

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	17 NOVEMBER 2010
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	
None	

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

This report outlines executive business conducted since the last Council meeting and highlights some of the positive developments and achievements.

### **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. As Leader of the Council, I identified in July 2010, two priorities for the Council: achieving Value for Money and Strong Leadership in facilitating economic growth for prosperity for the city. This report highlights the business undertaken by the Executive, particularly good news stories which demonstrate the progress we are making towards our objectives. A list of Cabinet decisions taken since the last Full Council meeting is attached as Appendix 1.

### **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

4. The Queen comes to Southampton

Thousands of people packed the newly refurbished Guildhall Square on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October to watch the naming of Cunard's newest cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth. Residents packed the square to watch the live events unfold on a giant screen in the Square, as Her Majesty the Queen name the latest addition to Cunard's fleet of luxurious liners. The event marked the end of a series of Elizabethan events staged by Southampton City Council. Theatre performances and a Queen tribute band at the Guildhall Square during the weekend attracted thousands of people, while events at some of the City's top heritage attractions also proved popular.

5. Guildhall Square opens to the Public

The newly refurbished and repaved Southampton Guildhall Square opened to the public. Building work is now practically complete and Southampton City Council held an official launch of the square on 12-13 November. The square is a central piece in the city's emerging Cultural Quarter and is now the perfect setting to attract events, art shows and exhibitions. It now features new benches, lighting and paving. The entire area has been transformed to become more pedestrian

friendly.

6. Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) gets go-ahead

I am delighted that the business led proposal to establish a Solent LEP has been given the green light by Government today. The City Council was actively engaged in this submission, and made a significant contribution. The proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership in the Solent area (Solent LEP) has been driven by the business community and is supported by four university partners, the further education sector, three unitary authorities, eight district councils and the voluntary and community sector, all of whom have been actively working together to secure a more prosperous and sustainable future for the Solent area. The Solent LEP partners are determined to put business at the heart of economic growth in the Solent area, enabling this recognised globally competitive area to realise its full potential. With a population of over 1.3 Million and some 50,000 businesses, the Solent area is a well recognised functional economic area anchored around the Isle of Wight, the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton and the M27 corridor and Solent waterway.

The vision is to create an environment that will better facilitate economic growth and private sector investment in the Solent area, allow businesses to grow, become more profitable, and enable new businesses to form and prosper.

The Solent LEP will be output driven, delivering real and substantial improvements in the co-ordination of private and public investment in key areas of sustainable economic development including skills, business support, regeneration, transport, housing and inward investment. It will focus on rebalancing the local economy in favour of the private sector; reindustrialising the economic base, supporting the development of knowledge based industries and high value added manufacturing; and providing a catalyst for regeneration.

7. Southampton's New Arts Complex (SNAC)

The agreement for the Art Council grant and the development agreement with Grosvenor have now been completed. Legal agreements with both Arts Council England and Southampton City Council's development partner, Grosvenor Developments Limited are now in place, representing a major milestone in bringing another critical element of Southampton's Cultural Quarter to fruition. Grosvenor will now be working up detailed plans for the development with a view to submitting a planning application in Spring 2011, starting on site in 2012 and handing over the arts shell to the council in 2013. The proposed mixed used development will include restaurants, flats and Southampton's New Arts Complex which will be launched in early 2015. The Arts Complex will comprise around 75,000 sq ft of performing arts, gallery and film/media studio space across two iconic buildings, allowing views through from the Guildhall to East Park.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

8. Music in the City

The Music in the City project arose from an initiative by Councillor Norris, who held discussions with a number of officers regarding the benefits of music on health and well-being and its impact on other areas of activity in the city in Summer 2009. Between 1 – 10 October 2010 the Music in the City festival delivered a range of events in the city spanning a range of musical genres – all

performed by local people - in choirs, orchestras, and bands, as well as individuals, who have come forward wanting to perform in the city. Some events linked with Black History month and the Film Festival, as well as International Day of Older People. One of the most important achievements of the festival has been the way it has brought together different elements – performers, historic buildings and venues, resources, music projects to extend the capacity within the system, and to contribute building social networks that offer opportunities for the future. Having explored what can be achieved, and established a firm and well supported platform, volunteers are now working on a longer term business plan to take the Music in the City initiative forward. The intention is that the project will develop more fully into the areas identified such as health and well being, tourism and economy in future.

