

Public Document Pack

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Thursday, 13th January, 2022
at 5.00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: this will be a 'virtual meeting', a link to which will be available on Southampton City Council's website at least 24hrs before the meeting.

In light of the current Covid Omicron variant surge this meeting will now be held virtually via Microsoft Teams. As a matter of law to be a legally constituted meeting it must be held physically. As it is not considered reasonable to do that at the moment it is being treated as a consultation meeting. Council officers will then take decisions under delegated powers to decide on the matters on the committee's agenda after having due regard to the committee's views and recommendations.

Members

Councillor Fielker (Chair)
Councillor Savage (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chaloner
Councillor Cooper
Councillor Fuller
Councillor Guthrie
Councillor Kaur
Councillor Stead
Councillor Vaughan

Appointed Members

Nicola Brown, Primary Parent Governor
Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Claire Rogers, Secondary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee holds the Executive to account, exercises the call-in process, and sets and monitors standards for scrutiny. It formulates a programme of scrutiny inquiries and appoints Scrutiny Panels to undertake them. Members of the Executive cannot serve on this Committee.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny includes the following three functions:

- Holding the Executive to account by questioning and evaluating the Executive's actions, both before and after decisions taken.
- Developing and reviewing Council policies, including the Policy Framework and Budget Strategy.
- Making reports and recommendations on any aspect of Council business and other matters that affect the City and its citizens.

Overview and Scrutiny can ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but they do not have the power to change the decision themselves.

Use of Social Media:- The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting. By entering the meeting room you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2020-2025 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time

Procedure / Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Smoking Policy:- The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Mobile Telephones:- Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

Fire Procedure:-

In the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take.

Access is available for disabled people. Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Dates of Meetings: Municipal Year 2019/20

2021	2022
10 June	13 January
15 July	3 February
12 August	10 March
9 September	14 April
14 October	
11 November	
16 December	

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The general role and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, together with those for all Scrutiny Panels, are set out in Part 2 (Article 6) of the Council's Constitution, and their particular roles are set out in Part 4 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – paragraph 5) of the Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 4.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" or "Other Interest" they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

(iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.

(iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.

(v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.

(vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.

(vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:

- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
- b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

Any body to which they have been appointed or nominated by Southampton City Council

Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature

Any body directed to charitable purposes

Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

4 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

6 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential appendix 2 to the following Item

Confidential appendix 2 contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 7(a) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. The information is exempt from publication because it is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.

7 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE (Pages 1 - 10)

Report of the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations, enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.

8 SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW (Pages 11 - 34)

Report of the Chair of the Safe City Partnership providing the Committee with an update for 2020/21 on community safety in Southampton and the Safe City Partnership.

9 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC - CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM

To move that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Procedure Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of any consideration of the confidential annexes 4 and 5 to appendix 2 to the following Item

Confidential annex 4 and 5 contain information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 (financial and business affairs) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

In applying the public interest test this information has been deemed exempt from publication due to confidential sensitivity. It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose this information. It would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment.

10 FORWARD PLAN (Pages 35 - 90)

- a) Cultural Strategy
- b) Starboard Way Tenure

Report of the Service Director, Legal and Business Operations enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

Wednesday, 5 January 2022

Service Director – Legal and Business Operations

Agenda Item 7

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JANUARY 2022		
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Deputy Chief Executive	
	Name:	Mike Harris	Tel: 023 8083 2882
	E-mail	Mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
Appendix 2 is not for publication by virtue of category 7(a) of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules as set out in the Council's Constitution. The information is exempt from publication because it is subject to any obligation of confidentiality.			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee considers the responses from the Executive to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To assist the Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC). It also contains a summary of action taken by the Executive in response to the recommendations.		
4.	The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the OSMC confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Committee does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it		

	will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Committee accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the OSMC.	
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>		
5.	None.	
<u>Property/Other</u>		
6.	None.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>		
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.	
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>		
8.	None	
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS		
9.	None.	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
10.	None	
KEY DECISION		No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>		
Appendices		
1.	Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 13 January 2022	
2.	Confidential appendix	
Documents In Members' Rooms		
1.	None	
Equality Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?		No
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		No
Other Background Documents Equality 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.	None

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 13 January 2022

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
11/11/21	Communities, Culture & Heritage	Townhill Park Regeneration - Update	<p>1) That the Committee are provided with information relating to:</p> <p>a. The number of people on Southampton's housing waiting list who have indicated that they are interested in Shared Ownership.</p> <p>Update 16/12/2021 – That, given the response to the Committee on the interest in Shared Ownership, the Cabinet Member clarifies for the OSMC the current evidence that demonstrates support for this form of tenure in Southampton.</p>	<p>a). The Council stopped asking this question in 2016. (Possibly because shared ownership was administered by the Help to Buy agent, and SCC didn't offer shared ownership at this time)</p> <p>In 2016 395 applicants indicated they would be interested in Shared Ownership. (Some of these applications are very old and some applicants themselves may not be eligible for a mortgage.)</p> <p>Since 2016, there were a further 242 applicants who stated their income comes from employment only and who have savings of more than £1000. Income status/savings bracket is the only guide to indicate potential suitability for Shared Ownership for recent applicants to the register now that an interest in Shared Ownership is no longer identified.</p> <p>Response to additional question attached as Confidential Appendix 2</p>	
11/11/21	Communities, Culture & Heritage	1,000 Additional Parking Spaces	<p>1) That the Committee are provided with details on the schemes that have been slipped in the HRA Capital Programme to fund the additional parking spaces programme.</p> <p>Update 16/12/2021 – That the Committee are provided with:</p>	<p>For the 2021/22 year there were a number of lines in the capital programme that were showing an underspend, largely because of difficulties completing this work due to COVID19, therefore funds from those lines have been used to fund the parking spaces that will be delivered in this year.</p>	

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Appendix 1

Agenda Item 7

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
Page 6			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The details relating to the HRA Capital Programme schemes that were not completed during 2021/22 and the allocated funding associated with these schemes has subsequently been utilised to deliver the parking spaces initiative. b) Details outlining how these HRA Capital schemes will be funded moving forward. 	<p>The funding for the remaining parking spaces for programme to be delivered in 2022/23 have been built into the capital programme.</p> <p>Response to additional questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Cabinet were provided with HRA capital forecast of schemes in the report of 15th November (item 15 Appendix 2 annexe 2 refers: <u>Agenda item - Financial Monitoring for the period to the end of September 2021 Southampton City Council</u>). This includes details of the major underspends/slippages in the HRA programme for 2021/22. b) The detailed HRA Capital programme for 2022/23 will be going to Cabinet/Council in February 2022. The proposed budget will include provision for all projects slipping from 2021/22 into 2022/23; where there are annual budgets these have been reviewed to confirm they are realistic. The proposed programme is funded through a mixture of borrowing, use of MRA, a small element of govt grant and use of RTB in the case of new build, and the programme is affordable in the context of the proposed HRA business plan for 2022/23. 	

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
16/12/21 Page 7	Communities, Culture & Heritage	Strategy for the Provision of Support in Safe Accommodation	1) That the dashboard of performance indicators that are being developed to support the strategy is circulated to the Committee when it is finalised.	To be provided when available	
			2) That consideration is given to including within the strategy our ambitions for sanctuary schemes to support people who do not live in social housing.	The action plan for the board that monitors this element of the strategy will include activity to explore how sanctuary schemes for private tenants and homeowners can be facilitated	
			3) That the developing Domestic & Sexual Abuse Strategy includes a focus on healthy relationships.	Healthy relationships will be addressed by the whole-system domestic abuse strategy, currently under development and due to be brought to Cabinet in September 2022.	
			4) That, reflecting the importance of appropriate terminology, the term domestic abuse is utilised throughout the strategy instead of domestic violence.	The strategy and the forthcoming whole-system strategy apply the definition of “domestic abuse” set out in s1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. It is recognised that some established services and service providers will continue to make use of the term ‘domestic violence’ for the time being (e.g, ‘Independent Domestic Violence Advisors’). Where these services are referred to by the whole-system strategy, it will be made clear that the s1 definition still applies.	
16/12/21	Finance & Capital Assets	Update on budget forecast for 2022/23 onwards and savings plans	1) That the Committee is provided with details outlining how the proposed £300k increase in income to be generated by the Council’s cultural venues in 2022/23 will be achieved.	Further business planning involving colleagues from finance & cultural services and marketing teams is already underway. It is anticipated that this can be shared in March/April 2022	

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
16/12/21 Page 8	Customer Service & Transformation	Customer Access Strategy	1) That the document references the consultation that has informed the Customer Access Strategy.	Involving and engaging customers in the design and delivery of services is an important part of the vision of this strategy. While we won't recreate this document to explicitly reference the customer engagement that has informed it, we will ensure this is clear in future documents.	
			2) That, to improve customer service, feedback is provided to those who submit web forms informing them of the action that has been taken, even if there has been no action.	This is something that will be looked at as a part of the Customer Experience Programme and will be rolled out across the coming year.	
			3) That, reflecting the improvements that have been made, the approaches outlined in the Customer Access Strategy are promoted across the city to encourage residents who may have been disillusioned by previous experiences to have confidence in contacting the Council.	We will undertake some targeted promotion to ensure customers are aware of their options and to promote key channels at the appropriate points across the year.	
16/12/21	Customer Service & Transformation	IT Strategy	1) That the Council seeks to enable access to all SCC IT systems via a single log-in.	Recommendation agreed and appropriate activity being added to the Strategy before final publication.	

Document is Confidential

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DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JANUARY 2022		
REPORT OF:	CHAIR OF THE SAFE CITY PARTNERSHIP		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Barbara Swyer, National Probation Service	Tel: 023 8083 3951
	E-mail:		
Director	Name:	Mary D’Arcy, Executive Director Communities, Culture & Homes	Tel: 023 8083 4611
	E-mail:	Mary.D’Arcy@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
<p>This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) with an update for 2020/21 on community safety in Southampton and the Safe City Partnership. It includes information on the recently completed Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment, as well as an update on work to revise and update the Safe City Strategy. The data refers to the period April 2020 to March 2021 as this is the latest full year data available for analysis.</p>	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
	(i) That the Committee considers and notes this report.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	The Chair requested that the OSMC receives an annual update on community safety in Southampton and the Safe City Partnership.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	None
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
Background	
3.	In April 2017, the Southampton Safe City Partnership and Southampton City Council agreed a three-year strategy to be delivered by March 2020. Progress against this strategy is regularly assessed by the Safe City Partnership and monitored in a scorecard. The strategy has now lapsed, and a new strategy has been delayed due to COVID19. A current working draft has been issued for consultation and will be brought forward for formal agreement early in 2022.

4.	<p>Many of the priorities identified in the existing Safe City Strategy will not necessarily reflect the changes to a range of crime types, increased insight to contextual safeguarding risks or the emergence of new phenomena such as 'County Lines'.</p> <p>The review of the strategy in 2021 is therefore an opportunity to account for these changes, applying a COVID context to understanding how the pandemic has impacted communities and contributed to crime and disorder, as well as setting a forward-thinking plan for five years (2022 to 2027).</p>
5.	<p>The Partnership has identified three main priorities for keeping Southampton safe over the next, extended five-year period (2022 to 2027).</p> <p>These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Keeping people safe from harm • Priority 2: Preventing and reducing offending • Priority 3: Creating safe and stronger communities <p>The current draft strategy is being reviewed following consultation feedback from the public, and the findings from the latest strategic assessment and annual Community Safety Survey, which took place in the autumn of this year and had the highest numbers of respondents (2,551) of any survey of this type in recent years.</p>
6.	<p>There is a Statutory requirement for Community Safety Partnerships to undertake a 'Strategic Assessment' each year. The purpose is to assist the partnership in revising the Community Safety Strategy and as such it should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of the levels and patterns of crime and disorder and alcohol and drug misuse in the area, • Identification of changes in those levels and why these have occurred, • Views of people living and working in the area, • Recommendations for matters which should be prioritised. <p>This year's Strategic Assessment has recently been completed and provides an overview of current and future crime trends, disorder and community safety issues affecting Southampton, some of which are outlined in this report.</p>
7.	<p>This report demonstrates how the partnership has aimed to deliver its strategic objectives and responded to local need, including the pandemic. It also responds to the latest Strategic Assessment (2020/21) and sets out next steps for the partnership and strategy.</p> <p>The full Strategic Assessment can be found at: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/community-safety/safe-city-assessment/</p> <p>This report should be read in conjunction with the Strategic Assessment report and summary slide-set.</p>

Strategic Assessment

8.	<p>Data included in the 2021 Strategic Assessment covering the period of April 2020 – March 2021 will be significantly impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and government restrictions imposed to limit the spread of the virus.</p> <p>Changes in police recorded crime over the last year should be interpreted considering coronavirus restrictions and limited social contact. The pandemic has not only altered the volume of crime, but crime patterns too. Recorded crime figures vary by crime type, with some crime types experiencing a reduction and others an increase during 2020/21.</p>
9.	<p>In 2020/21, Southampton had an overall crime rate of 112 crimes per 1k population, which is significantly higher than the national average and the highest amongst comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs). Southampton accounted for 20.1% of total recorded crime across Hampshire Constabulary in 2020/21 and has the 11th highest total recorded crime rate among all English CSPs.</p>
10.	<p>There were 28,239 police recorded crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, which is a decline of -11.4% compared to 2019/20. This decline is in line with local and national trends, with England experiencing a -14.4% decline and Hampshire Constabulary a -12.9% decline during the same period.</p> <p>The change in total recorded crime over the last year likely reflects a genuine decline, with this decline attributed to the coronavirus pandemic and government instructions to limit social contact. However, it is important to highlight that changes in the volume of crimes vary across different crime groups, with domestic related crimes increasing over the last year, both locally and nationally. Additionally, police recorded crime only includes those crimes that have been reported to and recorded by the police, with 'hidden' crimes such as domestic abuse far more likely to be underreported than other offences such as theft.</p>
11.	<p>It is important that we not only consider the volume of crime in Southampton, but also the harm it causes to the victim and society. For example, high volume but low harm offences may be less of a priority to the Partnership than lower volume, but high harm offences. A crime severity score estimates the harm caused by crime. The score gives more severe offence categories a higher weight than less severe ones using crime sentencing weights calculated by ONS using data from the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>Rape, violence with injury and residential burglary are the crime groups that caused the most harm in Southampton during 2020/21, with these groups causing the most harm for the last three years.</p> <p>Southampton experienced a -10.1% decline in the overall crime severity score of all crimes between 2019/20 and 2020/21, with Hampshire Constabulary (-9.5%) and England (-13.8%) also experiencing a decline.</p> <p>Despite the decline in the volume and severity of total recorded crime over the last year, Southampton is highest among statistical comparators and higher than the national average when considering the volume (rate) and severity of total recorded crime.</p>

