the Chief Executive. More than 250 businesses, investors and agents attended and by hosting their event here, the first of its kind in the UK, the Estates Gazette is recognising Southampton as one of the UK's most dynamic cities. The delegates discussed the excellent opportunities available in the city to external investors and highlighted the £1.6billion invested in recent major projects including WestQuay Watermark, SeaCity Museum, Studio 144 and Royal Pier, amongst others. Many delegates stayed on to speak with the council's inward investment team to see how they can work with.</p>
7.	<p>Another example of the opportunities opening up to the city was the meeting in April between local business leaders and council representatives and senior business executives visiting from China. This visit underscores our growing reputation as a destination city for investors and developers and our international appeal. This is further backed up by recent surveys which highlight the city's economic growth and development; Southampton is the fourth highest ranking English city for good growth (source PricewaterhouseCoopers), and is also among the top 10 UK cities voted as being one of the 'happiest cities to work in' (source the business</p>

	psychologists OPP). Events such as these raise our profile and reputation as a location for business investment, leading to job creation and further growth in the local and regional economy - a true city of opportunity where everyone can thrive.
8.	During last 12 months, we have been successful in reaching out to residents in a wide range of ways using the enthusiasm people have shown for using digital means. This is reflected in our success in recruiting to the People's Panel, which now has a membership of over 1,100, and an average response rate of 59% from them over 25 polls and surveys. We are also successfully using innovative techniques such as deliberative consultation, citizen science and comprehensive consultations on our budget proposals including public interest issues such as libraries.
9.	We have also made important strides in engaging children and young people, working closely with schools. This included the successful 'Imagine the Future' event in 2015, which brought together 200 children and young people aged 10-17 from Southampton schools. This event is to be held again this year on board a Red Funnel ferry on the 12th July 2016. This year 'Imagine the Future 2016' aims to increase its reach to the young people of the city, with up to 300 children and more schools joining in. I am pleased to report on the ongoing work to develop a strong focus on youth participation in the city which includes facilitating creative focus groups with children and young people to get their views and suggestions on the draft Participation and Engagement Strategy, which will influence the development of the final strategy. In addition, as part of our youth offer, we are continuing to develop the 'Youth Forum Southampton', a platform for children and young people to have their say on a variety of topics which affect both them and their families.
10.	I have always valued the contribution of our staff, who are the Council's greatest resource. The Chief Executive and I have continued our team visits to meet staff and understand their work. The main feedback from staff was that they wanted to see their work recognised and their contribution appreciated. I am delighted that we have been able to respond positively and have had over 200 staff nominations for our first ever annual staff awards (employee, team and manager categories) and the winners will receive their awards from the Mayor on 18 th May 2016.
11.	<p>Many congratulations to all the staff who received nominations for the Staff Awards. I would also like to congratulate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Carleton-Prangnell, the Local Land Charges Officer who has been awarded the Local Land Charges Officer of the Year. These national awards celebrate the work and achievements of local authority local land charges departments. • Mike Harris, Acting Service Director, Growth, whose contribution to promoting leisure and culture has been recognised in a letter from Cllr Lynda Symes, Portsmouth City Council's Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Sport. <p>Steve Smith, Interim Service Lead (Housing), for being shortlisted in the 'Lifetime Achievement in Housing' category of the Chartered Institute of Housing's 'Housing Heroes Awards' for 2016.</p>
	JOBS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

