

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	16 SEPTEMBER 2020		
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 the last Executive Business Report to Full Council on 15 July 2020.	
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 July 2020. This report outlines the activity of the Executive and activities to progress the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-2025 since July.
Communities, culture and homes	
4.	To support the communities in which we live, work and learn, we have now launched a new scheme to identify COVID-19 Community Champions to work with the Public Health and Stronger Communities Teams to share messages about how to stay safe during the coronavirus pandemic. All our Champions will be provided with the latest information, advice and guidance, through regular briefings and via other channels in order to raise awareness, to be able to help people make informed choices, and ultimately help keep people as safe as possible by preventing the spread of infection. We are encouraging people to register to become a Champion at www.southampton.gov.uk/communitychampions

5.	The museums team adapted to provide online exhibition, collections, engagement and learning opportunities to audiences throughout lockdown, reaching out to schools, families and the wider community with a rise in social media followers to over 30,000. These have included online talks and tours, live classes via zoom and more in-depth projects with vulnerable adults in the city. Local groups that have taken part including Headway, Society of St James, Salvation Army, Day Services, Mencap, CLEAR, City College, Rosewood Free School, Tenants Services and HomeInStead. This has been supported the first online exhibition done by the Art Gallery - John Hitchens: Aspects of Landscape, followed by Calm in the Collection, Hospital Rooms and the Open exhibition, In Search of a New World.
6.	Meanwhile, SeaCity Museum opened at the end of July, followed in August by the Art Gallery which have seen over 90% take up of advance online sales with local visitors and those from further afield coming to enjoy what Southampton has to offer.
7.	The Council's Archaeology Unit continues to provide an archaeological service to developers in the city and the surrounding area. Eleven names of Sotonians who gave their lives in the service of their country in the First and Second World Wars were added to the Memorial Wall at the Southampton Cenotaph in readiness for the 75th anniversary of VJ Day on 15 August.
8.	During the lockdown, Southampton's Libraries, quickly adapted the public service in line with national guidelines with the team making over 1,300 wellbeing calls and 350 home deliveries to vulnerable people. Social media and online use grew and remained consistently high with a monthly average of 5,000 users borrowing 5,000 online books, and reaching 69,000 people through social media. Phased reopening of libraries has been implemented since early July, increasing hours and services week by week, welcoming over 6500 visits by the end of July. Two community libraries (Burgess Road and Cobbett Road) also reopened in July with a Select and Collect service, and will be followed by the other community libraries where possible.
9.	Thanks to a successful Home Office grant both the council and the Safe City Partnership will be able to deliver projects within the Bargate Ward in Southampton over the next year. As part of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire will be awarded just under £550k to tackle acquisitive crime in the Bargate area.
10.	On 15 August we marked the 75th anniversary of VJ Day. A film was produced with a voice over from Archie Parsons from the Royal British Legion. The Mayor laid a wreath by the plaque in Town Quay Park, which commemorates the repatriation of men, women and children who survived Far East captivity. This was recorded and released online later in the day. A dedicated web page was created on Visit Southampton to commemorate VJ Day 75.
11.	On 29 August ZoeLogic Dance Theatre group took over and transformed Guildhall Square. A huge socially distanced grid was positioned on the floor and 64 dancers who during lockdown had been practicing their moves were able to come together as a group to create a wonderfully choreographed piece of work which brought these people safely together for the first time. It is planned to be repeated.
12.	This year marks 400 years since the sailing of the Mayflower from Southampton's West Quay, on August 15, 1620. In August we reopened the

