

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	16 NOVEMBER 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 September 2011 is attached as Appendix 1.

### **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

4. Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)  
Solent LEP has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with UK Trade and Investment to work together to encourage the attraction and retention of investment by foreign owned businesses into the Solent area. It has been agreed that part of the Southampton City Council Economic Development team will form the core of the new Inward Investment Team for the Solent area.
5. Eastpoint site to be the base for a local leading apprenticeship firm  
Southampton City Council is paving the way for more apprentices to be trained in the City by agreeing to give a local apprenticeship training company the opportunity to purchase the (soon to be redundant) Eastpoint Centre site. The Eastpoint Centre is due to be passed back to the Council following Eastpoint's relocation to its state of the art new conference facility next month. Apprenticeships Training Limited (ATL), currently based in Hedge End, will move into the 5.9 acre site in Bursledon Road on a short term lease with an option to purchase the site.

6. ICE Bus at the Freshers' Fairs

The "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) bus attended the annual Freshers' Fairs at Southampton University and Southampton Solent University. The aim of the event was to promote the ICE bus, other night time economy initiatives, provide safety, alcohol and anti-social behaviour awareness information. Alcohol awareness bags were distributed as well as goody bags to raise awareness of being a quiet student neighbour! Other information regarding home security was also available to take away. The idea was to welcome students to the City and tell them about all the great services we have in Southampton. Joining the Safer Communities team were members of the Blue Lamp Trust promoting the Bobby Southampton Safe and Secure Homes scheme (due to launch this month) and the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

7. Blue Lamp Trust

Following investment from the Police, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and SCC from LAA reward monies; the Blue Lamp Trust have a dedicated project in Southampton. Following the principles of the Bobby Scheme, a dedicated fitter will provide home security and fire safety advice and where appropriate, free practical intervention where improvements can be made to homes to make them more secure for the vulnerable and victims of crime in Southampton.

8. Operation Early

There has been a worrying increase in Southampton in the availability of what are called alcohol energy drinks. The most popular with young people is one called Crunk Juse. The caffeine in the drinks makes people feel as if they are still sober despite the fact they are quite drunk but they are not able to control the actions they take. As a result of not feeling drowsy or drunk, people often then consume another can or more alcohol and this can have devastating effects.

9. On 30<sup>th</sup> September, the Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour team conducted high visibility patrols on the west of the City to locate young people consuming alcohol. The Police confiscated the alcohol and together with staff from Southampton City Council, offered advice to both young people and adults about the dangers of drinking Crunk Juse and other alcohol products.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

10. Residents' views sought to improve adult social care in the City

The way that Councils are assessed on how well Adult Social Care Services are performing has changed and the Council is now producing a report for residents, which is called the 'Local Account'. The Council will produce its first Local Account in December this year.

11. Southampton Training Education Volunteering and Employment (STEVE)

STEVE is a partnership between local organisations that offer support to homeless and vulnerable adults in Southampton including the Council's Street Homeless Team. It aims to make it easier to access training, volunteering, and education that is designed for people who find it difficult to engage with

standard services and support them to find and stay in employment. One aspect of STEVE is the creation of a website that lists activities which are suitable for this client group. It has been designed by key workers and service users to ensure that it is easy to use, helpful and relevant.

12. Care Closer to Home

This service provides care in people's own homes 24 hours a day and seven days a week to people leaving hospital started in September. The service supports people to maximise their abilities, assist them to regain as much independence as possible and make decisions in their own home about whether they need ongoing residential care. At this stage the service is staffed to support up to five people for up to four weeks each. The service will be widely publicised and it is hoped that, should it prove effective, it will be extended after a few months. The service is funded by the transfer of funding from the NHS specifically granted to increase community services.

13. City Care First Support Recruitment day

The Adult Social Care Directorate's Domiciliary provision has been expanded, again with NHS funding, to widen the impact of a re-abling service during the hours of 7am and 10pm to increase independence and reduce ongoing care needs. This has led to a recruitment exercise which has been very successful. A second day was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and 88 people visited to submit applications. As one of the few expanding areas of the Council this is very good news for the local employment market.

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO**

14. Southampton chosen as pathfinder city for children and young people with extra needs

Children and young people in Southampton with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN) are set to be among the first in the country to benefit from reforms set out in a Government Green Paper after the Council and NHS Southampton City PCT jointly won a bid for 'pathfinder' status. This will bring £150,000 into the City to be spent over the new 12 months in modernising services and redesigning processes to improve and better join up the services.

15. Child Poverty Pilot 2009/11

As part of the work to deliver the Child Poverty Pilot 2009/11, the Council collaborated with Job Centre Plus (JCP) to host work focussed services for workless families in three Sure Start Children's Centres. During the 27 month pilot all targets were exceeded with 739 unemployed parents accessing advice from a JCP Family Advisors, 121 parents have successfully secured work including 87% staying in employment beyond six months. Following the success of the pilot, this is being rolled out to include JCP Advisors working across the City in areas of highest need in the seven core offer Sure Start Children's Centres. Workless families with young children will be able to access JCP Advisors in 'pram pushing distance' of their home and the aim is to conduct 2,080 interviews over the twelve month period.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO**

16. Mansel Park Gala Day

Approximately 200-250 people enjoyed the vast array of activities at the event. Each year the voluntary organisers of this event try to bring in new attractions to tempt the community to come along. This event has become very popular with the community.