12.	<p>There have been notable declines in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● violent crime (-5.1%), ● sexual offences (-13.5%) ● including rape (-12.9%), ● residential burglary (-15.6%), ● crimes involving a bladed implement (-8.0%), ● alcohol affected crime (-13.3%) ● and anti-social behaviour (-10.7%). <p>There have also been declines in ‘Most Serious Violence’ (-5.4%) and cruelty to children offences, (-8.4%); however, the numbers for these offences are relatively small and percentage changes should therefore be interpreted with some caution.</p>
13.	<p>Police report that the effect of lockdown and the impact of stay at home orders has led to an increase in neighbour reported concerns, increased consumption of alcohol and drugs at home, as well as an increase in malicious communications via social media. However, the Police were able to be more pro-active in their response to these calls due to a reduction in calls for other street level matters, such as those relating to the night-time economy.</p> <p>Notable increases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● domestic flagged crime (2.6%), ● domestic violent crime (3.3%), ● *stalking and harassment (22.3%) (including malicious communications), ● drug offences (33.0%) ● drug affected crime (17.0%) ● hate crime (19.4%). <p>* Change in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences in 2018 are having an impact on the number of offences.</p> <p>Modern slavery (47.1%) and firearms offences (32.7%) also experienced an increase over the last year, but numbers for these offences are relatively small. Nonetheless, the increases in reporting of modern slavery appear to reflect a positive trend that the public and professionals are increasingly aware of these issues and are more likely to report, which is a positive indicator of confidence in the system.</p>
14.	<p>At the same time as there has been a decline in reported anti-social behaviour (ASB), there has been an increase in stalking and harassment offences. There is local evidence to support that this change, in part, may be due to changes in the way crimes are being classified based on victim perception.</p>
15.	<p>Similar to previous years, the 2020/21 Strategic Assessment included a crime prioritisation scoring exercise to help inform the Partnership’s priority setting for crime types in Southampton. A simple score was calculated to inform crime priority setting based on ranks of</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime frequency • Crime severity score • Proportion of crimes with formal action taken • Year on year percentage increase in crime • Relative position of Southampton among its comparator group of Community Safety Partnerships <p>Based on this, the top four priorities identified were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violent crime (all forms) • Domestic crimes including domestic violent crime • Sexual offences, particularly rape • Residential burglary <p>Violent crime, domestic crimes and sexual offences have consistently featured among the top priority areas for the last three years. This highlights that despite the decline in the volume of some of these offences and changing patterns over the last year, these three areas remain a priority.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that some crime types are more likely to be underreported than others. The most recent community safety survey highlighted that over half of crimes witnessed or experienced by respondents were not being reported. This is concerning, but especially for high harm and priority offence groups such as domestic abuse, sexual offences, serious violent crime and Violence Against Women and Girls.</p>
16.	<p>Overall crime decreased in 11 of the 16 wards in Southampton. The largest decrease in overall crime was in Bargate (-37.7%). This illustrates the impact of coronavirus restrictions, particularly the suppression of the night-time economy and reductions in shoplifting as both the night-time and retail economies were closed for prolonged periods due to lock downs.</p> <p>Other notable declines include sexual offences and residential burglary, with both crime types seeing a decline across 12 wards.</p> <p>Drug offences increased across 13 wards, whilst reported hate crime increased in 12 wards, with the largest percentage increases seen in Harefield and Freemantle wards. Both local and national increases in hate crime over recent years are driven by improvements in recording, a better understanding of what constitutes a hate crime and an increase in victims coming forward to report hate crimes. Increases seen in Southampton over the last year could also reflect local reporting processes, where individuals reporting a crime are directly asked whether they think the crime is a hate crime or motivated by hate. However, there is also evidence to suggest that there have been short-term genuine rises in hate crime following certain trigger events. For example, both locally and nationally, there was an increase in public order hate crimes during the summer of 2020 following the widespread Black Lives Matter protests and far-right counter-protests. This is evidenced locally, with peaks in racially or religiously aggravated hate crime between June and August 2020.</p>

	<p>Domestic flagged crime increased in 9 wards, with increases also seen in Bassett, illustrating that domestic abuse is a city-wide issue, despite being more prevalent in the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city.</p>
17.	<p>There were 14,757 unique victims (excluding business and the state) who were involved in 74% of crimes in the city. Victims experiencing multiple offences (22.5%) account for 45.2% of crimes where there was a known victim. This highlights that repeat victimisation remains an issue in Southampton.</p> <p>Overall, males made up a higher proportion of victims than females (52.7% to 47.3%). However, similar to previous years, females continue to be more likely to be repeat victims across all crime types, accounting for 65.5% of victims experiencing 5 or more crimes in the year.</p> <p>Victim age profiling of overall crime follows a similar pattern to previous years. The most common age groups for victims in 2020/21 continues to be those aged 35-49 (27.4%), followed by the 25-34 (24.8%), 18-24 (15.5%) and 50-64 (15.5%) age groups.</p>
18.	<p>Around 8,017 individual suspects or offenders were identified from police systems for offences that occurred in Southampton during 2020/21. The majority (63.6%) of known offenders committed just one offence during the year. Despite most offenders committing just one crime in the year, individuals committing just one offence account for just 32.5% of crimes with a known suspect or offender. Therefore, those who commit multiple offences are responsible for most of the crime in the city; 7.1% of offenders committed 5 or more offences in 2020/21 yet were responsible for 30.2% of the crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. If crime levels are to reduce in the city, then the high reoffending rate needs to be addressed.</p> <p>The majority (70.6%) of offenders identified in 2020/21 were male, which is similar to the previous year (71.2% in 2019/20). The age profile for offenders identified in 2020/21 is similar to previous years, with those aged 25-34 years making up the largest group of offenders (28.6%), followed by the 35-49 (28.2%) and 18-24 (18.5%) age groups.</p> <p>Based on confirmed data from the Ministry of Justice, 29.7% of Adult offenders in Southampton reoffended (2018/19 cohort), which is higher (but not significantly) than the England and Wales average (27.4%) and the fourth highest amongst comparators. Southampton adult reoffenders will on average commit 4.5 reoffences, which is higher than the England and Wales average of 4 reoffences.</p>
19.	<p>Changes in data source and methodology will mean that it is not yet possible to examine long-term trends, but recent trends are comparable with previous years. Southampton experienced an overall increase in the adult reoffending rate between 2016/17 and 2017/18. However, the reoffending rate experienced a -3.0% percentage point decline between 2017/18 and 2018/19. This trend should be closely monitored by the partnership to see if decline over the last year is sustained once data is available and can be analysed.</p>

Significant Community Safety Issues - Violent Crime	
20.	<p>Southampton is ranked 21st among English CSPs for the rate of violent crime, which is an improvement compared to the previous year (rank 15 in 2019/20). However, despite this improvement Southampton remains among the worse 10% of CSPs nationally.</p> <p>Southampton experienced a -5.1% decrease in the number of violent crimes between 2019/20 and 2020/21 and is now ranked 21st among English CSPs for the rate of violent crime, which is an improvement compared to the previous year (rank 15 in 2019/20). However, despite this welcome improvement Southampton remains highest for violent crime among comparator Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's) among the worse 10% nationally.</p> <p>Two of the three main violent crime subgroups also experienced a decline in Southampton over the last year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violence with injury declined by 19.9%, • Violence without injury experienced a 6.5% decline.
21.	<p>A decline in violent crime is also observed nationally and across Hampshire Constabulary, with this decline attributed to a reduction in stranger violence and violence taking place in public spaces. This is evidenced locally, with a decline in victim/offender relationships being recorded as a 'stranger' between 2019/20 and 2020/21. Additionally, the number of violent crimes with a public place flag in Southampton declined by -25.3% over the last year. This decline illustrates the impact of lockdown and suppression of the night-time economy on the incidence of violent crime over the last year.</p>
22.	<p>35.5% of violent crime in Southampton during 2020/21 was flagged as domestic, which highlights how domestic violence continues to be a driver of violent crime in the city.</p> <p>Whilst it is positive to see the reductions in violent crime, there is unfortunately an expectation that violent crime will return to pre-pandemic levels in the city and across many parts of England and Wales, particularly as the night-time economy has reopened and there are more face-to-face interactions between people. As part of the work of the Partnership going forward our ambition has to be to try to stem the tide of violent crime in the City, recognising that many factors contribute to the challenges in the City.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Crimes Involving a Weapon, Violent crime	
23.	<p>There were 594 recorded crimes involving use of a bladed implement in 2020/21, a -8.0% decline compared to the previous year. Southampton accounted for 25% of knife enabled crime across Hampshire Constabulary in 2020/21. Despite the decline over the last year, Southampton continues to have the highest rate of crimes involving a bladed implement across Hampshire districts; significantly higher than all, but Portsmouth.</p>

24.	<p>Reducing violent crime in the city and making it safer remains the primary policing priority for the city. Victims and perpetrators of knife enabled crime continue to be skewed towards younger age groups, highlighting the importance of early intervention and the ongoing work of the Violence Reduction Unit.</p> <p>There were 73 firearms offences in Southampton during 2020/21, an increase of 18 crimes (32.7%) compared to the previous year. Despite the number of firearms offences being relatively small in Southampton, firearms can cause significant harm, particularly as firearms offences are often linked to organised crime.</p>
25.	<p>In 2010/21, there were 7,330 unique victims of violent crimes, with 24.2% of these individuals experiencing more than one violent crime in the year; suggesting repeat victimisation remains an issue for this crime type.</p> <p>Females (51.3%) accounted for a significantly higher proportion of violent crime victims than males (48.7%); this is different to previous assessments where males accounted for a greater proportion of violent crime victims. This change could be linked to the impact of coronavirus and lockdowns on changing patterns of violent crime over the last year. Notably there has been a reduction in stranger violence and violence occurring in public places, with victims and offenders of this type of violence skewed towards males.</p> <p>Similar to previous years, those aged under 25 continue to be most at risk of being a victim of violence, with over a third of violent crime victims aged under 25 in 2020/21; 17% of violent crime victims were aged under 18 and 17.1% aged 18-24 years.</p> <p>Findings from the 2021 community safety survey show that over half of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of serious violent crime did not report the incident. Common reasons for not reporting serious violent crime include reporting makes no difference and fear of negative consequences.</p> <p>There were 5,290 suspects and offenders of violent crime in 2020/21. Repeat offending remains an issue for violent crime offenders, with a third (33.1%) of offenders committing more than one violent crime in the year: accounting for 59.5% of violent crimes in the year.</p> <p>Males continue to make up the majority of violent crime offenders (67% in 2020/21). Age profiling of violent crime offenders is similar to previous years and to victims, with under 25s accounting for over a quarter of violent offenders.</p>
26.	<p>The Violence Reduction Unit is an initiative to prevent and reduce serious violence, particularly involving under 25s use of knives. Funded by the Home Office and coordinated through the OPCC, funding is currently agreed until March 2022 and is anticipated to continue for another full year although not yet confirmed. It commissions an annual serious violence problem profile and develops a response strategy based on the findings to tackle violence as part of a public health approach, driving forward plans around education, diversion, and intervention to prevent the escalation of risky behaviours. The service will</p>

	be integral to Southampton City Council fulfilling its duties under a new Serious Violence Duty that is expected to be implemented in 2022/23.
27.	The Violence Reduction Unit was remodelled as part of a Stronger Communities service redesign in 2020/21, and now forms part of the Community Cohesion Team which incorporates aligned priorities around Prevent, Hate Crime, Modern Slavery and also providing support to local stakeholders when tackling issues and providing support for problem-solving approaches to area-based incidents of youth violence or anti-social behaviour. A new Community Tasking and Coordination Officer has joined the team to support local tactical planning, location mapping and analysis of crime trends and local hotspot areas, to better support the deployment of resources, including VRU grant funded programmes such as detached youth work.
28.	The VRU has funded a number of schemes across the city, including Youth Workers based in Accident and Emergency departments; working with 18 to 24-year-olds supported by Probation (through the Hampton Trust) for violence related offending, and arts-based diversion schemes for young people. The VRU also works across a network of partners to drive violence reduction initiatives, including the Weapons Action Group, where police, schools, young people and charities are all represented. The VRU has coordinated funding bids and is sharing funds from partners to improve joint working. Proposals to expand the remit of the VRU to support improved tactical coordination, promote community cohesion and improve the city's response to contextual safeguarding will be developed in the Spring.
29.	The VRU has been successful in drawing down funding for the city from the Home Office, in partnership with the OPCC totalling £590,000, through programmes such as Safer Streets Fund 3 and the Safety of Women at Night Fund for activities and programmes to prevent and reduce Violence Against Women and Girls. This includes the development of respect for gender programmes for secondary schools and yr6 cohorts, improved lighting and CCTV for risk areas, as well as increased security and policing presence in the Night Time Economy through partnership working. The funding is for 21/22 only, but legacies will be created by the activities for future use.
Significant Community Safety Issues - Stalking and Harassment	
30.	Southampton is now the 3rd highest among comparators and although below the national average for the rate of stalking and harassment offences, there has still been a 22.3% increase in the number of stalking and harassment offences in Southampton between 2019/20 and 2020/21. Similarly, there has been an 18.8% increase across Hampshire Constabulary and 25.5% increase across England.
31.	There are several reasons why Southampton is still seeing increases in stalking and harassment offences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in counting rules for stalking and harassment offences in 2018 are likely still having an impact on the number of offences.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Office counting rules lend themselves to recording offences unless there is clear evidence to the contrary which has seen the number of offences increase as a result. • There has been training on stalking and harassment for officers across the force area. Therefore, more offences could be being picked up as a result of improved awareness and recognition. • Local evidence suggests that some crimes are being classified based on victim perception, with some crimes that may have previously been coded as anti-social behaviour now coded as stalking and harassment.
32.	It will be important for the SCP to monitor increases in stalking and harassment offences, as these offences can be a precursor for more serious offending in the future. Of particular concern is that 40% of stalking and harassment offences in 2020/21 were flagged as domestic; an increase (non-significant) on the 37.8% in 2019/20.
Significant Community Safety Issues - Domestic Abuse (Violence Against Women and Girls)	
33.	<p>There were 4,804 domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, a 2.6% increase compared to the previous year. Increases were also experienced nationally, with police recorded domestic flagged crime increasing by 6% across England and Wales over the last year. However, differences between local and national increases should be interpreted with caution as police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes do not provide the most reliable measure of domestic abuse-related crime, as it often remains hidden and underreported.</p> <p>The majority (82.3%) of domestic flagged crimes in Southampton during 2020/21 were violent crimes. Domestic rape continues to cause significant harm in the city, with rape accounting for 45.3% of the harm (severity) caused by domestic flagged crime yet amounts to only 3.2% of the number of domestic flagged offences in 2020/21. Domestic flagged crime accounted for 17% of all recorded crime in Southampton during 2020/21, a significantly higher proportion compared to 2019/20 (14.5%).</p>
34.	<p>Domestic violent crimes increased by 3.3% over the last year. Domestic abuse accounts for an increasing proportion of violent offences over time; almost a third (35.5%) of violent offences in 2020/21. The number of domestic violent crimes has increased for an eighth consecutive year.</p> <p>Domestic abuse not only has an impact on victims, but also close family and children in the household. Children experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse is a key Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), with children experiencing ACEs more likely to have poorer outcomes, particularly those relating to health, education and crime. The impact on children is illustrated by the fact that over half (54.3%) of Southampton High Risk Domestic Abuse Referrals (HRDA) in Southampton have children or young people in the household (April 2019 – March 2021). Additionally, 55% of s.17/s.47 social care assessments of children undertaken in 2019/20 had domestic violence recorded as an assessment factor.</p>

