

City of Portsmouth MEMBERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

NO 23

DATE: FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2008

The Members' Information Service produced in the Democratic & Community Engagement Unit by Joanne Wildsmith has been prepared in three parts -

Part 1 - Decisions by the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members, subject to Councillors' right to have the matter called in for scrutiny.

Part 2 - Proposals from Managers which they would like to implement subject to Councillors' right to have the matter referred to the relevant Cabinet Member or Regulatory Committee; and

Part 3 - Items of general information and news.

Part 1 - Decisions by the Cabinet

The following decisions have been taken by the Cabinet (or individual Cabinet Members), and will be implemented unless the call-in procedure is activated. Rule 15 of the Policy and Review Panels Procedure Rules requires a call-in notice to be signed by any 5 members of the Council. The call-in request must be made to SASKIA KIERNAN (Scrutiny Support Manager) and must be received by not later than 5 pm on the date shown in the item.

If you want to know more about a proposal, please contact the officer indicated. You can also see the report on the Council's web site at www.portsmouth.gov.uk

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
1		<p>Cabinet Meeting - Monday 2 June 2008</p> <p>The Cabinet took the following decisions:-</p> <p>Policy & Review Scrutiny Reports</p> <p>All three panels were thanked by the Cabinet Members for their work in undertaking these reviews.</p> <p>(a) Topic Panel A – Review of the Support available for Care Leavers</p> <p>(1) the Panel be thanked for its work in undertaking the review;</p> <p>(2) that the proposed responses to the Panel's recommendations as set out within the schedule prepared by the Head of Children & Social Care were agreed.</p> <p>(b) Topic Panel B - Review of Emergency Planning</p> <p>Councillor Henderson, as Chair presented the Panel's report thanking the officers for their work on this and those Members of the Panel who have been involved in the review. The Cabinet requested a further report from Cindy Jones to take forward the Panel's recommendations and bring back a costed action plan.</p> <p>(c) Topic Panel C - Review of pupil exclusions for Portsmouth City Schools</p> <p>Councillor Wylie as Chair of the Panel introduced the reports supported by David Reed, the parent governor representative. He thanked the Support Officers for their help and the educational witnesses for their input. Questions were asked with regard to support given to statemented children which were answered by Andy Hough the Head of Children & Young People's Wellbeing & Targeted Services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	<p>Joanne Wildsmith Democratic Services Tel: 9283 4057</p>

