

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION:	14 SEPTEMBER 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.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

- 4. Gateway For Inward Investment Enquiries
The Economic Development Team is on an interim basis acting as the Gateway for all inward investment enquiries across the whole of South Hampshire. This work is being carried out on behalf of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) and also involves the development and maintenance of all associated support systems.
- 5. Arts Complex planning application received
Following a comprehensive and well received public consultation, Grosvenor has submitted a planning application to the council for the arts complex development on the old Tyrrell and Green site. This mixed use scheme will be a major addition to the Cultural Quarter and is expected to attract tens of thousands of people to the city every year and create more than 300 jobs.
- 6. Clipper Race
The Clipper Race weekend, arranged by Southampton City Council, MDL Marinas and Clipper Ventures was a great success with tens of thousands of people gathered in Ocean Village to watch the start of the Race.

7. QE2 Mile

- Holy Rood and anchor installation – Public realm works have now been completed, the QE2 anchor restored and installed in one of the granite planters outside the grounds of Holy Rood Church.
- Constructing Excellence Awards 2011 – The Council and its partners Colas, Aggregate Industries and Mott MacDonald have been shortlisted for an award by Constructing Excellence under the category of integration and collaborative working centred on the QE2 Mile works and how integration and collaborative working were fundamental to the delivery of this complex project being delivered over a number of years.

8. 2-8 Queensway

The Council, in partnership with its tenant at 2-8 Queensway, has appointed Raglan Housing Association as its preferred developer. The scheme proposes 42 new homes and 180sqm of retail space and is seen as the first phase of a wider programme of development at the Fruit and Vegetable market.

9. National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP)

The Council has agreed detailed terms with Network Rail for its contribution towards major improvements to Southampton Central Station. The scheme totalling £2.4M will see a complete refurbishment of the south side buildings and include new customer information and retail facilities accessed via a new station entrance and forecourt.

10. Prolific Tagger Prevented

Officers from Parks and Street Cleansing and Safer Communities have been working closely with Hampshire Constabulary to bring a prolific graffiti artist to justice. The tagger is responsible for several prolific tags on council property, bus shelters, BT equipment cabinets and private property. This has cost the taxpayer thousands of pounds to remove.

11. Tilley Awards

We have been successful in gaining a place in the National Finals of the Home Office Tilley Awards which will take place sometime in December. The application which was submitted in June, highlighted how in 2009, the Council and its partners developed and delivered a comprehensive package of projects and new ways of working to improve the crime in the Above Bar Street. This was identified as the most violent street in Hampshire and received negative press coverage, which had an impact on the image of the city and increased the fear of crime for local residents and users of the night time economy. The actions taken by partners included the introduction of the 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) bus, street pastors, yellow card and taxi marshals. This resulted in huge improvements to safety in the night time economy including a reduction in violent crime, emergency department admissions during peak time and an increase in people stating that they felt safe in the city after dark.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

12. Woolston Time Bank open and trading

The Council is making innovative use of £24,000 from the Department of Health to pilot the new Woolston Time Bank, which is believed to be the first in operation in Hampshire. The Time Bank is made up of local residents

exchanging or “trading” hours or their time to help someone, and in return, receive help from someone. Time Banks help their members reduce reliance on paid support, improve their physical/mental health and increase their employment prospects as well as bringing wider economic benefits to the community as a whole.

13. Launch of a specialist treatment service for Veterans

The Council has been successful in bidding for funds to improve work with Veterans as part of the national Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. This will see the early identification of Veterans needing support, priority access to the service and the provision of specialist evidence based interventions including trauma focused Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. The project will seek to work closely with other relevant agencies across the city to ensure a joined up and holistic support package is provided. This project has funding for a year and will begin in the late autumn.

14. City Care First Support Service

Two very successful days have been held with over 70 people expressing an interest in becoming carers for our City Care First Support Service. This is a huge achievement both in bringing employment to local people at times when the Council otherwise has to consider potential job losses and also to increase the ability for the service to maximise well being and independence for vulnerable people.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

15. Adult and Community Learning

The Adult and Community Learning service had a two day focussed visit by Ofsted inspectors in July. The purpose of the visit was to assess progress made since the last full inspection in June 2009 and Ofsted confirmed its final judgement that all themes and the overall service have made reasonable progress since the last inspection.