12.	At the Cabinet meeting in April 2016, we agreed to accept a £2M grant from the European Social Fund via the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the Solent Jobs Programme. Funds will be spent on the delivery of pre-employment support to 1,200 long-term unemployed people with health conditions, the costs of paid work placements and on-going in-work support once the individuals move into sustained employment.
13.	This year's Southampton Jobs Fair on 13th May was a collaboration between Southampton City Council, JCP and work programme providers, which was opened by the Mayor. Firms brought in by SCC include Careys Manor Hotel, Future Solent, Lidl Distribution, Marriott Hotels, Old Mutual Wealth, Premier Inn, St Marys Training Centre and WestQuay / Hammerson.
14.	<p>There are a range of Employment and Skills Plans (ESPs) for major developments currently underway, including for 20 construction projects. Other work is focussed on supporting people into work. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for work in the Lidl Distribution Centre; agreement has been reached for warehouse training from May to July 2016, engaging 260 unemployed individuals with barriers to employment and from areas of deprivation. • Solent Logistic Consortium HGV Pre-Employment Training programme, with guaranteed jobs at completion for successful candidates, targeting those without the required qualifications to be supported through the whole process to full LGV 1 accreditation. This is a pilot partnership with local logistic firms, Southampton City Council and City College.
15.	<p><u>2015/16</u> We have worked hard to prioritise and promote apprenticeships throughout the last 12 months and 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. Our success has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to support young people into employment through the City Deal. There are also currently 761 people undertaking an apprenticeship, 25% of whom identify as having Special Educational Needs. • A special premiere of a film on apprenticeships in the city, which was held at the Harbour Lights Picture House in July 2015, demonstrate the benefits of apprenticeships in the city, providing young people with the key information they need at the transition stages of their education. <p>A very successful Apprenticeship Award Ceremony held in November 2015, attended by 192 people, including 114 apprentices.</p>
	PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION
16.	<p>In our response to the public issues of street drinking and street begging, we have balanced the concerns of residents and businesses with the need to ensure vulnerable people are supported in appropriate and timely ways. This led to working with partners to agree a three pronged approach based on prevention, early intervention and enforcement. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to vulnerable people require support and/or accommodation

	<p>in order to make a long-term positive change by moving away from a life on the streets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforcement through the implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in five localities in the city. • A public awareness campaign to encourage people to channel their giving to local homelessness charities. The campaign is in partnership with local homelessness charities Two Saints and The Society of St James and supported by Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire and Rescue. We are encouraging people to donate via text message to these charities rather than directly to street beggars.
17.	Following the last Council meeting on 16 th March 2016 the Council has now published updated versions of Safe City and Youth Justice Strategies. We will continue to work closely with Hampshire Constabulary and other partners through the Safe City Partnership to monitor and reduce crime rates.
18.	Following Cabinet approval of a bid for HeadStart, a BIG Lottery funded programme, considerable work has been undertaken by council officers and partners. The outcome of the bid will be known in June 2016 and if successful, the Phase 3 programme will begin in August 2016. This will mean that we will be able to realise a huge opportunity to improve the mental health and emotional wellbeing of 10-16 year olds who are at risk of developing mental health problems. The programme is expected to increase school attendance and attainment, increase well-being, self-esteem and empathy and reduce risky and poor behaviour.
19.	The Education Welfare Service has recently developed a new initiative of Attendance Ambassadors in Education, involving at least 40 children from primary schools across the city (Thornhill Primary School and Bassett Green Primary School). The role for these pupils to promote school attendance with their peers in the classroom and within assemblies.
20.	<p><u>2015/2016:</u></p> <p>The Council's commitment to early intervention and prevention is reflected in our contribution to partnership working in a successful year on a number of projects. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A successful Early Years and Childcare conference in September 2015 on how to 'narrow the gap' in attainment between children from households with lower incomes and others in the city, and between boys' and girls' educational achievements. • Action to meet the requirements of the Government's 'Prevent' agenda, working with partners to run training courses for councillors and front-line staff. A multi-agency working group has been established and online training is now available. <p>The new enhanced Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Early Intervention and Prevention Service, which began in November 2015, with implementation phased in over the period to August 2016, when it will be fully resourced. The main focus of the new service is to prioritise support, early intervention and prevention for families in the community to prevent escalation of need and to support them to stay in their homes.</p>
	PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE
21.	In its March meeting, Cabinet approved the expansion of Springwell Special School, following the demand on places for children with special educational

