

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION:	18 MAY 2011
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
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 March 2011 is attached as Appendix 1.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

4. East Street Site Redevelopment

Southampton City Council has welcomed proposals by the property owner Arcadian Estates, to comprehensively redevelop the East Street Shopping Centre. The proposals will see the complete demolition of the obsolete centre and its replacement with an individually designed, purpose-built city centre Morrisons' flagship food store.

5. Retail Skills Academy

The city will receive a skills boost for the retail and hospitality sectors with the implementation of a National Skills Academy accredited Retail Skills Shop in the city. The SITES and Southampton Skills Development Zone partners worked with the Sector Skills Council, Skillsmart and local providers, to develop a proposal for a Skills Shop in the city that meets their high standards. This proposal was agreed at the end of March 2011. The Retail Skills Shop will have the advantage of leadership provided by Brockenhurst College, a Grade 1 outstanding Further Education College, and will bring together local partners to support employer engagement, learner recruitment and awareness across the city with a new facility in the city centre offering high quality training and advice. It will support both city centre and district centre businesses, large national chains and smaller

independent traders. The first training programmes are expected to be underway from June 2011.

6. Premier Inn comes to Town

A new hotel which will create 41 jobs in Southampton City Centre, has been built ahead of schedule and has been handed over to Premier Inn. The hotel is set to open by 2nd May 2011 creating 41 jobs for the city.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

7. People Power in Thornhill

Thornhill residents have been given the opportunity by the Council and NHS Southampton City to say how they want to spend £75,000 in their local area at a community event hosted recently. This is the fourth year that residents have been asked to vote on ideas that they think will most benefit their community. The best ideas were chosen at an event held by Southampton City Council with NHS Southampton City, Thornhill Plus You and the residents of Thornhill know as 'Your Health, Your Community, Your Vote'.

8. Buy with Confidence Scheme

More and more residents who are eligible for social care services are taking control of their own care budgets from the Council. In March the number of adult social care clients receiving self directed support broke the 1000 barrier and this number will continue to grow. To help protect vulnerable and elderly residents, the Council wants to make sure customers who are buying their own care services can have a wider selection of reputable companies to choose from. The Buy with Confidence scheme recognises and promotes businesses committed to trading lawfully, safely and fairly. From April, the scheme was expanded to include companies providing social care and support services. This helps both self-funders – people who buy their own care services and residents that receive financial social care support from the council and who control their own care budget.

CHILDREN AND SAFEGUARDING PORTFOLIO

9. Schools to expansion and improvement

Twenty Southampton primary schools will expand during the next four years to meet the growing demand for places. An additional 355 places will be added in Year R by September 2012/12 and 150 Year 3 places by 2015 to meet the challenge of rising birth rates in the city.

Two Southampton primary schools (Bassett Green and St. Mary's) have entered the national 'Top 100' for 'most improved' – both service two of the city's most deprived areas.

Two schools who were inspected last term by Ofsted and were judged 'good': Oakwood Infant and Fairisle Junior. Harefield Primary School was judged to be 'outstanding'. A further nine schools due to be inspected since September 2010 have been contacted by Ofsted to say their inspection have been deferred following interim assessment that shows their performance has been sustained.

Southampton now boasts six National Leaders in Education – four times the national local authority average and equal to 7.5 percent of the city's Heads.

10. Better stability for young people in care

The age of children coming into care in Southampton is reducing, meaning more long term, stable placements with foster or adoptive families. This change is in line with Safeguarding improvement plans to offer children and young people a better start in life, by intervening sooner.

11. Apprenticeships

The Council has been working to maximise opportunities for local people to gain employment and skills, including rolling out 13 Employment and Skills Plans alongside development projects worth £150M; 58 new apprenticeships in the construction trades; and work with three secondary schools to explain apprenticeships and opportunities

12. Millions spent on under fives

The final phase of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant Programme came to a successful conclusion on 31 March 2011. An overall budget of £4.7 million consisting of government money, and funding from other initiatives has been used to create three Children's Centres and improve 62 early year's settings across the city.

13. NEET

The number of unemployed 16-18 year old young people in Southampton has decreased from 9.5% in February 2011 to 8.9% in March 2011. This is the first time since November 2006 that the Southampton NEET figure has gone below the 9.0% level.

