

DECISION-MAKER: COUNCIL
SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE BUSINESS
DATE OF DECISION: 15 SEPTEMBER 2010
REPORT OF: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None

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.

CONSULTATION

- 2 Appropriate consultation has taken place on each of the decision items summarised in this report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3 Not applicable.

DETAIL

- 4 As Leader of the Council, I have identified 2 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 is attached as Appendix 1.

LEADER’S PORTFOLIO

- 5 LEP

As Leader of the Council I have been working closely with the unitary leaders of Portsmouth and Isle of Wight and our PUSH partners to deliver a strong proposal to government to secure a Local Enterprise Partnership for the Solent area. The proposal was submitted on the 6th September with significant backing from key businesses, higher and further education and the voluntary sector.

- 6 Waterfront (Royal Pier)

The Royal Pier Waterfront development site covers an area of 24 ha (60 acres). In discussion with its partners ABP and the Crown Estate, the Council has recently shortlisted three developers to prepare scheme proposals for the site.

It is anticipated that the preferred developer will be appointed during February 2011.

The Council's aspirations for the development are as follows:

- A major mixed-use development of sufficient scale and quality appropriate for a world class waterfront destination – uses may include offices, leisure and tourism, specialist retail boat related activities for example a marina and residential (away from the waterfront and port operations)
- A permanent and improved site for the Boat Show
- The retention and improvement of Mayflower Park
- Improved public access to the waterfront; and
- Improved pedestrian access to the site and reduced severance of the road

The preferred developer's proposals for the waterfront will be worked up in more detail during 2011.

7 Centenary Quay

Work has started on the £500 million Centenary Quay Riverside development at Woolston .In the first stage 1,620 new homes will be built - 25% of these will be affordable allowing more chances for people to have a home. Eventually there will be a new marine area to generate employment, a foodstore, a range of mixed use office and shop spaces, a hotel, restaurants and cafes. The development is expected to create up to 1,000 permanent new jobs.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH PORTFOLIO

8 We have been in discussions with colleagues in the PCT and Portsmouth City Council over the huge changes outlined in the Health White Paper. This is to ensure any preparations and responses are co-ordinated with the relevant partners.

9 People with learning disabilities take power to change their lives

Southampton's Learning Disability Partnership Board held an event to consider ways of making local services and communities become more inclusive for people with learning difficulties.

10 The annual Over Fifties Festival returns to Southampton

The popular Over Fifties Festival organised by members of the Festival Committee and supported by Southampton City Council, Age Concern and the Seniors Council held a successful programme of events this year.

11 Personalisation

Self Directed Support has been successfully rolled out and from 26 July 2010 has been offered to all eligible new clients. People assessed as eligible for support from adult social care will be allocated their own care budget to buy in the services that they want, rather than just the services we are able to provide. Individuals will have more choice about whether to buy care from us or from the private or voluntary sector.

CHILDREN AND SAFEGUARDING PORTFOLIO

12 Southampton's First Academy Designs Approved

Southampton City Council has approved a planning application for the new £15m Oasis Academy Mayfield. The designs have been agreed while the city council continues to lobby the Government for the continuation of its Academies Programme, which was put under review earlier this month.

The new Oasis Academy Mayfield will boast a large, central learning space that can be adapted for a multitude of uses, including group work, exhibitions and community use. There will also be a state-of-the-art theatre space that can be adapted to suit a variety of performances. The building is not only iconic, it has also been designed with the environment in mind, including solar panels and natural ventilation, which will help to reduce the carbon footprint of the school by 60 percent over its lifetime.

The project came about following a review of secondary education in the city and the formation of two Academy schools led by Oasis Community Learning. Both Oasis Academy's Mayfield and Lord's Hill are currently located across two sites and will be consolidated onto single sites once rebuilt through the national Academies Programme. As well as consolidating the Academies, the building projects aim to help raise standards and attendance, provide first-class learning facilities for Southampton's communities and create jobs for the local workforce. Meanwhile, Carillion has now developed draft plans for the £20m Oasis Academy Lord's Hill rebuild project.

13 Southampton's Improving Primary Schools Are Closing The Gap

Southampton primary schools have shown a significant improvement over last year in the provisional Key Stage 2 (KS2) test results published in July. The percentage of pupils achieving the expected level (Level 4) in both English and maths at KS2 rose 6 percentage points to 70% – the biggest improvement against this measure seen in Southampton since its introduction two years ago, the largest leap in five years and significantly more than the equivalent increase nationally of 2%.