35.	<p>Domestic abuse is a citywide issue. However, rates of domestic flagged crime are highest in Bitterne (includes Thornhill), Redbridge and Woolston, with notable hotspots in these wards. These wards are also where some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in the city are located. Domestic flagged crime continues to have strong links to deprivation, with rates approximately 4.9 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived.</p>
36.	<p>There were 3,156 victims of domestic flagged crime identified in 2020/21. 27.4% of domestic crime victims experienced more than one crime in the year, with repeat victims accounting for 50.7% of domestic crimes. This highlights that repeat victimisation remains an issue for domestic flagged crime.</p> <p>Females (68.2%) continue to account for a significantly higher proportion of victims than males (31.8%). The most common age group for domestic crime victims in 2020/21 continues to be those aged 25-34 years (31.1%), followed by the 35-49 (29.7%) and 18-24 (18.6%) age groups. Approximately, 6% of victims were aged under 18.</p> <p>Findings from the most recent community safety survey showed that over half of respondents that witnessed or were a victim of domestic abuse did not report the incident. The most common reasons for not reporting domestic abuse include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (28%), • Fear of negative consequences (23%) • Unsure how to report it (20%)
37.	<p>There were 2,853 domestic flagged crime offenders identified in 2020/21, with 31.4% of offenders committing more than one domestic crime in the year – accounting for 55.6% of domestic crimes. It should be noted that reported incidents of domestic abuse usually follow many repeat and unreported incidents. This highlights the importance of tackling repeat offenders if we are to reduce rates of domestic related crime in the city.</p> <p>32% of domestic crime offenders also committed other offences in the year. Offenders committing multiple domestic crimes are more likely to commit other offences.</p> <p>Sex and age profiling of domestic crime offenders for 2020/21 is in line with previous years, with males (71.1%) continuing to account for a significantly higher proportion of offenders than females (28.9%). The most common age group for domestic crime offenders are still those aged 25-34 (33.9%), followed by 35-49 (32%) and 18-24 (17.5%) age groups.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Sexual Offences	
38.	<p>Southampton has the 3rd highest rate of sexual offences among comparator CSPs and is the 13th highest in England. However, there has been a -13.5% decline in the number of recorded sexual offences in Southampton over the last year. This is likely to be in part due to closures of the night-time economy and students living in the city returning home.</p>

	<p>There has similarly been a 12.9% decline in rapes and a decline of 13.9% in other sexual offences. Prior to the decline seen over the latest year, the number of sexual offences, particularly rape had increased in Southampton. It is thought that increases between 2018/19 and 2019/20 could have reflected a genuine increase. The pandemic, as indicated above, removed some of the opportunity for offending in public places, which may support a true reduction in this year, but there are also factors such as low confidence in reporting (as highlighted in feedback to the annual Community Safety Survey) to consider when evaluating changes in levels of sexual crime.</p> <p>There is growing evidence that the impact of the 'Me Too' movements and an increased awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls is impacting on an increase in reported offences of rape and sexual offences heading out of 20/21 into 21/22. (See above on funding secured to tackle these issues)</p>
39.	<p>There has also been a notable change in patterns of sexual offences over the last year across the force area, particularly rape, specifically an increase in domestic rapes*. There has been a decline in stranger and acquaintance rapes** These changes are also evidenced in Southampton where there has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 4.1% increase in the number of domestic rapes over the last year, • Domestic rape accounted for 38.2% of rape offences in 2020/21 compared with 32.7% in 2019/20, • Southampton has seen a decline in the number of stranger (-31.8%, - 14 offences) and acquaintance (-22.4%, -28 offences) rapes in the last year. <p>*Domestic rape describes rape offences that are flagged as domestic **Stranger and acquaintance rape based on the victim and offender relationship recorded</p>
40.	<p>Sub city patterns of sexual offences in Southampton also differ to previous years. In 2018/19 and 2019/20, Bargate ward had the highest rate of sexual offences; however, Bargate was 3rd highest in 2020/21. Bargate also experienced the 3rd largest decline in sexual offences (-27.3%) across Southampton wards over the last year. High rates of sexual offences in Bargate ward have previously been linked to the night-time economy and this is likely to remain the case.</p> <p>Changes in the volume and patterns of sexual offences in Southampton over the last year are likely driven by lockdown restrictions and suppression of the night-time economy, with these changes also experienced across the force area. Volumes and patterns of sexual offences are expected to return to the pre-pandemic baseline, especially with the night-time economy currently reopen. There may also be an increase in police recorded sexual offences through belated reports and rising focus on Violence Against Women and Girls, encouraging more women and girls to come forward and report these crimes when experienced. Therefore, post-pandemic trends will continue to be monitored closely.</p>
41.	767 victims of sexual offences were identified:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.6% of sexual offence victims experienced more than one offence within the year • 38.7% of sexual offence victims experienced other offences in the year. Suggesting victims are often vulnerable individuals • A majority of sexual offence victims in 2020/21 were female (86%) • Age profiles for victims identified in 2020/21 line with previous years, • Most common age groups for rape victims were still those aged 25- 34 (28.1%), under 18 (26.7%) and 18-24 (25.5%), • 56.2% of other sexual offence victims were aged under 18, significantly higher than all other age groups, likely attributable to increased awareness of the issue in schools. <p>Victim profiling continues to highlight that females aged under 25 are most at of being a victim of sexual offences, with those aged under 25 accounting for over half of rape victims and under 18’s accounting for over half of other sexual offence victims in 2020/21.</p> <p>Findings from the 2021 community safety survey show that over half of respondents who witnessed or were a victim of sexual assaults or Violence Against Women and Girls did not report the incident.</p> <p>Top reasons for not victims reporting violence against women and girls include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (40%) • Fear of negative consequences (17%). <p>The reasons commonly given for not reporting sexual assaults were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (42%), • A disappointing previous experience of reporting (21%), • It happens too often (21%), • Too much hassle/too difficult to do (21%) • Fear of negative consequences (19%)
42.	<p>There were 524 sexual offence offenders identified of whom 7.8% committed more than 1 crime in the year.</p> <p>42.7% of sexual offence offenders also committed other offence types in the year, with the most common being violence without injury, violence with injury and public order offences. Ages 35-49 is the most common age group for sexual offence offenders (25.8%), followed by 25-34 (25.6%) and those aged 18-24 (21%). 92.9% of sexual offence offenders were male.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco	
43.	<p>A new Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco strategy is under development under the auspices of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This new strategy will be implemented in 2022 and aims to unify work to tackle addiction risks by applying a public health approach to the problem and will align to the Governments new ten-year drugs strategy.</p>

44.	<p>Southampton is ranked 5th highest among comparator CSPs and is significantly higher than the England average for the rate of drug offences with 4.9 drug offences per 1K of population, compared to an England average of 3.3 offences per 1K population. A total of 1,242 drug offences were recorded in 2020/21 (includes possession and trafficking offences), a 33% increase (308 crimes) compared to the previous year; this compares with a 34% increase across Hampshire Constabulary and 11.1% increase across England. The number of drug-affected crimes (where drugs are flagged as a factor) also increased by 17% in Southampton over the last year.</p> <p>The number of drug offences recorded by the police is heavily dependent on police activities and priorities. Over the last two years, drug crime has had an operational focus in Southampton through Operation Fortress and coordinated interventions delivered by a High Harm Team. The coronavirus pandemic and serial lockdowns has also contributed to the increase in police recorded drug offences experienced over the last year as drug related crimes became more visible on the streets due to other people staying at home. The police's ability to be more proactive in their on-street activity was also a factor; their use of COVID powers to stop individuals who were potentially in breach of lockdown, also resulted in higher numbers of drug related offences being detected.</p> <p>There remains a strong link between drug offences and deprivation, with the offence rate 4.2 times higher in the most deprived neighbourhoods compared to the least deprived. Drug affected crime (where drugs are flagged as a factor) experienced a 17% increase from 849 crimes in 2019/20 to 993 crimes in 2020/21.</p>
45.	<p>There were 2,268 alcohol affected crimes in 2020/21, which is a -13.3% decline (347 crimes) compared to the previous year. This decline is largely driven by the suppression of the night-time economy.</p> <p>The majority of alcohol affected crimes in 2020/21 were violent crimes (71.1%).</p> <p>Despite a decline in the volume of offences over the last year, Bevois and Bargate wards continue to have the highest rate of alcohol affected crime, with rates in these wards significantly higher than the city average. Peak times for alcohol affected crimes continue to be late at night or during the early hours on weekends. It is expected that volumes of alcohol affected crime will return to pre-pandemic levels, particularly if the night-time economy remains unrestricted.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Crime involving children (as victims or perpetrator)	
46.	<p>Responsibility for tackling youth crime is the responsibility of Youth Justice Services, overseen by a Youth Justice Management Board (YJMB). A new Youth Justice Strategy for 2022 to 2027 will be published in 2022 that is supported by an overarching Children and Young People Strategy for 2022 to 2027, also due for publication in 2022.</p>
47.	<p>In 2020, Southampton had a juvenile First Time Entrant (FTE) rate of 32.7 per 10k children aged 10- 17. The city is highest among comparators and</p>

	<p>significantly higher than the national average (16.5 per 10k children). The Southampton FTE rate has remained significantly higher than the national average for the last 4 years. Although similar, to the national trend, the FTE rate in Southampton has experienced a sustained decline since 2012.</p> <p>Southampton's trend has remained relatively stable in recent years. There is recognition within the Youth Justice Management Board, as well as Hampshire Constabulary, which is adopting a child centred approach to policing, that more can be done to tackle this issue. Key areas of focus being on the development of prevention and diversion models of work that will reduce the number of young people who enter into the Criminal Justice System, supported by changes to how Hampshire Constabulary record diversionary actions.</p>
48.	<p>The percentage of youth offenders who reoffend in Southampton is 50.3% (2018/19 cohort), which is significantly higher than the England and Wales average (37.8%). Southampton has a lower-than-average number of reoffences per youth reoffender at 3.6 reoffences (compared to 3.9 for England and Wales). Like adult reoffending statistics, method and data changes mean analysis of long-term trends is not possible.</p> <p>There was a decline in the youth reoffending rate between 2016/17 and 2017/18, but over the last year there has been a 11.9% percentage point increase in the youth offending rate from 38.4% in 2017/18 to 50.3% in 2018/19. However, it is important to note that this increase is not statistically significant due to the small cohort of offenders (175 offenders and 88 reoffenders in 2018/19).</p>
49.	<p>The Youth offending service (YOS) continues to monitor a Live Time Re-offending tracker which highlights the children whom we need to be focussing on, on a monthly basis. Discussions are held in appropriate forums when children are identified. Whilst re-offending continues to be a concern, the more pressing issues locally continue to be the increased complexity with which children who offend present with, as well as the associated risks from exploitation and/or serious youth violence, compounded by a prolonged period of the pandemic that has impacted children and young people adversely.</p> <p>The YOS is aligned to the objectives of the Violence Reduction Unit, and activity to develop a new Young Person's Service has begun as part of Children's Services Destination 22 programme, aligning the YOS, Missing Exploited and Trafficked Team (MET) and the Behavioural Resource Service.</p>
50.	<p>The YOS retains a duty to support all victims of youth crime. This is delivered through a range of restorative interventions to those victims who consent to support, who are also able to indicate remedies that should be undertaken by the young person to repair the harm caused by their offending.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Cruelty to Children	
51.	<p>Southampton is ranked second highest among comparators for the rate of cruelty to children, offences. There were 197 cruelty to children offences</p>

	<p>recorded in 2020/21, a -8.4% (-18 crimes) decline compared to the previous year, with Hampshire experiencing a -2.6% decline during the same period.</p> <p>It is difficult to assess whether the decline experienced across Southampton and Hampshire Constabulary over the last year reflects a genuine decline due to repeated periods of lockdown and children spending more time at home, which will have made it more difficult for abuse to be identified. It is thought that volumes will return to pre-pandemic levels and potentially higher through belated reports, as children regain access to their trusted adults through school and other support systems.</p>
Significant Community Safety Issues - Residential burglary	
52.	<p>There has been a -15.6% reduction in residential burglary offences in 2020/21. There have been similar declines across Hampshire Constabulary (-24%) and England (-28.7%) during the same period.</p> <p>The decline over the last year is likely to reflect a genuine decline in residential burglaries, as residential burglary alongside other theft offences are less likely to be impacted by recording improvements, as they are relatively well reported to and recorded by the police.</p> <p>Declines in residential burglary and other theft offences over the last year have largely been attributed to the coronavirus pandemic, as more people stayed at home and limited their social contact. As a result, this has limited the opportunity for acquisitive crimes.</p>
53.	<p>However, despite the decline, Southampton has the highest rate for residential burglary among comparator CSPs and has significantly higher rates than all other HIOW LA's.</p> <p>There is some suggestion that residential burglary may not return to pre-pandemic volumes or patterns for some time or at all due to long-term shifts towards home working. Long-term changes in the volume and patterns of residential burglary could lead to crime displacement, particularly as residential burglary offenders are known to commit a wide range of crimes. Of all offences committed by known residential burglary offenders in 2020/21 less than a quarter (23.6%) were residential burglary offences.</p>
Community Cohesion, Modern Slavery, Prevent and Hate Crime	
54.	<p>The Stronger Communities team has been coordinating improvements to our local response to ensure that matters relating to hate crime, modern day slavery and Prevent (radicalisation) are strengthened, better communicated and benefit from strategic oversight. This has included the reset of the Prevent Board, during 2020, which in 2019 only met as a working group, with community partners once again invited to join the board to ensure that vulnerable communities voices are represented.</p>
55.	<p>A new Modern-Day Slavery Working-Group has been implemented to ensure that local partners have an awareness of this complex issue. The working group reports locally into the Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board and to</p>

	the Hampshire Modern Slavery Partnership. A new online training module has been developed by the OPCC and work is underway to support this being cascaded to all staff in frontline professional roles.
56.	Race continues to be the largest motivating factor of hate crime, followed by sexual orientation and disability in Southampton during 2020/21. There was an 19.4% increase (+155) in hate crimes in Southampton during 2020/21, higher than the 9% increase across England and Wales, in part attributable to the positive impact of the city's Third-Party Reporting Centres and ease of use of a Hate Crime Reporting App, both facilitated by Spectrum: The Centre for Independent living, working together cross sectors with the Hate Crime Network. The service has been funded by Southampton City Council for the period 2020 to 2022 and will be tendered for contract for a start in April 2022. Increases in police recorded hate crime in recent years have been driven by improvements in crime recording, better identification of what constitutes a hate crime and an increase in victims reporting crimes.
57.	A new Community Cohesion Forum has met five times in 2021 and has been an opportunity for community leaders, council officers and other agencies to come together to discuss and respond to issues of concern experienced by more diverse or marginalised communities. A new Community Cohesion and Diversity Officer, located within the Stronger Communities team is now able to provide additional capacity to nurture and support these networks, gain insight and broaden agencies awareness of community level issues.
58.	A revised Prevent Action Plan has been developed that includes a refresh of the Counter Terrorism Police Local Plan which sets out the situational risks for the city, which continue to be low. An increase in reported right wing extremism matches a national trend. This coincides with a renewed referral pathway introduced in January 2021 and the introduction of Police Led Panels to case manage and risk assess individuals suspected of radicalism who do not consent to engage with the Prevent Channel process. The new 'Contain' duty will confer a duty on to public agencies to manage buildings safely in light of the Manchester Arena bombings. This duty will likely be managed through Emergency Planning processes in liaison with the Board. A new, Hampshire wide training plan has been developed to support professional learning and promote awareness of Prevent across public services. Prevent awareness training has also been scheduled for all Members.
59.	To give victims of hate crime the confidence to report incidents, and ensure this crime data is monitored, the Police employ a cohesion officer who engages with communities who are most likely to endure hate crime, especially around race and religion and they feed into the daily management meeting.
Residents Views – The Annual Southampton Community Safety Survey	
60.	Regulations state that strategic assessments must take into account views of people living and working in the city. The annual Southampton Community Safety Survey ran from 27 August 2021 to 27 September 2021. The total number of valid responses for the survey was 2,551 which was the highest number ever. The survey was promoted through the Stronger Communities

