

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	15 JULY 2020		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Felicity Ridgway Policy & Strategy Manager	Tel: 023 8083 3310
	E-mail:	felicity.ridgway@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Mike Harris Deputy Chief Executive	Tel: 023 8083 2882
	E-mail:	mike.harris@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY	
None	
BRIEF SUMMARY	
This report outlines the Executive Business conducted since the last Executive Business Report to Full Council on 18 September 2019.	
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.	My last Executive Business report was made to this Council in March 2020, and since then we have seen unprecedented changes to many aspects of our day to day lives as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Members have been kept up to date on changes to council services through a variety of channels, and I would like to, once again, thank all staff and Members for their hard work at during these difficult times.
	Communities, culture and homes
4.	Following an agreement with Southampton City Council and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Balfour Beatty Living Places, our highways partner, installed "thank you NHS" road markings on the roads around Southampton General Hospital as a community project. The installation took place overnight on Wednesday 22 nd April 2020.
5.	Friday 8 th May marked 75 years since the war in Europe came to an end. We celebrated VE Day virtually via our Facebook and YouTube channels. There was an online Commemorative Ceremony broadcasted at 3pm which

	included the Mayor and I laying wreaths at the Cenotaph located in Watts Park in Southampton. Southampton residents took part in Stay at Home parties which was greatly received and shared on our social media channels throughout the day. Our museums also shared some fascinating items and stories about VE Day celebrations in the city in 1945 and on life during WW2 which were available to view online.
6.	During the lockdown period we have continued to work with partners in the city to support veterans and deliver on our Armed Forces Community Covenant commitments. Veteran drop in centres have not been able to operate their normal functions, but have continued to provide support through phone and Facetime calls. Southampton Veterans Drop-in Centre has also done much to combat isolation and loneliness, through the provision of some ready prepared meals, which the volunteers have promoted and published on their social media. The Solent Armed Forces Covenant programme has also provided some funding towards “All Call Signs” 24 hour Peer to Peer telephone service, providing a support for public service employees, who are members of the armed forces community.
7.	This year we celebrated Armed Forces week from 22 nd June to 27 th June, and showed our support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community, from currently serving troops to Service families, veterans, reservists and cadets. Although we unable to have our usual Armed Forces Day Parade due to government social distancing guidelines we celebrated and showed our commitment our forces community with a series of socially distanced events including a flag raising ceremony and sharing virtual museum stories. The whole of Southampton 02 Guildhall was lit in Red, White and Blue for the week, in honour of the city’s armed forces community.
8.	Despite venues including art galleries and museums remaining closed since the end of March, our cultural venues have been offering a range of different online programmes available to residents for free.
9.	In May the Mayflower 400 Grants programme was launched with match funding by the Council and National Lottery Heritage Fund. A new music commission delivered in partnership with Mayflower 400 and Turner Sims has appointed the world renowned composer and musician Tende Jegede to lead this commission, supported by funding from Arts Council England and SCC.
10.	Southampton City Art Gallery was to host a 2020 biennial open exhibition around the theme of ‘In Search of a New World’. I am happy to say that the exhibition will still be going ahead but virtually and the digital exhibition will be online from 15 August 2020.
11.	As part of Refugee Week, from 15 th – 21 st June, Southampton City Libraries hosted a range of online events for both adults and children, to help showcase the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees, and promoting a better understanding of why people seek sanctuary.
	Green City
12.	In May, I announced a package of transformative transport measures to help people travel healthily and safely alongside social distancing. The £4.1m Green Transport Recovery Plan, to be delivered by the council’s Highways Partners Balfour Beatty Living Places, has been established in line with the Government’s recommendations for encouraging safe and active travel as we

