

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 MARCH 2011
<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 in November 2010 is attached as Appendix 1.

**LEADERS PORTFOLIO**

4. Royal Pier

The City Council, working with its partners ABP and the Crown Estate, has appointed Morgan Sindall Investments Ltd (MSIL) as its development partner in relation to the Royal Pier Waterfront following a marketing process last year. Over the coming months the Council will be working with MSIL to work up their scheme proposals in further detail. The £450m scheme will include a major mixed-use development with leisure and tourism, specialist retail, boat facilities, residential and office accommodation. It will also provide better public access to the waterfront, an extended park and an improved site for the Southampton International Boat Show. The redevelopment of land at Royal Pier into a world class waterfront destination is important to the ongoing renaissance and economic well being of the City and will create new jobs and opportunities. The development will reconnect the City Centre with its waterfront and ensure that Southampton Water becomes truly accessible for its residents and visitors.

5. Shared Legal Services with Fareham

We are planning to combine our legal team with Fareham Borough Council's legal team in a move that will result in much better service, while saving money. This would be an initial five year partnership which would see Fareham's Legal Services team transferred into Southampton City Council creating one all encompassing team of legal specialists.

6. New developer to Admiral Quay

The future of a major planned development in Southampton has been secured. The Admiral Quay development in Ocean Village will include new apartments, retail and restaurants, creating new jobs and investment in the popular harbour area.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

7. Scheme creating safe places for vulnerable people

The Council has launched a pilot scheme in Portswood creating places of safety for people with a disability when out in the community. Safe Places involves local shopkeepers, librarians and business owners offering their premises as places of safety where people who feel scared, vulnerable or intimidated can go for help.

8. Christmas and Severe Weather Response

Council staff worked with providers and commissioning to produce effective contingency planning which was in place throughout the severe weather. This resulted in no impact on delays or community hospital discharges and effective use of available transport to maintain operational services, including increased domiciliary capacity to manage risks to vulnerable people.

Increased domiciliary and residential/nursing capacity was made available over Christmas and New Year period, to manage any extra demand and prevent hospital delays. The hospital discharge team was also staffed over bank holiday, reducing overall delays. There were no reimbursements over the period despite closure of up to 8 wards at a time in SUHT over Christmas and New Year.

**CHILDREN AND SAFEGUARDING PORTFOLIO**

9. Oasis Lord's Hill Academy new build gets the green light

Work on Southampton's latest academy is set to get underway after Southampton City Council's Planning Panel decided unanimously to give the green light for the new build to start.

10. Improving school standards

At the end of 2010, 18 percent of schools were 'Outstanding', 65 percent were 'Good' and only one percent were 'Inadequate' according to Ofsted.

11. Achieving excellence awards

99% of Southampton schools have now achieved Health School Status, this is ahead of the national target. Once again City Catering achieved the Hospitality Assured (HA) EFQM Standard for Service and Business Excellence. Children and Young People's Information Service (CYPIS) achieved the Government Standard for Customer Service Excellence in December.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO**

### 12. Approval of the River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley and Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy

The River Itchen, Weston Shore, Netley & Hamble Coastal Defence Strategy (CDS) provides a sustainable strategy for coastal defence which is compatible with natural processes, environmentally acceptable, economically and technically viable. The CDS was approved in February 2011 and outlines sustainable policies for management of the shoreline and feasible implementation options over 3 time periods. The CDS covers the eastern bank of the River Itchen extending northwards to Woodmill Lane, the Southampton Water frontage and both the eastern and western banks of the River Hamble as far as the Bursledon Railway Bridge. Development of the CDS was led by Southampton City Council in partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council, Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council.

### 13. Itchen Bridge Automation

The Itchen Bridge Toll Automation project is progressing well, with the procurement process beginning in January 2011. A preferred contractor will be in place by the end of July 2011, with construction to start towards the end of the year.

### 14. Minerals and Waste Plan – Public Consultation

This Plan will cover Southampton and Hampshire/Portsmouth. It will identify potentially suitable sites for new minerals and waste/recycling facilities and will help us to judge future planning applications. This will facilitate a supply of minerals (e.g. construction aggregates) for the planned economic growth in South Hampshire. It will also promote the delivery of new waste management facilities, with a focus on recycling and generating energy from waste. The Plan is being prepared jointly by Southampton City Council, with Hampshire County Council, Portsmouth City Council and the national park authorities for the New Forest and the South Downs.