	<p>team and the Southampton People’s Panel. The survey was predominately online, but face to face surveys were also conducted. Due to the self-selecting nature of an online survey, participants may have more interest in community safety issues than the general population, and possibly different views.</p> <p>The results presented are based on unweighted data to enable comparisons with previous years. Due to methodological differences between surveys, any differences should be interpreted with some caution. It should also be emphasised that this survey was conducted between August and September 2021 and published police recorded crime data covers the period of April 2020 to March 2021. It is therefore important to highlight the 2021 survey took place several months after covid restrictions had been eased across the UK and it is likely that the recent changes to people’s lives, may have affected people’s views on community safety especially in the wake of serial lockdowns during 2020 and 2021.</p>
61.	<p>In the most recent survey (2021), 1 in 4 (26%) respondents agreed that the police and other local public services are successfully dealing with crime and anti-social behaviour. It is important to note that public perception towards how police and other public services are dealing with crime and ASB can be influenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High profile national events, particularly those recently around Violence Against Women and Girls, • COVID pandemic and serial lockdowns making certain crime types more visible, • Social media – particularly the digital presence of police, council and other public services <p>Detailed demographic and geographic breakdowns also highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds were significantly more likely to agree that police and other public services are successfully dealing with crime and ASB, than those from a white ethnic background, • Under 16’s agreed to the greatest extent (52%), which is significantly higher than all other age groups, • Respondents who are resident in Millbrook disagreed to the greatest extent (69%), followed by Redbridge (61%), Bargate and Freemantle (58%).
62.	<p>In the most recent survey (2021), 48% of respondents felt crime levels in their local area had increased in the last 12 months, whilst 44% felt crime levels had stayed the same. The proportion of respondents feeling that crime had increased in the most recent survey (48%) is similar to the 2020 survey (47%). However, this remains lower than the 55% in the 2019 survey but should be understood in the context of serial lockdowns during 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>A significantly higher proportion of females (50%) felt crime had increased compared to males (43%). Those from white ethnic backgrounds were significantly more likely to feel that crime had increased compared to</p>

	<p>respondents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Those aged under 16 (28%) felt crime had increased to a lesser extent compared to all other age groups. Respondents who live in Millbrook felt crime had increased the most (73%), compared to Bitterne Park, where only 34% felt crime had increased.</p>
63.	<p>Most respondents felt safe during the day, both in their local area (84%) and in the city centre (77%). Feelings of safety after dark continue to be lower, both in local areas (41%) and the city centre (27%). Feelings of safety in the 2021 survey are lower in all settings compared to the 2020 survey, although they are similar to the 2019 survey. Increased feelings of safety in the 2020 survey may have been influenced by the pandemic, with a more visible police presence and less people on the streets. Therefore, we may be seeing a return to pre-pandemic feelings of safety (2019 survey).</p> <p>Females feel significantly more unsafe than males after dark, in both local areas and the city centre. Younger working age adults (16-29 and 30-39) also feel less safe after dark compared to the survey average.</p>
64.	<p>Of the 1,739 responses to the question on ‘what would make respondents feel safer in Southampton’, the largest response is around a greater police presence, with over half (52%, 903 respondents) stating that this would make them feel safer. Other common responses included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deal and respond effectively to reports / more consequences, • Better lighting across the city, • CCTV / security cameras.
65.	<p>The biggest Community Safety issues identified by the public in the 2021 survey were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People using or dealing drugs, burglary/robbery/theft, vandalism/graffiti and anti-social behaviour, <p>It should be noted that respondent’s perception of issues is likely influenced by the visibility of crime e.g. vandalism/graffiti, the media and their own personal experiences.</p> <p>Perceptions around domestic abuse, serious violent crime and hate crime have seen percentage point increases in respondents reporting these categories to be an issue between the 2020 and 2021 surveys. This may indicate a rising awareness and a growing understanding of these issues in the city, which may chime with the public debate on these issues.</p>
66.	<p>The majority (71%) of respondents in the 2021 survey had not been a victim of crime or ASB in the last 12 months. The proportion of respondents reporting being a victim of crime or ASB in the most recent survey (29% in 2021) is slightly higher than the 26% in the 2020 survey but remains below the 35% reported being a victim in the 2019 survey. Respondents aged under 16 were the least likely to be a victim of crime or ASB, with only 13% reporting being a victim.</p>

67.	The survey indicated that of those who responded, residents in Millbrook (51%) and Bargate (49%) wards were most likely to be a victim of crime or ASB; compared with Harefield (11%), Bitterne Park (18%) and Sholing (20%) where respondents were least likely to be a victim.
68.	<p>Begging in the streets, ASB, vandalism/graffiti and people using or dealing drugs were the most common crime types witnessed or experienced by respondents. This is in line with police recorded crime, with higher volume but lower harm offences most common (e.g., vandalism/graffiti and ASB). These offences are some of the most visible.</p> <p>Low volume but high harm offences were less commonly witnessed or experienced by respondents (sexual assault and serious violent crime). It is important to note that the survey is self-selecting, and certain offence types are more 'hidden' than others e.g., domestic abuse compared with vandalism/graffiti.</p>
69.	<p>When witnessing or being a victim of these crimes, over half of respondents in the annual Community Safety Survey told us they did not report the following offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual assaults (53%), • serious violent crime (53%), • domestic abuse (55%), • violence against women and girls (59%). <p>This is an indication that under-reporting remains a challenge for the partnership regards the most serious, high harm offences.</p>
70.	<p>The annual Community Safety Survey 2021 highlights the most common reasons for not reporting serious violent crime include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reporting makes no difference (42%), • fear of negative consequences (20%), <p>The most common reasons for not reporting domestic abuse were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (28%), • Fear of negative consequences (23%) • Unsure how to report it (20%) <p>The Safe City Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board recognises that any level of underreporting would lead to rates of domestic abuse experienced in the city being higher than those reported.</p> <p>The annual Community Safety Survey also highlights that the biggest reasons for victims not reporting violence against women and girls include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (40%) • Fear of negative consequences (17%). <p>The reasons commonly given for not reporting sexual assaults were:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting makes no difference (42%), • A disappointing previous experience of reporting (21%), • It happens too often (21%), • Too much hassle/too difficult to do (21%) • Fear of negative consequences (19%) <p>This would suggest there is more to do to increase confidence in reporting to the criminal justice system in some of the areas of most significant risk.</p>
Wider Determinants of Crime and summary position	
71.	<p>Young people are also disproportionately more likely to become involved in crime, either as a victim or offender. In the coming years the make-up of the population of the city is predicted to change as follows, and therefore the current plans in place to develop a new Adolescent Service (SCC); support prevention and diversionary activity (Youth Offending Services and the Violence Reduction Unit) and strategic ambition towards Child Centred Policing (Hampshire Constabulary) and becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly City (SCC) will all support addressing these risks going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0-18 population forecast to grow by 4.3% in Southampton by 2027, • 10–14-year-old population will increase by 6.3% • 15-19 population will increase by 14.7%.
72.	<p>Children who live in poverty are at greater risk of becoming involved in crime, either as victim or perpetrator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,286 (22%) of children in Southampton are living in relative low-income families, • 10,018 (30.4%) of Southampton pupils in state funded schools are known to be eligible for free school meals, significantly higher than the England average of 20.8% in 2021, • The proportion of children eligible for free school meals in Southampton increased from 24.7% in 2019/20 to 30.4% in 2020/21. • Analysis of the data we have of those we work with in our youth offending service are that many young people have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and there is a concerted effort across the whole partnership to enable ACE training amongst professionals to increase awareness.
73.	<p>Over the last 18months, coronavirus, whilst not a ‘wider determinant’ has significantly impacted volumes of police recorded crime, both locally and nationally. Total recorded crime declined by 11.4% in Southampton over the last year. However, despite this decline Southampton has the highest rate and severity of total recorded crime among comparator CSPs. Volumes of recorded crime for many crime types are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels. There may also be increases in some crime types through belated reporting and increased awareness e.g., violence against women and girls.</p>
74.	<p>Despite changes in the volume and patterns of many crime types over the last year, the following areas remain a priority: violent crime, sexual offences, and</p>

	domestic crimes. Residential burglary again features as priority, after not scoring as prominently in the previous assessment, but this is likely due to changes in the volume of other crime types. Repeat offending remains an issue in Southampton, with 7.1% of offenders who committed 5 or more offences being responsible for 30.2% of the crimes where there was a known suspect or offender. Tackling repeat offending is key to reducing overall levels of crime in the city.
75.	Respondents of the most recent community safety survey continue to feel less safe after dark in both their local area and city centre. Females were also significantly more likely to feel unsafe after dark compared to males. Younger working age adults (16-29 and 30-39) feel less safe after dark compared to the survey average. When asked what would make people feel safer, the most common responses were: greater police presence, to deal and respond effectively to reports/more consequences, better lighting, addressing drug/alcohol problems and CCTV/security cameras. It is important that the partnership examines the wider determinants of crime, as if these worsen, the city may see subsequent increases in crime across the city.
Governance structures	
76.	Responsibility for the coordination of the Safe City Partnership (SCP) moved from the Policy Team to the new Stronger Communities Team in 2020 and continues. This includes oversight of a range of connected strategic groups, including the Southampton Prevent Strategic Partnership Board, the new Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership Board, Modern Slavery Working Group and Violence Reduction Group. This change has enabled fresh impetus to be applied to the operational activity supported by these meetings, whilst ensuring that strategic leads have confidence that key issues and actions are being taken within a strengthened set of governance arrangements. Updated terms of reference for the SCP, including a refreshed Information Sharing Agreement, were accepted by the SCP's members in the spring of 2020 for review in 2022.
Safe City Partnership Strategy - Next Steps	
77.	The three-year Safe City Strategy was initially due to be reviewed by April 2020. However, in early 2020 the council and its partners had to turn focus away from reviewing the strategy and address challenges brought on by Covid-19, to ensure business continuity and efficient delivery of critical services.
78.	A number of connected strategies are also due for renewal in this period, along with a necessity for the Safe City Partnership to assist SCC and partners apply new statutory and legislative duties arising from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the forthcoming Serious Violence Duty. An extended period of review is allowing the partnership to assess the impact of COVID on local operational and strategic activity in the city, whilst enabling partners to assess and apply those new duties, accounting for the priorities that have been identified both by the Strategic Assessment and the public's feedback.

79.	The current timeline for the approval of the Safe City Strategy is to review feedback to the consultation in the coming weeks, with approval being undertaken in February and March 2022.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
80.	The Safe City Partnership currently has no dedicated budget of its own with all costs associated with assessment, communications and campaigns borne by SCC alone. This includes the annual production of a Strategic Assessment, Community Safety Survey and analysis of the same.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
81.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
82.	The Police and Justice Act 2006 empowers overview and scrutiny committees to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and the partners who comprise it, insofar as their activities relate to the partnership, at least once a year.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
83.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
84.	Risk to be reflected in the revised Safe City Strategy.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
85.	These will be defined as the work progresses.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None

Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out?	No

Other Background Documents		
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.	Safe City Strategic Assessment:	<p>https://data.southampton.gov.uk/community-safety/safe-city-assessment/</p> <p>Report: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/Images/Safe-City-Strategic-Assessment-Report-2020-21_tcm71-450628.pdf</p> <p>Slideset: https://data.southampton.gov.uk/Images/Safe-City-Strategic-Assessment-summary-slideset-2020-21_tcm71-450629.pdf</p>

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	FORWARD PLAN		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 JANUARY 2022		
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Deputy Chief Executive	
	Name:	Mike Harris	Tel: 023 8083 2882
	E-mail	Mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk	
Author:	Title	Scrutiny Manager	
	Name:	Mark Pirnie	Tel: 023 8083 3886
	E-mail	Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk	
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
<p>Information attached to Appendix 2 contains information deemed to be exempt from general publication based on Category 3 (financial and business affairs) of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules. In applying the public interest test this information has been deemed exempt from publication due to confidential sensitivity. It is not considered to be in the public interest to disclose this information. It would prejudice the Council's ability to operate in a commercial environment.</p>			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive to ensure that forthcoming decisions made by the Executive benefit local residents.</p>			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee discuss the items listed in paragraph 3 of the report to highlight any matters which Members feel should be taken into account by the Executive when reaching a decision.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable Members to identify any matters which they feel Cabinet should take into account when reaching a decision.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	The Council's Forward Plan for Executive Decisions from 17 January 2022 has been published. The following issues were identified for discussion with the Decision Maker:		

	Portfolio	Decision	Requested By
	Communities, Culture & Heritage	10 Year Cultural Strategy	Cllr Fielker
	Communities, Culture & Heritage	Starboard Way, Lordshill, New Build Tenure Mix	Cllr Fielker
4.	Briefing papers responding to the items identified by members of the Committee are appended to this report. Members are invited to use the papers to explore the issues with the decision maker.		
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS			
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>			
5.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.		
<u>Property/Other</u>			
6.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.		
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS			
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>			
7.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.		
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>			
8.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.		
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS			
9.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.		
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS			
10.	The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken.		
KEY DECISION		No	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None directly as a result of this report	
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>			
Appendices			
1.	Briefing Paper - 10 Year Cultural Strategy		
2.	Briefing Paper - Starboard Way, Lordshill, New Build Tenure Mix		
Documents In Members' Rooms			
1.	None		
Equality Impact Assessment			

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?		Identified in Executive report
Data Protection Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?		Identified in Executive report
Other Background Documents		
Equality 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.	None	

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: SOUTHAMPTON CULTURAL STRATEGY 2021-2031
DATE: 13 JANUARY 2022
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. Southampton has developed a 10-year Cultural Strategy (Annex 1). This builds on work undertaken in the city over a number of years, the extensive consultation undertaken as part of Southampton's UK City of Culture bid in 2020/21 and the public consultation on this document which ran from 13 September to 31 October 2021.
2. This Cultural Strategy is about our city, our place, our future and how we navigate our place in the world together. It describes the strategic context for this document, where we are now in terms of the cultural infrastructure and baseline, where we want to be in terms of the vision, principles and priorities and highlights future investment opportunities.
3. It builds on the city's cultural infrastructure, resources, capabilities, as well as the needs and opportunities that exist in the city and wider region. It centres on culture as the glue that connects people and place, and recognises the important role it plays in our economic recovery, regeneration and destination creation. It supports our UK City of Culture 2025 bid in which Southampton has been longlisted from 20 to 8 competing cities.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

4. Adopting a 10-year Cultural Strategy is recommended as it:
 - Demonstrates a strategic commitment to culture and is a local authority requirement
 - Provides the framework within which to attract more internal and external investment
 - Sets out the stall and direction for a place
 - Seeks to address issues of sustainability, access, diversity and inclusion
 - Helps to focus on local distinctiveness and attractiveness
 - Culture is embedded in contributing to social, economic and environmental outcomes.
5. Southampton has a small but well-established sector that means it has a strong base from which to re-build following the pandemic. It is not an ephemeral investment opportunity for internal and external funders and the city and cultural organisations and individuals have been successful in attracting funding from a range of sources including

BRIEFING PAPER

Arts Council England which saw a 13% uplift in the last National Portfolio Organisation round in 2018 and significant investment in the Studio 144 complex in previous years.