	<p>come out of lockdown. The Green Transport Recovery Plan sets out a series of interventions to address two key challenges that we as a council have identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It will enable people to continue adhering to social distancing guidelines as people start to travel more and; 2. It will support people to keep walking and cycling following a rise in active travel across the city. <p>The Green Transport Recovery Plan schemes are in addition to the existing Southampton Cycle Network (SCN) which continues to be developed in line with the council's ten-year Cycling Strategy, launched in 2017.</p> <p>These schemes are being implemented in line with new central government powers, under a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO), which allows the council to install the scheme, monitor, evaluate and take feedback from residents for six months. This is the consultation period and has enabled the council to move quickly in line with Government guidance. After this initial period, we can then make a decision on whether to make the scheme is permanent, make alterations to the scheme or remove the scheme completely.</p>
13.	<p>We have secured funding, along with 18 other English local authorities, through the Department for Transport's £2m 'eCargo' Bike Grant Fund. This will allow us to purchase e-cargo bikes for our own use or the use of local businesses and is intended to replace polluting vans. We have received 10 e-cargo bikes for our use for the council in response to this Bike Grant Fund.</p>
14.	<p>In June we installed our new 'BigBelly' bins across the city. These new high-tech bins are able to crush rubbish and give a sign when they need emptying. We introduced 25 solar powered bins across the city as part of our Green City Plan. This development across the city will reduce the amount of collections that are made which will result in less vehicles on the road. The bins contain smart technology and informs the depot when they are full and need emptying which means they are more efficient, they keep our streets cleaner and reduces pollution levels in the city.</p>
15.	<p>From 22nd June we introduced a new Environmental Enforcement Service with the power to issue Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), which is now patrolling the city in order to tackle the issue of littering. Enforcement Officers are authorised to issue and process FPNs of £75 (reduced to £55 if paid within the first ten days) to members of the public who drop litter and cigarette ends. This service was approved in February by Cabinet, and is being delivered in partnership with East Hampshire District Council.</p>
	<p>Place Shaping</p>
16.	<p>Last month we received £225k to help prepare for the safe reopening of the city centre and other districts from 15th June, when "non-essential" retailers began to reopen in line with Government guidelines.</p> <p>The Reopening High Streets Safety Fund helped us to introduce social distancing and public health safety measures, which will help us to kickstart the local economy, get people back to work and encourage customers back to the high street and shops.</p>

17.	<p>The council’s planning function remained “open for business” throughout the lockdown in accordance with Government expectations, and in May we launched our first virtual Planning and Rights of Way Panel.</p> <p>There were 120 “minor or other” applications determined in April and May with 94.2% determined within the Governments 8-week timescale – significantly higher than the target of 70%. No “major” applications were determined but progress was made in pre-application discussions on a number of large developments that will be subject to planning applications within the next few months. The Building Control service also continued to process building regulations applications to ensure that development accords with required standards.</p>
18.	<p>The work to reconstruct the foundations of and resurface the Millbrook Roundabout started in October 2018, and was part of the plans issued by both the council and Balfour Beatty Living Places. Part of this construction work included the ‘Living Wall’ designed to be green all-year, with the plant species selected specifically for Southampton. I’m happy to say that the Living Wall has blossomed and added a splash of colour to the local area.</p>
19.	<p>In April the Redbridge Roundabout Highway Improvement Scheme reached a key milestone with the installation of a new pedestrian footbridge that links key residential areas either side of this strategic gateway into the city. Emergency gas works have resulted in some delays to the Highways England led project and resulted in the closure of Old Redbridge Road for a number of months, which is now reopened. The project is due to complete in the Autumn 2020. This will add much needed highway capacity to an important gateway junction to the city and the Port as well and improvements facilities for walking and cycling.</p>
20.	<p>During May 2020 consultation was launched by Sovereign Centros in relation to the proposal for the multi-million pound investment in the Leisure World site which is on Council land. The proposal includes: a total of 650 homes, two 150-room hotels, 80 serviced hotel apartments, new restaurants and offices, a cinema and a casino. The £250m investment is set to create more than 1,000 jobs in the city and will be developed in phases with work expected to start in 2022. The scheme it is an important part of the new Mayflower Quarter.</p>
20.	<p>The Chapel Riverside development, has been shortlisted in the Best New Development in the South category of First Time Buyer Magazine’s Readers’ Awards 2020. The Chapel Riverside development was the project that created over 450 new homes at the Chapel Riverside site and a further 350 at the Meridian Waterside development in 2019. The job itself created a desirable waterfront homes and created new jobs and promoted further investment in Southampton.</p>
	<p>Wellbeing (Children)</p>
21.	<p>In May Southampton’s Youth Offending Service was announced the second team to win the new ‘Youth Justice Artsmark Award’, they were also the first group to get Gold. An Artsmark is an Arts Council award and the new award is specifically for youth justice settings that includes an independent accreditation. I would like to offer my congratulations and thank the staff within the YOS and I&D FEW teams.</p>

