

## THE VISION FOR PORTSMOUTH - ASPIRATIONS FOR THE 10 PRIORITIES

This document starts with an overview and vision for Portsmouth for 2018. Then, under each of the ten priorities, which were formally agreed by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and Portsmouth City Council in January 2008, there is paragraph of aspirations for the city, followed by a number of key themes that describe what the city should have achieved, or should be like, in 2018. This is not a culture-only vision of the future, but a vision across all aspects of city life where well-being for all people, not just some, and above all a passionate city, lie at the heart of the vision.

In February 2008, the Cultural Consortium was invited by the LSP to create a document that was truly visionary, and which would support and provide guidance for the detailed subsequent work under each priority.

The document has been created by the Cultural Consortium, and draws upon a number of activities; the outcomes of the LSP vision conference in November 2007, the output from the Creative Thinker process, the output from the "Continue the Conversation" event, run by the Cultural Consortium on 15 April 2008 and subsequent feedback from various attendees at that event. Hundreds, possibly thousands, of people have contributed in some form during the various consultations on vision that have been carried out over the last year or so with many organisations and partnerships.

In the process of creating this document, a number of short-term opportunities to get us moving towards the vision have arisen, and these are in a separate document. There are also hundreds of ideas that were offered at the 15<sup>th</sup> April event - these are recorded in a separate document and can be used to stimulate further debate.

The ten priorities are listed in no particular order, and the varying level of detail under each does not indicate some are more important than others. There are, of course, many links and dependencies across the different priorities; some analysis has been done on this, but is not presented in this document. Furthermore, there are already significant projects underway to help achieve the vision; indeed, many organisations and people work day and day out, as part of their core purpose, to improve the city in every area of life.

Our aim is that this document will be considered by the LSP, and Portsmouth City Council's elected members, and form the foundation for a formally accepted vision for the City.

The principal editors are Steve Pitt and Peter Wainwright, on behalf of the Executive Group of the Cultural Consortium. The Executive Group wish to thank all who have contributed towards the production of this document, including all the facilitators.

30 April 2008

## **The premier waterfront city, with an unrivalled maritime heritage – a great place to live, work and visit<sup>1</sup>**

This vision of Portsmouth in 2018 pays due respect to the city of an historic harbour, Spice Island, Henry VIII's flagship, Nelson's Dockyard and the plans for D-Day. This is the city's heritage of which its people are, quite rightly, proud. It must never be forgotten and indeed must be exploited for tourism and education. It is a valuable resource which underpins our future.

The future, however, must pay attention to the global community. Portsmouth is no longer just a city in Hampshire, but a city of the world. In looking forward to a future where technology continues to advance at break-neck speed, Portsmouth must prepare for the unknown by constantly looking to the wider world for inspiration and new opportunities.

The process of developing this vision has called upon the broad collective talents and vision of many local people. It represents an opportunity to build upon that passionate enthusiasm by seeking to engage the whole community in planning for the decade ahead, from conception to implementation and beyond.

By maintaining this momentum, Portsmouth can continue to work outside party political lines, building upon the work already done to involve the whole community, discovering champions and nurturing their motivational skills, supporting their passion for improvement within and across every key area of strategy. This must include the city's future leaders – its youth. They must play a key role in helping to build a Portsmouth in which they wish to co-exist, work, learn and play, together and integrated, regardless of their social, ethnic, faith, or cultural background. Portsmouth must become a whole city, one where North, South, East and West all strive to stand as economic and social equals. This will be achieved by the public, private and third sectors working together, using the greatest strengths offered by them all. Portsmouth must be a city where responsibility for success is shared by everyone.

This modern, multi-cultural Portsmouth must strive to reach beyond mere peaceful co-existence. It must seek to be one of the most intercultural cities in the world, where all of its people contribute, working together in mutual understanding and respect, on their common need to have easy access to and appropriate integrated information on, suitable healthcare, integrated transport, safe streets, a vibrant culture of every ethnic flavour, desirable housing, and inspirational architecture.