14. Southampton wins bid to support vulnerable two year olds

Southampton City Council has been awarded funding from the Department for Education to pilot new approaches to supporting vulnerable two year olds in the City.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTOLIO

15. More money for potholes

Southampton has been awarded an additional £415,000 by the Department for Transport for repairing potholes caused by damage from the severe winter weather. The Council, through its partner Balfour Beatty, will be carrying out intelligent repairs to improve the network resilience by effectively filling the potholes an area at a time. Teams out repairing emergency potholes will be able to use the additional money to pick up any emerging potholes and fill them at the same time thus delivering a whole carriageway improvement and making more efficient use of our resources. This work will complement the ongoing investment the council has committed, to repair in excess of 40 miles of footways over the coming year. In the last year the council has improved approximately 60 miles of pavement resurfacing across the City.

16. Southampton City Council gets national recognition as a Low Carbon Council

Southampton City Council was a finalist at the 2011 LGC awards in the Low Carbon Council category in recognition of the innovation and excellent work in this area. Our submission covered a number of areas including the work undertaken on energy management and carbon reduction within council buildings, our city wide Energy Partnership and the innovative carbon foot printing PhD partnership

with Southampton University.

17. City Depot and Recycling Park takes shape

Southampton's new City Depot and Recycling Park is on course to open to the public by January 2012. The site at Dock Gate 20 will be used as a front line services hub for the Council. It will be used as the base for waste and recycling collections, and the council's highways partners Balfour Beatty will use it as their local headquarters. Residents will be able to use the new and improved Household Waste and Recycling Centre on the site from January 2012. Many of the council services are being relocated to the new site from the current Depot site in Endle Street, which will be opened up to new and exciting development in the future.

18. Peartree is lit up as the council moves onto Bevois

Peartree in Southampton is the first ward to be completely lit up with new environmentally friendly street lights. As part of the Council's streetlighting PFI which is seeing the majority of the city's 28,000 city streetlights replaced with new white lights, Peartree was chosen as the first ward. Since June 2010, 1040 new columns have been put into the ground in the ward, with 1040 redundant columns removed and recycled.

19. New Local Transport Plan Agreed

The new Local Transport Plan (LTP) was agreed recently. The LTP(3) twenty year plan is a Joint Strategy for South Hampshire, developed in partnership with Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council. The detailed implementation plan for 2011-15 for transport planning was also agreed. The Plan will help to improve transport in the city and address the challenges of economic growth, by using the network capacity to better effect.

20. Environment and Transport Capital Programme

The Executive approved the details for expenditure of the E&T Capital Programme of £19M. The expenditure approvals to spend agreed in March have been broken down into a number of specific areas including:

- Road maintenance and improvements £6,859,000
- Network management £547,000
- Active Travel £375,000
- Improved Safety £263,000
- Public Transport £275,000
- Public Realm £1,725,000
- Travel Planning £261,000
- Accessibility £325,000
- Street furniture £165,000
- Other Highways schemes £336,000

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

21. Council shortlisted for prestigious awards

Southampton City Council has been shortlisted for two regional awards by the Tenants Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) in their 2011 annual awards. The Council has been shortlisted in the category 'Best practice in Supporting People' for our International Cooker Exchange and in the category 'Best Practice for Supporting People Award' for our excellent activity co-ordinators. The TPAS awards are to highlight pioneering schemes and teamwork that made communities safer and more desirable places to live.

22. Holyrood play area

The play area, opened recently, was made possible by a £100,000 grant bid for by the local Tenants and Residents Association. They have also won a South East Empowerment award for their hard work on the play area with the judges declaring this community led achievement as 'fantastic work by committed people.'

23. Porlock Road

11 exemplar family homes at Porlock Road were completed at the end of March. These affordable homes have been built on the site of a former council children's home. The scheme, designed by Spectrum Housing Association provides 9 homes for rent and 2 for low cost home ownership. Two of the rented homes are suitable for people in wheelchairs.

24. Manston Court

The Decent Homes team have just completed a major refurbishment of the supported housing scheme at Manston Court. The refurbishment starts at the entrance to the building and shows a brand new look and feel. The new entrance now has an individual door entry system, the communal corridors have new ceilings and have been fully redecorated, the community room has been refurbished, a new commercial kitchen has been installed and an IT suite created for residents and visitors; low energy lighting and new floor coverings have been fitted throughout and residents and visitors are able to enjoy their newly landscaped garden.

25. Neptune Court

A major refurbishment of Neptune Court is almost complete. Inside the building all the communal corridors have benefitted from having new ceilings and low energy lighting as well as new floor coverings and freshly painted walls, all of which make the building feel light, airy and welcoming.

LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE PORTFOLIO

26. Andy Warhol Exhibition

The Andy Warhol Artist Rooms exhibition jointly presented at Southampton City Art Gallery and the John Hansard Gallery has already achieved excellent visitor figures. Over 6,000 people attended the Art Gallery in the first three weeks, with School booking slots being snapped up very rapidly, and sales in the Gallery shop have trebled.

LOCAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO

27. Crime and reduction environment weeks

Two crime and reduction environment weeks (CREW) held in St. Deny's and Freemantle with the street cleansing team, residents and Hampshire Police cleared tonnes of rubbish and graffiti, gave 'street sparkles', and cut back bushes as well as dealing with children absent from school and untaxed cars.

28. Fly Tipping

Southampton's most prolific fly-tipper, who dumped waste across the city, including in a cemetery, has been sent to prison for two years and been given a nationwide ASBO as a result of extensive multi-agency working and cross border investigations.

29. 2011-12 Grants to Voluntary Organisations

This year we will be awarding grants to voluntary organisations totalling £1.86M. Proposed savings of £420K had reduced the amount to £1.76M but following consultation with the voluntary sector, Cabinet agreed to put back £100K. We are now looking at different ways in which we can support community and voluntary groups and work with them to secure more funding. Additionally improvements are being made to the Council's web pages to provide greater advice to enable these groups to help themselves.

RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING PORTFOLIO

30. ASAP – Major repair works progress at the Civic Centre

Works to the building are progressing well throughout. The essential repairs to the steel structure, stonework and reinstatement of the refurbished windows are all occurring behind the scaffold sheeting. The new asphalt roof covering incorporating a thermal insulation layer throughout has also progressed well. This work will completely rectify the deterioration of this existing fabric and upgrade the thermal performance of the building. Temporary roofs have been erected over the existing sky lights and the critical repairs/replacement of these high heritage elements has commenced. Internally the removal of the original corridor ceilings is nearing completion which has enabled the installation of the new ventilation system and electrical infrastructure to progress.

SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE

31. Southampton Connect, the successor body to the Southampton Partnership, held its inaugural meeting on the 7th April 2011 Chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, Southampton Connect has senior level representation from 13 key agencies or umbrella representative organisations covering the private, public and voluntary sectors. Given the uniqueness of Southampton Connect (in that it is a locally developed multi-agency response to working collaboratively in these challenging and recessionary times), Connect considered its future operating style and agreed that:

- a) The previous Southampton Partnership (local strategic partnership) model and its Delivery Board was the right approach at the time for the task it had to deliver, however the world has moved on.

- b) The Government's significant reform programme and dismantling of much of the central and regional reporting requirements and inspections, means that we now have a unique opportunity to work together within a new collaborative model that is right for Southampton.
- c) The role of Southampton Connect is to own and drive our collaborative approach to the 4 City Challenges (economic development; educational attainment & skills; wellbeing; and sustainable green & attractive environment) by making strong ambitious connections, ensuring the work is inter-linked and by demonstrating collaborative leadership by driving 'added value' priority projects and programmes.
- d) Southampton Connect will enable and support thematic partnerships, such as the Children & Young People's Trust and the Safe City Partnership, but it will not operate as a hierarchy over them.
- e) Southampton Connect will ensure that it adds value to, and does not duplicate, projects and programmes being delivered by our collaborative arrangements such as thematic partnerships and networks within the city, and sub-regionally through the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire or the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership.
- f) The old LSP 'command & control' language of boards; executives; members; attendees; reporting to; etc is not to be used. Attendees, for example, tends to be associated with 'attending meetings' whereas using a new language of participants means that everyone must be prepared to bring things to the meeting and take actions away. This means a new collective and collaborative approach to focusing on quality of life outcomes.
- g) Southampton Connect will report to a broader Southampton Conference on progress, demonstrating collaborative leadership to tackling the big issues facing the city, and to actively seeking out other collaborative partners that can be brought onto our collective journey.

Connect considered the work in progress to develop the new City Plan which will replace the City of Southampton Strategy 2007 and it has started to develop the added-value priority projects & programmes that it will drive forward which will be incorporated into the City Plan. Connect also agreed to utilise £117,000 from the Cross Service Development Fund to urgently assist schools to improve the 2011 Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 results for the city.

Further information can be found on the current partner-funded Southampton Partnership website (www.southampton-partnership.com), however this site will be refreshed over the next few weeks to reflect the changes to Southampton Connect.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

32. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 15th April 2011 covering the period May to August 2011 and will publish its next plan on the 17th May covering the period June to September 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

33. None.

Property/Other

34. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

35. None.

Other Legal Implications:

36. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

37. None.

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

Appendices

1.	Decisions taken by Cabinet between March and April 2011
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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)

1.	None	
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