	needs. The expansion will require a further £9.67M in addition to the £2.70M approved for the completion of Phase 1 in September 2015. Phase 2 will facilities for 128 children. There will also be works to provide improved staff and visitor car parking, improving access for school transport together with relevant landscaping. Work began in April 2016, with a completion and occupation date set for September 2018.
22.	I am pleased that the Council has confirmed the long-term future of the youth service being provided by the YMCA from Newtown Youth Centre. The YMCA has been providing youth services from Newtown Youth Centre on behalf of the Council since 18 May 2015, under a lease granted by the Council, which is due to expire in March 2017. In order to enable the YMCA to secure additional funding, the Cabinet approved the appointment of YMCA Fairthorne Group as sole trustee of the charity "Newtown Youth Centre" in place of the Council and for transfer of the freehold of the Newtown Youth Centre at Graham Road, to YMCA Fairthorne Group for no monetary consideration. This will enable them to demonstrate long-term interest in the property to future funders and we will incur no loss of income.
23.	<p><u>2015/16:</u></p> <p>I am proud of the way in which the Council has worked with partners to look for opportunities to support some of the most vulnerable people across the city, through more innovative approaches. In the last year these have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safety Week, in early June 2015, which saw the Council joining up with the Local Children's Safeguarding Board, Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to host a series of roadshows aimed at improving child safety in the city. • The recommendations of the Southampton Fairness Commission, with its key themes of fairer employment, fairer living and fairer organisations and communities. • The Council is committed to the work which saw additional funding totalling £5M over five years. The focus is on key outcomes for families, including working with the City Deal programme to help get people into work and training.
	GOOD QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING
24.	The Housing Income Team has made remarkable progress in stamping out tenancy fraud since it launched a new campaign in Autumn 2015. By following leads from helpful tenants and investigating evidence of fraud, the team have brought back eight properties in the first two months of the year. The measures have already saved the council a total of £144,000 per annum.
25.	As mentioned previously, work has begun on a new housing development on the former Meridian Studio site in Northam. This £40M project is being led by developers Inland Homes and will see 350 new homes built, with 54 homes due to be ready by next summer. The development will be a mixture of help-to-buy and privately owned flats and it is hoped that a strong community feel can be developed by including shops and parks into the scheme.
26.	<p><u>2015/16</u></p> <p>I am pleased with the progress that has been made in improving the types of housing available to residents at different times of their lives. This includes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of the Fruit and Vegetable Market site, off Bernard Street and Queensway, which is part of a £50M regeneration which will see 297 homes, a mix of affordable and private apartments, built over the next three years. • The ongoing work at Townhill Park to replace the existing blocks with a variety of new modern homes of different tenures, improved green spaces and traffic calming in Meggeson Avenue. • The Council is also making significant improvements to other housing estates, including £1.9M spent on Decent Neighbourhood projects. In addition, 51,403 repairs have been carried out, including 919 kitchens refurbished and 1,092 bathrooms replaced. • Council tenants of 1,500 homes at Thornhill, Shirley Towers, Milner Court, Albion Towers and Sturminster House are receiving £27m in energy-saving improvements, with work having started in October 2015. These include new windows, new tenant-controlled heating, external wall insulation, new roofs and coloured rendering. • Improving the housing options for those in need of supported housing - both the development at Erskine Court, Lordshill and the redevelopment around the Woodside Lodge and Wimpson Lane reflect this. <p>Improving over 150 homes through insulation or better heating including solid wall homes which have in the past been difficult to treat.</p>
	SERVICES FOR ALL
27.	Following consultation with residents and businesses, work is continuing on the development of the River Itchen Flood Alleviation Scheme which will reduce tidal flooding for a significant number of commercial and residential properties along the lower west bank of the river. The scheme will involve the implementation of a new sheet piled wall along the frontage which will have a design life of 100 years. The outline design for the scheme is currently being developed in preparation for submission of a future planning application, timetabled for late 2016. By reducing flood risk the scheme will ensure this frontage can continue to support the existing uses whilst providing the required strategic infrastructure to support planned future development in this area.
28.	Work on developing a Low Emission Strategy (LES) is reaching its final stages and will incorporate the requirements of Defra's national plan, Tackling Nitrogen Dioxide in our Towns and Cities, more specifically the requirement to introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) by 2020 and a penalty system for the most polluting HGVs, buses and taxis. The measures identified by the LES study will now be introduced through a Clean Air Zone Implementation Plan which aims to deliver a 20% reduction in key pollutant concentrations within the city and deliver significant benefits to public health.
29.	I am pleased to inform you that a bid has been submitted to the Department for Transport's Sustainable Travel Transition Fund for 2016/17 for the continuation of the city's successful sustainable travel programme, My Journey. An additional bid has been submitted in partnership with Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council and Portsmouth City Council. Subject to success both bids will see the expansion of the roll-out of Delivery and Servicing Plans to local businesses across the sub-region, and additional

