

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT
DATE OF DECISION:	14 MARCH 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 November 2011 is attached as Appendix 1.

LEADERS PORTFOLIO

4. Apprenticeship Scheme

The Balfour Beatty Living Places Craft Apprenticeship is a new three year scheme run by Balfour Beatty Workplaces in partnership with Southampton City Council. Six new apprentices have been recruited this year to work alongside professionals on Southampton's highways and gain the practical skills they need for long-term careers in this field. The scheme entitles each apprentice 70 days off-site practical training over two years, with the opportunity to complete an NVQ Diploma Level 2 in Highway Maintenance operations. The rest of the apprenticeship is spent working on site, gaining experience and improving their newly gained practical skills.

5. Tilley Award Winners

Southampton's partnerships effort to reduce crime in the City centre at night time has been recognised nationally, as it has won an award from the Home Office as the most innovative crime fighting project in England and Wales. Southampton's bid was shortlisted from hundreds and showcased partnership initiatives like the ICE (In Case of Emergency) bus, Yellow Card scheme, Taxi

Marshals and Street Pastors, which have dramatically reduced violent crime and admissions to emergency departments over the last two years. The award was presented to Southampton's Safe City Partnership, which includes the Council, police and health.

6. Safe Places now in Bitterne

The Safe Places scheme is now in Bitterne – this innovative project was created to help people who may become a victim of crime, feel frightened, intimidated or lost when they are out and about in the community. The scheme continues to be popular, in Portswood and Shirley, and brings together local businesses and organisations who offer their premises as safe havens. Safe Places can be identified by a large brightly coloured Safe Places logo stuck on the windows or doors of businesses and organisations that have signed up to help with this initiative.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

7. Public Health Developments

From April 2013, responsibility for Public Health will transfer from Southampton City Primary Care Trust to the Council subject to the passage of the Health and Social Care Bill through Parliament. Plans are well underway to accommodate the Public Health team in Council premises.

8. Keeping Southampton's vulnerable residents warm this winter

The Council and its partners won a £60,000 grant to help keep older and vulnerable people warm in the City. The money comes from the Department of Health's Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund and was awarded for a joint initiative being run by the Council, the Environment Centre, Age Concern (Southampton), the Society of St James (handyperson service) and NHS Southampton City. The Council will also be joining forces with 60 visitor volunteers from Age Concern to give advice to hundreds of older people at home.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING PORTFOLIO

9. **Ofsted Inspections:**

- Southampton Adoption Service was confirmed as 'good' by Ofsted in November 2011. The service provides independent and in-house counselling to birth families. The service was particularly praised in relation to improvements in caseload management and permanence planning, the training and support for staff development, records management, and post adoption support.
- Southampton Fostering Service was confirmed as Outstanding by Ofsted. In December 2011. Ofsted inspected the Council's Fostering Service and judged the provision to be Outstanding – the highest grading available. Inspectors noted that outcomes for young people in foster care in Southampton have improved significantly in a number of key areas since the last inspection in 2008. Ofsted praised the effectiveness of the service's management during this difficult time and reported that the local authority has embraced its responsibilities as a corporate parent.
- Two schools have been inspected under the revised school inspection arrangements which came into force in January 2012. One retained its

'good' judgement (St. Anne's School) and the second went from 'satisfactory' to 'good' (Ludlow Junior School).

10. GCSE results improve again in Southampton

The Department of Education has published the verified GCSE results from 2011 confirming this was a record year for Southampton secondary schools. This follows on from improvements at Key Stage 2 which saw a massive rise in pupils achieving the expected level (level4) in both English and Mathematics. The figure for pupils achieving the Government's benchmark of five A* to C GCSE grades including English and Mathematics has risen by 4.2 percentage points from 47.5 per cent in 2010 to 51.7 per cent in 2011. This year's increases sees the City move three places up the national league tables.

