

DECISION-MAKER:	Council		
SUBJECT:	Southampton – Mumbai Twinning		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 th November 2021		
REPORT OF:	Councillor Jeremy Moulton Deputy Leader of Southampton City Council and Cabinet Member for Growth		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
<p>Southampton City Council’s Corporate Plan and Economic and Green Growth Strategy highlight our ambition to build on our international relationships and develop our economic and other links with key communities across the world, and specifically it is our ambition to develop a global partnership with India and direct relationship with the City of Mumbai.</p> <p>The partnership will enable the City of Southampton to position itself as an indispensable strategic partner for any organisation based in the city or the wider region, wishing to deepen relationships with India. This would include establishing Southampton’s importance in international trade post Brexit, with 80% of non-EU trade going through the Port of Southampton, becoming a destination city for Indian students, positioning the city as a centre of excellence for innovation and research, and creating a cultural offer which aligns to these ambitions and speaks to the significant part of Southampton’s population that relates to India through family or birth. India will also be a central strand of our bid to become UK City of Culture 2025. To meet this ambition, we are proposing to develop a Civic Twinning relationship with the City of Mumbai within the state of Maharashtra. This will be a Council facilitated relationship, with a political/civic element focussed on creating a but citywide relationship, augmented by institution-to-institution relationships.</p> <p>As part of supporting the ambitions of the City to be the UK City of Culture in 2025, the City of Culture Bid team will be hosting a wider City of Culture India Celebration day on the 22nd November 2021. If Council resolves the twinning the intention is that a symbolic ‘signing’ ceremony will be undertaken with the High Commissioner to India, on behalf of our partners from Mumbai, as part of this Celebration day, where the two parties can sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlines our shared ambition to develop a substantive civic relationship between Southampton and</p>			

Mumbai, and agrees to progress discussions between parties towards developing a twinning agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That Council resolves to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the cities of Southampton and Mumbai, India signalling our intention to 'twin' with Mumbai, and that there should be further discussions towards the ambition of agreeing a more formal civic twinning arrangement.
	(ii)	Any further detailed arrangements shall be subject to a further report to Council.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	The forming of a relationship with Mumbai directly links to the city's ambitions, reflected in the Corporate Plan and the Economic and Green Growth Strategy, to become the UK City of Culture 2025 and to extend our international relationships and partnerships.
2.	Southampton is, and always has been, an international city with an international population. In particular, the city has a significant population that relates to India through family or birth. Our bid to be UK City of Culture will celebrate this significant part of Southampton's population and the city council, through this arrangement seeks to support and facilitate business, cultural, economic and other relationships, that will further the ambitions of the city and its people.
3.	The recommendations in this report seek to support our wider city partner's ambitions, and to promote Southampton as a destination of choice for study and leisure, whilst strengthening cultural and trade relationships with an important international partner. This directly links to our corporate plan priorities to support Southampton's visitor economy and ensure Southampton is a destination of choice for business, innovation, research and education, and deliver on our Economic and Growth Strategy.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4.	<p>Informal agreement</p> <p>An alternative approach would be to undertake exchanges without a formal agreement in place between Mumbai and Southampton. This would remove the requirements to undertake any kind of formal agreement or to manage the relationships going forward. However, this option comes with significant risk and would most likely result in a loss of benefits. Under this option any exchanges or partnerships between local organisations and their opposites in Mumbai would be done on an ad-hoc basis. This would most likely result in a less successful series of individual partnerships as a holistic approach to the overall exchange between the two cities would not occur.</p>
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	<p>Furthermore, this option would not allow those who wish to develop relationships with those in Mumbai to do so within a facilitative framework, that promotes dialogue, but does not commit or bind any party in any way. We do not at this stage envisage that a framework will be overly resource intensive, but that a formal agreement would include a mechanism to maintain and review the relationship and the partnership at regular intervals at a minimum. This would allow for partners in the city and in Mumbai, to share experience and learning, and ensure that as a City we maximise the benefit of the arrangement and reduce duplication and overlap.</p> <p>This option would also fail to achieve the benefits an agreement between Southampton and Mumbai would bring to the city's bid to become UK City of Culture. Rather than supporting the bid it may have the opposite impact, as it would show a missed opportunity for partnership working within a framework.</p>
5.	<p>No agreement</p> <p>An alternative option is not to progress an agreement between Southampton and Mumbai at this time. This is not recommended as it would result in the loss of benefits to the UK City of Culture bid and would not support the Council's ambitions to grow its international standing.</p>
<p>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</p>	
6.	<p>Mumbai is the capital city of the Indian state of Maharashtra and a key trading route and major port with extensive connections in Southampton. According to the United Nations, as of 2018, Mumbai is the second-most populous city in the country after Delhi and the seventh-most populous city in the world with a population of roughly 20 million. Early discussions with officer counterparts in Mumbai have focussed on a number of key areas as outlined in this report that could form the basis of a future agreement. These also formed the content of a round table discussion in the city in November 2020, which was attended by a wide ranging set of partners from the Council, business, education, leisure and culture. The event was also attended by H E Gayatri Issar Kumar, High Commissioner of India and the Rt. Hon Baroness Usha Prashar CBE, Chairperson FICCI UK Council.</p>
7.	<p>Education</p> <p>Both the University of Southampton and Solent University have active ambitious relationships with India. In March 2019, the University of Southampton launched its India Centre for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development, which provides a platform for research leaders to come together with policy makers and business and industry partners to deliver evidence-based solutions and unlock the opportunities for policy change, inclusive economic growth, technology and sustainable development for India. One of its research projects, led by Professor Caroline Hall, has seen the University working with Doctors and Researchers in Pune, Mumbai, Mysore, Delhi, Vellore and Hyderabad, studying mothers and children living in a variety of settings, from remote rural communities to some of the largest cities. The Mumbai Maternal</p>