6. Pre-pandemic Southampton generated £27m GVA (excluding publishing) representing 0.4% of total economic output (compared to Bradford (1.4%), Coventry (0.4%), South East (1.6%), South West (1.2%)). This means there is room for growth, particularly when aligned to Southampton's Economic Growth Strategy and Destination Management Plan 2021-2031 which focus on growing our cultural and creative industries and developing a high-quality cultural destination for residents and visitors. It also reflects the LEP's strategic plans.
7. Meanwhile, for 'Libraries, Archives, Museums and Other Cultural Activities' in Southampton on a per capita basis (£19 GVA), it is behind England (£59), the South East (£47), South West (£43) and comparator cities of Medway (£67) and Hull (£23). Similarly, heritage is comparatively underfunded and utilised compared to other cities.
8. An adopted Cultural Strategy is a vital part of the UK City of Culture 2025 bidding process, particularly pertinent now that Southampton has been longlisted from 20 to 8 competing cities. It supports the step changes that Southampton is seeking to deliver as result of UK City of Culture, particularly around national and international ambitions and alignment to other strategies.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

9. Aligned to our UK City of Culture ambitions, the draft Cultural Strategy and the adopted Destination Management Plan identified a number of capital and revenue projects that will require investment in Southampton's development as a cultural destination. It is also anticipated a scaling up of the resources within a range of Council departments, including Cultural Services will be required to address a number of these areas, particularly around collections, heritage, public art, public access and engagement. These are not yet fully developed and costed and will be the part of the action plan to take this forward.
10. There are property implications for the development of some of the schemes outlined, including the National Spitfire Monument. There are additional implications with regard to the impact of climate change and the need to integrate adaptability, sustainability and resilience into future schemes.
11. Section 1, Localism Act 2011 provides a 'general power of competence', giving local authorities the legal capacity to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited.

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

12. Not adopting the Cultural Strategy – this option is not recommended given the strategic importance it provides to growing the sector and the economic, social and environmental benefits it will bring for our residents and communities. It will also

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compromise the credibility of our UK City of Culture ambitions as well as our commitment to continue to invest in Culture as part of the city's recovery plans including around the skills, educational and employment agendas.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

13. The risk of not adopting the Cultural Strategy impacts on the UK City of Culture bid, identifying priorities and attracting future investment, raising the ambitions, profile and perceptions for Southampton and its economic and social recovery. Adopting the strategy provides a focus and direction of travel around which the whole city can galvanise and focus on growing the cultural and creative sector and its contribution to economic, social and environmental outcomes.
14. The risk of limited stakeholder support and engagement with the Cultural Strategy is reduced by the scale of prior and subsequent consultation to shape the strategy. Whilst the strategy is 'owned' by the Council, it is a living document steered through city-wide partnerships and will be reviewed annually to monitor progress and align to wider strategies. Areas for improvement include the voices of young people, people from a range of backgrounds including ethnicity, disability, socio-economic background and geographical areas.
15. The risk of insufficient resource and capability impacts on the city's ability on deliver on this Cultural Strategy, UK City of Culture preparedness as well as other city-wide strategies. These need to be mitigated through the process of business planning, prioritisation, skills and talent development and exploring internal and external funding opportunities.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

Annex 1 – Draft Southampton Cultural Strategy 2021-2031

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Mary D'Arcy / Carolyn Abel
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SOUTHAMPTON TOGETHER
SOUTHAMPTON'S CULTURAL STRATEGY 2021-2031

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Foreword

[To be added following Cabinet Approval]

Executive Summary

This 10-year Cultural Strategy is about our communities, our city, our past, our future and how we sustainably navigate our place in the world together. It aims to embrace our history, our multiple identities, our differences and common ground whilst also striving for high quality work and national and international cultural collaborations.

Southampton is culturally diverse with a long history of welcoming people to the city and linking the south of England to the world. It is geographically defined by its position at the head of the Solent's tidal waters, which created its role as a seaport now hosting the second largest port in the UK, further enhanced by its Freeport status.

Southampton has a distinctive story to share. From its unique natural environment, physical and human heritage, powerful migration experiences, contributions to two world wars and post-war reconstruction, to the many historic and contemporary innovations that started here and impacted on the world.

With decades of sustained cross-party political support for culture, this strategy seeks to build on the role of culture in the city, place partnerships and the regional, national and international ambitions of our UK City of Culture 2025 bid.

Public access to the waterfront (the ocean and two rivers) is currently limited, whilst the impact of climate change on the city and its communities, compounding the deep social and economic inequalities that exist across the generations is recognised. It is a city where air quality, health, wellbeing, educational attainment, skills and low-quality jobs lead to reduced life expectancy and geographical and social divides. This in turn has affected Southampton's identity, confidence and pride; its ability to recognise its own strengths, imagine a different future, and support each other in getting there.

Our vision is that by 2031:

Through culture, Southampton is an inclusive city that collaborates and connects at home and on the national and international stage to ignite imaginations, innovation, pride and a sense of belonging across the whole city

Southampton's definition of culture is broad and values 'everyday creativity' as a vital part of shaping a dynamic and inclusive city. It supports the idea that we can all be creative in our lives whilst enabling those seeking to pursue professional cultural and creative careers. Happening in our cultural and creative industries, places of worship, estates, communities, green and outside spaces; in our sports arenas, clubs, societies, homes and around food; in the virtual and digital world, it enables us all to be artists, creators, historians and sports people wherever, and whoever we are.

Our vision is based on four principles that guide how we intend to deliver our Cultural Strategy – these are described more fully in section 5.0 (pp.17-18):

1. Reflect and Embolden
2. Resonate and Inspire

3. Regenerate and Embed
4. Resilient and Co-creative

And five step changes this Cultural Strategy seeks to deliver – these are described more fully in section 5.0 (pp.18-19):

1. A Culture of going *to* not *through*
2. A Culture of Creativity and Innovation
3. A Culture of Opportunity and Inclusivity
4. A Culture of Health and Wellbeing
5. A Culture of Environmental Sustainability

We have also identified initial investment opportunities that align to Southampton's strategic ambitions to contribute locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – these are summarised in section 6.0 (pp.20-21).

This Cultural Strategy is closely aligned with Southampton's bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025. It draws upon the extensive consultation and the collaborative work that the city and partners have been undertaking to build a cohesive bid and this strategy.

It is a living document that will be reviewed annually to monitor progress and alignment with wider strategies whilst also giving space to the process of testing, learning and growing together as a city. The next steps are to develop an annual action plan that delivers benefits for our communities, partners and stakeholders.

1.0 About our Cultural Strategy

1.1 Introduction

This 10-year strategy is about our communities, our city, our past, our future and how we sustainably navigate our place in the world together. It aims to embrace our history, our multiple identities, our differences and common ground whilst also striving for high quality work and national and international cultural collaborations.

Southampton is culturally diverse with a long history of welcoming people to the city and linking the south of England to the world. It is geographically defined by its position at the head of the Solent's tidal waters, which created its role as a seaport now hosting one of the UK's largest export ports with over £40bn trade passing through it, further enhanced by its Freeport status.

Southampton has a distinctive story to share. From its unique natural environment, physical and human heritage, powerful migration narratives, contributions to two world wars and post-war reconstruction, to the many historic and contemporary innovations that started here and impacted on the world.

With decades of sustained cross-party political support for culture, this strategy seeks to build on the role of culture in the city, place partnerships and the regional, national and international ambitions of our UK City of Culture 2025 bid.

Public access to the waterfront (the ocean and two rivers) is currently limited, whilst the impact of climate change on the city and its communities, compounding the deep social and economic inequalities that exist across the generations is recognised. It is a city where air quality, health, wellbeing, educational attainment, skills and low-quality jobs lead to reduced life expectancy and geographical and social divides. This in turn has affected Southampton's identity, confidence and pride; its ability to recognise its own strengths, imagine a different future, and support each other in getting there.

Yet the evidence indicates that culture can provide the glue that connects individuals, communities and business to build a strong sense of belonging, pride and togetherness. Culture can also play a role in Southampton's wider economic recovery, environmental action and place-shaping agendas that draws on artists, creatives, heritage, events, sport and communities to create a thriving cultural city. Culture is aligned and embedded in our local, regional, national and international strategies and aspirations.

1.2 Methodology

Against the COVID-19 backdrop, an astonishing series of city-wide conversations have taken place about the importance and value of culture to people's lives, and what winning UK City of Culture could mean for Southampton.

A Joint Cultural Needs Assessment, led by the University of Southampton in partnership with Solent University, has provided the evidence base for the Cultural Strategy. It has drawn on the Council's extensive social and economic data; information collected for other

strategies; collation of data on the cultural sector including children and young people, and further research by both Universities.

This has been added to by extensive consultation across the city, including seldom-heard voices, working with the city's key community, voluntary, cultural and statutory organisations. This work has comprised:

- 149 hours of consultation with over 1000 people in virtual workshops
- 16 cross-sector working groups
- Residents and councillors in each of 16 electoral wards
- Organisations representing young people and minority communities
- 3053 responses to city-wide surveys and 640 to the draft strategy

It has generated a baseline upon which to shape our theory of change approach. The experience of consultation has in and of itself gone a long way to building new relationships and collaborations with communities whose voices are vital to our shared mission to create stronger communities.

Together, Southampton is harnessing the regenerative role of culture in addressing our city's needs and challenges, enabling us to reach our collective potential as a flourishing and sustainable city for current and future generations.

2.0 Strategic Context

2.1 Background

Southampton is geographically dispersed and culturally diverse – a city of many villages, that make up the sum of its parts.

Significantly, Southampton's anchor institutions have played a critical role in recognising, and responding to, the value and impact of culture in our city. So too have our communities, creatives, businesses and volunteers – taking the lead where they have seen gaps and opportunities.

Southampton has attracted and invested resources in its cultural infrastructure as part of the regeneration of the city. This includes the Cultural Quarter with a revitalised public realm and arts centre hosting an internationally recognised contemporary art gallery, theatre, film and studio complex. This sits alongside investment in SeaCity Museum, Tudor House and Gardens, God's House Tower, the Mayflower Theatre and sustained support for cultural provision across the city.

The underpinning commitment to culture has survived despite economic recessions, austerity measures, administration changes and a global pandemic, though resources may have been constrained and depleted. Collaborating through the Southampton2025 Trust, Southampton continues to reshape and reimagine a future with culture at its heart.

The deepening collaboration between artists, communities, cultural organisations, business, education, public and third sector is part of Southampton's enduring strength. This is backed by growing community support, willing investment from big and small businesses, both universities and the local authority to become UK City of Culture in 2025.

During the pandemic the cultural and creative sector alongside associated businesses in the visitor economy, events industry and night-time economy have dealt with closure, income depletion, furloughed staff and loss of talent from the sector. However, the sector pivoted with ingenuity to respond to the health and wellbeing needs of Southampton's communities and collaborated with partners to deliver new activities that will support adaptation to future changes and needs.

However, a constant refrain and frustration is that Southampton lacks confidence, profile and pride. Furthermore, understanding of its complex social and economic needs is widely misunderstood and Southampton is often lumped together with leafy Hampshire and overshadowed by Britain's second largest port.

Like Coventry and Rotterdam, Southampton was devastated by Second World War bombings as a city of strategic significance, originator of the Spitfire and embarkation point for soldiers and D-Day initiatives. In response, the city took a pragmatic approach to rebuilding meaning that it is architecturally eclectic, and its nationally important heritage is largely hidden and underappreciated.

More recently, Southampton's Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2030 embeds the cultural and creative industries and the associated visitor economy within the strategic aspirations for the city. These centre on four interrelated interventions including:

- People, Employment and Skills
- Supporting and Growing Local Businesses
- Growth through Sustainable Place-shaping
- Growing an International City

In this respect, the sector is recognised for the value and potential it brings in creating growth and jobs and the catalytic impact it can have on the city. It is important in helping to raise the profile of the city on the international stage, particularly through the UK City of Culture 2025 bid, and the reach it can have through the visitor economy and other businesses in the city.

A detailed action plan is being developed as part of the Economic Growth Strategy, with many of the interventions likely to benefit the cultural and creative sector as well as the wider economy. Examples include: evaluating the business support environment; considerations around creative zones; developing skills and development opportunities for people working within or aspiring to work in the cultural and creative sector; providing a quality urban environment and transport infrastructure for residents and visitors. This sits alongside responses to the deep social inequalities that impact on people's prosperity, opportunities and wellbeing that cannot be addressed by these actions in isolation.

2.2 Policy Framework

It is within this context that this Cultural Strategy dovetails with and draws upon the wider policy framework which includes:

- Arts Council England's Let's Create Strategy and investment principles
- National Lottery Heritage Fund's Strategic Funding Framework 2019-2024
- Cultural Cities Enquiry 2019 and Cultural Cities Recovery Report 2020
- Government's Environment Bill 2021
- Solent Local Enterprise Partnership 2050 Vision and Recovery Plan
- Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025
- Council's Economic Growth Strategy 2020-2030
- Council's Destination Management Plan 2021-2031
- Strategic plans of the University of Southampton and Solent University
- Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Southampton Health and Care Strategy

And emerging strategies, plans and policies including:

- Council's Vision and Local Plan
- Council's Children and Young People's Strategy
- Council's Adults and Wellbeing Strategy
- Council's Global Partnerships Strategy

- Council's Leisure Strategy and Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- Safer City Strategy
- UNICEF Child Friendly City status plans
- Southampton Cultural Education Partnership Vision
- Royal Society of Arts' Learning City and strategies around the Future of Work
- A city-wide Heritage Strategy and the Council's Heritage Asset Management Plan
- Monuments and Memorial Policy and Public Arts Strategy
- Festivals and Events Strategy and Creative Industries Strategy

3.0 Climate Change

Southampton must face up to the urgency, impact and acceleration of the global climate challenges on the human and natural world. The scientific and human evidence is that climate change and the loss of biodiversity are already having a profound effect on society, with disproportionate effects on parts of the world. Increasingly, urban areas such as Southampton will be at the sharp end of these impacts including for example, poor air quality, temperature and sea level rises, flooding, and significant seasonal weather changes.