	support for the Sustainable Distribution Centre which will see a continued reduction in the number of HGV movements in and through the city. The programme will focus on the delivery of innovative incentives to promote walking and cycling, sustainable travel planning in schools and workplaces, a support package for jobseekers to access work, cycle training, led rides, cycle repairs, a legible cycle signage pilot and coordinated behaviour change campaigns to help residents, visitors and workers in the city shift from regularly using their cars to more active and sustainable modes of travel.
30.	Following a successful public consultation over the future of Southampton's sports centre, in which over 1,200 people from around the region expressed an opinion and 93% agreed that improvements are needed, I am pleased to be able to share that proposals to develop the site are taking shape. These include the possibility of a fitness gym, a closed road cycling circuit, new artificial pitches, new changing rooms and a café. Meetings have been organised with the governing bodies of a range of sports to discuss the feedback prior to drawing up our plans. Funding options are currently being explored, but it is hoped that the new development will enable the sports centre to compete on a regional and even national level.
31.	I am pleased to announce that Southampton is receiving £80,000 in 2016/17 as part of the Pothole Action Fund as part of the government's investment for local road maintenance. Local highway authorities decide how this money is spent, including upgrades to road surfacing, bridges, street lighting and other local road maintenance projects that improve journeys for motorists and cyclists.
32.	A chargeable Garden Waste Collection Service has been operating since April 2013 and currently has approximately 12,000 customers. Collection fees were increased this year but a discount was offered for online renewals paid before 1st April 2016. In previous years an 'early bird' discount applied to all forms of payment. Despite the fee increase and the discount only applying to one form of payment, I am delighted to report that the number of renewals are increased, like for like, over last year and therefore contributed positively to SCC's digital shift. Waste service requests have reduced by half compared to the same period as last year.
33.	<p><u>2015/16:</u></p> <p>The Council continues to look for ways to improve the services we provide for the city. Successes this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approval of the Policy and Strategy documents which form part of the revised Highways Asset Management Plan (HAMP) which will ensure the Council adopts an effective methodology for maintaining highways assets, and that most cost effective service is provided. • We also increased our recycling rate by 1%; we are currently the only council in Hampshire with an improved performance for dry mixed recycling rate.
	CITY PRIDE
34.	I am pleased to share that Southampton's iconic Bargate, described by the late renowned architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as probably the finest town gateway in Britain, is undergoing significant restoration works

	beginning in mid-March. The 800 year-old Bargate is currently suffering from water ingress on the battlemented parapet, which is then passing down inside the thick stone walls and dissolving the ancient lime mortar.
35.	I am delighted to announce that Southampton Day Services are supporting three athletes to Serre Cevalier in France to compete in the Special Olympics GB National Winter Games. Neale Hudson, Sarah Leavesley and Sam Searle will be joining other teams from around Great Britain to compete in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super Giant Slalom. The event is held every four years and the athletes are not only competing for medals at the games but also for selection to the world Winter games in Schladming Austria in 2017. I am sure you would like to join me in wishing them the very best of luck.
36.	Following much debate the name for the Arts Complex has been decided: Studio 144. The name is designed to reflect its multi-purpose identity – a creative, cohesive and community space. Recognising that the venue will house three organisations who each have their own strong identity, a locator name has been selected (144 is the street number for Above Bar). as it will host a flexible 447 main house theatre, a 135 seat studio, screening facilities, rehearsal and workshop spaces and a café bar and bistro.
37.	Following an open tender, the city council has appointed a new operator called Hampshire Markets and Events Ltd to provide and manage high quality general and specialist markets in the city centre. Under the name of Yellow Vintage Fairs, the company operates numerous vintage fairs in and around the region, most notably at the Ageas Bowl. The company will operate primarily in Above Bar in the city centre from January until October. In November and December the hugely popular Southampton Christmas Festival will return along with the Flying Santa. The general markets will be every Friday, and each Saturday the city centre will have a different specialist market, including an Antiques and Collectibles, an Arts and Crafts Markets, an Artisan Food Markets and Vintage and Retro markets. I hope that this will continue to encourage people into the city and contribute to the development of the already vibrant city centre offer.
38.	The sun shone brightly for 'Southampton Passion' in Guildhall Square on Good Friday, where more than 1,000 people gathered to enjoy an outdoor performance of the Passion Play. The organisers brought in a stage and huge screen so everyone in the audience was able to watch the play which was very well received.
39.	The 27th Vaisakhi Celebrations took place in the city on 17 April. The morning began with the raising of the Nishan Sahib (Sikh National flag) at the Civic Centre. At 1pm the Vaisakhi procession, which attracted thousands of on-lookers, started from Gurdwara Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib. All four of Southampton's Sikh gurdwaras were incorporated into the procession.
40.	The St George's Day celebrations were hosted in Southampton's newest live venue, The 1865. There was an afternoon of free festivities including the premiere of short films about some fantastic Sotonians, presentations of the Daily Echo St George's Day Community Awards and other entertainment to celebrate the England's national day. Southampton's scout groups also marked the day by marching through Southampton; St George is their patron saint.
41.	In its second year, the ABP Half Marathon and 10k on 24 April saw up to 8,000 participants tackling a 10k and half marathon distance, which takes in

