

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	11 October 2021		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None.

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
This report outlines the Executive Business conducted since July 2021.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
(i) That the report be noted.

<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
1. This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>
2. Not applicable.

<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>
3. This report outlines the activity of the Executive and activities to progress the priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan since July 2021.

<b>Communities, Culture and Heritage</b>
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4.	We have now published the first draft of our new Cultural Strategy for the city, which is open for public consultation until 31 October. This strategy outlines the vision, goals, priorities and investment opportunities for the city's cultural sector, sets out where Southampton is now, and where we want to be in the future. It seeks to understand our strengths, weaknesses and future investment opportunities that meet the needs of our local communities, as well as attracting visitors and businesses to Southampton. It is a key part of our plan to Get Southampton Moving, and helps provide a solid cultural foundation in the city as we await the outcome of the longlisting phase of the UK City of Culture 2025 competition, now due in early October.
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5.	The city successfully held a new city centre festival on 25 September, organised by GO! Southampton – Re:claim. Bringing together Southampton's diverse creative forces including Skate Southampton, Solent Showcase Gallery, SoCo Music Project, Hip Hop Heritage, ZoieLogic, Westquay and more, Re:Claim is setting its sights on becoming a flagship event for the city.
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6.	This year, Southampton residents were invited to join Southampton International Boat Show's very first Community Day. The show features everything the leisure marine industry has to offer, ranging from paddleboards to superyachts, and all the products and services needed to enjoy life in, on or
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	around the water. This year anyone living in postcode areas SO14 to SO19 could get a discounted ticket.
7.	I was pleased to see Pride on 28 August and the triumphant return of the ABP Southampton Marathon this year on Sunday, 5 September – my heartfelt thanks go out to all SCC staff and volunteers, as well as our partners, who help make these great events happen.
	<b>Our Greener City</b>
8.	We carried out a public survey looking for suggestions that could help improve air quality in our city wanting to hear from residents and businesses affected by poor air quality on what changes they'd like to see in their local areas. The survey closed on 30 September, and suggestions will be considered as part of the Council's upcoming Air Quality Action Plan update.
9.	As of 1 September 2021, taxis licensed outside of Southampton no longer have 'all times' access to Southampton bus lanes. Instead, cleaner 'Euro standard' vehicles will be permitted an exemption to access bus lanes at peak times. An exemption also applies to certain 'Home to School Transport' vehicles. This change is one of several elements of our 'Local NO2 Plan' – an alternative to a charging Clean Air Zone which would have introduced a daily charge to older taxis and PHVs for accessing the city. This aims to support local trade while still encouraging cleaner vehicles into the city from other licensing authorities.
	<b>Growth</b>
10.	Solent University, together with Southampton City Council and other key civic stakeholders (including Solent LEP, Business South and University Hospital Southampton), have launched their formalised Civic Charter, which forms the University's Civic Agreement. The first of its kind for the city of Southampton, the agreement outlines how the university will contribute towards its future growth and development.
11.	Plans for the development of the Leisure World site have taken a positive step forward as Cabinet approved the commercial terms for the £250m scheme. The Leisure World development will celebrate Southampton's industrial maritime heritage whilst responding to the need of creating a mixed-use development for all. The Council will also be working with the developer, Sovereign Centros, so that environmental considerations for the city are reflected in the new development. This includes the use of the latest building and low-carbon technologies and significant 'greening' of the public realm. The scheme will be built across different phases, beginning in early 2023 with the first phase expected to be occupied during 2024-25.
12.	I recently wrote to the residents of Townhill Park confirming my administration's commitment to continue the Townhill Park regeneration project. Our intention is to bring forward more homes by working in partnership with housing associations and developers. Our priority will continue to be that of delivering a mix of housing including affordable homes and the opportunity for people to get on the housing ladder through shared ownership and other initiatives.
13.	The Council launched the 100 in 100 campaign in August, a major element of our drive to Get Southampton Moving by providing 100 work opportunities for

