

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT
DATE OF DECISION:	16 MAY 2012
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 2012 is attached as Appendix 1.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

- 4. Centenary Quay

The regeneration of a shipyard at Centenary Quay, Woolston has reached a major milestone with a family moving into the hundredth new home on the site. Planning permission for phase two of the Woolston site which includes a new library and community facilities as well as 168 new homes was granted in March 2012.

- 5. City Centre Master Plan

The successful launch of the City Centre Master Plan is an extremely important development for the city. It sets out a very clear vision for the city's future with key projects amounting to an inward investment of £3 billion, bringing around 23,000 new jobs. Many of the components of the Master Plan are already being delivered – such as SeaCity Museum. The Council should all be ambassadors for the Master Plan – it points at a tremendous future direction for the city.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

6. Our joint approach with other local authorities will be progressing in Adult Social Care through the leadership of Margaret Geary who is now the Joint Director for Portsmouth City Council.
7. Public Health
The Transition Plan for the integration of Public Health function by March 2013 is now in place and the Director of Public Health and his staff are now located in the Civic Centre
8. Using Department of Health Winter Pressures Funding
Allocation of the Department of Health funding of £717k to Southampton City PCT for immediate transfer to local authorities for investment in social care services has been agreed. This includes
 - £370k towards the conversion of existing units at Graylings to be “dementia friendly” and to promote the option of independent living within this setting for users, families and carers.
 - £200k to increase equipment availability in nursing and residential homes. Smaller projects to be funded include
 - £20k for increasing accessibility of information for self funders, as there delayed discharges can be created as a result of family choice and family delay whilst they search for information.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

9. Council finally secures former Civil Service sports ground
Young people at schools in Shirley can soon look forward to enjoying their own dedicated sports pitches after the council secured the former Civil Service sports ground for the local community. Southampton City Council has finally become the owner of the eight-acre site in Shirley which means that its future is safe from development and it can be returned for use by local schools and the wider community.
10. Council seeks residents’ views on school rebuilds
The Council will be asking residents for their views on the proposed rebuilds of three schools in the city at a series of events. Under the proposals Banister Infant School and Nursery in Banister Park and Wordsworth Infant School in Shirley will be completely rebuilt and will become ‘all through’ primary schools. The new school buildings should be ready by September 2013. Moorlands Primary School in Bitterne will benefit from a significant extension, with a view to doubling its capacity.
11. Bitterne Park is chosen to become a National Teaching School
Bitterne Park School has been granted teaching school status. The designation by the National College for School Leadership entitles the school to lead the training and professional development for staff. Staff from the successful school will now be invited to the National College’s Learning and Conference Centre in Nottingham for a formal induction.

12. Troubled Families

Southampton is working with The Troubled Families Unit at the Department for Communities and Local Government to support approximately 680 families with the most complex problems so this will include helping parents to improve school attendance, reduce anti-social behaviour as well as support parents to be ready to return to work.

13. Isle of Wight and Southampton City Council partnership updated

From April 2012, the Council started delivering Educational Psychology service across the Isle of Wight as well as Southampton under the new partnership arrangements. We have appointed an acting Senior Education Psychologist who will be working closely with the Special Educational Needs team on the Isle of Wight to ensure that we can continue to deliver a high quality psychological service to children, young people, families and schools on behalf of both local authorities.

14. Inspire update

Inspire is the business unit that delivers non statutory education services. Inspire are delighted to have won a contract, on behalf of the Council with Service Children's Education (SCE). This is effectively the local authority for the Ministry of Defence and responsible for the education of all children in service families posted overseas.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

15. Better Bus Area Bid

The Council has been successful in securing £4.472M through the Better Bus Bid working with Transport for South Hampshire (TfSH). Officers in the Economic Development Directorate did an outstanding job on the bid, in partnership with bus companies. As well as enhancing Southampton's bus transport offer the Council will be delivering 16 apprenticeships as part of the bid. This is a further building block for delivering the masterplan for the city.

16. City's recycling rate

The Council has submitted an expression of interest to Communities and Local Government to retain weekly household waste collections, introduce a glass collection service for residents and businesses along with incentivising residents who recycle with 'green points', which would expand the use of the Council's Smartcities card. The purpose of the bid is to increase the City's recycling rate, reduce waste generated and support wide council agenda's such as channel shift, partnership working, use of social media and innovative working practices.

17. New work Placement Scheme

Parks and Street Cleaning work placement scheme was launched in April. Working with the Nordic Pioneer training agency, twelve 6 month paid training placements to work have been created, with the aim of achieving at the end of 6 months a level 2 NVQ in street cleaning. Twelve young people (previously not in education, employment and training - NEET have started the 6 month course with the Parks and Street Cleansing and work is underway to secure a full apprenticeship scheme in October for at least two of the twelve.

18. Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Fund

The Council has recently secured funding through the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) fund to help improve the wildlife in its most important parks and open spaces. The main objectives of HLS are to conserve biodiversity, maintain and enhance landscape quality, protect historic environment, promote public access and understanding, and protect natural resources. The funding will vastly improve Southampton's performance against the national performance indicator measuring its fulfilment of the biodiversity duty.