The performance of the city's schools is all the more impressive given the high level of participation in the tests. In a year when nationally only 73% of papers were submitted over 90% of Southampton schools took part. Only three schools in the city boycotted the tests.

In addition to this the number of schools below the national floor target of 55 % has reduced from 12 in 2008 to five in 2010. Two of the five are also very close to the boundary, at 54%, so this figure could be reduced to only three schools below the floor target once the data is validated later this year.

14 GCSE Results soar in Southampton

Following on from this year's Key Stage 2 results, the figure for pupils achieving the government's benchmark of five A* to C GCSE grades including English and maths has risen by 4.1 per cent overall.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT PORTFOLIO

15 Highways Service Partnership

The Council has recently signed a contract worth up to £100M over 10 years with Balfour Beatty to deliver Southampton City Councils Highways Service Partnership. The efficiencies generated from the partnership will be re-invested back into the highways service. The Partnership will ensure the Council is maximising the output from its existing budgets, ensuring maximum value for money spend on the highways network, investment in the service delivery infrastructure with increased capacity and expertise available to the Service.

The Partnership between the Council and Balfour Beatty Workplace will deliver effective, efficient, sustainable and customer focused highways services in an environment committed to flexible delivery, innovation, and staff development.

16 London Road Winner at Urban Transport Challenge

Southampton's very own "naked street" has won a prestigious national award, the Urban Transport Design Award – from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport.

London Road was refurbished by Southampton City Council in 2008 in a £1.5 million scheme. During the work London Road was given a European style, designed for the benefit of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. It was stripped back of road signs, and given "informal crossings", while the footways were widened to boost the café culture feel of the road. This scheme has resulted in a reduction in vehicle speeds and a decrease in serious injury accidents.

Other improvements to the road have included new pedestrian maps, unique artist designed seating, improved lighting and safer parking bays.

London Road is part of the new QE2 mile in the city, which is set to be officially launched in October this year.

HOUSING PORTFOLIO

17 The last 2 months has seen the culmination of work on various initiatives, resulting in an overall investment in the city of approximately £6.5 million for 53 additional homes. This investment in development is complimented by good news on educational attainment, thus getting the City in the right direction towards economic growth and local jobs for local people.

18 New Council Homes Being Built

After a lot of hard work by Southampton City Council and with financial help from the Homes and Communities Agency 53 new council homes are going to be built. Most of these homes will have gardens and all are being made energy efficient - which means tenants will save money on their heating bills. The homes are being developed in two stages. In the first stage 33 new homes will be built and in the second stage 20 more will be built. There will be a mix of houses and apartments to meet the needs of families on the council's waiting list.

19 Southampton City Council cracks down on landlords flouting safety rules

To encourage and reward landlords who licence their properties in a timely manner and to penalise landlords who don't, Southampton City Council has brought in a new licence fee structure.

LEISURE, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

20 Two leisure projects (SCM and SNAC) received the green light and add significantly to the cultural quarter of the City. Between them the total amount of approximately £22M will give a boost to the local economy and bring new jobs.

21 Southampton's Sea City Museum

Southampton's Sea City Museum was given the final go-ahead from the Council's Cabinet and with all approvals now in place, the construction of the building will begin within two months. The new £15M museum will be situated in the Grade II* listed Magistrates' Courts, which adjoin the Civic Centre. The museum will be a central piece of Southampton's new Cultural Quarter and is set to open in 2012.

The final approval comes just days after the council received a funding offer of £7.2m from the Arts Council England to build a new Arts Complex – the final piece of the jigsaw for the Cultural Quarter.

The Sea City Museum will feature two permanent exhibitions focusing on Southampton's Titanic story and the city's role as a gateway to the world. Since March 2009 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded the council a total of £4.9 million towards the museum. The council is working on raising £10 million to pay for the remainder of the costs. Kier Southern, part of Kier Group, is the building contractor who plan to start on works on site in early October with a completion date of April 2012 - 100 years since the Titanic sank.

22 SNAC

Southampton City Council has been awarded £7.2M from the Arts Council England to build a new arts complex in the centre of the city. The Arts Council decided to add another £1.5M to the original £5.7M offered to enable a number of essential changes to be made including the re-design and relocation of a contemporary art gallery to the ground floor.