As population grows, one of the greatest barriers to achieving this vision is Portsmouth's geography. So much of the city is contained within the island of Portsea, that more than almost any other city in Europe, Portsmouth must work to ensure that it is a city of space. We must constantly work to protect and nurture our public spaces, making them an integral part of the people's sense of community and well-being. These spaces must inspire and console, reassure and please, so that the feeling of space is, in fact, enhanced.

As much as the city's geography poses challenges, it also offers solutions. A premier waterfront city must utilise its greatest resource. As the search continues for greener solutions in every aspect of modern life, Portsmouth must look to the water to build its tourism, improve transport, and inspire the youth through sport, and leisure. Portsmouth has some serious challenges to face, but as we tackle them, we must always remember to retain a sense of fun and inspire community pride. These are not arduous tasks, but opportunities for a better life for all and should be grasped enthusiastically, with boldness.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the vision headline agreed by the LSP in Jan 08.

If Portsmouth, through its people is to become a city in which all of those people want to live and work, and which visitors from all over the globe wish to visit, it must begin to embrace all of its challenges from today.

## **Priority 1 – Improve opportunity and achievement in education, skills and lifelong learning.**

Aspirations: To be a Learning City where learning is valued for its own sake as well its transformational power, and is fun and lifelong. Where learning happens in a wide range of places and situations and is delivered in a variety of ways by a range of people and organisations, at times that suit learners. To create a passion for curiosity for learning, where learners achieve good exam results, and people are learning throughout their lives.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. Lifelong learning is embedded in the community and the workforce, with incentives for, and strong links between, employers, providers (including the Third Sector) and the community. Achievements in learning throughout life are properly recognised by, for example, employers. Every organisation has an effective learning and development plan. People acquire transferable skills<sup>2</sup>.
- b. There is strong leadership, co-ordination and communication about learning activities, both formal and informal. There is a more positive view of lifetime learning in Portsmouth and the media are actively involved in promoting this.
- c. Our high quality schools, colleges, libraries and museums are places of curiosity and fun, improving what they offer to students and the community, and building on extended services and work of the Community Improvement Partnerships. State and private schools are working closely together in the best interests of learners.
- d. Learners have access to and can use a variety of forms of formal and especially informal learning, available in a range of places (including in the community), times, and modes<sup>3</sup>. People can easily find out what is available, obtain advice and full use is made of all the city's learning resources.
- e. There is a coordinated network providing information, training and support to all involved in delivering and supporting informal and formal learning, making best use of, and sharing, resources and expertise.
- f. There is a passion and curiosity for learning with strong teacher/learner relationships. Portsmouth is a city which children and young people are proud of, and one where there is a culture of young people expecting to continue their learning beyond age 19. The City Council, University and colleges work together to promote progression from school to college to university.
- g. Improved access to learning for those who have been excluded or denied opportunities is the norm. This applies to all ages, and runs from primary school pupils (eg the University's Up For It scheme), through school leavers, to adults. There is improved access to Portsmouth University by local people who are otherwise deprived.

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<sup>2</sup> More than 50% of the nature of jobs in 2025 will not have been imagined today.

<sup>3</sup> Eg face to face, at a distance, online and the virtual learning environment.