	Nutrition Project looked at the role of food-based approaches in improving preconception nutrition and birth outcomes.
8.	Professor Jane Falkingham OBE, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Southampton has developed a strategic review for the University, into strategic relationships with India. As part of this work, University of Southampton have a strategic relationship with India Business Group, which is chaired by Lord Patel of Bradford. This relationship enables the University to actively promote the work of their India Centre in the UK to a multiple of sectors.
9.	India is an increasingly significant market for Solent University as India's commitment to developing human capital to progress industry growth and economic development, matches Solent's own commitment to developing industry professionals, who are 'work ready, world ready, future ready'. The strategic importance of Solent University's subject portfolio and its alignment with both local business and industry in Southampton, together with the many growth business and industry sectors identified in Mumbai, creates an excellent opportunity for Solent to work with a range of partners in Mumbai. Solent is committed to engaging with academic, business and industry partners, through collaborative activities and consortia, to support the growth of Indian industries. Solent University is committed to enabling Indian graduates to implement their knowledge, professional skills and industry experience gained at Solent University, to actively drive industry growth and economic development in India. Solent University's industry focussed portfolio includes Maritime, Fashion, Media, Sports, Business and Health Studies.
10.	Solent University is developing exciting plans to establish a Solent India Office, to enhance their presence in India and raise the profile of Solent's contribution to India, through the education, training and development of Indian students. Solent University is interested in liaising with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) regarding the development of academic-industry consortia in Mumbai.
11.	Trade At present the Associated British Ports (ABP) of Southampton does not have a formal agreement with Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT), however, the Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal (NSICT) is leased to a consortium led by P&O, now a part of DP World. The separate Port of Mumbai mainly handles bulk goods. An obvious starting point is the status of port cities that both Southampton and Mumbai share. Jawaharlal Nehru Port, abbreviated as JNPT, also known as Nhava Sheva, is the largest container port in India located east of Mumbai and handling around 55% of the country's containerized cargo. The CMA CGM Groups runs a shipping service (EPIC 1) connecting Northern Europe with the Indian Subcontinent that calls at Southampton and Nhava Sheva. Initial UK City of Culture 2025 partnership discussions with Alastair Welch, Regional Director of ABP

	Southampton have indicated that the Port would support a twinning ambition with Mumbai.
12.	<p>Sport</p> <p>Southampton's sporting links are also a focus area for partnership, particularly cricket, and football. The Ageas Bowl is the home of Hampshire County Cricket Club. Ajinkya Rahane, who represents Mumbai in domestic Indian cricket, became the first Indian player to represent Hampshire during a spell at the club in 2019. Rahane has captained the Indian men's national cricket team. Mumbai is also home to the current champions of the Indian Premier League, the Mumbai Indians. The IPL Twenty20 cricket league is the most attended cricket league in the world and one of the most attended of all sports leagues globally. Building a relationship with Mumbai can only further foster the global nature of cricket in Southampton, with an aim to extend and support the club in the City.</p>
13.	<p>India is a key market for the Premier League's international growth strategy & therefore clubs who compete in the League. The Premier League is India's most popular and most followed football league in world football, with c130m supporters and a growing market. The Premier League signed a mutual agreement of understanding with the Hero Indian Super League in 2020 with a commitment to sharing knowledge & expertise. As part of the Premier League Agreement, SFC U14 Academy team took part in the inaugural Mumbai Cup. India is a territory that can support Southampton Football Club's aspirations to grow its international fanbase and attract new sponsorship opportunities. As part of the Club's Commercial International Football programme, the Club are exploring the possibility of developing a partnership with a club located on the north-western side of the state of Maharashtra, which is a city that is an immediate neighbour of Mumbai city and a part of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. This partnership would be the Club's first International Academy Partner in India and there's a desire to increase the number of partners in this territory, whether with Professional Clubs or Community grassroots organisations, based on a shared value for coach & player development. Southampton Football Club have explored opportunities with the India Business Group in the past and intend to continue working with Armajit Singh in the future to hopefully unlock new business partnerships.</p>
14.	<p>Through stakeholder engagement, we understand that sport is a key area for Mumbai, in particular the development of Women's sport. With Southampton playing host to the Women's Euros Finals in 2022, there is an opportunity to further develop the engagement in Women's football working in partnership with stakeholders from Southampton Football Club, the FA and Sport England.</p>
15.	<p>Southampton is a city where many key stakeholders have an active relationship or ambition to further develop business, cultural, sport, education, research or innovation links with India. Working with our local stakeholders and partners is key to ensuring that Southampton benefits from material, economic and reputational growth as well as positioning itself</p>