	<p>city's Mayflower 400 programme after lockdown, starting with two exhibitions, a rally of yachts sailing to Dartmouth and Plymouth, and the launch of a Mayflower 400 Southampton website with new films and digital resources. Southampton is the first city to mark a Mayflower anniversary through the lens of migration. We are celebrating our city and our communities, with a particular emphasis on those who have come to, or through, Southampton in search of a new life. Our Property and Archaeology teams enabled the repair and conservation of the Mayflower Memorial in readiness for the anniversary, with a small event organised by Southampton Heritage Federation including readings by the Mayor of Southampton and others. This has been accompanied by a new Mayflower mosaic trail commissioned by the previous Mayor Cllr Baillie, a new website outlining future events, new educational resources co-created with Wampanoag scholar Paula Peters, and the opening of a new touring exhibition at SeaCity Museum - Wampum: Stories from the Shells of Native America.</p>
	<p>Green City</p>
13.	<p>Our sustainable travel programme, 'My Journey' has created a collection of videos and online maps showcasing different cycle routes in and around Southampton, covering both key commuter corridors and routes more suitable for leisure purposes. The resources went live in July and are intended to help people overcome the barrier of planning a route and give them the confidence to get around by bike which also supports our aim to be a greener city.</p> <p>As part of this, My Journey is also offering grants of up to £4k to help cycling clubs, voluntary or community organisations deliver walking or cycling initiatives to residents. The grant can be used to run a variety of community activities and the deadline for applications is midday on Friday 18 December.</p>
14.	<p>In August we implemented a pedestrianisation scheme at Bedford Place, with temporary road closures introduced along Bedford Place from Henstead Road to Carlton Place; along Carlton Place from Bedford Place to Southampton Street; and along Lower Banister Street from Carlton Place to opposite the Popworld establishment. The measures will provide a safer, more spacious environment and enable people walking through this high footfall area of the city to follow social distancing guidelines with greater ease. Crucially, they will also form an important contribution to the 'Inside Out' initiative recently announced by the council and the Southampton Business Improvement District (BID), Go! Southampton.</p>
15.	<p>The grass area outside Civic Centre has now become one of our new managed grasslands. This is to support the local wildlife by providing a food source and shelter. We have seen a variety of native wildflowers in the area and it is already attracting a variety of valuable pollinators. The city has over 70 wildflower meadows and managed grasslands. As part of the Green City Plan, we are committed to creating at least 25 new urban wildflower meadows by 2025.</p>
16.	<p>I was pleased to host a Green City Celebratory event in July. Over 40 people attended our virtual event including key stakeholders, residents and community groups. We provided an update on the Green City actions and the plans for the future along with examples of new projects that are being implemented to support the commitments made as part of the Green City.</p>

17.	<p>In July we added 24 new electric vans to our City Services fleet. The vans will be used by several of our services, including Neighbourhood Wardens and Waste Operations teams. The vans will contribute towards our goal of 90% of our fleet being zero-emission by 2030 as well as our Green City Plan. We have also upgraded our Waste and Recycling fleet with six new Scania collection vehicles, featuring innovative 'Rotopress' technology; a rotating drum principle that provides the most economical solution for refuse collection. Other benefits of the new vehicles include reduced noise, less spillage and dust and reduced odours. Low emission Euro 6 standard engines combined with fewer moving parts make the vehicles not only environmentally friendly but more cost effective to maintain and service.</p>
18.	<p>As part of our commitment to invest in a cleaner city we are currently recruiting new Cleansing Operatives to join our City Services team. The new Citywide Task Team will deliver targeted work on streets and green spaces across the whole city using a number of different vehicles, plant and machinery to keep the city clean and green. This, alongside our new solar compactor bins, fly tipping enforcement activity and fines for dropping litter demonstrate to our residents and visitors how much we care about their local environment, their wellbeing and our Green City goals.</p>
19.	<p>We have now commenced work on a major project to improve provision for people walking and cycling through Bevois Valley. This is part of our three-year government approved 'Transforming Cities' programme, which was awarded £57M by the Department for Transport earlier this year, and sets out a range of bold and ambitious infrastructure projects to improve public transport and make the city a more attractive place for walking and cycling.</p> <p>The work is being carried out by our Highways Partners Balfour Beatty Living Places and will deliver upgrades to the existing shared cycle/footway and improved crossings between Rockstone Lane and Lodge Road. As well as improving access, these changes will create an important new section of the Southampton Cycle Network (SCN), as set out in our ten year cycling strategy.</p>
	<p>Place Shaping</p>
20.	<p>The first Southampton City Business Taskforce met on the 28 July 2020. This new Taskforce will help inform a new citywide Economic and Green Growth Strategy and lead our journey of economic recovery following the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As part of the wider consultation on and co-production of the strategy and number of sector-based roundtables are being established, initially, with developers and with those in the Hospitality sector in partnership with GO! Southampton.</p>
21.	<p>Wessex Demolition has completed their contract to demolish one block at Copse Road, which will be redeveloped for housing, as part of the 1000 homes programme, and 3 blocks on the Ozier Road/Meggesson Avenue site, which is to become the new central community open space with play and events space, funded by Homes England Housing Infrastructure Fund grant.</p>
22.	<p>At Full Council on 15 July we approved plans which will see hundreds of new homes delivered across the city in an investment programme worth an estimated £144m. These new homes will deliver 100% affordable living in a combination of social, affordable and shared ownership schemes, which will give Southampton residents the opportunity to also get onto the property</p>