Following the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change, the UK government set a legal target to be carbon zero by 2050 and to cut emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. The Climate Commission Committee reported in their Sixth Carbon Budget that this can only be achieved if Government, regional agencies and local authorities work together seamlessly.

The 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) agreed to the Glasgow Climate Pact to limit temperature rises to 1.5C. However, it is reliant on every country delivering on their pledges and committing to the four goals to drive action which include:

- Mitigation – reducing emissions with new 2030 net zero emission targets
- Adaptation – helping those already impacted by climate change including doubling 2019 levels of adaptation finance by 2025
- Finance – enabling countries to deliver on their climate goals including realigning finance to global net zero, and away from fossil fuel
- Collaboration – working together to deliver even greater action including the ‘Paris Rulebook’ (common reporting of emissions and support)

Prior to this, in 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency with a commitment that its assets and operations would be carbon next zero by 2030. Major city partners have also pledged to address environmental sustainability, cognisant of Southampton’s important natural and maritime heritage, located between two national parks and the Solent’s Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Southampton is home to the National Oceanography Centre (NOC), which has bases in Southampton and Liverpool. Its multi-disciplinary team leads pioneering global research into ocean health and economy. Given the ocean absorbs 93% of excess heat and 25% of human produced carbon dioxide “...it is our biggest hero in tackling climate change”¹ and presents a unique opportunity for Southampton to play a vital global and local role.

Led by the Council, Southampton is home to the UK’s first geothermal power scheme which began pumping in 1986, serving the Civic Centre initially before expanding to include business and residential properties around the city centre. An award-winning enterprise, the Southampton District Energy Scheme is currently operated by EQUANS, and in partnership with the Council is now being used as the basis for exploring further

¹ COP26 Statement, Professor Hill, CEO [The National Oceanography Centre at COP26 | National Oceanography Centre \(noc.ac.uk\)](https://www.noc.ac.uk)

opportunities to extend its low carbon benefits across more of the city and to incorporate emerging zero emission technologies. Further net zero work includes improving insulation, introducing LED lighting and solar panels and reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Seeking to improve air quality and manage city-wide emissions, Southampton was one of the first local authorities to have a clean air zone compliant bus fleet and over half its licensed taxis are now zero or low emission vehicles. Other emission reduction innovations include an electric scooter trial and an e-cargo loan scheme with 10 bikes available to businesses. An e-cargo trial by the Library Service aims to offer a home service for people confined to their homes and vulnerable individuals. In 2020 Southampton became the first UK commercial port to install shore power facilities, providing visiting cruise ships with the ability to turn off their engines in port to reduce pollution.

Southampton is currently reviewing its green infrastructure which includes Southampton Common, a 90ha SSSI in the heart of the city, and the internationally important wetlands of the Rivers Itchen and Test. This work focuses on creating a healthy environment and reconnecting the city, for people and wildlife, as well as rediscovering Southampton's place in the landscape. As part of the 'green grid' it will identify assets which need protecting and enhancing, making room for nature whilst connecting our green spaces and making them more accessible. Whilst 52% of the city is classified as greenspace, only 5% is designated as natural greenspace. To address nature's imbalance, early initiatives include the establishment of new urban wildflower meadows, and the introduction of boxes for bats, swifts, dormice and peregrine falcons to support the biodiversity of the city. The Council and Balfour Beatty recently won two awards for its Living Wall project on the Millbrook roundabout which incorporates an integrated watering system. Furthermore, driven by community-based, grassroots action Southampton is seeking to consolidate and make our environment greener by achieving National Park City status by 2025.

Through Arts Council England's Accelerator scheme, Julie's Bicycle have been working with a small cohort of cultural organisations. The focus has been to lay the groundwork for measurement of operational emissions within our Cultural Quarter, as well as promoting sustainable culture, influencing behaviour changes, promoting understanding through programming and connecting with city-wide opportunities.

All this, and much more work by partners including public realm and housing developments, are the critical backdrop to the city's resilience and sustainability. For Southampton, the natural world is core to the culture of the city and a critical part of its infrastructure. Integrating this into our approaches will be vital for providing climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as supporting and enabling the health and wellbeing of communities. Southampton's green infrastructure is also part of creating a sense of identity and belonging across generations and communities. Whilst science can provide the evidence, culture has its own role to play (such as through its operations, programming, audiences, messaging and engagement) and it is up to us to act and ensure Southampton and the wider region is liveable and sustainable, for current and future generations.

4.0 Where we are now

4.1 About Southampton

Southampton is home to just over 260,000 people. It is a diverse city, with over 152 languages spoken in our schools, indicating the breadth and depth of connections across the world and over time. With a young demographic profile, the Office for National Statistics (2020) estimates that 18% of the city's population is between 15 and 24 years old, compared to 11% nationally. This reflects the presence of two Universities with over 33,000 students who make the city home during their studies. However, it is also an aging city with complex health, wellbeing and social needs. Meanwhile, Southampton is a City of Sanctuary that nurtures a growing network of schools, libraries and universities of sanctuary, that welcome and support asylum-seekers and refugees into our communities.

Although our history and heritage is fundamental to who we are, our strengths and the challenges we face, Southampton continues to play a pivotal role in UK trade and industry, as well shaping the future of the country. The port of Southampton is one of the UK's largest export ports, with over £40bn of trade passing through it. This is reflected in the importance of the transportation and storage industries to Southampton (accounting for c.25% of the city's economy). When public sector industries are included, nearly half of Southampton's economic output is accounted for, demonstrating the critical role played by health and social work, education and public administration. Within this there are world leading strengths in marine and maritime research as well as computer and optical sciences.

4.2 Cultural Infrastructure

Southampton's cultural and creative ecology is supported by large, small, formal and informal cultural and community organisations, freelancers and volunteers. They deliver and support theatres, museums, galleries, libraries, archives, literature, dance, film, music, creative curriculums, events and festivals, religious centres, community organisations, societies and friends of groups, and the city's important tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Much good work is also undertaken by cultural partners with the police, crime and violence units, youth services, adult care and community provision across the city.

It builds on the impressive archaeological foundations of the city, and a civic leadership, entrepreneurs and communities that have sought to champion the value of culture in generating pride, identity and economic and social regeneration.

This mix is critical to shaping and reflecting the vibrancy, energy, innovation and creativity of the city to deliver lasting economic and social value. By way of example, the city is host to:

- Six regularly funded ACE National Portfolio Organisations (a space arts, ArtAsia, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton City Council, Turner Sims, Zoie Logic Dance Theatre), working alongside Artful Scribe, City Eye, Opera Up Close, Solent Showcase Gallery, SoCo Music Project, The Art House and many more

- The Mayflower Theatre as the third most successful commercial theatre in the UK, complemented by the newly established Mayflower Studios (MAST) providing collaborative and umbrella support for other cultural and community organisations
- Two nationally important museum collections (Archaeology, Fine Art) and important national and regional aviation, maritime, industrial, local history, oral history and archival collections dating from 1199, supported by the Chipperfield Advisory Committee and Friends of Southampton's Museums, Archives and Galleries
- Over 165 Scheduled Monuments, listed and buildings of special architectural or historical interest, including medieval vaults and town walls to rival other cities, supported by the Council's Archaeology Unit, and complemented by the Maritime Archaeology Trust
- Organisations and activities focused on young people including schools and colleges pursuing Artsmark awards, Artswork, Southampton Music Service and Music Hub, City of Southampton Orchestra, Southampton Cultural Education Partnership (SCEP), University of Southampton hosted Connecting Cultures consortium project, Southampton Education Forum
- 11 libraries across the city run by the Council and community partners such as the YMCA, Christchurch Southampton and dedicated volunteers in Thornhill. They deliver services around literacy, employability and digital skills, children, families and vulnerable communities with Citizens Advice, Department for Work and Pensions Young Adults Employment Hub and a British Library pilot Business and IP Centre in Central Library
- Grassroots and mid-scale music venues such as The Joiners, The Stage Door, The Brook, The 1865, The Engine Room and O2 Guildhall
- Organisations drawing on the city's rich and diverse heritage including, for example, Black History Month South, Southampton Heritage Federation, Parkes Institute for the study of Jewish and non-Jewish relations, The United Voices of Africa Association, Southampton Hip Hop Heritage
- An annual calendar of over 150 community, civic, sports and commercial events and festivals including for example, Chinese New Year, Pride, Southampton International Boat Show, Black History Month, Vaisakhi, Music in the City, ABP Marathon, Mela, Jerk Jam, Heritage Open Days, supported by a network of historically important and culturally valued parks and open spaces across the city
- The National Oceanography Centre undertaking pioneering global ocean research and home to unique archives and special collections, including those dating back to 1925 when the RRS Discovery collected the first samples in the Southern Ocean
- Two universities delivering cultural agendas through academic teaching and research including around metrics for 'public good', fashion, art, design, music, literature and archaeology; special collections, programming and public realm programmes, student volunteering and community engagement, the new Southampton Institute of Art and Humanities

- Visitor attractions including Southampton City Art Gallery, God’s House Tower, the Merchants House, SeaCity Museum, SS Shieldhall, Solent Sky Museum, Tudor House Museum and Gardens, many of which need further investment
- Extensive public art and public realm interventions across the city and in our estates, including organisations celebrating the city and its special places such as the City of Southampton Society, Friends of groups supporting our parks, cemeteries and local history
- Organisations delivering sports and leisure activities including Southampton City FC, Rees Leisure, Live Nation supported by a network of facilities across the city including Ageas Bowl (Eastleigh)
- A range of networks such as CHAOS, Southampton Heritage Federation, Creative Network South, Creative Growth South, SCEP, Southampton Voluntary Services, Southampton Connect, PUSH Partnership, Chamber of Commerce
- A supportive media also creating cultural content that includes the BBC, Southern Daily Echo, Wave 105, Unity 101, Awaaz FM, Fiesta 95 FM, Our Version Media CIC, Voice FM

4.3 Baseline

This document draws upon a baseline assessment of the sector from data available prior to the pandemic. A richer data bank is being commissioned to understand the impact and ramifications for Southampton’s cultural and creative sector resulting from COVID-19.

The headlines are that:

- Southampton has a well-established but modest cultural and creative sector which means that investment is not ephemeral and can be grown, particularly given the lower economic output compared to other places regionally and nationally
- Cultural assets are concentrated within the city centre demonstrating gaps in provision for our most deprived and communities outside the city centre, compounded by transport connectivity and affordability
- Two thirds of audiences to some cultural organisations come from outside the unitary authority area, whilst 73,000 people belong to the least engaged groups
- Freelancers support the sector, and their vulnerable employment status has been brought to the fore during the pandemic, with ramifications for the diversity of the sector (disability, socio-economic, ethnicity, gender, age)
- There are a number of networks in the city which indicates opportunities for developing greater synergy and collaboration across the city, and supporting resource, capacity and experience gaps
- Southampton’s physical heritage has been comparatively underfunded and utilised, and its complex human and global stories underappreciated impacting on our understanding of the city as residents, workers and visitors
- There is good grassroots and mid-scale music provision including an established music service and hub but there are issues around venues, licensing, promotion, talent development and artist progression within the city

- There are challenges around attracting and retaining talent (of all ages) in the cultural and creative industries due to the availability of affordable (wet and dry) workspaces for (all) creatives, access to advice and costs of living which impact on sustainable careers
- There is strong support for cultural education provision spanning the educational and cultural sector but the social and economic challenges facing children and young people are significantly higher than South East averages
- The lack of diversity in the leadership and governance of the sector impacts on different ways of thinking, community engagement, programming, inequality in provision and access
- Whilst there are year-round festivals and events there are opportunities to improve this around curation, programming, diversity, profile, attracting new events and environmental impact
- The economic and social relationship between the cultural and creative sector, night-time and visitor economies, as well as skills development and quality jobs, are undervalued

In economic terms, pre-pandemic:

- Southampton generated £27m GVA² (excluding publishing) through the cultural and creative sector prior to the pandemic. This equates to 0.4% of total economic output and puts Southampton below the comparator city of Bradford (1.4%) and on par with Coventry (0.4%) and less than both the south east (1.6%) and south west (1.2%) regions.
- Whilst strong in the 'Creative Arts and Entertainment', it appears to perform less well in 'Film, TV and Broadcasting' where the level of activity is significantly below national and regional levels, and behind comparator cities such as Plymouth, Bradford and Hull. However, there are opportunities through City Eye and its relationship with the British Film Institute (BFI) and the BBC regional headquarters located close to the Cultural Quarter.
- For 'Libraries, Archives, Museums and Other Cultural Activities', on a per capita basis (£19 GVA), the city is behind national and regional figures - England (£59), south east (£47), south west (£43) and comparator cities of Medway (£67) and Hull (£23).
- In terms of jobs, focusing just on 'Creative Arts, Entertainment and Cultural Activities', there were 525 jobs which is less than most comparator cities in absolute terms, and in the middle as a percentage of all employment (0.5%). This is slightly less than the regional and England averages (0.6% and 0.7% respectively).
- Associated employment in Sport and Tourism shows employment to be at the lower end of comparable cities in absolute terms. Access to affordable, playable and competitive space for sport is also a challenge for some communities within the city.

² ONS data

5.0 Where we want to be

5.1 Vision

Our vision is that by 2031:

Through culture, Southampton is an ambitious and inclusive city that collaborates and connects at home and on the national and international stage to ignite imaginations, innovation, pride and a sense of belonging across the whole city

The strategy aims to embrace our history, our multiple identities, our differences and common ground whilst also striving for high quality work and national and international cultural collaborations.

Southampton's definition of culture is broad and values 'everyday creativity' as a vital part of shaping a dynamic and inclusive city. It supports the idea that we can all be creative in our lives whilst enabling those seeking to pursue professional cultural and creative careers. Happening in our cultural and creative industries, places of worship, estates, communities, green and outside spaces; in our sports arenas, clubs, societies, homes and around food; in the virtual and digital world, it enables us all to be artists, creators, historians and sports people wherever, and whoever we are.

5.2 Principles

High levels of collaboration already exist in Southampton and are being catalysed further by our UK City of Culture journey. Drawing on the Joint Cultural Needs Assessment we have outlined four principles to underpin our approach to delivering the strategy.

- **Reflect and Embolden**

Building upon the creative talent and cultural experience that exists in the city, our governance, workforce, programmes and narratives must reflect our communities and embolden people so that they feel they belong, are valued and are able to shape this city.