16. Southampton school sets the standard

A school in Southampton has become one of the first in the country to be selected for an important new role to help raise education standards across the UK. Portswood Primary is one of only 100 schools in England to be granted teaching school status – a new designation entitling it to lead the training and professional development for staff.

17. Ofsted Inspection

Ofsted inspected the Council’s Adoption Service between 11 and 17 August. Whilst we cannot yet comment on the detail of the inspection and its findings, the inspection did identify many positive aspects of how different parts of the Council work together to support people who wish to become adopters, and to give local children who need it the chance of a transformational life opportunity through adoption into a loving and stable home environment. Ofsted’s full report on the performance and quality of the Council’s Adoption Service will be published in mid September. The service was good when it was last inspected in 2008.

18. Progress on children and young people in our care
 The number of children and young people becoming looked after during 2010/11 fell slightly from 195 to 175. Children and young people in our care move placement less frequently than those in other local authorities and a high number of our children in care are adopted.
19. Youth Offending Team (YOT)
 The number of first time entrants to the criminal justice system has reduced from 419 in 2008/09 to 173 in 2010/11. This reduction is attributable to the extensive partnership working with the police through the introduction of the Youth Restorative Disposal (Triage). The police will refer relevant young people to the YOT for assessment and, if required, intervention. If the young person complies, the young person will not receive a criminal record and does not then enter the criminal justice system. Analysis of reoffending demonstrates that young people taking part in this process have a reoffending rate of less than 10% compared with much higher reoffending rates, at around 31% for other young offenders who do not follow this route.
20. Early Years Foundation and Key Stage 1 and 2
 Provisional Early Years Foundation Stage data, (5 year old pupils) and Key Stages 1 and 2 data shows that the performance of pupils in Southampton has improved from 2010 to 2011.
- Early Years Foundation Stage – A 2.2% increase in pupils achieving a good level of development, up from 53.4% in 2010 to 55.6% in 2011.
 - Key Stage 1 – The number of pupils in Southampton achieving KS1 level 2 in Reading (85.6%), Writing (83.2%) and Maths (91.1%) has increased by 0.4%, 1.3% and 0.8% respectively from 2010 data.
 - Key Stage 2 – Level 4+ in English and Maths combined is provisionally 73.3% for 2011, a 2.5% improvement from 2010 figures.
21. GCSE and A Level Results
 The A level pass rate for Southampton students has improved across all areas including A*-E, A*-C and A* passes. Most significant improvements were seen for grades A*-E and A*-C passes, although the challenge still remains to meet national rates for A* -C and A* passes. Key headlines from the results were:
- 97.5% of Southampton entries achieved an A Level A*-C grade in 2011. This was 1.8% higher than in 2010 (95.7%). This indicates a sustained improvement for Southampton but remains just below the national performance where 0.3% more entries achieve an A*-E grade (97.8%).
 - 37.4% of Southampton entries achieved an A Level A*-C grade in 2011. This was 3.5% higher than in 2010 (33.9%). This indicates a sustained improvement for Southampton, however, a challenge still remains to meet National performance where 15.2% more entries achieve an A*-C grade (52.2%) in 2011.
 - 4.1% of Southampton entries achieved an A Level A* grade in 2011. This was 0.4% higher than in 2010 (3.6%). This indicates a sustained improvement for Southampton, however, a challenge still remains to meet National performance where 4.1% more entries achieve an A*-E grade (8.2%)

Initial indications for Key Stage 4 GCSE results are that the City's secondary schools have once again helped local children and young people to raise the bar of performance. Southampton's 5+ A*-C grades including English and Maths GCSE has increased by 4.5% from 47.5% in 2010 to 52.0% in 2011, building on similar positive improvement in 2010 of 4.4% and meeting Southampton's performance target. In 2011 the Government raised the floor target to 35% for this measure; Southampton now only has one school below this floor target. National comparison data will be published in October and detailed analysis of this data will be undertaken then.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

22. Loan Sharking

A suspected loan shark was arrested on suspicion of illegal money lending in the Shirley area following an operation by the England Illegal Money Lending Team in Southampton, working in partnership with the Council.