### 15. Concessionary Fares

The proposed reimbursement rate for concessionary fares for 2011/12 was agreed recently. The rate remains one of the lowest in the country and is similar to the rates agreed in previous years.

## **HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

### 16. Decent Homes

98.8% of Council homes now meet the Government's Decent Homes standard, which is a significant achievement. The homes which do not meet this standard are properties that we have identified for estate regeneration purposes but which are still in occupation by our tenants.

### 17. First council homes this century are occupied

In December 2011 four Southampton families moved into the first of 53 new council homes to be built in the City for 16 years. The 53 (mainly family sized) homes will be finished by the spring of 2012 and will provide eco-friendly, modern accommodation for people waiting for affordable housing.

18. Shortlisted for Awards

Four housing projects reached the finals of major awards the refurbishment of Castle House flats, the Tackling Worklessness Project, the Intergenerational Project (Everybody Sings) in our sheltered schemes and the Tenants' Link magazine.

19. Estate Regeneration Update

The Council has awarded Lovell Partnership Limited and First Wessex Housing Association 3 sites to build 200 new homes. The sites are Exford Shopping Parade; 5-92 Laxton Close and 222-252 Meggeson Avenue.

**LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PORTFOLIO**

20. Guildhall Square Launch

Over 14,000 people flocked to Southampton's Guildhall Square for its official launch on 12 & 13 November 2010. French alchemists, Compagnie Carabosse, transformed the new Guildhall Square into a spectacular fire garden with a range of fire sculptures. The event provided two evenings of spectacular entertainment as part of the partnership work between Southampton City Council, The Nuffield Theatre, and ZEPA (European Zone of Artistic Projects) supported by the European Union through the part of the INTERREG funding programme.

21. Chinese New Year Celebration

The Chinese Association of Southampton, supported by Southampton City Council and the Waterside Dragon Dance Club arranged a series of activities in the city including events at Guildhall Square on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February.

22. Cenotaph Memorial Walls Project

The Council is urging residents to help raise money for our fallen heroes, to ensure their bravery will never be forgotten. Plans for a new memorial wall to commemorate Southampton residents who have been killed in wars or conflicts, have been under way for some time now. The City Council has contributed £50,000 to the project, and a campaign to raise the extra £61,000 is underway.

23. The Funding Success

The Sports Development Team, together with charity Catch 22, has successfully secured £150,000 funding from Sport England. The funding will get young women in targeted areas of the city to become more physically active.

24. Securing new partners to manage our Leisure Venues

The Sport and Recreation Partnership project was completed with the appointment of Active Nation in partnership with DC Leisure and Mytime Active to manage and operate most of the Council's leisure venues. In addition, an agreement has been signed with Southampton Solent University for a service concession for St. Mary's Leisure Centre, which will make significant saving for the Council, gain investment for the leisure venues and address the Repairs and Maintenance backlog.

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

### 25. Night time economy initiatives are reducing crime

Southampton's Yellow Card scheme has been hailed a success after alcohol-related crime dropped by 27% in the city centre in the last quarter compared to last year. The drop in crime follows a raft of initiatives which Southampton City Council and Southampton Safe City Partnership, which includes Hampshire Constabulary, have been involved with.

### 26. Applauding our volunteers

Some of Southampton's unsung heroes received a volunteering certificate for their hard work and commitment to the City. Each volunteer who received a certificate has given 100 hours or more of their time to local organisations. Southampton City Council and Southampton Voluntary Services run the Volunteer Certificate Scheme which highlights the work that volunteers and voluntary organisations bring to the City.

### 27. Funding Success

The Council supported residents and partners to secure additional funding for Daisy Dip (£50,000 from the People's Million Fund), Access to the national environment (£282,000 from Access to Nature) and St. James Park (£200,000 from the Parks for People Lottery Scheme).

## **RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING PORTFOLIO**

28. Works on site are progressing well and Wates are making good progress on the first phase of the project, in the east wing of the Municipal Block. As the building is Grade II Listed it requires careful attention during these repairs and upgrading works to both the structure and fabric. Over the coming months further internal scaffolds will be installed to create access to repair the existing leaking roof lights and protect the fabric from the weather during the works.