- **Resonate and Inspire**

Whilst an exciting array of existing opportunities for people to engage in the cultural life of the city, it is vital that the changing needs of audiences and challenges to participation are reduced, and new opportunities are developed which resonate and inspire audiences and creators.

- **Regenerate and Embed**

Culture has role to play in supporting the economic recovery of the city, alongside health, wellbeing, education and skills opportunities, by being embedded in the vision and regeneration of the city, where the lens of artists can bring new perspectives to the city.

- **Resilient and Co-creative**

Resilient and co-creative leadership at all levels will be required to deliver sustainable outcomes for and on behalf of the city. This requires egoless and distributed leadership, focused on transformation of the city for the long term – this is fundamental to Southampton’s story of change.

5.3 Step changes

Five step changes will be delivered as result of this Cultural Strategy, building upon existing good work and the significant and exciting opportunities for growth in the city. These are summarised as follows and the action plan, with measurable outcomes, will be developed:

- **A Culture of going to not *through***

This focuses on developing the visitor economy, the public realm and making Southampton a more attractive place to live, work, play and visit. Despite being the busiest cruise terminal in Europe, many visitors pass through Southampton to other places and many local audiences don’t have access to or engage with the range of current cultural offers.

Southampton will become an internationally-recognised cultural destination with a vibrant and safe daytime and night-time economy where our communities and visitors can access stimulating and joyful experiences across the city.

We will be a good partner in national moments and significant projects to raise the profile and ambition of the city to put Southampton on the map and be part of the national and international story.

- **A Culture of Creativity and Innovation**

Creativity and innovation lie at the heart of life and commerce within Southampton. The links between the cultural and creative industries and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) are an important area for stimulation.

Embedding creativity in the curriculum will prepare young people and adults to be resilient and flexible, analytical and innovative thinkers, tackling complex problems with ideation, creativity and originality. It will open doors to careers in the cultural and creative sector through progression routes or career changes. Meeting the needs of cultural and creative businesses will also be key to ensuring sustainable growth.

- **Culture of Opportunity and Inclusivity**

Work on diversity and inclusion in the leadership and governance of the city’s cultural and partner organisations will expand. This will embolden people from all backgrounds and ages to get involved and shape our trajectory whilst fulfilling our ambition to become a UNICEF Child Friendly city.

We will also address the skills and opportunity gaps and Southampton’s productivity potential, supported by our Royal Society of Arts Future of Work programme and the

incorporation of cultural production hubs in facilities across the city – places in which people can convene, make, create and be inspired by cultural and creative programmes.

- **A Culture of Health and Wellbeing**

Recognising the documented positive benefits of experiencing and participating in cultural activities, this focuses on partnering with healthcare professionals and the universities to advance health and wellbeing in the city where there are significant challenges.

Drawing on the five steps to wellbeing (Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give) we will focus on addressing issues around depression, loneliness, healthy lifestyles, life expectancy through physical activity, social prescribing (non-medical interventions), volunteering, participation and creativity to bring happiness and joy to people's lives.

- **A Culture of Environmental Sustainability**

Southampton's blue and green infrastructure is core to the culture of the city and the acceleration of the climate change crisis cannot be ignored. Building on existing work, adaptation and resilience will involve small and large changes by individuals, public, community, cultural and commercial organisations.

Following COP26, targets will be reviewed, and ambitions tested including becoming a potential National Park City where people, wildlife and culture can flourish together. The cultural and creative sector will weave environmental sustainability into organisational adaptation, programming, audience engagement and behaviour change to contribute to generating green capital and value for the city and the region.

6.0 Future investment

Whilst there has been considerable cultural and wider public realm investment across the city to date, over the next 10 years there is further work to be done. This will draw upon known and emerging areas of opportunity including for example, the Council's Vision and Local Plan, representation in our city's history and heritage, the music industry, festival and events, leisure and sport.

Financing will be undertaken as a partnership approach and lever opportunities that may be available through Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage Fund, government initiatives, anchor institutions and business, as well targeted fundraising campaigns.

For the purposes of this strategy, a summary of early investment opportunities are outlined:

- *Heritage Asset Strategy and Plan.* Following a detailed condition assessment of the Council-owned heritage assets, significant investment is being made to improve the condition of these important assets and support the development of the destination over the next five years.
- *Completing the Cultural Quarter.* This brings together the visions for reimagining the Art Gallery, Central Library, The Guildhall, Solent University's School of Fashion, Art and Design alongside creative zones and the wider public realm to join up with the masterplans associated with The Saints Mile, Mayflower Quarter, the Civic Centre and work of the John Hansard Gallery (University of Southampton), Mayflower Studios (MAST) and other cultural partners.
- *Cultural Education Partnership.* This builds on the financial and strategic investment by Artsworld and other consortium partners to embed cultural and creative education in the curriculum, and to equip young people with the skills and knowledge to build resilient and productive futures for themselves and their communities.
- *Cultural production hubs and creative zones.* This focuses on extending the cultural infrastructure beyond the city centre utilising and enhancing existing community facilities across our districts; and creating mechanisms that allow artists to flourish, potentially adapting the Greater London Authority's Creative Enterprise Zone model.
- *National Spitfire Monument.* An independent trust has bold plans to create a new Monument in Southampton, building on the technological innovation that created this iconic plane, as well as the communities that were instrumental in making and sustaining it during the Second World War. A site has been identified and planning permission secured, with feasibility and fundraising strategies being developed.
- *Solent Sky Museum.* With its important aviation and industrial collections, trustees are developing plans to extend the offer in the current location. This is likely to be the subject of a bid to the NLHF and builds on smaller grants secured for delivering exhibitions and activity to its audiences.
- *College Street Container Park.* With planning permission approved in 2020, this independent consortium is seeking to provide improved offerings for start-ups and creative industries, adding to the vitality of the city centre, close to the emerging Oxford Street destination, and Artists' Studios run by 'a space arts'.

- *Creative Campus*. The University of Southampton's investment in developing a creative campus centred on the campus theatre and Turner Sims, to enhance student experience, increase public engagement with its teaching and research, linking with cultural partnership provision in the city to become a Civic University.
- *Cultural Access*. Investment in our libraries, museums, galleries and archives and other visitor attractions; the development of digital opportunities including community proposals for a virtual museum of migration, Southampton Black Archives and other interventions.
- *ACE NPO funding*. With a 13% uplift in Arts Council England investment in the city in 2018, opportunities will be explored to build capacity as well as the representation of additional cultural disciplines and gaps in provision.

There are also wider developments that will be interdependent and connected with the Cultural Strategy. These include for example: Mayflower Quarter masterplan, Outdoor Sports Centre, parks, highways infrastructure, public realm, way finding, wayfaring and greener city initiatives.

7.0 Review and monitoring

This Cultural Strategy is closely aligned with Southampton's bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025 and draws upon the work that the city and partners have been undertaking to build a cohesive bid.

Whilst this document is 'owned' by the Council, it is a living document steered through city-wide partnerships and will be reviewed annually to monitor progress and alignment with wider strategies.

We will also explore how we bring the city together to contribute to the ongoing shaping of this strategy, building on the positive work undertaken to date and give space to the process of testing, learning and growing together as a city. The next steps are to develop an annual action plan to drive forward the step changes Southampton is seeking to deliver through culture to benefit our communities and the city as a whole.

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: STARBOARD WAY, LORDSHILL, NEWBUILD TENURE MIX
DATE: 13 JANUARY 2022
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. Approval is being sought at Cabinet on 17th January 2022 for the tenure mix at the Starboard Way new build housing scheme which comprises 103 affordable homes. This report details the preferred mix of tenure types and provides an exit strategy in the event of inadequate sales demand for the homes earmarked as Shared Ownership.
2. The Corporate Plan Southampton: City of Opportunity - 2021-2025 states that 'We will provide people with choices for home ownership'. This has resulted in a proposed increase in the number of Shared Ownership Homes from the 19 No. which were approved for this tenure designation in January 2021. (The remaining balance of 84 No. homes having been designated as Affordable Rent in January.) Because of the ongoing delivery of homes completions and associated lettings of rental tenure homes, scope for significant redesignation to Shared Ownership has been constrained but an increase is still achievable.
3. The tenure mix recommended for approval allows the introduction of up to an additional 18 Shared Ownership homes (37 No. in total), subject to sales demand. The recommended mix also includes the new designation of at least 37 No. Social Rent homes which had previously been designated as Affordable Rent.
4. The recommendations of the Cabinet report act to increase Shared Ownership at Starboard Way. This has been identified as something which requires a scheme-specific approval from Cabinet.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

5. The recommendations of the report act to increase Shared Ownership numbers instead of provision of Social Rent homes. This has been identified as something which requires scheme specific approvals under the Tenancy strategy.
6. At the original Cabinet/Council approval stage for the project in July 2019, 47 of the 103 homes were designated as Shared Ownership. (Mix; 47 Shared Ownership:56 Affordable Rent.)
7. Then the number of Shared Ownership homes was subsequently reduced under delegated powers to 19 in January 2021, which resulted in an increase in the number of homes being allocated for Affordable Rent. (Mix: 19 Shared Ownership, 84 Affordable Rent.)

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8. The Corporate Plan Southampton: City of Opportunity - 2021-2025 states that ‘We will provide people with choices for home ownership’. The proposal to increase the number of Shared Ownership homes at Starboard Way is consistent with this objective.
9. Because of the ongoing construction delivery programme of the project and previous handovers and lettings, the choice of properties to reassign to Shared Ownership is reduced.
10. 9 of the proposed Shared Ownership homes are 4 bed houses. Historically in the sector this has not proven to be a house type which typically sells in great numbers. The report however details an exit strategy which should allow reversion to rented tenure in the event of inadequate sales demand. (See Annex 2.)
11. Provided that risk management is implemented in line with the recommended exit strategy and that final tenure designation decisions can be made swiftly according to changing circumstances, the risk will be mitigated. Significant void periods would be undesirable, costly and would not respond to housing need from people on the council’s housing register. Confidential Annex 4 details some of the void implications in terms of costs.
12. This should mean that properties being marketed for Shared Ownership and which do not attract sufficient sales demand, can instead be let as rented homes to people on the council’s housing register.
13. The recommended mix could therefore adapt to sales demand to create a balance between responding to housing need from people on the council’s housing register and meeting the Corporate Plan Southampton: City of Opportunity - 2021-2025.
14. The new scheme mix will be as shown below.

	Flat				House				Total
	0	1	2	3	1	2	3	4	
Social Rent	0	14	18	0	0	0	0	5	37
Affordable Rent	0	0	0	0	0	18	11	0	29
Shared Ownership	0	3	6	0	0	0	19	9	37
Overall	0	17	24	0	0	18	30	14	103

15. If the scheme results in the creation of a number of specialist housing units (homes), requiring shared occupancy, the total number of units will increase to be more than the 103 total. Details are contained in Annex 1.
16. An external market appraisal was commissioned for the scheme in order to receive expert advice on the marketability of Shared Ownership. Due to its commercial sensitivity this information is contained in confidential Annex 5. The information in this report has shaped the recommended exit strategy. See Annex 2.
17. The market appraisal advice with regards to the 4 bed houses is that ‘historically, although 4-bedroom shared ownership homes have not had very strong demand, there has been a historical need for small numbers of such units.’ The advice does however say that

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'potential purchasers may wish to buy a 4 bedroom to convert one into a home office with the trend of 'home working' being accelerated due to the COVID pandemic''.

18. The sales advice received states that Southampton City Council should consider offering just four of the 9 x 4 bed properties for Shared Ownership. Initially, the council would like to offer all 9 homes for Shared Ownership. However, it will not be financially sustainable for the Council if there is little or no interest in these units (homes). If this proves to be the case then the homes could instead be redirected for rent, to people on the housing waiting list. The exit strategy in Annex 2 details action in event of poor demand for Shared Ownership.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Capital/Revenue

19. The details of the financial modelling are contained in Confidential Annex 4. Current modelling shows that the outturn financial viability for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is contained within that of the previous approval.
20. The appraisal has shown that all rented 4 bed properties can be delivered at Social Rents. Social Rents are circa £90 per week cheaper than the alternative Affordable Rent.
21. Because implementation of the exit strategy could have a range of tenure outcomes, it could also deliver a range of financial outcomes. However, all outcomes would still fall within the appraisal viability.

Property/Other

22. Financial modelling includes allowances for maintenance and cyclical repairs related to tenure type.
23. Project management resources are likely to be relatively high in the administration of exit strategy. Therefore, there will be a need to maintain appropriate resources in the Regeneration team until completion of the project and all homes are let or sold.

Legal Implications: Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

24. The recommendations of the report act to increase Shared Ownership numbers. This has been identified as something which under the Tenancy Strategy requires scheme specific approval from Cabinet. Any scheme specific approval under the strategy must be considered on a case-by-case basis and requires a report to Cabinet setting out the full evidence base and reasons for stand-alone scheme approval including the financial implications for the HRA.
25. The council can make use of Affordable Rent as detailed in the Southampton Tenancy Strategy 2020-25. The council will only make use of Affordable Rent as an alternative to the default Social Rent after careful consideration, on a scheme-by-scheme basis, of the impact on the Housing Register as well as Local Housing Allowance rates and affordability.

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26. The Council must comply with the requirements set out in the Homes England Rent standard 2020, which requires approval of the Secretary of State or a Homes England Housing Supply delivery agreement. Where Affordable Rent is being charged, the maximum rent inclusive of service charge for a new tenant under a new tenancy is 80% of the market rent.
27. Under Section 9 of the Housing Act 1985 the council has the power to provide housing accommodation.
28. Under Section 21 of the Housing Act 1985 the council has the general power of management of housing accommodation.
29. The council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness-the best value duty.
30. Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council has the power to do anything incidental to the exercising of any of its functions.
31. The general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives local authorities a broad range of powers "to do anything that individuals generally may do" subject to limits within other legislation and there are no adverse limits on the proposed scheme under the current legislation.

Other Legal Implications

32. The completed legal agreement forming part of the planning consent (the Unilateral Undertaking, under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act) allows for a request to change the agreed s106 units (homes) to be made prior to occupation of the units (homes).
33. The design sale and marketing of any scheme is subject to compliance with the Equalities Act 2010 and in particular s.149, Public Sector Equalities duty to ensure rights of access to those who have protected characteristics and to eliminate discrimination in access to public services and assets

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

34. Do nothing is not consistent with The Corporate Plan Southampton: City of Opportunity - 2021-2025.
35. The current approved mix did not include Social Rent. The proposed change to include a number of Social Rented properties is in line with the Council's Tenancy Strategy and provides more rental choice for tenants. Imminent handovers of completed properties would either remain void, pending a different formal approval, or alternatively need to be let within a narrower tenure choice

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36. Alternative unit tenure designations were considered with details below:

- 1 and 2 bed flats and 4 bed houses let at Affordable Rent instead of the recommended Social Rent would make them less affordable. There is opportunity within the financial model to make them more affordable, by letting them all at Social Rent.
- Letting 1 and 2 bed flats and 4 bed houses at various combinations of Affordable Rent and Social Rent would complicate council processes and cause a disparity in rent levels for neighbouring residents.
- Allocation of more homes as Shared Ownership than the recommendation is not consistent with marketing programme requirements or timings of property completions.
- Allocation of fewer homes as Shared Ownership than the recommendations is not consistent with The Corporate Plan Southampton: City of Opportunity - 2021-2025. The recommended exit strategy does however allow for fewer Shared Ownership homes in the event of inadequate sales demand.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

37. Any increase at all in Shared Ownership numbers introduces an additional sales risk. 4 bed Shared Ownership homes in particular, present an additional potential risk because of their size. This larger occupancy house type is less in demand than smaller house types and affordability becomes an increased associated risk resulting in poor sales, voids and loss of income.