	ladder. This project is still within the planning and design stages and potential sites will be confirmed once this develops further.
23.	<p>The first consultation on Southampton City Vision, our new Local Plan, commenced on 10 February 2020 and was due to run for 10 weeks to 19 April 2020. However, the consultation was extended to 31 May 2020 due to disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. In total, we received over 3,000 responses and over 250 attended the community events that took place. Respondents told us that ‘Environment and Climate Change’ was the most important theme/challenge that our Local Plan needs to focus on, closely followed by ‘Growth and Investment’ and ‘Getting Around’. I am pleased that Southampton is already focused on environment and climate change, with our ambitious vision for a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city set out in the Green City Charter I launched last year. The new local plan will align with that vision and the actions set out in the Green City Plan 2030.</p> <p>A report comprising the full summary and analysis of results will be finalised in due course with the aim of submission to Cabinet in the autumn.</p>
24.	The Solent Apprenticeship Hub successfully launched its Transfer to Transform scheme, which seeks to tap into unspent apprenticeship levy funds from large employers in order to fund apprenticeship places in SMEs. Since 1 July 2020, over £750k has been pledged by large employers that gives a timely boost to our economy, businesses and talent pool.
25.	<p>Work has now started to improve the play area at Daisy Dip in Swaythling. The renovations will create a new and improved space for families to spend time together outside and be active. The new play equipment has been chosen by the Friends of Daisy Dip following a consultation in March with the project being delivered by the City Services Landscape Team. In Freemantle Park improvements have been made following discussions with the local community, including new durable tarmac paths providing all weather access to the play area as well as notice boards displaying information on the history and the different types of wildlife that can be found in the park. Wild flowers will be sown in the autumn, along the rear of the play area and new picnic tables are being installed this month. In Mansel Park we have installed new Adizone outdoor gym equipment to replace older worn out items and have resurfaced the outdoor gym area.</p> <p>This is all part of the Executive’s commitment to improve play areas and green spaces across the city. We have set aside £690,000 to refurbish 17 play areas, and a further £510,000 for general improvements to open spaces. The whole programme is due to complete in 2022.</p>
	Wellbeing (Children)
26.	I am very pleased to welcome Robert Henderson who joined us as Executive Director for Children and Learning in early September. Robert joins us with a wealth of experience in Children’s Services and will help us to continue to make Southampton a child friendly city.
27.	Congratulations to everyone who received their A Level and GCSE results last month, following an unprecedented year that I know was challenging for teachers and pupils alike. The Access Southampton website has free helpful information and tips for young people receiving their results, from advice

	about leaving school and further education options, to how to apply for apprenticeships or find employment.
28.	<p>Our Violence Reduction Unit has distributed £80K Home Office funding to local organisations to help us deliver the Violence Reduction response strategy. A panel of Safe City Partnership members assessed bids to ensure that activities were targeted and effective to prevent and reduce serious violence and awarded funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hampton Trust – to deliver specialist, diversionary support for violent offenders identified by the National Probation Service and Trauma Informed training for agencies in the city. • In Focus – to take young people, identified by the Youth Offending Service, through a Bronze Art Award programme, and the creation of online access and support through COVID-19. • SoCo Music Project – youth engagement through Urban music, both online during COVID 19 and in three key geographic areas in the city • St Giles Trust – providing intensive support to our most vulnerable children, identified by the Missing and Exploited Team and to provide anti-violence education through schools inclusion units. <p>Funding had already been agreed to extend a project with No Limits to provide youth workers in Southampton General Hospital Children’s Emergency Dept, to provide support and guidance to young people as victims or offenders of serious violence.</p>
	Wellbeing (Adults and Health)
29.	At the start of July, we published our COVID-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan which outlines how we will work with partners to minimise the spread of COVID-19 infection and identify and control local flare ups of the virus as quickly as possible. It will monitor early indicators of transmission across Southampton’s diverse communities and settings, providing support to where it is needed. We have also set up our Local Outbreak Engagement Board, which I am pleased to be able to Chair, with our first meeting taking place this month.
30.	Following the first pilot phase of the Southampton Covid-19 Saliva Testing Programme, the partnership has been keen to continue the work and to extend the benefits of a regular testing programme. The pilot phase of the programme was a success and the University of Southampton has been successful in securing additional funding from the Department of Health & Social Care to extend the pilot and assess the potential of the new test in education settings. The council has been working with the University of Southampton, Southampton General Hospital and other stakeholders to design and plan a roll out the next phase of the programme. Testing is planned to start with an initial school on 14th September, with others to join the programme on 21st then 28th September. Colleagues at the council are supporting the project through technical advice (Public Health and education) and project management.
31.	The council in partnership with BCP Council, Poole BID and Arts Council England have funded a not-for-profit community interest company called ‘Audacious’ to launch an online arts engagement project called ‘Confessions’. This project aims to respond to concerns about the effect lockdown is having on mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus crisis. The online