23. Queens Park

Queens Park was brought to life on Sunday 24th July through live actors telling the 'horrid history' of the park. The Parks team, including the Hawthorns and the Communities team supported Lanarca in staging the event. The city council is developing ideas for improvements for Queens Park. Many local people took part in the consultation activities and questionnaires which will then go on to support the first round of a Parks for People lottery bid for the Park.

24. St. James Park

St. James' Park re-opened to the public on 6th July after a £1.5M improvement project. The Park has been completely refurbished and includes a new play area; two new tennis courts; a gazebo with solar panels to provide energy for the building; an older play area with climbing wall, basket ball and outdoor gym equipment; and the refurbished WW2 building which now houses a café and community room operated by Parklife, a social enterprise organisation formed by the Friends of St. James' Park. The Park is already a great success and has received thousands of visits from people of all ages since it re-opened and we have had lots of positive feedback.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

25. Townhill Park Community Centre

The new Townhill Park Community Centre was officially opened on Saturday 23rd July. The Centre is a joint undertaking by Southampton City Council Education and the local Townhill Park community. The event was attended by about 200 people including local residents, community representatives, Councillors and representatives from the City Council, Police and other statutory and voluntary agencies.

26. Major refurbishment of extra care supported housing scheme improves residents' lives

A £1M refurbishment of an extra care supported housing complex in Southampton has set a new standard in excellence in how community spaces can improve the lives of tenants. Manston Court in Lordshill has undergone a retrofit of its community spaces by the Council. This extra care supported housing scheme has created a standard – an exemplary model of how a

building can be refurbished to provide the very best facilities for the most vulnerable and frail residents at a fraction of the cost for a complete rebuild.

27. Southampton's loft and cavity wall insulation grant

The Council is working with the Sustainable Energy Agency and the city's Environment Centre to make insulation even cheaper to help residents prepare for rising domestic energy prices this winter. Residents who own their home or rent privately in the city can now get loft or cavity wall insulation professionally installed for £69 each. Those who take up the offer can choose one of a number of approved local installers to carry out a no obligation survey.

RESOURCES, LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

28. Sea City topping out ceremony as highest point is reached

The construction of Southampton's prestigious international visitor attraction, Sea City, has reached a key construction milestone with the final stages of the new special exhibitions pavilion nearing completion. The Council and contractor Kier Southern held a topping out ceremony on 3rd August which celebrated reaching the highest point of the build – the tip of the pavilion.

29. Sky Ride Southampton

Sky Ride returned to Southampton on August 14 and was an even bigger and better event than last year. An estimated 14,000 cyclists enjoyed traffic-free city centre streets for the day.

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

Works have progressed well internally with the replacement of the building services and fabric strengthening works. Currently inside the building tests are occurring on both the new heating installation and electrical rewiring works which will then allow the high heritage ceilings to be reinstated as the original construction. During the next few months the scaffold will be removed following the completion of the refurbished windows and steel frame repairs behind the stone façade. Since the last update Southampton City college masonry students have spent valuable time on site reviewing the general works and also in particular the specialist stone remedial works. Also during the coming months Wates will be facilitating their Building Futures programme on site. Twelve Construction technical students will attend site for a week and gain valuable experience and knowledge from technical presentations.

Wates Community Day occurred on Friday 24th June when part of the site team turned into a charity Ground Force hit square at Upper Shirley High School to transform a little-used area of the grounds into an allotment for the children to cultivate their own vegetables. Solent Education Business partnership was the link pin in organising this between the School and Wates with a goal to assist the children's studies.

SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE

31. As reported in the Executive Business Report to Council on the 13th July, Southampton Connect has been shaping its new City Plan which is presented to Council today for endorsement. Following endorsement of the City Plan by Council, and also by all the key agencies represented on Southampton Connect, it will be formally launched in October.

For further information on Southampton Connect, visit: www.southampton-connect.com

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

32. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17th August 2011 covering the period September to December and will publish its next plan on the 16th September 2011 covering the period October 2011 to January 2012. Details of all forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:
<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

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 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 July and September
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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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