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>It was AGREED</p> <p>(1) The Panel be thanked for its work in undertaking a review;</p> <p>(2) That the responses to the Panel's recommendations set out in the Schedule of the report be agreed.</p> <p>Wessex Youth Offending Team (YOT), Inspection Programme</p> <p>A report was presented by Steve Crocker, Head of Service for the Wessex YOT who answered questions with regard to the tracking of re-offending rates and the assessment of risk. The Cabinet noted the content of the YOT inspection report and approved the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Corporate Plan 2008-2011</p> <p>The Cabinet Members</p> <p>RECOMMENDED to the Council that</p> <p>(1) Approval be given to the draft 2008-2011 Corporate Plan (as per Appendix 1 of the report) at the City Council Meeting on 17 June;</p> <p>(2) That changes to the draft 2008-2011 corporate plan can be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and other group leaders.</p> <p>The Local Strategic Partnership's Vision for Portsmouth, the Local Area Agreement and the Multi-Area Agreement</p> <p>The Cabinet -</p> <p>(1) approved the supporting documents for the one page Vision for Portsmouth (Appendix 1) with a recommendation for approval to full Council on 17 June;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>(2) approved the draft Local Area Agreement (Appendix 2) with a recommendation for approval to full Council on 17 June;</p> <p>(3) approved the draft Multi Area Agreement (Appendix 3) with a recommendation for approval to full Council on 17 June;</p> <p>(4) agreed that changes to the supporting text and to the target levels in the LAA and MAA can be agreed with the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and other group leaders;</p> <p>(5) agreed that changes to the supporting document for the Vision of Portsmouth can be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the LSP and the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Summary of the Service Level Business Plans 2008-09</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the Service Level Business Plans 2008-09, subject to Council approval.</p> <p>Tipner Urban Regeneration Scheme: Budget Update</p> <p>The Cabinet</p> <p>(1) noted that the total estimated costs to be incurred on the Tipner Urban Regeneration Project up to 31 March 2008 is £426,000;</p> <p>(2) noted that the total estimated costs to be incurred on the Tipner Urban Regeneration Project up to 31 March 2009 will be approximately £1,408,000 met from the approved capital budget of £1,288,000 and an additional £120,000 from the DCLG;</p> <p>(3) noted that further funding beyond 31 March 2009 may be required as a result of a possible requirement to hold a Public Inquiry with respect to a planning application and associated professional fees;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>(4) that the Project Director and Strategic Director be authorised to incur the expenditure as outlined within the report.</p> <p>Adoption of PUSH (Partnership for Urban South Hampshire) Business Plan</p> <p>The Cabinet approved the PUSH Business Plan 2008-2011 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report).</p> <p>Transport for South Hampshire - Financial Contribution</p> <p>Authority was given to contribute £100,000 to Transport for South Hampshire as a City Council contribution for 2008-09 to be funded from within the Traffic Systems Maintenance Budget from the Traffic & Transportation Portfolio.</p> <p>Building Schools for the Future - Strategy for Change (Part 1) and Related Issues</p> <p>The Cabinet recommended to Council –</p> <p>(1) That the City's progress and formal entry into Wave 6 of BSF be acknowledged;</p> <p>(2) The strategy for change (Part 1) as attached as Appendix 1 be approved;</p> <p>(3) The BSF commitment as set out in paragraph 11 be formally endorsed;</p> <p>(4) The position regarding the BSF budgets as set out in paragraph 12 be considered;</p> <p>(5) The BSF Project Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People be authorised to make any necessary minor changes to the Strategy for Change (Part 1).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>Primary Capital Programme</p> <p>The Cabinet</p> <p>(1) Approved the Primary Strategy for Change attached as Appendix 1 of the report as the basis for submission to the DCSF by 16 June 2008;</p> <p>(2) Agreed that the BSF Project Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People be authorised to make any necessary minor changes to the Primary Strategy for Change prior to submission.</p> <p>Annual Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment Statement 2007/08</p> <p>The Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Debt Repayment Statement for 2007/08 was approved and the regulatory method of calculating the minimum revenue provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt be applied to existing and new debt.</p> <p>Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Scheme Grant</p> <p>It was AGREED that the sum of £438,134 being the balance of LABGI grant available, be transferred to the contingency provision.</p> <p>Victoria Baths Swimming Centre</p> <p>It was AGREED</p> <p>(1) that the Head of Asset Management Service be authorised to immediately market the land and buildings and to finalise terms for the sale at the best price reasonably obtainable, in consultation with the Group Leaders;</p> <p>(2) that the City Solicitor be instructed to complete the disposal, to coincide with the opening of the Mountbatten Centre;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>(3) that a bid be worked-up for the re-provision of the public toilets and storage facilities currently located within the existing structure.</p> <p>Appointments to Outside Bodies 2008/09 Municipal Year</p> <p>The Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members made appointments to outside bodies falling within the remits of their portfolios; a full list of the appointments made, and a personalised list, will be circulated to each member of the council. A copy is also held within the Democratic Services Unit and can be inspected on request.</p> <p>Proposed Experimental Night-time Restriction to Vehicle Access to Guildhall Walk and Relocation of Existing Hackney Carriage Rank</p> <p>Deputations were made by the Chief Inspector James Fullton of Hampshire Constabulary in support of the proposal and by taxi representatives Mr Ogilvie and Mr Carse who made comments and suggestions on the details of the proposal.</p> <p>The Cabinet AGREED</p> <p>(1) that the Licensing Manager, subject to approval via the MIS consultation process, be given delegated authority to publicly advertise proposals to appoint a new night-time hackney carriage stand in accordance with the statutory provisions contained within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;</p> <p>(2) that delegated authority be given to the Head of Transport & Street Management to implement an Experimental Traffic Order to close Guildhall Walk to all traffic, except emergency vehicles, everyday between the hours of 6.00 pm and 7.00 am; it is anticipated implementation will be by the end of July 2008;</p> <p>(3) that a report on the results of this experimental order be brought back to the Cabinet after a monitoring period of at least six months and not more than 18 months which is the maximum that an Experimental Order can run;</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>(4) that the section of Henry I Street between Exchange Road and Guildhall Walk be changed from one-way traffic to two-way traffic.</p> <p>(5) that officers work with the taxi drivers to implement a workable solution at the southern end of Guildhall Walk to implement a taxi rank in White Swan Road, in accordance with option 2.</p> <p>Guildhall Bells and Clock Tower Refurbishment</p> <p>It was RECOMMENDED to Council that</p> <p>(1) that the Head of Asset Management Service be given authority to accept the tender as detailed in the exempt appendix (subject to any amendment relating to the delay in authorisation) and it be noted that the additional costs over the £480,000 already identified be funded from the Landlord's Maintenance Budget as outlined within the financial appraisal, but any further costs arising to be found from within contingency provision.</p> <p>(2) the City Solicitor be instructed to complete the formal contract documentation;</p> <p>(3) financial arrangements be noted.</p> <p>Cottage Homes – Financial Settlement of a Dispute</p> <p>The Cabinet received the exempt report and agreed that –</p> <p>(1) the City Solicitor be delegated authority to negotiate a settlement up to and including the sum per claimant, plus the claimants' solicitor costs, in accordance with the figure shown in the exempt report;</p> <p>(2) That in the event of the City Solicitor being unable to negotiate a settlement within that figure, but he is of the opinion that the settlement is still in the City Council's best interests he be authorised to negotiate and approve an alternative settlement in excess of the figures shown in the exempt report, in consultation with the political group leaders.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">/Cont'd ...</p>	