## Priority 2 – Make Portsmouth an accessible city, with sustainable and integrated transport

Aspirations: To be a city where, in just four minutes and without needing to step into a car, anyone can connect to the integrated transport system. The emphasis is on mobility, embracing all transport modes, especially walking and cycling. The city has a fully integrated 24-hour system. There must be swift connections within and in/out of the city, and dynamic management of traffic flow. Getting around must be fun! The city's unique geography must be used to improve water, cycling and walking modes, making it a beacon across the UK. Reliance on private motor vehicles and congestion needs to be vastly reduced, improving the quality of life and the environment<sup>4</sup>. The long-term aim is to lead the UK in minimal car use.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. There is an exciting sense of arrival in the city, which is connected to adjacent areas and the wider world using all transport modes, with stimulating, safe, and modern interchange sites. Portsmouth is a major integrated transport hub within Europe, building on its long-standing reputation as Britain's best-connected ferry port.
- b. Water travel has become key to improved mobility around the whole city. It is a major factor in the success of the integrated transport system and provides new and alternative routes in and out of the city. Travelling by water is both desirable and fun. Reliance on car use is reduced, with effective and safe Park & Ride/Float provision. People can rapidly travel between key sites, and areas, with frequent services. The city is attracting more cruise liners.
- c. Public transport is of high quality, fun and safe, and encourages city living. Services are more responsive to local needs, tailored to rapidly changing patterns of demand, and reviews are led by transport users. Public transport is seen as affordable, especially for disadvantaged groups.
- d. There is a fully integrated network, with centralised public commissioning, priority-setting and coordination of the total transport system, linked into the wider area, whilst allowing private operators to innovate and run services. Integrated ticketing solutions have been implemented.
- e. Walking and cycling are the first choice way for people to get around. Employers incentivise and encourage staff to walk and cycle to work and provide collective transport schemes. Bike hire is readily available in all parts of the city, with more cycle lanes, improved cycle networks, better security and locking up points for bikes and better signage for walkers and cyclists.

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<sup>4</sup> There is a requirement of Portsmouth in the South East Plan that it will accommodate an additional 14,700 homes in the city by 2026.

### **Priority 3 – Develop Portsmouth as a city of innovation and enterprise, with a strong economy and employment opportunities for all.**

Aspirations: To have a different mix of, and overall more, businesses attracted to the city, increasing the creative and cultural ones, and a vibrant and diverse shopping experience. Those who meet the public (eg taxi drivers, shop, venue/hotel staff, public services) should accentuate the positives of Portsmouth, and help create a wow factor. From an early age, there must be a learning ethos that not working is not a long-term option, and that everyone has a right to have a positive experience of work. Our natural resources (eg. people, sea, waterfront, light quality, ships, seafood) must be fully exploited to attract businesses, and create a holiday destination.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. There are extensive Local Employer Partnerships and brokerage schemes. There is an emphasis on creating jobs that pay enough for young people to continue to live here. There are minimal numbers of people on unemployment-related benefits, and the city is renowned as a centre for flexible and varied job opportunities. All organisations work together tirelessly to reduce inequality and deprivation.
- b. There are increased numbers of jobs for graduates and skilled workers. Employers are attracted to the area by the overall cultural experience, improved transport links, incentives to relocate, and a ready local supply of enthusiastic, skilled people, especially graduates.
- c. The University and colleges work closely with other partners, including the City Council, and Partnership for Urban South Hampshire in exploiting the specialist skills in the area, research facilities, and entrepreneurial nurturing, in creating new and different employment, including social enterprises. Portsmouth is a global leader in creative<sup>5</sup>, (eg computer games), space, maritime and defence industries, and in many areas of technology.
- d. Large, successful employers (eg IBM) and enterprises (such as the NHS, and Portsmouth Football Club) are playing a major role in creating economic and social well-being, setting high standards in social responsibility, and actively contribute to the development of community.
- e. From an early age, children develop skills in, and a culture of, innovation and enterprise. All adults, from every kind of family structure, have more opportunities to work. All employers are actively involved in providing assistance with child-care (especially for new workers), those returning to work, and for carers.
- f. Support, education, grants, loans, and assistance with office and business spaces are provided in a coherent and proactive manner to increase new businesses, growth, and to stimulate a risk-taking culture.

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<sup>5</sup> The creative industries are worth £85 billion to the UK economy or 8% of GDP. It is a growth sector and an area where the UK has a worldwide reputation for excellence.

