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| DECISION-MAKER: | | COUNCIL | |
| SUBJECT: | | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | | 16 NOVEMBER 2016 | |
| REPORT OF: | | LEADER OF THE COUNCIL | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| AUTHOR: | Name: | Felicity Ridgway, Service Lead – Policy, Partnerships and Strategic Planning | Tel: 023 8083 3310 |
| | E-mail: | felicity.ridgway@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Service Director | Name: | Emma Lewis, Service Director – Intelligence, Insight and Communications | Tel: 023 8091 7984 |
| | E-mail: | emma.lewis@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| None | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| This report outlines the executive business conducted since the last Executive Business Report to Council on 21 September 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 | | | |
| 2. | Not applicable | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | <p>I am pleased to announce that a formal application for a Solent Combined Authority has been submitted to the Government after plans were approved by Southampton, Portsmouth and Isle of Wight councils. It comes after a public consultation saw 71% of respondents stating they were in favour of moving power and funding for the economy, transport and jobs from central government to groups of local councils working together. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, will receive the application and make a decision on whether to progress it. Should it go ahead, the next step would be to agree the details of the proposal to be put before Parliament. I am delighted that we led the consultation process on behalf of the three councils and that it was done to extremely high standards in very challenging timescales. Significant additional work of a very high standard was undertaken by a small team of officers across all three councils</p> | | |

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| | including Legal, Economic Development, Communications and Policy. I would like my thanks to them to be noted. |
| 4. | I am sure you will join me in congratulating the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Team, who have been named as runner up for the Resilience Team of the Year in the Emergency Planning Society's National Resilience Awards 2016. This is particularly commendable as the team received two nominations from partner organisations within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum. They have integrated both flood management and Public Health emergency planning responsibilities into a central Emergency Planning function, and are the only team to have included both disciplines. |
| 5. | The Council's Communications Team has won the Creative Use of Citizen Engagement Award for its work in developing and delivering a pilot for digital statutory notices. The results of the pilot are now under review by the Department of Communities and Local Government; if taken forward, publishing statutory notices digitally has the potential to save the Council tens of thousands of pounds every year. This is not the only success for the team, however; although pipped to the post, Senior Communications Officer Lee Tillyer was shortlisted for the Communicator of the Year in the same awards. I would like to extend my congratulations to the whole team for their excellent work on behalf of the Council. |
| 6. | The Council has also received the Highly Commended Award at the Federation of Small Businesses event for the Most Innovative Small Business programme. This award reflects the Council's commitment to ensure that small businesses have a share in the major opportunities being created as a result of the good growth in the city. |
| 7. | The Department for Communities and Local Government did a spot check of Payments by Results claims for our Families Matter (Troubled Families Programme) and we got great feedback! The national Troubled Families Team Director noted that: "the officials conducting the spot check met with four key workers – all of whom were very impressive." The letter goes on to say that "these conversations really brought to life the fantastic work the team are doing with some very complex families" and "it is clear that there is a lot of dedicated work going on in Southampton to transform the lives of your most complex families." The full letter is on Good Stuff. Well done to all our staff in the Families Matter (Troubled Families) Programme. |
| 8. | As part of our strategy to reward staff, we have launched 'Good Stuff' on the intranet (Staff Stuff) on 7 October 2016. On these pages, staff achievements will be highlighted and will include opportunities for staff to nominate colleagues for Staff Awards and to send an online 'thank you.' |
| | STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH |
| 9. | Southampton City Council is adopting a new commercial approach by establishing a property investment portfolio. Like many other councils, we will look to underpin our financial security by making investments that will generate income which can be used to reduce the financial impact of some of the ongoing budget savings. Investing in commercial property offers us an independent stream of income that does not have any negative effect on any of the services that the Council already provides. Since borrowing rates are low the council can use fixed interest loans to strengthen our property |