22.	In June we launched a new free online 'one-stop-shop' providing essential information on further education, apprenticeships and future employment options to help local young people plan for their futures for year 11 pupils. The new online resource is called Flying Start has been developed in partnership with Bitterne Park Sixth Form College, City College Southampton, Itchen College, St Anne's Sixth Form College, Richard Taunton Sixth Form College and the Southern Universities Network.
23.	In June we sourced 1,146 laptops and cases through a government scheme (announced on 19 April 2020) to help make remote education more accessible for pupils staying at home during the coronavirus lockdown. We also distributed 237 4G routers to support pupils who do not already have mobile or broadband internet in their household. The laptops will be given to disadvantaged families, children and young people who do not currently have access to a computer and/or the internet from another source, such as their school.
24.	Work on Southampton's first all-through school, combining primary and secondary education on one site, has reached a major milestone with the start of full construction work in June. Prior to this start on site pre construction work was carried out to prepare the site and also carry out survey work needed. This project will create 900 much needed new places and 130 jobs for the local economy. The new school which incorporates a wide range of energy efficiency, ecological and environmental measures is scheduled for completion in Autumn 2022.
Wellbeing (Adults and Health)	
25.	<p>Over the past few months our wellbeing services have stepped up to lead the enormous response required by the COVID-19 pandemic, to support our most vulnerable residents and prevent the spread of infection. Our Public Health team have been at the forefront of this response, working with experts across the region to inform the emergency response and adapt our services.</p> <p>Our Adult Social Care team stepped up to support those that were the most vulnerable from day one, and have worked tirelessly to deliver critical services to those that need them most. The team offered an extended working week to residents of Southampton which consisted of 8am – 8pm every day of the week. We have also worked with our colleagues in the Integrated Commissioning Unit to support health and social care services across the city.</p>

26.	<p>Throughout May and June we continued to support the causes of a range of celebration and awareness weeks. We celebrated national Carers Week from 8th – 14th June with the theme of ‘Make Caring Visible’, and highlighted the challenges unpaid carers face and recognising the enormous contribution they make not only to those they care for, but to society.</p> <p>For Mental Health Awareness Week (8th – 24th May) Southampton City Art Gallery shared art works from the city’s collection on social media which focuses on the theme of ‘calming’. The online exhibition called ‘Calm in the Collection’ attracted over 400 online visitors. For National Loneliness Awareness Week (15th – 21st June) we highlighted how we have been supporting residents experiencing ‘lockdown loneliness’ and for Learning Disability Week (15th – 21st June) we reflected on the ways that we are supporting people with learning disabilities, who already experience high levels of loneliness which may have been made worse because of lockdown.</p>
27.	<p>In June a new COVID-19 testing programme was launched in Southampton. This is a partnership between Southampton City Council, the University of Southampton and the NHS, alongside a wider Hampshire network of public services. It has been commissioned by the Department for Health and Social Care and paid for by the Government.</p> <p>The programme is assessing the feasibility of at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for whole households, to help stop the spread of the virus as lockdown restrictions are eased. Selected key workers from the NHS and council and their households have been invited to participate in this testing programme. Some University of Southampton staff and their households will also participate, alongside some University of Southampton students who are currently living in halls of residence. What we learn from this first phase will help the partnership assess the feasibility of more widespread testing in the future.</p>
28.	<p>Earlier in the year both Southampton City Council and Portsmouth City Council were involved in developing a drone project to transport medical supplies across the Solent. This project was fast tracked by the Government as part of the COVID-19 response and the first delivery of medical supplies to the Isle of Wight by drone was delivered on Saturday 9th May.</p>
Successful, sustainable business	
29.	<p>In response to the COVID-19 situation, a rollout of new IT equipment was prioritised to critical services, and 1800 users now have updated laptops. In addition remote connectivity services had to be increased. When originally implemented they were designed to focus support 500 remote workers but capacity has been increased and typically 1800+ users are connected each day. Work continues to improve and stabilise the systems to support flexible and remote working.</p>
30.	<p>By mid-May we were able to set up systems to roll out online council meetings which were made accessible to members of the public and the media. The first public Microsoft Teams Event was held on Tuesday 19th May for Cabinet. Training was provided to council staff and we shared instructions on how to use Microsoft Teams on our website for residents to use.</p>

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
31.	None
<u>Property/Other</u>	
32.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
33.	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
34.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
35.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
36.	None

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
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