	some of the city's iconic monuments such as the Bargate and the Itchen Bridge. The start and finish area was relocated this year from Hoglands Park to Guildhall Square and was a great success.
42.	<p><u>2015/16</u></p> <p>The city is increasingly recognised for its successful and exciting events programme. In the last 12 months we have hosted a number of exciting events. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hugely successful Common People festival, which attracted more than 35,000 people to the city • The first festival of words, SO: TO SPEAK, between 23 October and 1 November 2015. This took place in venues across the city, attracting local writers and comprising a range of literary events. • 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 new festival was well received. • In July 2015 Southampton was used as a positive case study at a national Sports Leadership Conference, with the Director of British Cycling describing our Sky Ride event as a perfect example of how things should be done. Last year's event took place in July 2015 and was attended by 11,000 cyclists. British Cycling rate Southampton's Sky Ride as one of the best in the country and I am delighted to say that it is returning in June this year.
	A SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL
43.	<p>I am delighted that the futures of five Southampton community libraries have been agreed. The organisations set to take over the running of some of the city's libraries is made up of a mix of long established organisations and newly formed community groups, all dedicated to offering good local community involvement and support. The following groups will soon take over the running of the following libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Burgess Road Library Action Group (in partnership with Christ Church Southampton, a locally based charity) will provide library services from Burgess Road Library. • Thornhill Community Library, a newly formed local charity group, will continue to provide library services from Thornhill Library. • The YMCA, a local community charity that has been serving the city since 1878, will provide a community library in the new unit when it is completed in Weston; in the meantime services will continue from the portacabin. • SCA and Unexpected Places, two not-for-profit organisations, in partnership with the Friends of Cobbett Road Library, are teaming up to continue to offer library facilities from Cobbett Road Library. • In Millbrook, the library resources will be moved into the Solent NHS Trust Pickles Coppice Children's Centre where the Sure Start Service is based.

44.	I am pleased to report that, after months of planning and hard work, the new employee account, "Staff Stuff", has gone live. It is part of the digital transformation of the Council and will extend the network to colleagues who had not previously been able to access it, enabling them to be able to self-serve. Staff feedback will continue to influence its design in order to ensure it is user-friendly and fit for purpose. Other aspects of the digital transformation programme are being developed and will be rolled out soon.
45.	Significant progress has been made in implementing the Council's Community Asset Transfer Strategy. Since March 2016 Red Lodge Community Pool, Moorlands Community Centre and Northam Community Centre have been approved for transfer. Lease and sale negotiations are ongoing in relation to Townhill Park Community Centre, St. Albans Resource Centre and the Harefield Community Centre site. Lease and sale negotiations are about to commence in relation to Red Lodge Community Pool, Moorlands and Northam Community Centres.
46.	I am delighted to be able to report that we have the highest percentage of schools in the country to achieve accreditation with the sustainable travel organisation Modeshift. We currently have 23 bronze schools and 10 silver schools, and Shirley Infant School has now achieved the Modeshift gold STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation and Recognition for Schools) award, which is supported by the Department of Transport. The award celebrates schools that have showed excellent progress in improving sustainable transport such as cycling and walking. Since April 2015, Shirley Infants has seen a massive 85% decrease in car usage on the school run and is one of only 34 schools in the country to have achieved the gold standards and the first one in Southampton.
47.	<p><u>2015/16</u></p> <p>Over the past year we have continued to look for ways to become more sustainable. These have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has been underway to implement our New Operating Model by 2017. We are exploring and implementing various change initiatives to address our financial situation and prepare us for the changing needs and expectations of our residents, customers, clients and communities. • Introduction a new joint finance and procurement initiative to improve the way in which goods are purchased in order to create greater efficiencies. This change will help save money through smarter procurement, improved financial management, faster processing of invoices and greater third party spending visibility across the Council. • Focusing on making it easier for our customers and employees to access services and work using digital technology, reducing duplication and improving efficiency. Initiatives have included the introduction of mobile technology for Housing staff, putting rent accounts online and a Customer Strategy which looks at ways to become 'digital by default'.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
	N/A

<u>Property/Other</u>	
	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	As defined in the report appropriate to each decision.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
	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	