

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JULY 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 May 2011 is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Guildhall Square and QE2 Mile Awards 2011

The Guildhall Square has achieved an award under the Editor's Choice category for the Local Government News Street Design Awards 2011. The Editor of the LGN came to Southampton on 8th July to present the award to the City Council. The QE2 Mile has also achieved recognition by gaining 3rd place in the Major Projects category for Engineering Excellence (ICE South East England). This has been achieved by staff working across the Council particularly the Economic Development and Environment Directorates.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

5. Royal Pier

The City Council has entered into a two year Exclusivity Agreement with Morgan Sindall Investments Ltd, who will work with the Council, Associated British Ports and the Crown Estate to agree legal arrangements and prepare a master plan for how the site will be developed. The programme allows them to do this by early next year.

6. Southampton to host start of the Clipper 2011-2012 Round the World Yacht Race

Southampton City Council and MDL Marinas, are working in partnership to host the Clipper 2011-2012 yacht race. This internationally renowned event will attract tens of thousands of people to Southampton, generating millions of pounds for the local economy. It will be an opportunity to showcase all that Southampton has to offer to an international audience.

7. QE2 Mile – Holy Rood and installation of anchor

Works have now re-commenced on site with our Highways partner Balfour Beatty Workplace to complete all outstanding public realm works.

8. Turtle Bay Opening

Turtle Bay's opening launch event took place on 16th June. The opening of this Caribbean restaurant brings new vibrancy to the Guildhall Square, 30 local jobs and £600k investment into the Cultural Quarter.

9. Tyrrell & Green Planning Application

Grosvenor displayed its plans for the development of the former Tyrrell & Green site in the Artisan Café Guildhall Square in May. The event attracted extensive public interest and positive comments on both the architecture and the arts complex proposals. The overall development is expected to provide over 400 jobs, with restaurants opening in 2014 and the arts complex in 2015. Further to this public consultation, a full planning application will be submitted by July.

10. Yellow Card celebrates a successful first year

Southampton's Yellow Card scheme has just celebrated its first anniversary. The scheme, combating alcohol-related, anti-social behaviour and disorder in Southampton was launched by the Council, the police and the rest of the Safe City Partnership twelve months ago and has been a great success.

11. ASB MARAC Recognised as Best Practice

The Home Office are currently trialling new ways of dealing with anti-social behaviour in terms of call handling, case management and risk assessment for vulnerable victims. Our process for dealing with the most vulnerable victims has already been recognised nationally as best practice and we have been able, in most of the cases of 35 vulnerable victims supported, to either reduce or eliminate the risk caused by them being victimised.

12. Southampton re-launches Neighbourhood Watch

Southampton City Council is launching a drive to increase the number of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the City. A redesigned scheme was launched for the National Neighbourhood Watch week (18-26 June 2011). This aims to attract more residents from all areas to get involved in reducing crime in their community.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

13. Safe Places Successful Launch in Shirley

A Safe Place scheme has been successfully launched in Shirley involving local shopkeepers and business owners offering their premises as places of safety to people who feel intimidated, scared or vulnerable when out in the community. At least ten Shirley premises have signed up and will display a brightly coloured sticker and the success means that the scheme may be rolled out not only across Southampton, but Hampshire as well.

14. Changes to the NHS

The changes to the NHS continue apace and the SHIP Primary Care Trust cluster has now been formally established. We are working with colleagues in the Cluster and the GP Commissioning Consortia, to take forward the changes and several productive meetings have been held including between the Chief Executive of the Council and the newly appointed Cluster Chief Executive, Debbie Fleming.

15. Southern Cross

Members will want to be reassured that an active plan is in place to ensure that the Council can manage the expected impact of the difficulties experienced by Southern Cross. The potential impact in the City were Southern Cross to fold would be minimal and the Council has plans in place to deal with this should the situation arise.