19. No Cold Calling Zones

There has been unprecedented demand from over 20 groups of residents across the city wanting to establish No Cold Calling Zones to cover their immediate neighbourhood. 4 Zones have been established to date giving residents additional confidence to say no to persons knocking on doors selling goods and services.

20. Air Alert System

The Council's Air Alert System was used recently to warn and advise vulnerable residents of poor air quality associated with the dock fire at Millbrook Road. Residents with respiratory or other health problems made worse by air pollution are able to receive free warnings by text message or email, linked to the Council's air quality monitoring network.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

21. Grant opportunities for community groups in the City

Local Improvement Grants are a small capital grant scheme for community led projects to make physical improvements in local areas, such as improving green spaces and community buildings. The Council will match fund 25% of the total project costs up to a maximum of £20,000. The closing date for the first round of the Local Improvements Grants is 15th June.

22. Estate Regeneration

We continue to make progress with our ambitious estate regeneration programme and have approved the Townhill Park Regeneration Framework, the Financial Model, Delivery Framework and funding for the implementation of Phase 1. This means we have agreed that the HRA capital programme to fund the site preparation costs set out in this report, currently estimated at £10.7M.

23. Weston Shore tower blocks have Photovoltaic installed

As part of the refurbishment of the Tower Blocks in Weston installation of PV panels on the roof of all five blocks was completed in time to take advantage of the highest rate of Feed in Tariff available. Panels were operational in Mid March and are now supplying free electricity to help run the communal lights and lifts in the blocks

24. Community Alarm Service achieves re-accreditation

The City's community alarm service based at City Depot has recently been subjected to its annual inspection from the Telecare Services Authority (TSA). This service provides support and reassurance to over 5,000 of the

most vulnerable residents across the City. The service achieved excellent marks in its assessment and has been re-accredited in the three areas of Installation, monitoring and response making it one of only a few organisations in the Country that is accredited in all three areas.

25. Millbrook Towers

As part of the City's investment in improving its local neighbourhoods, Millbrook Towers has received a dramatic facelift around the block including new planting, paving, car parking, bin areas and most eye catching are the murals around the base of the block which has really transformed its appearance both from the road and Mansell Park. Feedback from the residents has been excellent and a celebration event is being arranged for late May.

26. Junior Neighbourhood Wardens

At the end of the year the scheme was able to celebrate its most successful year ever with over 340 young people now part of the scheme and making a real difference on our estates. Their achievements were recognised by the Mayor in April with the annual Junior Warden of the year awards which recognised outstanding work by young people in the city. In the same week the Mayor also unveiled the Flower Power project in Watts Park which has been a project supported by Solent University and Open Spaces the design and plant flower beds in Watts Park. This was the culmination of two years of work by the Junior Wardens from choosing the seeds to planting the beds.

27. Capital Programme update

Following agreement by Cabinet and Council of the Housing Revenue Account business plan scheme approval has been given for over £70m of investment in Council Housing stock over the next four years which will help significantly improve residents homes in the coming years. Highlights of work underway include:

- All single glazed windows across the City's housing stock will be replaced with double glazing by April 2013
- Commencement of the new Housing refurbishment programme which will continue the investment in new kitchens and bathrooms across the city
- Replacement of all old boilers in the city including inefficient back boilers with modern energy efficient systems, and
- Replacement and upgrading of lifts and a number of Supported Housing schemes and the Itchen View estate.

RESOURCES, LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

28. Opening of SeaCity Museum

The public opening on Tuesday 10th April was a proud moment for Southampton. A huge amount of time and effort has gone into every stage of the museum's creation and to have finally reached the point where the Council can open the doors to visitors is a great achievement. Hundreds of Southampton schoolchildren marched in procession from the Titanic Engineers' Memorial to the new museum, carrying placards representing the crew members from the City. The opening afternoon and its first full day

were a complete sell out. At the time of this report, over 10,000 people have visited the Museum, including 1,000 residents.

29. Learning at the Library

The Learning Centre in Central Library has secured £7,500 funding from Ukonline to deliver training to 175 people receiving the Job Seekers Allowance. The training will enable them to use information technology for the first time and will be structured around seeking work. The training will last until April 2013.

SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE

30. Following the 1st Anniversary Review of Southampton Connect in April 2012, it has been agreed to establish a rotating Chair. Jo Ash, Chief Executive of Southampton Voluntary Services, will be Chair for the next 6 months. The Vice Chair role will remain with Southampton City Council. The light touch refresh of the Southampton Connect Plan 2011-14 and Year 1 Progress Report will be available in June 2012.

In February 2012 Marketing Southampton's web portal project was granted £80,000 of funding through the Southampton Connect Development Fund. Linked to the Business Solent led Priority Project of 'Promoting Southampton as the connected city', this project will consolidate the city's current digital presence to create an engaging web portal which will better promote the city to residents, businesses and visitors. The new portal is due to go live in autumn 2012

For further information on Southampton Connect, visit:

www.southampton-connect.com

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

31. The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 16th April 2012 covering the period May to August 2012 and will publish its next plan on the 17th May covering the period June to September 2012. Details of the forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:

<http://www.southampton.gov.uk/modernGov/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

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

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KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	N/A
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

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

Appendices:

1.	Decisions by Cabinet on the 12 th March 2012 and 16 th April 2012
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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)
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1.	None	
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