## **CHILDREN AND SAFEGUARDING PORTFOLIO**

### **9. Academy deal closed in Southampton**

Work will begin on Southampton's first Academy building project within a month after the city council closed a £15M deal with construction partner Carillion. Financial close comes just ten months after the programme to rebuild the Oasis Community Learning Academies began. The £15M Oasis Academy Mayfield in Sholing is the first of two projects in the city worth a combined £35M. The new Oasis Academy Mayfield will boast a large, central learning space that can be adapted for a multitude of uses, including group work, exhibitions and community use. There will also be a state-of-the art theatre space that can be adapted to suit a variety of performances. The building is not only iconic, it has also been designed with the environment in mind, including solar panels and natural ventilation, which will help to reduce the carbon footprint of the school by 60 percent over its lifetime.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO**

### **10. New City Depot and Recycling Park**

Work has begun on a new City Depot and Recycling Park for Southampton. The keys to the site for the new City Depot and Recycling Park at Dock Gate 20 in Southampton were handed over to the main contractors Mansell last week. Waste collection, Highways, Open spaces and Fleet Management will be among the services moving to the new site, where up to 400 staff will be based, with 175 working from a three storey office block. The City Depot and Recycling Park will be home to council vehicles and will also be the base for the new Highways Partner Balfour Beatty. Meanwhile the former Town Depot site will be opened up for new development and investment opportunities. Construction of the new site will create employment opportunities and 4 new local apprenticeships for the City. The new site will provide excellent recycling facilities for the public and has been designed with the environment in mind. The site will generate a large proportion of its own energy through solar panels and will also capture rainwater for use in washing and running vehicles.

### **11. Customer Insight and Green Credentials Campaign**

The Waste and Fleet Transport Service in partnership with our communications team and Project Integra were successful in winning £78,000 from the Community and Local Government's (CLG) 'Efficiency and Transformation Capital Fund'. The funding will enable us to undertake work across Hampshire to support our green

credentials project including a communications campaign. Southampton City Council is the lead local authority on this project. The broad focus is on identifying the barriers to recycling, removing and reducing these and in turn increasing recycling rates and decreasing contamination rates. Part of the funding will be to provide a graduate internship post within the Environment Directorate. After identifying barriers, communication campaigns based on targeting specific customer groups will be developed for the following:

- Focus groups to understand why people don't recycle or contaminate their recycling. This will be targeted to specific socio-economic groups using the Council's Mosaic customer segmentation data analysis techniques.
- Working with local charities to increase textile recycling
- Developing a new garden waste campaign, following the example of a Local Authority pilot study
- Showcasing 'Herb' a 3D animated rodent to encourage residents to improve their recycling, think about what they throw away and what they put in their recycling bin to help reduce waste and save money.

12. Targeting criminal business activity

By making full use of the regulatory powers available, Trading Standards successfully halted sales of worthless novelty festival tickets through a website run by 2 Southampton based students. In the short period the site operated members of the public paid over £18,000; of this £6,000 was prevented from reaching the students, and following the Council's intervention customers were refunded by their card issuer, PayPal, or Google Checkout. Ultimately only £2,100 remains outstanding which, following a Crown Court hearing, is the subject of a compensation order. Both students were sentenced to 45 weeks imprisonment suspended for 2 years, 200 hours community service, the compensation order and a contribution to the council's costs of £2,500 each.

13. Open for Business

A partnership initiative called 'Estates Excellence 2' has been running on the city's industrial estates over the last 4 months. Together, Environmental Health, the Health and Safety Executive and Hampshire Fire and Rescue have helped over 200 businesses assess their own management of risks in the workplace and have provided free local health and safety training for employers and workers. An occupational health bus has also been seeing workers in the area to make sure they are staying fit and healthy in their jobs. This will help our local businesses reduce injuries and ill health at work – saving time and money.

## **HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

14. Building Southampton's first carbon neutral homes

Southampton's carbon footprint is set to be reduced after planning permission was granted by Southampton City Council for 11 new zero carbon rated homes. Radian Housing has been granted permission to build cutting edge carbon neutral homes on unused land at Stoneham Cemetery Road. These homes will be the first in the city to meet the government's highest environmental impact rating system for sustainable homes, Level 6, and is six years ahead of schedule.

15. Big council drive to insulate homes for £99

Homeowners in Southampton can increase the value of their homes, reduce their carbon footprint and save loads of money – simply by installing cavity wall

insulation. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that cavity wall insulation delivers savings of £115 a year. That means with Southampton City Council's new drive to provide cavity wall insulation for just £99, home owners can effectively get their wall insulation for free. The council also offers loft insulation for £99 and with the true cost of home insulation being many hundreds of pounds, residents will be left "quids in".