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
2		<p>Acquisition of a Site in Somerstown, Portsmouth</p> <p>In considering the exempt report the Cabinet AGREED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Acquisition of the site referred to in the report be approved within the amounts previously advised to Cabinet Members; (2) The Head of Asset Management be authorised to bid at auction up to the amount previously advised to Cabinet Members; (3) The City Solicitor be authorised to conclude the acquisition; (4) Terms of acquisition be agreed by the Head of Asset Management on the advice on the Project Manager for the Somerstown Community Hub project. <p>NB: Call-in Date: Wednesday 11 June 2008</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Young People - Decision Meeting - 2 June 2008</p> <p>The Cabinet Member, Councillor Eleanor Scott has made the following decisions:-</p> <p>The Green Report: Corporate Parenting Report Card for Looked After Children</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The Cabinet Member be informed of the 2006/2007 outcomes for children looked after by Portsmouth City Council. (2) The Cabinet Member to receive the report again in the July portfolio cycle with additional narrative, as requested by members. (3) The report be then sent on to the full Council. 	<p>Teresa Deasy Democratic Services Tel: 9283 4056</p>

/Cont'd ...

	WARD	DECISION	OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>Fees & Charges 2008/09</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>The recommended increases as set out in Appendix 1 of the report were approved.</p> <p>Home to School Travel Assistance to Mainstream Schools and Specialist Provision</p> <p>DECISION:</p> <p>The Home to School Travel Assistance Policy to Mainstream Schools and Specialist Provision as set out in Appendix 1 'Proposed Policy' of the report was approved.</p> <p>NB: Call-in Date: Tuesday 10 June 2008</p>	

Part 2 - Proposals from Managers for Implementation

The following proposals have been brought forward. The Managers indicated will exercise their powers to approve the proposal unless a Councillor requests the item be referred for decision to the relevant Cabinet Member or Regulatory Committee. **Your request must be made to NICK EATON (Committee Support Manager) and must be received by not later than 5 pm on Friday 13 June 2008.**

An email or handwritten letter will suffice.

If you want to know more about a proposal, please contact the Officer indicated.

COMMITTEE: DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2008

	WARD	SUBJECT AND PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
3	Eastney & Craneswater	<p>32 Eastern Parade, Southsea - Complaint in Respect of High Hedge on Boundary with 1 Brading Avenue</p> <p>PROPOSED DECISION</p> <p>Reduction of hedge to a height of 3metres, with an allowed growth margin of an additional 0.5metres</p> <p>A complaint has been received under Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, which gives local authorities powers to deal with complaints about high hedges.</p> <p>The hedge is located within the garden of 32 Eastern Parade, and the southern boundary of the complainant's property at 1 Brading Avenue. The driveway of No.1 is situated alongside the majority of the hedge with habitable room windows at ground and first floor level on the south elevation. Visits to both properties have been undertaken and the hedge at the time of the visit was calculated as being 12.8 metres long and in excess of 5.5 metres high.</p> <p>The existing garden area is already well shaded by the surrounding dwellings and the garage at 32 Eastern Parade and the hedge only directly adjoins a small part of the usable garden area, with the remainder adjacent to the driveway. It is my opinion that a more significant weight should therefore be attributed to the impact on the windows of the ground floor of 1 Brading Avenue. Having undertaken a survey of the impact that the hedge is causing on the adjacent windows in accordance with the 'Hedge height and light loss' document, the suggested reduction of the hedge is to a height of 3.35 metres. This 'Action Hedge' height is considered to be appropriate to balance the impact on the occupiers of 1 Brading Avenue and maintain a greater degree of privacy to 32 Eastern Parade. Measures to allow growth of the hedge are also required (growing margin).</p>	<p>Mark Bridge Planning Services Tel: 9283 4298</p>