11. Isle of Wight and Southampton City Council shared Children's Services

The Isle of Wight Council and Southampton City Councils are working collaboratively to develop and deliver shared services generally across the two Local Authority areas. A first pilot phase for Children's Services and Learning (CSL) is through seconded staff arrangements and initial development work, and focuses on two specific functions: School improvement and educational psychology. A 'Shared Services' model may be developed Council-wide to provide a mechanism for both councils to offer real opportunities to improve the quality of its services whilst gaining from streamlined management arrangements, pooled expertise, economies of scale and increased purchasing power, which will provide an opportunity to achieve important financial savings.

12. Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology in Schools

The Council has stepped up plans to make the City a more sustainable place after fitting eleven schools with Solar Photovoltaic (PV) technology. A further four schools are in line to have these panels fitted by end of March 2012. This is part of a wider plan which has seen panels installed at the Civic Centre and will be installed at a further six Council owned housing sites. The overall investment for fitting Solar PV panels to all sites will come in at around £700,000. However, the savings are more than £800,000 in energy costs alone over the next 15 years, more thereafter.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

13. CHPA (Combined Heat and Power Association) Awards

The CHPA Awards, showcasing achievement, innovation and best practice from across the combined heat and power and district heating sector were presented recently, with the Champion Award being won by the Council's Sustainability Policy Manager.

14. New Waste and Recycling Tip opens

Southampton's new and improved recycling centre and rubbish tip has opened to the public. The new tip is much bigger than the old one and has more car parking spaces. The old rubbish tip will now be sold off for exciting development which could include new leisure facilities and new homes.

15. No Cold Calling Zones
Groups of residents are now able to establish No Cold Calling Zone to cover their immediate neighbourhood giving residents additional confidence to say no to persons knocking on doors selling goods and services. Door stickers and street signs are provided to reinforce the existence of the zones which are also published on a website at www.hants.gov.uk/nocoldcalling to enable responsible businesses to avoid door to door sales within the Zones.

16. House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Virtual Team
The Council has established a virtual HMO team consisting of all services involved in the regulation of HMOs in Southampton, including Planning, Housing, Environmental Health, Waste, Community Safety, Benefits and City Patrol. The team is working to improve the flow of information between teams to ensure a joined-up, cohesive approach to tackling resident and community concerns. This will also help to ensure a more targeted approach, in particular to environmental issues. There are plans to widen the virtual team to include external agencies, such as the Universities and the Fire and Rescue Service.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

17. Hinkler Parade
The completion of Southampton's first major estate regeneration project was celebrated in November 2011. The event marked the completion of four one bedroom and twelve two bedroom flats for affordable rent and five new shops at Hinkler Place in Thornhill. Partners in the project were Barratt Homes, First Wessex and Plus You Limited.
18. Planning application gets the green light to build 200 new homes in Southampton
A planning application submitted by Lovell and First Wessex to build 200 new homes and new shops as part of £30M estate regeneration programme in Southampton was granted at the end of last year. This is the next key stage in the Council's plans to transform and improve Council estates across the City. This scheme has been made possible because of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH).
19. Five Council Tower Blocks next to Southampton Water to get £9M refurbishment
Five Council blocks in Weston are in for a welcome makeover. More than £9 million will be spent on the five blocks that sit next to Southampton Water (in International Way, Weston) to upgrade them and make them much more energy efficient. Southampton City Council successfully won more than £6 million of grant funding from the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP), via British Gas towards the energy saving works. Cabinet agreed to contribute a further £3 million to enable a whole host of other improvement works to be carried out at the same time – including new exterior cladding and double glazed windows. The new coloured cladding and sparkling new windows will transform the look of the Tower Blocks to the passing ships on Southampton Water.