## **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

29. The Executive received a report on Proposal to introduce a permit parking scheme in Chetwynd Drive, Bassett and resolved that the permit parking restrictions should operate from 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> May of each year and that a commitment be made to review the scheme 12 calendar months from the scheme's implementation.

## **CITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

30. The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board has completed its fundamental review of the Southampton Partnership framework. The drivers for the review were varied and included, at a national level, the abolition of much of the centrally imposed bureaucracy (Comprehensive Area Assessment, Local Area Agreement, National Indicator Set, etc) on our partnership arrangements; significant reform programmes announced including police, health and higher education and was against a back-drop of severe public sector budget cuts and the local drivers included the ongoing impact of the recession; the new City Priorities and Challenges articulated by the Southampton Partnership last autumn; and an overriding desire by many partners of the need to stick together but recognising the need to reduce the partnership burden on all partners.

Going forward, the SP Delivery Board advises that we will need to work in a much more modern, slicker and collaborative way which builds on existing goodwill, personal relationships and networks. It is also worth noting that Southampton is not alone and that many local authority areas are reviewing and streamlining their local strategic partnership arrangements and, where appropriate, the review has drawn off their experiences to help shape our collaborative way forward. The review revealed that generally city partners are not wedded to any particular structures and processes but that, given numerous commitments, they wish to engage in the most appropriate way. In other words, we should strive to create a flexible way of working that builds on partner goodwill and commitment to the city by 'bringing the right partners, to the right table, at the right time, to look at the right issues' and then ceasing the 'meeting part' once the work is complete. Ideally through the adoption of a 'task & finish' approach wherever possible.

Therefore, the SP Delivery Board recommended a bold and radical departure from the current Local Strategic Partnership model and ways of working to a new collaborative model, in order to deepen our joint working arrangements, for tackling the City Priorities and Challenges. As the Chairman of the SP Policy Board and Leader of the Council, I have agreed their recommendations the headlines of which are as follows:

- a) The need to move away from the language of Local Strategic Partnerships to demonstrate a new and different approach. Therefore, the Southampton Partnership is rebranded as Southampton Connect from April 2011.
- b) The Southampton Partnership Policy Board is to be replaced by a more inclusive Southampton Conference comprising of around 100 key city stakeholders. It will meet twice per year to receive: 1 x Annual State of The City report to be held in the spring; and 1 x 'hot off the press' progress against the City Priorities & Challenges to be held in the autumn.
- c) The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board is to be replaced in April 2011 by a larger group of chief executives covering a broader spectrum of key agencies / organisations. To demonstrate a departure from the old hierarchical ways of working, this group will not be classified as a board or an executive, but rather it will operate under the Southampton Connect title. It will seek to secure commitment from all partners to resource alignment (people, money, time and goodwill) and drive the collaborative approach to addressing the City Priorities & Challenges.
- d) Southampton Connect dismantles the rigid structural ways of working and embraces a modern collaborative approach which builds on existing networks and forums, and provides the framework for all interested parties to engage.
- e) Southampton Connect will lead the work to produce a new single City Plan (replacing the City of Southampton Strategy 2007 – our sustainable community strategy) comprising of 1-year hard / 2-years soft locally agreed targets aligned to a City Vision and the City Priorities & Challenges; scheduled to come to the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Council for adoption.
- f) Southampton Connect will facilitate a culture where every partner is an ambassador for the City of Southampton wherever he or she goes in order to raise awareness of the city and potentially attract inward investment (Marketing Southampton to lead).

Background reports on the review and a Southampton Connect briefing paper can be found on the Southampton Partnership website at: <http://www.southampton-partnership.com/OurPerformance/SPreview.asp>. Council will receive updates on the work of Southampton Connect through the Leader's Executive Business Reports.

**FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

31. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 covering the period March to June 2011 and will publish its next plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> March covering the period April to July 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**

32. None.

**Property/Other**

33. None.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

34. None.

**Other Legal Implications:**

35. None.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

36. None.

<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Name:	Suki Sitaram	Tel:	023 8083 2060
	E-mail:	Suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk		

**KEY DECISION?** Yes/No          No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None,
------------------------------------	-------

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

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

**Appendices**

1.	Decisions taken by Cabinet between December 2010 and February 2011
----	--

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
----	-------

**Integrated Impact Assessment**

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
--	--------

**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)
------------------------------	--

1.	None
----	------