	WARD	SUBJECT AND PROPOSAL	OFFICER CONTACT
4		<p>Seafront Concessions</p> <p>Proposal: that the Parks and Recreation Manager and the Tourism and Visitor Services and Events Manager in consultation with the Executive Member for Culture and Leisure, evaluate and decide on the proposals submitted using the criteria set out below.</p> <p>The City Council receives many requests each year for small businesses to operate as concessions on the Seafront. There is currently no written policy or set criteria for assessing or evaluating the proposals received.</p> <p>The proposals are in the main for either catering (coffee, ice cream, refreshments), or activities (bouncy castles, trampolines).</p> <p>The range of catering proposals has included; coffee, fruit smoothies, baked potatoes, seafood, donuts, burgers, chips, ice cream and popcorn. Most proposals are for mobile units of varying appearance.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that the following criteria be used to evaluate future proposals;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Location - is there a need for additional catering in a particular area? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how will the proposal impact on existing providers – competition can drive up quality, drive down prices, and too many providers in close proximity may not be sustainable. 2) Content - does the proposal improve the quality of catering offer on the Seafront? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - does the proposal promote healthy eating? - Does the proposal increase the range and variety on offer? 3) Appearance - does the proposal enhance or detract the appearance of the Seafront? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permission is required for these mobile units. 4) Rent - is the rent offered reasonable? 	<p>Seamus Meyer Parks & Recreation Manager Tel: 9283 4263 and Drusilla Moody Tourism & Visitor Services Manager Tel: 9283 4091</p>

MEMBERS' INFORMATION SERVICE

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER DECISIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE HEAD OF TRANSPORT & STREET MANAGEMENT

The Head of Transport & Street Management will exercise his powers to proceed with the following Traffic Regulation Order(s) in accordance with the proposed action unless a Councillor requests the proposal to be referred for decision to Committee.

Your request should be made to the **Head of Transport & Street Management** by telephoning **Margaret O'Neill** (☎ 9283 4971) or **Tom Martin** (☎ 9284 1928) and must be received by not later than **5 pm on Friday 13 June 2008**. You can also make contact by letter, or by email to engineers@portsmouthcc.gov.uk. If you wish to know more about a particular application, please contact the Case Officer indicated.

Item No	Ward	Traffic Regulation Order	Case Officer & Tel No	City Engineer's Comments	Proposed Action
5	Central Southsea, Charles Dickens, Cosham, Drayton & Farlington, Paulsgrove, Milton, St Jude, St Thomas	The Portsmouth City Council (Seafront) (Disabled Persons Parking Places) (No.16) Order 2008 (a copy of the Public Notice is available in members' rooms and on the website at http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/9488.html)	Nikki Dridge 9268 8285	1 letter received in support; no objections. A resident wrote in support of the proposal to make the existing seafront disabled bays enforceable by the council's Civil Enforcement Officers. The bays are much abused by non-Blue Badge holders, and if they are monitored and enforced people will learn to respect the bays.	That the Order be made as advertised