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| | investment portfolio. The money we receive in rent adequately covers the money we are borrowing, which also provides money which we will use to support some council services. |
| 10. | So far we have secured three properties with combined deals worth £20.1M. These include two retail warehouse properties in Southampton on Winchester Road, currently occupied by Wickes and Halfords, and a modern office building in Cambridge, with technology giants Nokia and Virgin Media Ltd already in-situ as long-term tenants. The existing businesses will be unaffected by the change in commercial landlord. Plans for further investments are already being considered, with more deals expected to be completed in the coming months. |
| 11. | A £386,000 council grant to West Itchen Community Trust (the successor body to the Inner City Regeneration Programme) has helped replace 12 dilapidated Victorian houses in Empress Road with 30 new light industrial workshops, each with superfast broadband, bicycle and car parking and disabled access. The total cost of the rebuild was £1.5M and is the latest in a line of physical improvements in the priority neighbourhood. Five businesses are already operating from the new Acorn Business Centre, with others due to move in. |
| 12. | The Solent Jobs Programme, funded by City Deal and the European Social Fund, has made significant progress in recent months and is already supporting 120 long-term unemployed people with a health condition back into work. The programme is delivered in Southampton by the Council's Employment Support Team and Wheatsheaf Trust, working in close partnership with Jobcentre Plus. It aims to integrate employment and health-related support and as such it is at the forefront of national policy in this area. The programme was presented at the Annual Public Health England Conference in September 2016. |
| 13. | The Council has now exchanged contracts with Radian Housing on the sale (subject to planning permission) of the former Woolston School site on Portsmouth Road. Radian is applying for planning consent for 50 new homes, of which 22 will be affordable. |
| | CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GOOD START IN LIFE |
| 14. | I am pleased to be able to share the improvements in our early years settings. The Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) assessment of all five year olds tests their communication, literacy, numeracy and social skills, which are an indicator of future success in school. In 2016, 70% of Southampton's children attained 'a good level of development', exceeding the national average and marking a ten year high. |
| 15. | As part of the improvement journey in Children and Families' Services, Southampton City Council recently commissioned an extensive review of arrangements around the 'front door' of Children's Safeguarding, in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This found that these arrangements were safeguarding children well. Following the review the decision has been taken to introduce an arrangement to get people through directly to a dedicated team of skilled and experienced social workers, who will be able to respond to those raising concerns about children. It is intended that this approach will continue to improve the MASH decision-making process to ensure the best outcome for children. |

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| 16. | At its meeting on 19 October 2016, Cabinet approved proposals from Children and Families' Services to commission services to work intensively and therapeutically with children who are on the edge of being taken into care. The aim of the Edge of Care project is to effect positive change and safely maintain these children within their families over a sustained period of time, thus improving outcomes for them and preventing unnecessary escalation of need and cost in the longer term. Southampton has a significant number of children in care and the proposed service will provide rapid and intensive support for children and young people to prevent them from coming into care, enabling them to live safely and providing the support they need. |
| 17. | The 'Get Inspired' Careers Fair was held at the O2 Guildhall on 15 October 2016. Over 50 local organisations showcased opportunities in their sector, from logistics and technology to retail, hospitality and healthcare, and 655 visitors attended this event, exceeding the expected 500 attendees. The event was informative and aimed to show young people some of the exciting employment opportunities available to them in the city as well helping them to understand the routes they could take into their chosen careers. |
| 18. | The Apprenticeship Awards Ceremony was held on 17 October 2016, which showcased the achievements of Southampton's apprentices. 200 people who successfully completed their apprenticeships attended this event, which was supported by local further education colleges and training providers. |
| 19. | I am delighted to report that on 1 November 2016, Councillor Paffey and Councillor Hammond presented the Silver STARS award to Sholing Junior School at their celebration assembly. STARS stands for: 'Sustainable Travel, Active, Responsible, Safe' and schools presented with the award must, within two academic years, have completed 30 travel activities, from 'Walk to School' weeks to cycling clubs. Pupils must be actively involved in the planning and running of the activities, and be able to demonstrate a shift away from car use. Swaythling Primary and Valentine Primary have also received silver medal awards, while St Monica Primary has won bronze. Well done to all the schools for the hard work that has gone into this! |
| | PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT LIVES |
| 20. | At their meeting on 19 October 2016, Cabinet agreed the principle of a more unified approach to the Council's investment in the voluntary sector. As I am sure you will agree, the voluntary sector in Southampton is thriving and diverse and is an essential partner within the city. The Council invests over £20 million a year towards our priority outcomes. The Council wants to encourage collaborative bids from the voluntary sector which will bring additional external funding into the city to support our priority outcomes. |
| 21. | At their meeting on 19 October 2016, Cabinet agreed to a range of proposals which will enable us to develop a more effective and outcomes-based housing related support service based on a review of need within the city. It also provides an opportunity for more overarching work to explore the link between health and housing, the core offer for local people and the link between homelessness and substance misuse. Recommendations agreed include to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to commission four hostel-based homelessness services providing assessment, intensive support and life skills and one dedicated alcohol accommodation service. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine a range of community-based housing-related support into one flexible support service. • Commission an accommodation-based housing support service to people with alcohol-related housing and support needs. • Continue to support the accommodation-based support services for young people, including care leavers, homeless young people and pregnant teenage mothers. • Develop and increase the offer of supported lodgings for young people. • Combine resources and expertise to ensure efficiencies but also appropriate support for those most in need. |
| 22. | <p>Cabinet also agreed to extend the current successful model of participatory budgeting in Thornhill to enable local communities to decide how money in their area is spent in order to meet local needs. The new areas identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thornhill Plus You, the Harefield estate, Merryoak (rolled out from 2019-20 when the current funding ends) and a defined area of Sholing around Sullivan Road. • A defined area within the Bevois and Bargate wards to include Northam and Golden Grove. • The SRB areas covering specific parts of Millbrook, Redbridge, Maybush and Coxford. |
| 23. | <p>After extensive upgrading, both inside and out, work has finished on Rozel Court in Lordshill. The communal lounges and kitchens have been transformed, encouraging residents to be active, volunteer and join in more. The supported housing complex also now has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new mobility scooter storage area. • Improved drying rooms. • Landscaping to the outside areas. • New emergency alarm systems. • New innovations, such as fall detectors, temperature sensors and bed and chair exit monitors. <p>These improvements enable the residents to be safer and more independent for longer, and will help transform their lives for the better.</p> |
| 24. | <p>Residents at the Council's Bisley and Bowman Court in Sholing now have a brand new summerhouse in which to enjoy social activities. It is wheelchair accessible, which means that all residents have the opportunity to use it, leading to greater levels of activity and less social isolation.</p> |
| 25. | <p>We are currently working in partnership with the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to develop our Clear Air Strategy. The Strategy sets out our vision and plan to improve air quality in the city and is being presented to Cabinet in November. The Strategy responds to the Government's Air Quality Plan of 2015 which identified Southampton as one of five cities which must introduce a Clean Air Zone (CAZ) by no later than 2020. It is expected that Southampton will introduce our CAZ as early as 2017 and it will consist of a programme of measures to promote and incentivise actions that will reduce emissions.</p> |