20. Making Neighbourhoods better places to live
 In November 2011, the residents of Itchen Estate in Southampton celebrated the completion of innovative work that has significantly improved their neighbourhood through a Decent Neighbourhoods project. Southampton City Council worked closely with the Itchen Estate community so that the open space in Tankerville Road would enjoy a new lease of life and to provide some much needed extra car parking spaces.
21. IKEA starter packs help vulnerable young people in their first home
 Helping young people move out of care and set up a home with a little help from IKEA Southampton is the latest initiative from the Council. Using an IKEA store gift card, a young person can choose what furniture or household goods they want to buy and can purchase items when they need them.
22. Community Chest and successful funding in Southampton
 The second round of Community Chest grant was awarded just before Christmas, with the recipients sharing £27,942 between them. Projects funded include arts and crafts, improved signage for a community garden, basic running costs for several residents' associations, community events, training to support people into employment, exercises classes for older people to keep them healthy, equipment for youth clubs, environmental projects and local heritage.

RESOURCES, LEISURE AND CULTURE PORTFOLIO

23. One Step closer to £1M plus improvements to outdoor sports facilities in Southampton
 Thanks to an investment of £350,000 by Southampton City Council its outdoor sports facilities are one step closer to receiving more than £1M to improve them. Part of this investment will be used to secure match funding which could result in more than £1M being raised to significantly improve nine playing fields and other outdoor facilities in Southampton. The Council has committed to spending £100,000 on a new generation artificial turf pitch at a location yet to be decided.
24. SeaCity
 Another major milestone for the SeaCity Museum was achieved when all the site huts were moved on Monday 16th January 2012, revealing the new special exhibitions building behind. This allowed the commencement on the public realm area and good progress is also being made internally within the Museum. The SCC Golden Number is going live for SeaCity Museum, for general enquiries, pre-booking tickets, venue hire and education visit enquiries. Southampton residents and City Council employees have all been offered free tickets so they can enjoy the amazing new venue. Southampton's SeaCity Museum has received a financial boost that will help bring the City's maritime history to life. £200,000 has been awarded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DDCMS) / Wolfson Foundation towards the 'Gateway to the World' Gallery.
25. Tourist Information rebranding and relocation
 Relocation of the Tourist Information Centre in November last year to the Civic Centre, places the Visitor Information Service "at the Heart of the

Cultural Quarter” surrounded by Guildhall Square, the Art Gallery, the Library, Fountains Café, SeaCity and Southampton Guildhall. This encourages delivery of a high quality public facing service for both residents and visitors. In September 2011, Southampton entered Visit Britain top 20 Visitor Destinations listed at number 19 for the first time ever.

SOUTHAMPTON CONNECT UPDATE

26. Since Southampton Connect formally launched its Southampton Connect Plan 2011-2014 in October 2011, it has continued to meet monthly and has now been through an entire cycle of priority project reviews. Project reviews are an opportunity for those Southampton Connect participants leading on a project to provide feedback on their progress, achievements and barriers to date. Associated reports, templates and actions can be viewed at <http://www.southampton-connect.com/what/projects.asp>.
27. As we near Southampton Connect’s 1st Anniversary in April 2012, a light touch review is being undertaken to assess progress to date and enhance Southampton Connect’s effectiveness and inclusiveness. The review will cover: Future participants and representation including links to the thematic partnerships; Chairing and meeting frequency; Focusing on ‘what matters most’ but ensuring collaborative ownership of the business; and Tracking impact.
28. A second Southampton Connect Conference is proposed during the week commencing 28th May 2012; a draft conference programme is currently being drawn up. With the overall aim of ‘making connections work’ it is anticipated that the conference will: Report-back on Year 1 progress - namely against the ‘By 31st March 2012’ milestones as set out in the Southampton Connect Plan; Set out Connect’s 2012/13 work programme through the refreshed Connect Plan; Consider the challenges and barriers to progress facing the Priority Projects Programme; and to identify new approaches / new collaborative partners to address them.

27. FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 13th February 2012 covering the period February to May 2012 and will publish its next plan on the 16th March covering the period March to June 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. None.

Property/Other

29. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

30. None.

Other Legal Implications:

31. None.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

32. 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 21st November 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)
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1.	None.	
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