17. City Depot

The Waste and Fleet Transport Division officially moved to the Council's new City Depot, with the first day of operation being 16<sup>th</sup> September. The proceeding weekend saw a carefully co-ordinated effort involving front line, office staff and contractors to move the office, fleet workshops and equipment and the 45-strong refuse vehicle fleet to the new facility. Initially feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and any concerns over service delivery from the site have proved unfounded as staff have adapted quickly and settled in well to their new surroundings. Additionally, the move provides the opportunity to introduce new ways of working which will improve flexibility, productivity and morale.

## **HOUSING PORTFOLIO**

18. Energy Efficiency Improvements

Plans to carry out energy efficiency improvements including new windows, heating and external insulation to 4 Council owned blocks in International Way in the Weston area of the City using substantial funding provided by the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP) via utilisation of British Gas together with resources from the Housing Revenue Account.

19. Housing Revenue

April 2012 spells the end of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system. Under plans in the Localism Bill, English councils will take control of their housing rental income enabling them to plan effectively for the long term management of these key assets. Southampton has started the development of the full 30 year Housing Revenue Account Business plan as required under the new arrangements which includes a large capital programme in excess of £31M in 2012/13.

20. Speed Dating Success

In September the Communities team hosted their Speed Dating for Volunteers event at the Novotel. This included matching would be volunteers with great Southampton projects looking for more people to lend a hand. Volunteers got to meet face to face with the people behind each project and explore the idea they most fancied supporting. Initial feedback from the approximately 100 volunteers who came along has all been positive and the majority said they are very keen on volunteering with one or even several groups.

21. Green Open Spaces Award

Portswood Rec has been awarded the Green Open Spaces Award by the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society and the City of

Southampton Society. Congratulations to all those who have helped to transform and enhance the Rec in the last few years. At a recent community event, the Communities team worked with local residents to sign up more new Friends of Portswood Rec with good success. There was a good turnout, about 500 to 600 people during the day, lots of families but also a wide range of local people.

## **RESOURCES, LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO**

### 22. Southampton's Arts Complex approved by Planning Committee

A new arts complex has been given the green light by the Council recently. The 100,000 sq ft Arts Complex and new restaurant and retail space will create more than 300 direct jobs with work aiming to start on site next summer. Grosvenor signed a formal agreement with the Council in 2010 and has been working in partnership with them to develop a detailed proposal for the scheme, which will be arranged around the newly landscaped Guildhall Square.

### 23. After Schools Coaching Programme

A successful procurement process has been concluded for the sports development team and after schools coaching programme. Southampton Solent University will manage the service on behalf of the Council from 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011. The partnership builds on the successful operation of St. Mary's Leisure Centre and a host of collaborations across the cultural sphere.

### 24. City schools and Council buildings to benefit from sustainable solar technology

The Council will be embarking on a programme of installing Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels on a number of its schools to generate electricity and reduce carbon emissions. Some civic buildings and housing stock will also benefit from investment in this technology. PV panels will be installed on around 15 school sites and 10 Council owned housing sites across the City. The Civic Centre will also have panels installed as part of the ongoing restoration of the building. A key benefit of the scheme will be the generation of new income from both the Feed in Tariff (FIT) and through the sale of surplus electricity back to the national grid which will provide the Council with an annual income.

## **SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE**

25. On the 10<sup>th</sup> October, Southampton Connect formally launched its Southampton Connect Plan 2011-2014 to over 100 key City stakeholders and partners at an event hosted by City College Southampton. The event also raised awareness of the City Vision – *'Southampton – a connected city for growth and creativity; gateway to a world of opportunities'* and the 4 City Challenges of economic development; educational attainment and skills; wellbeing; and a sustainable, green and attractive environment. Delegates were also provided with opportunities to find out more about Connect's Priority Projects Programme and how to get involved, and also about the role and purpose of Southampton Connect itself. Hard copies of the Plan have been widely distributed including to all Council Members. The Plan itself, along with a report-back from the launch event and information on the Priority Projects Programme, can be viewed and down-loaded at: [http://www.southampton-connect.com/what/SCPlan\\_conference.asp](http://www.southampton-connect.com/what/SCPlan_conference.asp).

26. The focus of Southampton Connect’s monthly meetings will now shift from developing the Plan and scoping the priority projects, to reviewing progress on delivering the Priority Projects Programme and driving collaborative action on the 4 City Challenges. For further information on Southampton Connect, visit: [www.southampton-connect.com](http://www.southampton-connect.com).

**FORTHCOMING BUSINESS**

27. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011 covering the period November to February and will publish its next plan on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011 covering the period December 2011 to March 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**

28. N/A

**Property/Other**

29. N/A

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

30. N/A

**Other Legal Implications:**

31. N/A

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

32. N/A

<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Name:	Suki Sitaram	Tel:	023 8083 2060
	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk">suki.sitaram@southampton.gov.uk</a>		

**KEY DECISION?** No

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	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 September and November
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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)

1.	N/A	
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