16. Challis Court Community Room Refurbishment

Building Works have recently completed a major refurbishment project at Challis Court. The court now contains a refurbished community room which includes a new ceiling incorporating new improved lighting. The community room has also benefitted from being redecorated and the opening out of the area by the fitting of a continuous sliding folding double glazed screen that opens out onto the brand new patio area that has been constructed. The community area has been subdivided to allow for the creation of a separate office for supported housing staff and a new information technology suite for residents to use. The last of the refurbishment work carried out involved the fitting of a brand new stainless steel kitchen and the installation of new door access system allowing entry to the community room

17. New Council Homes – Tenants start moving in

The Council's scheme to build new Council homes for the first time in over 15 years – the "LA New Build" scheme – continues apace, with the first tenants about to move in to the 4 houses at Flamborough Close well ahead of schedule, and the last of the 8 LA New Build sites at Cumbrian way just about to get underway. This means that 53 new homes should be handed over to the Council by the spring of 2012, all of which will be provided at Level 4 of the Code of Sustainable Homes at a project cost of just under £7m, of which approximately 50% is funded by the Homes and Communities Agency following successful Council bids in 2009. The new homes are being constructed by Drew Smith Limited, with Radian acting as the Council's contracted project managers, along with Employers Agent support from Wellings Partnership and Capita Symonds. However, all homes will be owned and managed by the Council, and let to transferring Council (and Housing Association) tenants who successfully apply through the Council's "Homebid" process. All homes are being pre-allocated well in advance, so that people have plenty of time to gear up to moving in, and become aware of how to make best use of the various "green" features – such as solar panels – to keep their fuel and other bills really low.

**LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PORTFOLIO**

18. Building of the Sea City Museum

The build of Southampton's Sea City Museum has now commenced after the project was given final planning permission. With all approvals now in place, the construction of the museum – set to attract thousands of visitors to the city can start. Southampton's resident will shortly see hoardings going up around the Grade II listed Magistrates' Courts, which adjoin the Civic Centre. Sea City Museum is a central piece of the new Cultural Quarter in Southampton and is set to complete in April 2012 – 100 years since the Titanic left Southampton.

19. Southampton's historic Westgate Hall re-opens

The reinvigoration of Southampton's historic Old Town continues as Westgate Hall

prepares to throw open its doors once again as one of the city's most attractive and unusual venues. Formally known as Tudor Merchants Hall, Westgate Hall has undergone an extensive refurbishment and is now open for business. The project, funded by Southampton City Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, has meant Westgate Hall has been closed for the past year as part of the second phase of the restoration of Southampton's Old Town.

20. Andy Warhol Exhibition

Southampton is to stage a major exhibition of nearly two hundred works by Andy Warhol, one of the giants of 20<sup>th</sup> century art. Paintings, prints, posters, photographs and film will be displayed across two of the region's most prestigious art venues, our own City Art Gallery and the John Hansard Gallery. The exhibition opens next March and will have free admission. The City Art Gallery will explore contemporary culture and icons by exhibiting 19 major paintings and a group of 126 prints and posters, alongside an Andy Warhol 'factory' style space for young people and families. The University of Southampton's John Hansard Gallery will focus on Warhol's hugely influential film and photography

21. A 20 Year Plan for a new Southampton – MYCOUNCILTV

The Council's website now features a number of videos, including the one available on the following link, providing an outline of the 'City Vision'.

<http://www.southampton.mycounciltv.org/>

## **LOCAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

22. Open Spaces Award

Shirley Ponds and Lordsdale Greenway was awarded first place in the Green Open Spaces Award 2010 for best community park nominated by local residents. The award is run by the City of Southampton Society and Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society and supported by Linden Homes. Daisy Dip was awarded the runner's up prize.

23. New Communities Website launched

The New Communities website was officially launched [www.sotonnewcom.org.uk](http://www.sotonnewcom.org.uk). The website gives information in 11 languages for people who are who are new to Southampton. They may have come from other areas of the UK or from overseas. The website been transformed from a modest operation with limited information to a comprehensive information resource. Its success is down to the strong project partnership forged between the City Council's Communities team, and key voluntary and commercial organisations in both the design and the promotion of the site.

24. Fresher's Week

Safer Communities team handed out safety advice and information to over 1,000 new students at both Solent and Southampton Universities during their 'fresher's week activities. A team of workers including Safe City Partners worked in the main campus of Solent University and from the ICE bus at Southampton University to interact with students. In return for completing a scratch card they each received a personal safety pack giving information about local work including Yellow Card and ICE Bus.