#### **Priority 4 – Make Portsmouth a city where everyone feels safe and is safe.**

Aspirations. To be a city where everyone is safe. This covers crime climate change, traffic and creating a sense of belonging and community. Portsmouth must aspire to be universally regarded as a welcoming city, where new people quickly feel part of the city. A city where we all live and respect each other. Housing areas, the built environment, and communities must be designed so that safety is considered and crime is designed out from the outset. Portsmouth needs to be a city where there is enough space.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. There has been a cultural change. Antisocial behaviour and crime is seen as socially unacceptable, is always challenged, and people feel safe, confident and reassured within their homes and everywhere in the city. There is a strong sense of belonging to the community. Social behaviour is encouraged and celebrated. This is assisted by an integrated education approach to community safety and citizenship.
- b. Transport is safe, especially at night. People can walk safely anywhere in the city at any time.
- c. People feel sufficiently safe from the impacts of climate change.
- d. There is a continuing proactive response to the evolving threat of terrorism and residents feel assured that all appropriate measures to protect their safety are regularly reviewed and are as effective as possible.
- e. There is a clear commitment to and shared responsibility for safety by the whole community, with people looking out for each other. This is supported by happy, strong, confident communities, and the visible use of policing, community wardens, neighbourhood watch and other front-line workers in communities.
- f. All communities are happy. The media have developed a much more balanced attitude towards reporting of good and bad news, reflecting this new community cohesion and the reality of improved safety.
- g. There are more community facilities, events and activities, across cultures and ages, and a café culture, providing a welcoming environment for all, including new arrivals. Green and open spaces are well maintained and available to all.

## **Priority 5 – Make Portsmouth an attractive and sustainable city.**

Aspirations: To become a beautiful, vibrant, exciting place that has well-designed and maintained buildings, streets and spaces that welcome everyone and is clean and sustainable. To have an urban environment which lifts the quality of life, encourages people to meet and be together and make us all feel happier about our lives and surroundings.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. A low carbon footprint and an emphasis on conserving resources, ensures that sustainable development is at the heart of everything we do. Sustainability is part of planning and implementation in all priorities (for example: in energy sources, use of materials, light and noise pollution, transport, flood risk), with the emphasis on resource, not waste, management.
- b. Design is seen as a forum for cooperation. There are centres of urban visioning where everyone – creative people, politicians, developers and communities – comes together to find out about and get involved in the development of the city and its design. This is driving up the quality of the built environment, regardless of land ownership. Design competitions are a regular feature for projects of all sizes, and the old and new built environment are balanced within an overall design strategy.
- c. The built environment, street architecture and signage are attractively designed using different and sustainable materials, are less cluttered and enhance city life. Lighting is used innovatively to create a more vibrant and stimulating environment. The skyline creates a positive stimulating experience, is an integral part of the urban environment and is used to prompt innovation and creativity in building design.
- d. The city uses its favourable natural environment and its progress in green technological innovation to create a highly sustainable city. Portsmouth is becoming a leader in the innovative use of flood defence strategies, and in creatively using waterfronts and harbours.
- e. The quality of the inner city is improved, with the planning emphasis on increasing the feeling of openness and used green spaces. There are greenways through the city, more trees and a greater sense of more personal space around them. The natural environment and habitats are protected and enhanced, and are fully integrated into urban planning, using green spaces and encouraging the development of green rooves.

## Priority 6 - Deliver affordable, quality housing where people want to live.

Aspirations: To have a range of well-designed quality affordable housing, with involvement by the community from the beginning. All areas of the city must be attractive to live in, and there should be more communities thus widening peoples' choice of locations, and easing pressure on the most popular areas. This is critically dependent on improved transport links, location of work and rising salaries. There must be strong links with all developers to encourage more variety and creativity in housing. Portsmouth must become a city where there is a home for everyone, with improved quality of homes.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. The quality of accommodation (from new builds, renovations, to DIY) and surrounding landscaping is greatly improved. There is a wider variety of affordable accommodation, more creatively, sympathetically and sustainably designed.
- b. Housing has<sup>6</sup> more individuality, is fun to live in, with different types of ownership, and assistive technology and appropriate design for vulnerable people. Fixed, temporary and mobile accommodation solutions are part of a strategy to provide homes for all. Developers and landlords involve local communities in the design to ensure people get what they need.
- c. There is an approach to creating and sustaining integrated communities, where schools, shops, cafes, green spaces, cultural facilities and small businesses are considered from the outset when planning and developing housing. Local schools, community and religious facilities are a focus for communities.
- d. Spare capacity is used (eg the Dockyard, and the far north of the city), and owners of spare land are motivated to release it for other uses, particularly housing. Pressure on housing is also reduced by greater community and family cohesion. Improved economic well-being has given more people access to affordable housing.
- e. The city's high density<sup>7</sup> and flat land is used to develop innovative housing strategies, and reduce travel to work costs. There is more living space in homes, and new builds are designed with the potential to be altered for different use over time<sup>8</sup>.
- f. There is accessible advice, guidance and support to all people to help them improve their homes in attractive and sustainable ways. Communities and house owners use colour and lighting to enhance their homes and surroundings.