NB: THERE ARE NO DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLANNING APPLICATIONS THIS WEEK

Part 3 - Information and News Items

FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2008

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
6		<p>Media Releases</p> <p>The following media releases have been issued in the last week by the Corporate Communications Team. They can all be read in the news section of the City Council's website. For hard copies, or further information, please contact Corporate Communications Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M275 bridge repairs start this month • Hilsea Splashpool closes for essential repairs • Exhibition of artwork at Central Library • Great South Runs gets set, as race closes to general entries • Get your pet microchipped • Warm up for Bike2Work Day • Free bags at green shopping roadshow • 500th dodgy vehicle off the road 	<p>Corporate Communications Team Tel: 9283 4142</p>
7		<p>Independent Group Standing Deputies on Committees</p> <p>Please note the deputies for the Independent group on committees (on which they are represented) for 2008/09 are:</p> <p>Licensing - Councillor Leo Madden</p> <p>Standards - Councillor Jason Fazackarley</p> <p>Employment - Councillor Jason Fazackarley</p>	<p>Lin Chaplen Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4053</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
8		<p>Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transportation - Decision meeting - Tuesday 10 June 2008 at 10.00am in the Executive Meeting Room, floor 3 of the Guildhall, Portsmouth.</p> <p>Councillor Stagg will consider the following items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Portsmouth City Council (Amendments to On and Off Street Parking Places Charging Times) (No 2) Order 2008 - to consider the representations received in response to the public consultation. • The Portsmouth City Council (Various Roads) (Parking Places and Amendments to Waiting Restrictions) (No 3) Order 2008 - to consider the representations received in response to the public consultation. • The Portsmouth City Council (Off Street Parking Places) (No 4) Order 2008 - to consider the representations received in response to the public consultation. • The Portsmouth City Council (East Cosham) (Residents' Parking Places Extension) (Prohibition of Waiting) (No 6) Order 2008 - to consider the representations received in response to the public consultation. • Guidelines for the Introduction and Operation of Residents Parking Schemes - to clarify and review the criteria under which residents parking schemes are surveyed and implemented. • Parking Service Annual Report 2007/08 - to update on the performance of the Parking Service over the last financial year. • Pedestrian Crossing Review - to update on the current status of the implementation of 2007/08 programme of pedestrian crossings. 	<p>Lucy Wingham/ Karen Martin Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4662</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
9		<p>Appointments to Outside Bodies 2008/09 - List of Appointments made, and a Remaining Vacancy to be Filled</p> <p>The Cabinet Members made appointments to the various outside bodies falling within the remit of their portfolios at the meeting of the Cabinet on 2 June 2008. A full list of the appointments will be made available to members shortly, and they will also in due course receive a list of their specific appointments. Members are asked to note the bodies they have been appointed to. The organisations will be informed of the appointments over the next week or two, and asked to let the appointees know the dates of any meetings they are required to attend.</p> <p>If any member does not hear from an organisation they are appointed to, please let Lin Chaplen in Democratic & Community Engagement know.</p> <p>Members are reminded that the Leader has previously requested that appointees to outside bodies should report back on the activities of the bodies at the end of each municipal year, this report to be made available to all members.</p> <p>In addition, members serving on the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority, Hampshire Police Authority and Langstone Harbour Board are required by CM 6/06 to prepare following each full meeting a short report to the relevant Executive Member, this report also to be made available to members of the Council for information. These three appointments were made at the Annual Meeting of the Council.</p> <p>There is still a vacancy on the following body. Any volunteers are asked to give their names to Lin Chaplen in Democratic & Community Engagement, following consultation with their groups. The appointment will be made at the next decision meeting of the Executive Member for Health & Social Care:</p> <p>Portsmouth Council of Community Service - Main Council</p> <p>The City Council appoints three representatives to the Main Council of the PCCS, a registered charity. The two so far appointed are Councillors Andy Fraser and April Windebank. The Council meets about 10 times a year during the day at 338 Commercial Road. No remuneration or expenses are paid by the PCCS.</p>	<p>Lin Chaplen Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4053</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
10		<p>Development Control Committee, Wednesday 4 June in the Executive Meeting Room, The Guildhall, Portsmouth</p> <p>The Committee considered the following main agenda item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portsmouth City Council Planning Service Enforcement Policy and Protocol - this was adopted. <p>Members made the following decisions on development applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Fronting Cascades Shopping Centre (south) Market Way (west), Andrew Bell Street (north), and Commercial Road (east), Forming Part of the Northern Quarter Development Site, Portsmouth – Reserved matters submission for the redevelopment of the site for the following: construction of: retail units (Class A1-A5) (68,964.5 SQM); leisure units (Class D2) (2,089 SQM); 200 residential units, including affordable; multi-level car park (2,300 spaces), including link bridges; basement service area; centre management suite, public toilets and shopmobility unit; and public realm, including new streets and spaces. Landscaping of public realm areas and of residential amenity areas. (Reserved matters application for building blocks 1-3 and 5-8 and for public realm, pursuant to outline planning permission ref. A*39165/AA) was Approved subject to conditions. • St Agatha's Church, Cascades Approach, Portsmouth – construction of brick walls to north of church to form service yard enclosure; supporting wall for proposed two storey retail building (block 8) to south of church; entrance feature wall linking south-east corner of church to proposed block 8; removal of steps and guard rails on south side entrances to church and provision of new steps and guard rails; and adaption of steps on north side of church to suit new ground levels was Granted Listed Building consent subject to referral to the Secretary of State for Consideration. • 22 St Helens Parade, Southsea – outline application for the construction of new building to form 9 flats/maisonettes, after demolition of existing (principles of access, appearance, layout and scale to be considered) (Resubmission of 07/01786/OUT) was Refused. 	<p>Lucy Wingham/ Karen Martin Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9283 4662</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
11		<p>Salvation Army's Haven becomes the first Portsmouth charity to receive a Queen's Award</p> <p>The Haven Community Project of The Salvation Army has become the first charity in Portsmouth to receive The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, rewarding staff and volunteers for their devotion to improving the lives of people who live in the local area.</p> <p>The Haven Community Project, which is based in Lake Road, Landport, was nominated for the award by Portsmouth City Council for its outstanding contribution to the local community. The project includes a Good Neighbour scheme for older people, a full-time nursery, a charity shop, a community cafe, a chapel and a variety of other community services.</p> <p>The Haven employs 30 staff and has 150 volunteers. It's Good Neighbours scheme supports 200 older people and it provides free furnishings to more than 150 homeless families each year.</p> <p>With more than 500 voluntary sector organisations and community groups in the city, Portsmouth has a thriving voluntary and community sector and has been recognised nationally for excellent partnership working between the city council and voluntary and community sector.</p> <p>Congratulations to Adrian Clee, the team and volunteers on winning this prestigious award.</p>	<p>Fiona White Head of Democratic & Community Engagement Tel: 9268 8446</p>
12		<p>Local Government Association – LGA Alerts – Information sent to Local Authorities for week commencing 2 June 2008 - Checklist 22/08</p> <p>Each week the LGA sends 'LG alerts' information sheets to member authorities. The full text of all LG alerts are available to local authorities on LGAnet – the Local Government Association internet service at http://www.lga.gov.uk.</p>	<p>Local Government Association (LGA) Email: info@lga.gov.uk Tel: 020 7664 3131 www.lga.gov.uk</p>

