

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	23 rd March 2022		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None.	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This report outlines the Executive Business conducted since November 2021.	
RECOMMENDATIONS:	
(i)	That the report be noted.
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS	
1.	This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED	
2.	Not applicable.
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
3.	This report outlines the activity of the Executive and activities to progress the priorities set out in the council's Corporate Plan since 17 th November 2021.
Communities, Culture and Heritage	
4.	On 2 nd February, Southampton submitted its bid to be the UK City of Culture 2025. This award will provide the city with the opportunity to celebrate the wealth of cultural activity, illuminate Southampton's diversity, bring in additional investment, create jobs, attract thousands of visitors and most importantly, benefit the residents of Southampton. We await with excitement the announcement of shortlisted cities this month.
5.	As part of the administration's commitment to provide an additional 1000 additional parking spaces by March 2023, new parking spaces on Lydgate Road and Farringford Road were installed.
Our Greener City	
6.	The council has successfully delivered initiatives and provided funds to encourage more sustainable travel in our fight against climate change. In January, our Workplace Travel Grants were made available, providing up to £5000, to encourage businesses and staff to travel to work sustainably. I am proud to announce that the council's 'My Journey' sustainable transport team received the Sustainable Transport Management Initiative of the Year award.

	This team held various events, such as Love Your Bike, highlighting the health and environmental benefits of cycling.
7.	With our commitment to supporting sustainable travel, in January we piloted our Home Library Service, in partnership with the council's Sustainable Transport Team and a local courier. We provided a book delivery service to people who are unable to visit their local library, by using environmentally friendly eBikes. The Library Staff ensure that customers receive the books they want to their door by the courier on a monthly basis. We currently have 30 customers signed up for this service and hope to attract more to use this environmentally friendly delivery service.
	Growth
8.	The Council is dedicated to supporting the growth of our businesses across Southampton. It has been an exciting opportunity to join with YTKO Limited, the University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City Council and Hampshire County Council, to launch the Get Set Solent business support programme. This supports the growth of early stage, established, small and medium businesses in Southampton, giving them full access to funding and marketing support. Moreover, since 4 th January, we have engaged with 74 businesses across Hampshire to access grants from the LoCASE (Low Carbon Across the South and East) programme.
9.	I am delighted to highlight that the council more than doubled its targets set out in the '100 in 100' campaign. We aimed to provide 100 young people with skills and apprenticeship programmes in 100 days, but went beyond this and successfully placed 209 young people in the apprentice programme. Moreover, we surpassed the £2million in pledges from large employers to recycle their unspent apprenticeship levy funds into supporting apprentices in small businesses. This successful campaign and effective use of funds has ensured the growth and development of our residents and businesses.
	Wellbeing
10.	I am proud to say that despite the impact of COVID-19, a total of 63 Early Years Education and Childcare settings have now achieved a Healthy Early Years Award. Setting these high standards is having a positive effect on the healthy lifestyle choices of young children and families, and further supports the reduction of child and adult obesity levels as we progress towards our declaration on healthy weight as part of our ambitions for a healthy city. Building upon the success of the Healthy Early Years Award, additional funding has been secured to develop and roll out a similar award focussing on mental health and wellbeing to support families, children and staff further from the impact of the pandemic. Furthermore, I am delighted to announce that we have now launched our partnership with the UNICEF UK Child Friendly Cities programme to become an accredited Child Friendly City by 2025.
11.	Libraries across the city are completing some fantastic work to improve the lives of individuals. Read Easy Southampton has established one to one free coaching from volunteers, providing confidential reading support to those who struggle with reading. The council has worked together to help others, with the readers being referred to the scheme by many organisations across the city. Currently, Read Easy is currently supporting 20 people to learn to read,

	to improve their wellbeing, employment opportunities, quality of life, self-worth and esteem.
	A Council that works with and for you
12.	It brings me great pleasure to congratulate the Council's Employment Support team on winning the British Association of Supported Employment Team of the Year award, at the annual awards for best practice in supporting disability employment. The Employment Support Team celebrated its 30 th year in 2020. In the last 30 years, they have worked with over 10,000 disadvantaged and disabled clients, with a zero-exclusion philosophy.
13.	In December, the council's Highways Partnership, with Balfour Beatty LP, was a finalist at the global World Commerce and Contracting Association Innovation and Excellence Awards. The council made it to down the final three in the Outstanding Cooperation and Collaboration category which covered the Europe, Middle East and Africa region. The nomination recognises the positive impact of the council's contract and commercial function with Balfour Beatty Living Places and how the Highways Partnership contract champions open communication, problem solving, joint working in a trusted environment, and the achievement of value to both organisations.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
14.	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
15.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
16.	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
17.	None.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
18.	None.

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.	