	as a city to help the UK achieve its international trading and diplomatic relationships through winning UK City of Culture 2025.
16.	<p>Culture</p> <p>As part of the bid to become UK City of Culture 2025, Southampton has an opportunity to strategically link its cultural heritage and ambition with Mumbai. The Nehru Centre acts as the cultural wing of The High Commission of India in the UK. Established in 1992, it is regarded by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as its flagship cultural centre abroad, and has, over the years, emerged as a premier institution engaged in India's cultural interface with UK. The ICCR was founded in 1950 and its objectives are: to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people, and to develop relations with nations.</p> <p>Southampton is home to Art Asia, an Arts Council England NPO which produces the annual Mela, which is celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 2021. Developing meaningful International Partnerships is a key objective for Southampton City Council. The Executive Director, Place is taking a lead role in developing a strategic plan with her Cabinet Member and the Leader of the Council regarding this wider 'Global Partnership' objective. Any partnership developed between Southampton and Mumbai will also support SCC in meeting some key objectives, specifically those highlighted in the Economic Growth Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton: a partnership approach to growth, by working in collaboration with a wide range of local, regional, national and international partners. • Supporting and growing local business, by supporting the development of a greater relationship with India so the examples listed in this section of the business case can be progressed. • Growing an international city, by strengthening our international links with India.
17.	International Partnerships are also a key potential differentiator for the city in its bid to be UK City of Culture 2025. As the world emerges from the pandemic and the country from the exit from the EU, long term, sustainable economic recovery will inevitably be the focus for all cities. Our UK City of Culture bid is a key part of Southampton's recovery in the short/medium term, supporting the longer-term needs of the city that are being addressed through the re-focussed work of teams in Place, Adults, Children's and CCH. Southampton's role in the world and its ability to generate economic benefit from international relationships is a potential differentiator for the city, and a counterbalance to the Government's levelling up agenda, in our bid to be UK City of Culture.
18.	In November 2020 the City of Southampton, through the UK City of Culture 2025 Bid team, was invited to host a virtual roundtable discussion led by the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), on behalf of the Indian High Commission and in partnership with BDO LLP. The event

	<p>was well attended by several of the city’s key stakeholders including the Leader and Chief Executive of Southampton City Council. In addition, key speakers were Associated British Ports, for the Port of Southampton, both the University of Southampton, Solent University, the National Oceanography Centre and Southampton Football Club, all of which currently have existing relationships or wish to further develop links and relationships with India based on their own business objectives and need. The event was also open to a broader selection of city stakeholders, including several Southampton based businesses, all of which are currently trading in India, or who have expressed a keen business interest to do so.</p>
19.	<p>The successful roundtable event, focussed on several key areas of shared ambition, and from a Southampton perspective, our aim would be that any future partnership reflects and compliments several sectors and areas of expertise within the city, and for our supporting stakeholders. With an ambition that together, we can create a relationship that is beneficial to both cities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and creativity. Southampton is currently preparing a bid to become UK City of Culture in 2025. The city has a large Indian diaspora, therefore our links with India are key. • Trade with an emphasis on the connections between our Ports and business, focusing on how our Southampton based businesses can do business in India, whether this be through supply chain, innovation, or manufacturing. • Education, research and innovation linking to the work that both of our Universities are currently undertaking in India, for example the University of Southampton’s innovative India Centre, which champions inclusive growth and sustainable development. • Sport connecting into our positioning as a Host City for Women’s Euros Finals 2022, and the importance of our world class Ageas Bowl Cricket facility. <p>The event was also attended by Her Excellency Gayatri Kumar, High Commission of India to the UK.</p> <p>Since the event, many key City partners have already followed up on the invitation from FiCCI and the High Commission, to deepen and extend their commercial and cultural relationships and the proposals outlined in this report only seek to deepen and create a firm footing for the appetite already apparent in the city.</p>
20.	<p>As part of the ongoing partnership development work for Southampton’s bid to become UK City of Culture 2025, partnerships have been developed with the following organisations and institutions in order to support this ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FiCCI – Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry • CWEIC – Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
21.	Resources