38. Provided that risk management is implemented in line with the recommended exit strategy in this report and that final tenure designation decisions can be made swiftly according to dynamic circumstances, the risk will be mitigated. This would act to protect the council from reputational damage and help to maintain scheme financial viability.

Appendices/Supporting Information:

1. Annex 1 - Specialist Housing
2. Annex 2 - Exit Strategy
3. Annex 3 - ESIA
4. Confidential Annex 4 - Cost & Viability
5. Confidential Annex 5 - Sales and Marketing advice

Further Information Available From:	Name:	Sue Jones - Estate Regeneration Project Manager
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Annex 1 - Specialist Housing for Adults with Learning Disabilities at Starboard Way

Homes England define *Specialist Housing* as housing that is for a targeted client group which can include older, vulnerable and/or disabled people.

At Starboard Way some properties have been identified for Specialist Housing, specifically to be used by people with Learning Disabilities.

4 x ground floor flats and 2 x 4 houses are being targeted by the council for occupation by this client group.

Units identified at Starboard Way:

Property Type	Access	No of Bedrooms	Occupation (general needs basis)	Size (M2)
Ground Floor Flat	Ground	2	2B/4P	62.2
Ground Floor Flat	Ground	2	2B/4P	63
Ground Floor Flat	Ground	1	1B/2P	48.5
Ground Floor Flat	Ground	2	2B/4P	63
House	3 storey	4	4B/6P	117
House	3 storey	4	4B/6P	117

The use of these properties as Specialist Housing is dependent on work being led by Housing, Legal and Adult Social Care to overcome issues relating to both the type of tenancy that needs to be granted when used in the intended manner, and the suitability of the Allocations policy to ensure units are used by the intended client group.

A separate project team is progressing this item due to the issues not being isolated to this particular project.

It is anticipated that the matters will be resolved to coincide with the properties becoming available (current expected ready dates are March 2022 for the flats and April 2022 for the 4 bed houses).

However, it should be noted that there is a risk that a satisfactory resolution is not found at the time properties become available and they are used for other purposes. (Please see rental stream impact below)

Reporting and approvals will be dealt with separately by appropriate delegated decisions outside of Cabinet.

Significance for Starboard Way Tenure Mix Report

Clarifications need to be made to tenures, tenancy numbers for the Cabinet report.

It should be noted that because shared accommodation features in respect of most of the Learning Disabilities homes, in implementing these proposals the overall numbers of 'units' on the Starboard Way scheme will change from the figures within the Starboard Way tenure mix report.

Total rental stream income for each flat or house (whatever the occupation level) will be greater than, or be equal to that of the property, assuming the general needs designation of the property within the Starboard Way Tenure Mix report.

There are significant annual revenue expenditure savings from council budgets to be gained. The current assumption is that the net implications of the final form of the delivery model for these properties will be cost neutral (or positive) in respect of the figures in this report.

Annex 2 - Exit Strategy

1. Introduction

An external market appraisal was commissioned for the Starboard Way scheme to obtain expert advice on the marketability of Shared Ownership homes. (Confidential Annex 3.) The information in the market appraisal has shaped the recommended exit strategy.

The market appraisal advice with regards to the 4 bed houses is that *“historically, although 4-bedroom shared ownership homes have not had very strong demand, there has been a historical need for small numbers of such units.”* The advice does however say that *“potential purchasers may wish to buy a 4 bedroom to convert one into a home office with the trend of ‘home working’ being accelerated due to the COVID pandemic.”*

The advice received states that Southampton City Council should consider offering just four of the 9 x 4 bed properties for Shared Ownership.

The council would not want homes to be marketed for Shared Ownership when sales demand is not sustainable. The homes could instead be targeted for rent, to people on the housing waiting list. This appendix details an exit strategy which should allow reversion to rented tenure in the event of inadequate shared ownership sales demand.

Provided that risk management is implemented in line with the recommended exit strategy and that final tenure designation decisions can be made swiftly according to dynamic circumstances, void risk will be mitigated. This should mean that properties being marketed for Shared Ownership and which do not elicit qualified sales demand, can be instead let as rented homes to people on the council’s housing register.

2. Exit Strategy

The exit strategy is detailed below in three sections relating to the different house/flat types.

2.1 4 bed Shared Ownership houses

Initially market 4 of the 9 x 4 bed homes for Shared Ownership (plots 67–70)

- If no interest from prospective purchasers who are assessed to be viable after 6 weeks of marketing:
 - take all 4 properties (plots 67–70) off the market
 - allocate all 9 properties as Social Rent. (plots 67–70 & 71-75)

- If interest only from 1 or 2 prospective purchasers who are assessed to be viable after 6 weeks of marketing:
 - take 2 properties (within plots 67–70) off the market
 - allocate 7 properties as Social Rent.
- If interest from 3 or 4 prospective purchasers who are assessed to be viable after 6 weeks of marketing and at least 2 deposits have been taken:
 - obtain updated sales advice on the prospect of viable customers for the remaining batch of 5 properties (plots 71-75). (Demand for other properties might be exhausted despite the interest to date)
 - if advice is positive, release properties (plots 71-75) one by one incrementally for marketing to meet the predicted demand
 - however, prior to the first releases for marketing of plots 71-75 ensure that at least 2 properties (within plots 67–70) are sold and deposits are secured for the other 2 plots
 - prior to any further releases for marketing of plots 71-75 all but one of the preceding property releases should have deposits secured against them
- If any property has been marketed for 3 months and a sale has not been achieved nor a deposit taken for it
 - take the property off the market
 - allocate it as Social Rent.

2.2 3 bed Shared Ownership houses

These are the original 19 x 3 bed houses approved Shared Ownership tenure in January 2021. (Plots 48-66.) Marketing advice is currently positive.

Initially market all 19.

- If a deposit has not been taken on any individual property which has been marketed for 5 months:
 - take the property off the market
 - allocate the property as Affordable Rent.

2.3 1 and 2 bed Shared Ownership flats

These comprise a single 1 bed and two 2 bed flats on each of the 3 floors of apartment Block C: 9 homes. (Plots 39-47). All flats share a common entrance core.

It is uncommon within the sector for rented tenures and sale tenures to share a common entrance core.

An exit strategy for poor sales does not form part of the recommendations.

3. Shared Ownership fit-out specification

In the Registered Provider sector, Shared Ownership homes often have upgrades specified in respect of certain elements of internal fit-out. Usually, these upgrades are confined to kitchens, bathrooms and floor coverings more generally.

Upgrades already specified for the 19 No. 3 bed Shared Ownership homes approved for this tenure in January 2021 include:

- Built in ovens and hobs and extractor hoods
- Kitchen spotlights
- Glass shower screens
- Soft close toilet seats
- Carpets

At the current stage of construction, specification of all the above upgrade items to the newly designated Shared Ownership homes would incur abortive costs and delays. Primarily this is due to changes to kitchen unit layouts to incorporate built-in appliances and electrical wiring.

To avoid any significant abortive costs or delays it is proposed that freestanding cookers be provided instead of built-in appliances for the additional Shared Ownership homes. Shower screens, soft close toilet seats and carpets are still recommended. This is an adaptation to the existing principles of specification upgrades.

The recommended exit strategy involving delivery of rental units instead of additional Shared Ownership homes in the event of inadequate sales demand, could present significant complexities to internal fit-out. However, by adopting the above upgrade fit-out specification principle, a pragmatic approach to the exit strategy can be made.

This proposal is that upgrades specified for the additional Shared Ownership homes be confined to:

- Freestanding ovens
- Glass shower screens
- Soft close toilet seats
- Carpets

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Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people’s needs. The Council’s Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	STARBOARD WAY – TENURE MIX REVIEW November 2021
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>The Southampton City Council Housing Strategy 2016-2025 sets out the council’s vision and how we will work together to achieve our priorities.</p> <p><i>“Housing is about more than bricks and mortar. Housing helps to define neighbourhoods and communities, supports the health and wellbeing of residents, and provides a foundation for individuals and families to achieve a high quality of life. Over the next ten years Southampton will continue to grow, and the needs of our residents will change. We want Southampton to be a city with good quality housing and vibrant communities, where people are proud to live and work. Good quality, affordable and sustainable housing will provide a platform to attract businesses and residents to our city, and ensure the local economy continues to grow. Strong, resilient neighbourhoods, will enhance and protect the dynamic and diverse community of our city, helping Southampton to become a city of opportunity, where everyone thrives. Southampton City Council has a range of responsibilities in supporting and delivering housing in the city.”</i></p> <p>The Council’s role includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with developers to build new homes. • Working with partners to provide more affordable homes. • Working with landlords to improve standards of private rental sector properties. • Regulation of properties in the private rented sector. • Helping people with additional support needs to access appropriate accommodation. • Providing accommodation as one of the largest social landlords in the South. • Improving the health of Southampton’s residents 	

Southampton City Council's Housing Service currently manage circa 18,000 homes in the city. Of these, 2,000 properties are leasehold properties and the remaining 16,000 are let as tenancies. The Housing Service let properties on both social and affordable rent. Starboard Way the subject of this ESIA is introducing new build Shared Ownership as a tenure choice for residents.

Summary of Impact and Issues

The recommendations of the report involve increasing the number of Shared Ownership units at the development and introducing Social Rent. This means switching units currently designated as Affordable Rent. Current approved mix: 72 Affordable Rent, 31 Shared Ownership and 0 Social Rent. The proposed mix in the report is 29 Affordable Rent, 37 Shared Ownership and 37 Social Rent.

Shared Ownership units provide an opportunity for people to enter home ownership at a lower initial cost than purchasing a home traditionally on the open market. They are a useful tenure to include in both creating mixed communities and supporting the financial viability of developments.

The increase of the number of Shared Ownership units would be instead of providing new rented units. However, increasing the Shared Ownership from the current approved mix is not in line with the Tenancy Strategy and therefore, requires Cabinet approval.

Due to the current stage of construction, it is noted that some of the higher value properties being delivered on site (4 bedroom houses) are best placed to be switched from rented units to Shared Ownership. However, this may also introduce affordability challenges to prospective purchasers who are required to pay a mortgage for their initial share and rent on the unpurchased element.

Making this specification change at this time may introduce time and cost implications to the overall project, however, there is scope to modify the specification uplift in respect of the Shared ownership properties.

The market appraisal commissioned for the scheme has questioned the demand for the 4 bed units as Shared Ownership tenure which could result in potential sales risk. Typically, smaller units are more attractive to the Shared Ownership market and the 4-bed property type is generally not delivered in large numbers in the sector. This is because of low demand and affordability issues. An exit strategy has been developed to deal with the potential of poor sales. If there is no demand this would result in the Shared Ownership units being delivered for rent.

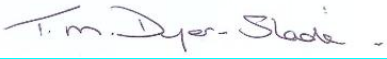
Potential Positive Impacts

Increasing the proportion of units which are offered as Shared Ownership would allow more people to enter home ownership through buying a share in a property instead of needing to find the necessary resources to purchase the property in its

entirety. The Shared Ownership product is popular with Registered Providers delivering this type of housing both within the city and nationally.

In terms of financial viability, Shared Ownership generally makes a positive contribution to development projects as a result of initial capital receipts. This tenure is therefore commonplace in many developments. An increase in sales risk is however a key factor in any decision.

Whilst there will be fewer rented properties available as a whole, there will be more social rent than there would have been previously, which is more affordable than Affordable Rent which is typically 80% of market rent compared to circa 60%.

Responsible Service Manager	Sue Jones
Date	20 th December 2021
Approved by Senior Manager	Tina Dyer-Slade 
Date	20 th December 2021

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	Younger people may not be able to obtain a deposit/mortgage as easily as older people.	The proposals include one and two bedroom flats for Shared Ownership which should provide more affordable purchase options. Whilst there will be fewer rented properties available as a whole, there will be more social rent than there would have been previously, which is more affordable than Affordable Rent which is typically 80% of market rent compared to circa 60%.
Disability	No wheelchair accessible units are currently identified as being Shared Ownership.	Potential shared owners would be able to adapt properties to suit their requirements. Future developments to consider accessible units for Shared

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	There are 2 wheelchair accessible units for rent.	Ownership and also accessible units for rent. According to current Building Regulations accessible homes can be delivered to 2 different standards i.e. M4(2) accessible homes (formerly lifetime homes) and M4(3) wheelchair accessible homes.
Gender Reassignment	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Pregnancy and Maternity	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Race	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Religion or Belief	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Sex	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Sexual Orientation	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Community Safety	No direct impact identified.	not applicable
Poverty	<p>Increasing the number of Shared Ownership units potentially reduces the number of units available to support the demands placed on the Housing Register for rented properties. These may be people who could not access Shared Ownership due to household income & affordability.</p> <p>As reported in the Housing Annual Report 2020 (Housing Annual Report 2020 (southampton.gov.uk)), the average wait for a 4 bed rented tenure property (one property size proposed to</p>	<p>In order to mitigate the loss of rented units, alternative sites could be identified to address this existing demand.</p> <p>An exit strategy involving the switching of Shared Ownership homes to rented tenure would allow more rented homes in the case of unsaleable Shared Ownership homes because of low demand / unaffordability.</p> <p>Whilst there will be fewer rented properties available as a whole, there will be more social rent than there would have been previously, which is more affordable than Affordable Rent</p>

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	<p>switch to Shared Ownership) is 7 years, the longest wait time of all property sizes. Due to the size of unit, large families may be disproportionately impacted.</p> <p>An increase in Shared Ownership tenure homes should provide a greater opportunity for the leaseholder purchasers taking their first steps onto the housing ladder, compared open market value purchases.</p>	<p>which is typically 80% of market rent compared to circa 60%.</p>
Health & Wellbeing	<p>Less housing for the Housing Register meaning fewer council tenants wishing to rent can benefit from the link between quality homes and state of health that would be delivered as part of this development.</p> <p>Residents who are able to exercise Shared Ownership leasehold purchases have more options to make appropriate quality/health choices.</p>	<p>The new build improved specification and energy efficiency of homes, access to well-connected green spaces, opportunities to walk, and cycle will contribute to residents' health and well-being.</p> <p>The current design of these properties aims to deliver benefits in energy efficiency and build quality which provide opportunities to realise benefits in health and wellbeing.</p> <p>To mitigate a loss of rented stock ensure that Asset Management strategy improves quality of existing homes to improve health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>
Other Significant Impacts	No further direct impact identified.	not applicable

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