	gallery which was created by artist Ashley Wilkie presents psychedelic colours and sounds which leads into a confession's gallery.
32.	The Integrated Commissioning Unit has developed an online Wellbeing Resources Pack for staff in the independent and voluntary sectors who are responsible for the provision of care and support services to Southampton's residents. The pack provides comprehensive and practical support for care staff and managers in order to help support the sector to recover from its initial experience COVID-19, and the pack will be regularly updated to ensure it remains a valuable resource in the long term.
33.	The Integrated Commissioning Unit has also worked with partners across the health and care system to implement the new hospital discharge guidance, taking the necessary actions to support the Covid-19 discharge to assess arrangements. In recent weeks the team have worked with partners to understand what was successful throughout this change in order to take forward an approach that builds upon lessons learnt and meets the new national hospital discharge requirements.
	Successful, sustainable business
34.	During the national lockdown and the subsequent relaxation of lockdown measures, the Council has maintained a policy of asking staff to work from home where they can. At the same time, measures have been put in place to ensure that its offices are safe for the small number of staff who were not able to work from home or required access to office-based files or systems. Desk rationing and spacing ensured that staff sit at least two metres from each other, while lifts, toilets, kitchens and meeting rooms had strict occupancy limits applied. The cleaning regime was changed and local cleaning stations provided around the offices. Hand sanitiser pumps were installed at entry and access points, and a policy of encouraging visitors to wear face coverings applied. Occupancy of the Civic Centre and One Guildhall Square has gradually risen to about 25% over the summer holidays, and although the working from home policy remains in place further steps are now being taken to ensure that more staff are safely able to attend the office on an occasional basis during the rest of the pandemic period. This flexible approach is intended to support staff productivity and wellbeing during a difficult time.
35.	Gateway reopened its doors to the public on 6 July after measures were introduced to ensure customer and team safety. Since opening Gateway has had 5,177 visitors and has been able to successfully deal with their enquiries.
36.	Towards the end of July Southampton City Council was announced amongst the most supportive organisations for Britain's Armed Forces and received The Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award. The Council signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant in June 2013 and since signing up the council has worked in partnership with staff, members of the Armed Forces and local organisations, to ensure the Covenant is upheld. The purpose of the Covenant is to advocate for the Armed Forces population who work and reside in the city, recognising the sacrifices made by Servicemen and women and their families. This is the highest award achievable for an organisation and my congratulations go out to our teams within the council that have helped us to achieve this well deserved recognition.
37.	Congratulations to the winners of our Season Three 2020 Employee Awards. We received over 170 nominations in Season 3, all of whom deserve

	<p>recognition for their hard work, with so many examples of colleagues going the extra mile, often in response to additional COVID-19 related demands. Well done to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Watkins, Independence Advisor in the Social Wellbeing Service, Employee winner • Richard Pearson, Head of Communications, Manager winner • The Community Support Hub, Team winners • Frank McCarthy, Senior Records Officer, Customer Service Superstar • Sam Bryson, Customer Services Officer, Apprentice winner • Karen Biddle, Principal Social Worker, Apprenticeship Supporter
38.	<p>Congratulations to Hayden Collins, Participation Officer for Children and Young People, who has been shortlisted for the MJ 'Rising Star award this year. This award recognises local authority leaders of tomorrow, and Hayden has been deservedly recognised for making a real difference to the children of Southampton.</p>
39.	<p>Lastly congratulations to all the teams in Supplier Management on being shortlisted in the 'Leadership of the Year' category of the UK National Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement Awards. The team has been focussing on delivering the right strategic outcomes for the city, our residents, businesses, visitors and for the council. To enable the new model, the council undertook the major decision in July 2019 to bring its procurement services in-house to join it with our contract management services and move away from the outsourced procurement model it had been employing since 2007.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
40.	None
<u>Property/Other</u>	
41.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
42.	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
43.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
44.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
45.	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