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| 26. | We are working with our partners to support those who are affected by mental illness. Whilst one in four people will be affected during their life-time, many people feel unable to speak about their symptoms or seek help, leaving them feeling isolated. On World Mental Health Day on 10 October 2016, the Council joined with the local NHS and mental health charities to help beat the stigma associated with mental health. Online activities were accompanied by an outreach event at the station to encourage people to speak up about mental health. |
| | SOUTHAMPTON IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND MODERN CITY WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO LIVE AND WORK |
| 27. | I am pleased to be able to report that the Council was actively involved in raising the profile of National Hate Crime Awareness Week, which ran from 8 -15 October 2016. Southampton Connect members, along with other city leaders, collectively pledged to raise awareness of hate incidents and hate crime to make it easier for victims to report. Our Chief Executive Dawn Baxendale and Cabinet Member for Communities, Culture and Leisure, Councillor Satvir Kaur, signed the city-wide pledge against hate on behalf of the Council. We are using social media to raise awareness of hate crime and to give people the tools they need to report it. |
| 28. | I am delighted to be able to confirm that the popular Christmas Festival will return to Southampton this December, complete with the 'Flying Santa' and chalets selling a wide range of Christmas fare. The Festival will take place on the Above Bar pedestrian precinct from Saturday 12 November 2016 to Friday 23 December 2016. |
| 29. | The British Art Show launch in the city in October was a great success, with nearly 900 people attending over the course of the day and another 200 at the Bargate. As part of the day's events, the Council led on a 'hard hat' tour of Studio 144 with John Hansard Gallery; a number of VIPs attended, including the Chair of Arts Council England. He declared that Southampton was "the place to be to see contemporary art". There was also significant positive social media activity around British Art Show 8, including a tweet from Phil Gabby, south-west director of Arts England stating that, "The support offered to culture in #Southampton by @SouthamptonCC @unisouthampton and @solentofficial is an example to cities everywhere". It was followed by a tweet from the Minister of State responsible for digital policy at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Matt Hancock, who declared, "Tonight @_britishartshow opens in #Southampton – chance to see UK's most exciting artists in a great cultural city." |
| 30. | <p>Southampton continues to be a popular destination for a diverse range of activities and events for all. Over the last two months, the city has hosted a wide range of events, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton Boat Show: 16-25 September 2016 – this was, once again, a roaring success, attracting thousands of visitors, including many of GB's Olympic team, and offering a superb day out for visitors and locals alike. • Music in the City: 1-2 October 2016 – thousands of people enjoyed a wide range of free live music in 19 venues across the city, many of which are not generally open to the public, such as the Castle and Lancaster Vaults and the Shieldhall. All the venues were linked |