25. Friends of Southampton's parks score funding hat-trick

The Friends of Riverside Park (FORP) have been awarded £50k from the Big

Lottery Fund's Community Spaces Programme for the redevelopment of the Woodmill play area in Riverside Park. FORP was first constituted in November 2008 and this is their first major success in securing additional funding for the park. The award follows extensive public consultation with local residents, schools, police and other stakeholders whose views have been reflected in the final design. The area will include a raised 'discovery footpath' with willow tunnel, boardwalk, wooden dinosaur sculpture, a zip wire, trampoline and boulder mounts.

The Friends of Hinkler Green have also recently secured £50k from the Community Spaces fund to continue to improve and develop Hinkler Green Park. Southampton Amateur Rowing Club also announced last month that they had secured £50k from Community Spaces to regenerate the Itchen Ferry foreshore and memorial garden.

The Parks and Street Cleansing team worked with all of these community groups to help them achieve this hat-trick of grant awards for to improve Southampton's green spaces.

## **RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING PORTFOLIO**

### **26. First major milestone of ASAP complete**

During a period of 9 weeks over 450 council staff have successfully moved within Civic Buildings. One Guildhall Square is now fully occupied by council staff on the upper 2 ½ floors and Capita staff on the lower floors. In addition Gateway, the council's customer services centre, has now moved from the Civic Centre and has opened on the ground floor. Frobisher House has been vacated and returned to the landlord and the entire East Wing of the Civic Centre municipal block has been vacated allowing the major programme of civic repair works to commence. Wates Construction are contracted to carry out this major programme of works to the Civic which will see each wing closed for a period of one year, works completing in the summer of 2013. These works include repairs to the roof and structure of the building, replacement of the windows along with other essential works. New IT infrastructure, electrical, and heating and ventilation systems will then be installed.

## **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

27. The Executive received a report on the Proposal to Introduce no waiting at any time restrictions in the vicinity of the junction of Bassett Green Close and Bassett Green Road TRO) and resolved to consider and determine the objection to the advertised proposals for no waiting at any time parking restrictions in Bassett Green Close; and that the Cabinet considers and decides upon an alternative proposal with a provision for two hour limited waiting parking 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday.

## **CITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

28. The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board continues to meet on a monthly basis and, since the last meeting of Council, has kept under constant review the raft of **Government's policy announcements and their potential impact on key partner agencies and citywide partnership working** which needs to be considered within the context of the Southampton Partnership Review currently under way. It has also considered six-month progress reports on **Teenage**

**Pregnancy rates, on Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) rates and on Major Developments** across the city. The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board also considered a report on **Domestic Violence** noting the increasing demands against reducing resources and subsequently commissioned a task group to be established to undertake an efficiency and business transformation review of the service. The draft **City Priorities & Challenges** and **Overarching Principles for Southampton Partnership Review** were agreed with a recommendation to the Southampton Partnership Policy Board to adopt them.

The **Southampton Partnership Policy Board** last met on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and received a presentation on **the impact of the Coalition Government's policy announcements and their impact on key partner agencies and citywide partnership working** followed by a presentation on the impact of the recession on Southampton. The SP Policy Board then considered, and subsequently adopted, the new **City Priorities & Challenges and Overarching Principles for Southampton Partnership Review**.

Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership and its partnership family can be found at [www.southampton-partnership.com](http://www.southampton-partnership.com) or by contacting the relevant partnership manager direct whose contact details can be found on the SP website by clicking on the 'Our Partners' page and then the relevant partnership page.

#### **FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

- 29.. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 covering the period December to March and will publish its next plan on the 15<sup>th</sup> December covering the period January to April 2011. Details of all forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:  
<http://sccwww1.southampton.gov.uk/decisionmaking/internet/forwardplanindex.asp>

#### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Capital/Revenue**

30. None.

##### **Property/Other**

31. None.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

32. This report is brought forward in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The powers to undertake the proposals summarised in this report are detailed within the individual decision making reports presented to the executive over the past few months.

##### **Other Legal Implications:**

33. Not applicable

#### **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

34. None



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<b>KEY DECISION?</b>		No		
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>		None directly, since this report is presented for information purposes		

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

#### **Appendices**

1.	Decisions taken by Cabinet on 6 <sup>th</sup> September and 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2010
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#### **Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
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#### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	No
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#### **Other Background Documents**

**Integrated 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)
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1.	None
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