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<sup>6</sup> PCC and housing professionals have detailed expertise as to options for numbers and sizes, and mix.

<sup>7</sup> Portsmouth should aspire to be a UK leader in this field.

<sup>8</sup> Eg a 3 bed flat could be designed to be used as a 1 and a 2 bed flat, as the families change, for instance, due to bereavement.

**Priority 7 – Encourage and enable healthy choices for all and provide appropriate access to health care and support.**

Aspirations. To become a city where all people are healthier, feel well, and are empowered, with choice, to take responsibility for their health. Being healthy must be fun – creating a sense of well-being and keeping people well, which will reduce the cost of treating them when ill. Services must be affordable and easy accessible, providing information, support and treatment.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. People are empowered and supported to be healthy, and health inequalities are reduced. People and communities are fully participating in reviewing and shaping improvements to services.
- b. There is a culture for making healthy choices, where people expect, and have a right, to stay healthy, and perceive the clear benefits of staying being well. There is an accompanying shift to early prevention of bad health rather than simply access to support.
- c. Overall, levels of physical and mental well-being are improved by providing increased, and more affordable, opportunities to exercise, play sport and participate in well-being activities. Walking and cycling are seen as popular choices, and are made easier and safer.
- d. Employers play a significant role in promoting healthy choices to employees, building on the Work Health & Wellbeing Hallmark, led by the Council<sup>9</sup>.
- e. Health education and advice is highly advanced, and pervades all aspects of living, working and learning in the city. Children lead healthier lifestyles and Portsmouth is a leader in combating the threats posed by obesity, alcohol and substance abuse from an early age.
- f. There is an integrated information service, providing information and support to all users.
- g. Health services and resources are of excellent standards, and are much more responsive to local needs.
- h. Dental health is greatly improved, exploiting the University's skills in dental technology. Portsmouth has the best collective smile in the UK.

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<sup>9</sup> Significantly, this is a local, not government-developed, scheme.

## **Priority 8 – Enhance Portsmouth’s reputation as a city of culture, energy and passion, offering access to all arts, sports and leisure**

Aspirations: To be a city which sees itself and is recognised as, a positive city that exudes the exceptional passion of all its people. To be esteemed for its cultural diversity, where people are attracted, want to stay and visit, with festivals and events for everyone. To be a city where its character and humour shine through and are celebrated. Portsmouth must be a cutting edge cultural city, continually innovating, building upon the bedrock of its maritime heritage and naval tradition. Its outstanding natural environment and green spaces, culture, sport and leisure, must have a rapidly growing reputation, anchored in the development of vibrant and exciting sea and waterfronts.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. There are extensively developed cultural links to Europe and beyond – exploiting the city’s existing excellent transport links with the continent. Within Portsmouth, access to all leisure activities has been improved by the city’s integrated transport system.
- b. There is a café culture, with a diverse range of entertainment venues, and with a thriving, high quality, late night economy. There are spaces where people can be quiet and those where people can mingle and have fun together - there are regular intercultural festivals.
- c. All sectors and all people work tirelessly in selling the city to the world, and look outwards. The number, variety and quality of workshop, performance, exhibition spaces and sporting venues is extended to give greater and more affordable access to local groups, creating opportunities for sports, arts and leisure to thrive. More national and international shows, exhibitions and events are attracted to the city.
- d. Building upon the success of the city of festivals programme, all sectors and partners work together to deliver a vibrant and integrated programme for arts, music, leisure and sport. The city uses the legacy of the 2012 Olympics, and its passion for football, to enable sports events and participation in sport to flourish. There are a number of cultural and leisure hubs across the city providing a focus for choice and energy. Portsmouth is becoming a great literary city.
- e. The city’s new buildings and spaces inspire, with high quality public art, and signage is interesting and well designed. There is strong advocacy for the city’s culture and architecture.
- f. The coast and its natural harbours are used to full advantage. Portsmouth works with its neighbours to provide innovative, water-based sports and leisure activities.
- g. There is a new seamless relationship between the historic dockyard, the Royal Navy, and the people, combing their collective assets, skills and expertise to broaden the city’s cultural offer.
- h. Hotel and conference facilities are capable of supporting all business, cultural, ethnic, faith and social needs, whether small scale, community or large international events.