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| | <p>together with wonderful heritage buses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton Jobs Fair: 7 October 2016 – this was a great success, with 67 exhibitors, compared with 32 in May 2016, and 900 visitors attending, nearly double the number in May 2016. • British Art Show 8 and Southampton Fringe: 8 October 2016 -14 January 2017 – this iconic art event features exhibitions and events across the city, including a bespoke exhibition at the City Art Gallery and an installation in the Bargate monument. The Show features over 40 artists, 26 of whom have produced new works for the exhibition. • Black History Month: 1 October 2016 – 3 November 2016 – this was, once again, characterised by a wide range of activities, from the Love Soul Choir singing in West Quay Shopping Centre to the One World Fair at Solent University. • Active Warrior: 15 October 2016 – Active Nation’s 7.5K Obstacle Course race was held at the Outdoor Sports Centre and provided a gruelling physical challenge for the daring. Around 500 people competed, some of whom were raising money for charity. Next year’s event is already booked in for 1 July and there will be a Little Warrior event for children aged six and above. • Hampshire Farmers’ Market: 23 October 2016 – this again proved to be a popular event. • Southampton Film Week: 4 - 13 November 2016 – presented by City Eye and now in its ninth year, this popular event offered a range of interesting films, workshops and events around the city. • Mayflower Park Fireworks: 5 November 2016 – presented by Southampton Round Table No.4, this annual firework display attracted thousands of spectators. Complimented by live entertainment, all monies raised went to local charities to help residents in need. • Remembrance Day Service: 13 November 2016– this year’s ceremony was led by the Rector of Southampton, the Reverend Julian Davies, assisted by local churches and other faith groups. |
| | MODERN, SUSTAINABLE CITY |
| 31. | <p>It is now even easier to get online in Southampton since we have teamed up with Arqiva to provide a free Wi-Fi network in key areas of the city. The network, which offers 30 minutes of free access to local residents, businesses and visitors, can be accessed in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Street – between High Street and Queensway • Portwood Road – between St Denys and Brookvale Roads • London Road – between Belleview Road and Waterloo Terrace • Shirley Road/Shirley High Street – between Anglesea Road and Malmesbury Road • Above Bar – between Commercial Road and Civic Centre Road <p>There is also the option to sign up for 24 hours of access for £5 a day. This exciting development helps to serve Southampton’s community more effectively and reflects the vibrant 24/7 lives we are now leading.</p> |

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| 32. | <p>The Council's Service Cost Recovery programme has developed a series of proposals to realise savings to enable and create the conditions to generate future savings. One aspect of these proposals is to transfer the Housing Concierge Service to the Balfour Beatty Living Places, along with the staff delivering the service. Other services identified for transfer include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of all Housing CCTV. • City Depot security – monitoring of CCTV. • Itchen Bridge Help Point additional hours monitoring. • Back-office Bus Lane Enforcement ('Phase 1' monitoring). <p>The aims of the proposal are to protect the provision of the CCTV services, allow the Council to achieve the savings already included in the 2016/17 budget and run new and existing services in a cost-effective manner. The proposals were agreed and consultation with the affected staff has now begun.</p> |
| 33. | <p>As part of our Digital Transformation Programme, we have now provided over 300 mobile devices to colleagues from Children and Families', Adults' Services and the Environment teams. This is helping us to develop more streamlined internal systems with less reliance on paper forms, which is enabling us to work in a more efficient and professional manner. Staff will be able to action service requests, access emails and client information and make updates onto databases whilst out of the office, which is saving time and enabling them to make more informed decisions, as well as reducing travel time.</p> |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 34. | N/A |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 35. | N/A |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 36. | As defined in the report appropriate to each decision. |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 37. | The report outlines activity supporting the delivery of Council Strategy 2014-2017. |

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| KEY DECISION? | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | All |
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

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| 1. | None |
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Equality Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out. | No |
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Privacy Impact Assessment

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out. | No |
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
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| None |
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