	<p>At present the resources for these discussions are being facilitated from within existing budgets and resources covering the City of Culture Team, the Executive Director for CCH, and Legal who have agreed to support with the drafting of an initial high-level document. As the discussions and detail of any future agreement are developed, there will be a need to capture any resource implications and ensure appropriate governance and alignment with the wider work on International Partnerships being led by the Place Directorate . This international partnership is also a key focus for the bid to be UK City of Culture and will be supported by the City of Culture team going forward if we are successful.</p> <p>Any additional resources over and above this will be costed and appropriate agreement secured and governance undertaken before any formal commitments are made.</p>
22.	<p>Currently a review of existing, potential and future International Partnerships is being led by the Executive Director for Place. This review will include the long term resource needs for this partnership alongside other Global Partnerships and one of the key strategic outcomes of the recently adopted Economic and Green Growth Strategy.</p>
23.	<p>Costs Short-term</p> <p>The resource costs to develop the partnership between March and November 2021 have been absorbed by the teams working on this as stated above. The event India Celebration event scheduled for 22nd November is already costed into City of Culture budgets and it is confirmed that any delegation from India will cover their own costs.</p>
24.	<p>Long-term costs</p> <p>The long-term costs of the agreement will be determined as part of the ongoing discussions with Mumbai and city partners. It is anticipated that some Partnership/Economic Development team resource will be required to support the Council element of the agreement as part of the wider International Partnership work being led by that team. The nature of this partnership is anticipated to be largely facilitative in nature, given some of the key relationships will lie with partners other than the Council as outlined in this resource. It is therefore proposed that this resource can be absorbed into the wider work of the Council and through strategic partnerships such as those with our Universities and Cultural organisations supported by additional City of Culture resource as described above.</p> <p>Once an agreement is reached, it is anticipated that the arrangement will sit alongside other international partnerships, with clear links to the City of Culture team and the Southampton 2025 Trust if we are successful in our bid to be UK City of Culture.</p> <p>No foreign visits by the Mayor, members or officers are envisaged as is often the case with traditional town twinning arrangements, as part of any future twinning arrangement with Mumbai developed using this approach.</p>

	<p>Relationships will be formed using a variety of digital platforms in the first instance. It may be anticipated that partners across the City may choose to travel to India or invite counterparts to visit the City and as part of a wider partnership approach, the ambition will be to build city wide benefit into any such opportunity.</p> <p>The ambition is that this agreement will be largely facilitative in nature, ensuring that key stakeholder, partners and leaders from across the City are supported to further their relationships and ambitions to develop links with Mumbai specifically and India more generally.</p>
25.	Ongoing budget to support international relationships will form part of the overall plans for the city to develop and cement International Partnerships as part of the delivery of the Economic and Growth Strategies highlighted in this report.
26.	As part of the development of the city's approach, it is anticipated that key partners from the City, will support the 'delivery' of the approach by taking the lead in progressing key elements – such as education, sport and trade relations via the Port. Whether there would be appetite to pool resource to support the long-term management of this specific partnership, given the specific benefits to key partners as highlighted above, could also form part of a sustainable partnership management approach.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	Local Government Act 1972, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
27.	Regarding the document to be signed there is no prescriptive style of document for such an agreement. The document will not be binding but rather a symbolic statement of intent. It can be as detailed or as light touch as is appropriate although the recommendation is that we take a light touch approach.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
28.	There is a potential risk around capacity within teams to support the twinning process, and also capacity within wider teams as this relationship is progresses (e.g. Legal, Economic Development, Communications etc.) which would impact on the timeframe and quality of delivery. This will be mitigated through prioritisation of workstreams and allocation of sufficient resource. We will also work with city partners, such as our universities, to support the development of the partnership and share responsibilities for delivery.
29.	There is a potential risk of criticism of the approach taken and critical scrutiny of spend due to the performance or perception of previous

	‘twinning’ agreements both locally and nationally. We will mitigate this through clear communications that set the relationship within the Southampton context. We will communicate clearly the benefits to be derived from the twinning with Mumbai. We will ensure transparency of financial data and carefully consider any expenditure linked to this agreement.	
30.	This proposal recommends a step towards a civic agreement between the cities of Southampton and Mumbai that will provide an umbrella for relationships to develop across the city, it is not a commitment to any specific future business, education, sport or cultural agreements being developed with any organisation in the City. Any such arrangements will be managed through the usual organisational governance mechanisms of the organisation in question.	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
31.	Southampton Economic & Green Growth Strategy ‘Growing an International City’	
KEY DECISION?		No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:		None
<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
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		
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	