## **Priority 9 – Celebrate the many diverse and different communities within Portsmouth and work together to create an inclusive city for everyone**

Aspirations: To have cohesion, acceptance and respect within and between Portsmouth's diverse communities. There must be plenty of spaces and places where we can all be together and build vibrant and happy communities. Portsmouth must be a city where all different cultures and faiths get along together, locally and with the wider community and where this is celebrated and newcomers warmly welcomed.

Communities are diverse in many ways; this can include differences in lifestyle and culture, ethnicities, faith, age groups, physical abilities, learning abilities, racial groups, and socio-economic groups.

For all communities, we will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. There are more spaces and places where people, of all backgrounds and generations, enjoy being together and participate in activities. Schools, religious and community buildings and facilities, community gardens and open spaces are used to create more opportunities for people to be together, especially those who are vulnerable.
- b. Regular "We Love Our Road"-type days are held throughout the city, celebrating different aspects of the city, fostering a culture of community pride and encouraging volunteering.
- c. All public, private and third sector organisations have more widespread involvement from different cultures in their activities, so that everyone feels they influence decision-making.
- d. Those in residential care homes feel that their diverse religious and cultural needs are considered, and that they are better integrated into the community.
- e. There are regular local, intercultural, interfaith and world-class events, bringing people together. All events are accessible and welcoming. Eg. Food's role in bringing different people together is encouraged and leads to an increased quality and variety in all food outlets.
- f. The ethnic diversity of the student population, combined with the multi-lingual skills of the people are celebrated, have created social cohesion and used to enhance links locally and with the wider world.

## **Priority 10 – Protect and support our more vulnerable residents by shaping public services to meet their needs**

Aspirations: To have integrated and coordinated support, information and services in a variety of ways to enable our more vulnerable residents to live as full a life as possible at home, as part of the community, and have the same access to opportunities as others. This aspiration recognises that there are many vulnerable people, who may move in and out of vulnerable situations during their lives. Vulnerable people may include older people, teenagers, people with learning difficulties, people with literacy and numeracy difficulties, those with ill health, children with special care needs, victims of crime, and low income households.

We will endeavour to make Portsmouth in 2018 a city where:

- a. The focus is on the early prevention of the need and on a greater sense of empowerment of users, and on early intervention and support, rather than on investing in service models that perpetuate a continued reliance on the service. Fundamentally, people are seen as service providers, ahead of the physical infrastructure.
- b. The needs of vulnerable people are clearly identified. There is improved care and support for vulnerable people to access services, and this care and support is an integral part of the service.
- c. Vulnerable people have access to relevant information in the way that suits them, for example, they can deal with one key service provider, acting as a conduit to a range of services.
- d. Services are provided in appropriate and effective ways, exploiting the region's technological skills, and its reputation in integrated, multi-agency approaches.
- e. Vulnerable people feel fully part of, and contribute to, the wider community, with better mixing and integration of different communities and groups.
- f. 'Healthy living' services are affordable for economically disadvantaged people.