16. NHS Health and Wellbeing Grant

A £3,000 NHS Health and Wellbeing grant is being used to fund an eight week trial at the Mayfield Nursery. The aim of the scheme is to offer a natural solution to the issues of depression, anxiety and low moods and GPs in the City can refer patients to the scheme.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

17. Foster Care Fortnight Roadshows hit Southampton

Foster Care Fortnight is a national campaign to raise the profile of fostering and encourage more people to consider becoming a foster carer. As part of Fostering Fortnight, Southampton City Council's foster carers had the chance to talk to professionals, as well as carers and young people about their experiences.

Schools:

18. a) Newlands Primary School rebuild gets underway

Mansell has won a £6 million contract to build a new school in Southampton. The new Newlands Primary School has been procured through the Improvement and Efficiency South East (IESE) Framework. The new school building will be built on the existing school site and will comprise a one-storey building.

b) The Children Services and Learning Directorate is providing support to:-

- Upper Shirley High School, which has been given approval to become an Academy from August 1st 2011.

- Rosewood School has applied to become a maintained school under the Free Schools legislation.
- Springhill School, which has applied to become an Academy.
- Regents Park Community College, Banister Infant School and St. Johns Infant and Nursery, which are working to form a co-operative Trust.

19. Safeguarding Children Inspection

Following our second ‘unannounced’ inspection of Children’s Social Care as part of Ofsted’s national programme of inspections, we remain an authority with ‘no priority areas for action’. The inspection focuses on our compliance with statutory guidance in respect of children and young people who are at risk of, or the subject of, neglect or abuse.

20. Ofsted Inspections

Congratulations to:

- Weston Park Infant School, judged ‘outstanding’ in May,
- Shirley Infants School and Upper Shirley High School, who were both judged ‘good’ and Heathfield Junior School is no longer judged to require a ‘notice to improve’.

21. School-to-School Partnerships

Southampton has been at the forefront of a new educational initiative, School-to-School Partnerships, which is at the heart of the Coalition Government’s school reforms. There is considerable evidence in the City, particularly in our primary schools, that the model of our outstanding head teachers working in partnership with less successful schools can lead to a sharp rise in educational standards. The Department of Education’s (DfE) report to be published soon will contain just five or six case studies of excellent practice across the country, two of which are Southampton partnerships – one led by Portswood Primary School and the second by the Upper Shirley Learning Community.

22. NEETS

The percentage of unemployed 16-18 year old young people in Southampton was 8.9% in March 2011 and has decreased to 8.5% in April and 7.6% in May. This has been achieved through a sustained City wide approach by locality teams and partner organisations, which has increased the number of 16-18 young people who are education, employment or training, and has targeted resources to deliver preventative work at pre-16. From April 2011, the Department for Education has revised the formula for calculating NEET rates. The new calculation, based on residency and academic age, has contributed to the reduced percentage.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

23. Southampton Ceremonies

The new web pages for Southampton Ceremonies on our website have now been launched, covering Bereavement Services, Weddings and Civil Partnerships, Birth and Citizenship ceremonies. The new pages have been completely redesigned with images, photography and virtual tours that we hope will encourage customers to use our services.

24. New Bus Shelter Contract

The Council has recently let a new bus shelter contract. This means that all the existing bus shelters will be replaced with new, modern ones and the same company will repair and maintain them. In addition, the Council are receiving a share on advertising income and this will save the Council over £50K per year.

25. Highway and PFI contracts

The Council entered into a Highways Services Partnership (HSP) and a Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative (PFI) during 2010/11. 'Benefits Realisation' reports assessing the initial phases of both contracts have now been prepared. The HSP which began in October 2010, is delivering a better service to customers, is on target to make significant financial savings for reinvestment into the highway network and is performing to a high standard. The PFI, which commenced in April 2010, is also performing to a high standard. This has replaced 2,534 lighting units as part of its Core Investment Programme and resident feedback indicates that 92% of people feel that the new lighting has reduced their fear of crime.

26. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report

As part of new responsibilities arising from the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) the Council has prepared and submitted a preliminary flood risk assessment report to the Environment Agency (EA). Southampton does not contain any areas meeting flood risk criteria set by the Government but the City Council will, in its role as a Lead Local Flood Authority, be assessing flooding from local sources within the City which will be managed through the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

27. Activity Coordinators and Tenants win TPAS awards

Southampton Council staff and tenants have been successful in winning two categories at the Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS) Southern Regional Awards. The Activity Coordinators won their category for Best Practice in Supported Housing and the International Cookery Exchange (ICE), which is a tenant run community cooking club, were successful in winning Best Practice in the Community as well as the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, which is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK for outstanding work done in their local community. The group is supported by Southampton City Council. These two projects will now be put forward for the national awards which take place at the TPAS Annual Conference on 28th and 29th July.

28. Southampton shares £30M from Big Lottery to help the financially vulnerable

Southampton is one of five areas in the South East chosen to share part of a £30m windfall by the Big Lottery to help the financially vulnerable. The £30M funding has been targeted across 69 local authorities in England including Southampton City Council, which the Big Fund Lottery has identified as having some of the most financially excluded residents.

29. 29 New Council Homes completed in Southampton

Southampton City Council has improved the lives of tenants with the completion of 23 new family homes and six apartments built for tenants wishing to downsize. The 29 new homes have been developed on five separate sites which were previously derelict or under used garages.

30. Gantry – Show Flat opens

The show flat opening for Empire View started on 21st June (formally the Gantry Site). This scheme is on programme for completion in March 2012.

31. Estate Regeneration

We are now working on the next phase of the Council's estate regeneration programme which is designed to improve the opportunities and lives of people on our estates. We are already investing in improvements in Townhill Park. We are currently appointing a team who will work with local residents to develop plans for the future. We are also working with residents at the Weston Shopping Parade.

RESOURCES, LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

32. Barricade – No Fit State Cruise event Guildhall Square

Guildhall Square was transformed into a spectacular aerial playground on 9th July, with circus imagery, breathtaking aerial and acrobatic skills, amazing pyrotechnics and inspiring live music in BARRICADE, an event delivered by No Fit State Circus as part of the European funded programme of outdoor theatre events, building on the success of 'Midsummer Dream' and 'Alive and Ablaze'.

33. Race for Life

The City has once again hosted one of the largest fundraising races in the Country. 7,500 women joined in the 2010 event, we hope that more will enjoy the wonderful spaces of the Avenue and the City in their quest to make their mark and raise funds for cancer treatment, care and research.

34. Public Opening of Tudor House and Gardens on 30th July

The Tudor House and Garden will become a welcoming and enjoyable visitor experience with new facilities and displays, which will tell the story of the house and the people who lived and worked there. It has undergone a comprehensive refurbishment, in two phases, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the City Council and will be open to the public for the first time in many years.

SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE

35. Since its launch in April 2011, Southampton Connect has continued to meet on a monthly basis. As a team of chief executives or equivalent from organisations across the private, public and voluntary sectors, it is committed to working together to address some of the most significant City challenges that require a sustained collaborative approach to address. It is currently guiding the work to develop a new City Plan which will replace the current City of Southampton Strategy and this is scheduled to come to Council on the 14th September for adoption.

36. Contained within the City Plan will be around 10 Priority Projects which Connect will lead on to accelerate progress. These projects, which are currently being developed, comprise some of the most challenging issues facing the City, for example: ‘tackling poverty and welfare dependency’ and ‘citywide support to entrepreneurs and business start-ups’. One of the emerging projects is around ‘targeted intervention and support within our most deprived neighbourhoods’ and Southampton Connect received a presentation on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010, on the scale of the challenge ahead. Southampton Connect has agreed that its allocation of the Local Area Agreement Performance Reward Grant (known as the Cross Service Development Fund) will be utilised as a strategic fund aligned to the Priority Projects and that Southampton Connect itself will allocate funding to where the greatest impact can be made. Further information can be found at www.southampton-contact.com.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

37. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16 June 2011 covering the period July to October 2011 and will publish its next plan on the 15th July covering the period August to November 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

38. None

Property/Other

39. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

40. None

Other Legal Implications:

41. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

42. None

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly since this report is presented for information purposes
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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 June and July
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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.	Yes/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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