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
		<p>CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES</p> <p>National Year of Reading 2008 The National Year of Reading is a celebration of reading, in all its forms. It aims to help build a greater national passion for reading in England – for children, families and adult learners alike. At a national level the year will deliver a series of media campaigns which will engage under-achieving audiences. The LGA endorses the year and we urge all local authorities to use 2008 as an opportunity to engage reluctant readers and to support reading as a cross-authority priority now and beyond the year. The Department for Children, Schools and Families has funded the NYR in order to engage specific under-achieving audiences in reading for pleasure and purpose. Visit www.yearofreading.org.uk for more information LG Alert Reference: 95/08</p> <p>ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Free Flooding Conference The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is holding a free flooding conference on 18 June: 2007 Floods, One Year On, at the QE2 Conference Centre in London. This will be of interest to many authorities, including those who have experienced flooding in recent years and those in flood risk areas. If you would like to register for this conference please visit http://www.abi.org.uk/Events/EventDetail.asp?EID=112. LG Alert Reference: 93/08</p> <p>LGA EVENTS</p> <p>Smith Square Debates 2008 The hard copy of this alert attaches a leaflet advising of this year's season of Smith Square Debates. The LGA are hosting these debates as part of the Putting People First campaigns. LG Alert Reference: 94/08</p>	

	WARD		OFFICER CONTACT
13		<p>Sustainable Communities Act Conference – 14 October 2008 The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 offers an opportunity for councils and communities to put forward new thinking on how to enhance the economic, social and environmental sustainability of their area. This conference, to be held at Local Government House, will launch the provisions of this legislation. Keynote speakers will include the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP; Cllr Sir Simon Milton; Nick Hurd MP and Ron Bailey, Director of Campaigns at Unlocking Democracy. LG Alert Reference: 96/08</p> <p>Communicating in a Crisis Workshop</p> <p>All members are reminded of their invitation to attend this one-day workshop.</p> <p>The same course is taking place on Friday 20 June and Saturday 21 June (with attendance at only one date required) at the Collingwood Suite in Chaucer House. The course aims to enhance skills in communicating with the media and public.</p>	<p>Jacqueline Rogers Learning & Development Tel: 9283 1617 or Allison Stratford Corporate Communications Manager Tel: 9268 8596</p>
14		<p style="text-align: center;">-----ooOoo-----</p> <p>Councillor Margaret Adair is encouraging fellow members and officers to KNIT-A-HAT to help save the lives of babies in Tibet and Malawi. The City Council's Hat Box will be in the Members' Services Section, Democratic & Community Engagement, where posters and instructions will also be available.</p>	