The new arts complex will be built by the developers Grosvenor as part of an overall development on the site of the former Tyrrell and Green building in Southampton's Guildhall Square. It will be at the heart of the City's emerging cultural quarter and provide the city with a high quality arts offer which will galvanise Southampton's position as an important cultural hub. The overall development is expected to create around 300 direct jobs and assist in attracting considerable investment and visitor numbers to Southampton.

The new arts complex will form a major part of the Cultural Quarter in Southampton, alongside the Sea City Museum, which is set to open in 2012, and the newly refurbished Guildhall Square which is set to open soon.

LOCAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

23 Green Flag Awards

Southampton City Council has won a record 6 Green Flag Awards that recognise top quality parks and green spaces. Hinkler Green and Mansel Park won the award for the first time joining Weston Shore, Mayfield Park, Central Parks and Southampton Common. Shirley Warren Community Garden also won a Green Pennant which is awarded to green spaces run by community groups.

24 Grants Programme

The Communities team received 77 grant applications for the Council's grant programme. The team have appraised all of these and on Monday 21st June Cabinet awarded £1.6 million to voluntary organisations. The grants will allow these voluntary organisations to continue to make a positive difference to our city's communities.

RESOURCES AND WORKFORCE PLANNING

25 Council Collects Keys To One Guildhall Square

Southampton City Council has been handed the keys for One Guildhall Square – a new business centre in the city. The handover is part of a major public sector accommodation move, which will save the public purse around £3.5 million over the next 40 years. Atlantic Property Developments PLC has now finished work on One Guildhall Square - six storey glass-faced building on the site of the former C&A store on Northern Above Bar - with hundreds of council staff currently moving in. The council agreed to purchase the property - which sits at the heart of the city's emerging Cultural Quarter - from Atlantic Property Developments PLC in April.

The council will now occupy 2½ floors of the building as owner, with Capita renting the other 3½ floors. Southampton City Council staff will, once all the moves have been completed, only have a base at the Civic Centre, Marland House and One Guildhall Square. The council will own all three properties, giving it complete control over its city centre office spaces.

Frobisher House will be vacated by the end of September, with Southbrook Rise vacated in 2012 and Castle Way in 2014.

The ground floor of One Guildhall Square will house Gateway, the council's customer services centre set to open at the end of the month.

TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

26 There are no Traffic Regulation Orders.

CITY PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

27 The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board continues to meet on a monthly basis and, since the last meeting of Council, it has received a presentation on the Restructuring of Health in England following the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and considered its implications for the city. In addition, a round-table update on the significant range of Coalition Government's policy announcements and their impact on key partner agencies

and citywide partnership working has been considered to feed into the overall review of the Southampton Partnership which has been commissioned. The Southampton Partnership Delivery Board has also considered implications of the Coalition Government's Big Society approach and received the 2010/11 Local Area Agreement (LAA) Quarter 1 performance position. It has also approved the Partnership Improvement Action Plan noting its aim – 'public and voluntary sector organisations in Southampton will coordinate their collective influence and resources to work together, and with local communities, to enable Southampton people to improve their lives and make a positive contribution to the future success of the city'. Facilitated by the Improvement & Development Agency, with the input of key public and voluntary sector partners, the plan seeks to achieve the above aim by concerted joint action in the following four areas: Total Place and the Big Society; Co-location; Relationships & Communication; and Commissioning.

The next meeting of the Southampton Partnership Policy Board is scheduled for the 7th October 2010 and its outputs will be reported to Council accordingly.

Further information on the activities of the Southampton Partnership and its partnership family can be found at www.southampton-partnership.com or by contacting the relevant partnership manager direct whose contact details can be found on the SP website by clicking on the 'Our Partners' page and then the relevant partnership page.

FORTHCOMING BUSINESS

- 28 The Executive published its Forward Plan on the 17th August 2010 covering the period September to December and will publish its next plan on the 16th September covering the period October to January 2010. Details of all forthcoming executive decision items can be found at:
<http://sccwww1.southampton.gov.uk/decisionmaking/internet/forwardplanindex.asp>

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

- 29 Not applicable.

Revenue

- 30 Not applicable.

Property

- 31 Not applicable.

Other

- 32 None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

- 33 This report is brought forward in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000. The powers to undertake the proposals summarised in this report are detailed within the individual decision making reports presented to the executive over the past few months.

Other Legal Implications:

34 Not applicable

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

35 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Decisions by Cabinet 2 nd August 2010
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Background Documents

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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Background documents available for inspection Not applicable

KEY DECISION?

No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:

None