	<p>residents in 100 days. Organised by the Solent Apprenticeship Hub, for which Southampton City Council is the lead partner, the 100 in 100 campaign was launched on 12 August at an event at the MAST Mayflower studios in Guildhall Square. The scheme will promote the benefits of skills and training programmes to both residents and employers in Southampton. These benefits range from career progression and talent retention to productivity and business growth; with success stories showcased throughout the campaign to prove that skills and training programmes make a very real difference. Find more information <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
14.	<p>On a related note, I would like to give a huge congratulations to the Solent Apprenticeship Hub, led by Southampton City Council which has recently been shortlisted for the Economic Support category at this year's LGC Awards. The whole Council has also been recognised in the APSE Service Awards 2021, following a rigorous selection process, as one of the top finalists in the following category: Best Efficiency and Transformation initiative.</p>
15.	<p>The Young Adults Employment Hub (Youth Hub) was launched in Guildhall Square in August. Young people and their families had the chance to learn more about the Hub and meet the Council's employment support team, as well as visit different organisations providing a range of job-related support services. Young people also had the opportunity to meet employers with live Kickstart vacancies at the 'Kickstart your Summer' event, held at MAST Mayflower Studios.</p>
	<p><b>Wellbeing</b></p>
16.	<p>As we welcomed children and young people back for the start of the new academic year, we have ensured that COVID-19 measures that are in place to see that this was done as safely and effectively as possible. In line with Government guidance, each education setting carries out regular COVID-19 risk assessments and may, as part of their assessment, recommend additional precautionary measures for their specific school or college, such as staggering school start times. Education settings will advise parents and carers directly if there are any further measures they need to be aware of for their child. Secondary school pupils and college students are encouraged to continue taking Lateral Flow Tests twice each week. At the start of term, schools carried out two rapid flow tests on the school premises for each person; after this, tests should continue at home. The measures put in place across all educational settings are in line with UK government guidance. Face coverings are no longer required for pupils and staff in school. However, face coverings are still recommended when using public transport to and from school.</p>
17.	<p>I would also like to say a huge well done to all pupils across Southampton who collected their A Level and GCSE results this week. It's been a difficult academic year with pupils missing time in classrooms due to the pandemic. Despite this it's been great to see pupils working hard, together with teachers and parents and carers, to achieve such positive outcomes. Thank you to all the teachers, parents and carers, and everyone else who worked tirelessly to help young people with their learning throughout the pandemic.</p>

18.	<p>As you may know, we've been working closely with local partners, landlords and the voluntary sector, as well as national government, to provide support for people evacuated from Afghanistan. The government is asking UK local authorities to help evacuees – many of whom have been working for the British Armed Forces – to resettle in the UK. We're now looking for homes in which families can be housed and start to build a new life in Southampton. I have personally asked private landlords in the city who may have affordable three or four-bedroom family homes available to rent, and who would like to help, to get in touch with us. We've also set up a special email address for interested landlords to contact us accordingly: <a href="mailto:afghan.housing@southampton.gov.uk">afghan.housing@southampton.gov.uk</a>. Any members of the public who would like to show their support, cash donations are being accepted via the <a href="#">City Life Church Southampton</a> and <a href="#">Southampton Action</a> JustGiving pages.</p>
19.	<p>I would like to thank everyone across the city who helped make our first ever Love our Children Week such a success in September, were our communities ran a range of events all focused on a single goal: celebrating the talents of our looked-after children and children in care and making sure we're giving them the best chance for their future. Highlights from the week include a street food market celebrating the culinary talents of young people, the launch of a new cookbook for our care leavers, produced in partnership with Masterchef winner Shelina Permalloo, a football match between staff and young people (4-2 to our young people!) and the launch of two superhero 'job profiles' created by young people to set out the qualities and standards they expect from the people and organisations involved in their care.</p>
20.	<p>We have also launched a <a href="#">public consultation on proposals for a draft Children &amp; Young People's Strategy</a>, asking young people and those that work with them for their ideas about how the Council and its partners can work with, and support, children and young people to get a good start in life and be safe, healthy and happy. From early years education and initiatives that encourage good mental and physical health, right the way through to ensuring that young people leaving education have the best possible chances for their future, we're the draft strategy we're consulting on will shape our work and focus in this area over the next few years.</p>
21.	<p>In response to the growing and changing dangers children can face online, the Southampton Safeguarding Children Partnership has joined partner agencies that work with children and families across the region to launch a new campaign across the city aimed at teaching 7-11 year olds how to spot and defeat online foes. The book <i>Peril of the Possessed Pets</i>, featuring a colourful gang of online 'trolls', has been created for schools and 25,000 free copies are being distributed across the Southampton, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Hampshire. A new online home for the trolls has also launched at <a href="http://www.lurkingtrolls.com">www.lurkingtrolls.com</a>.</p>
22.	<p>Over the summer, Southampton has seen a wave of activity for some of our most vulnerable children and families as part of the national Holiday Activities Fund HAF programme. We set up over 50 sites across the city offering summer activities and food to those who qualify for Free School Meals. We focussed on enriching activities, physical and mental wellbeing as well as healthy food and nutrition. Thousands of children and young people had</p>

	<p>access to activities such as skiing, sailing, sports, cookery, music and arts and crafts. Working with local providers and schools, the project was led by Inclusion Services and offered over 250,000 hours of support at a time when so many families really struggled to get this help during the pandemic. The project will continue over Christmas, with the team already looking at plans for this period. At the end of the summer, we were delighted to be able to have a celebration event in the Art Gallery with city leaders, guests of honour, providers and families.</p>
23.	<p>Friday, 1 October marked the start of this year's Walktober challenge. Walktober, run annually since 2016 by the School Travel Planning Team, is a challenge held each October to celebrate and focus the mind on International Walk to School Month. The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have taught us all that exercising and spending time outside enjoying your surroundings is great, if not essential, for your wellbeing. That is what the Walktober challenge is all about: walking to improve your wellbeing. We are encouraging pupils, staff and their families to find opportunities to walk, and be outside as often as possible.</p>
24.	<p>On 16 September, I was pleased to celebrate the 'topping out' St Mark's Church of England School, along with Morgan Sindall, Faithful+Gould, the Diocese of Winchester, the school's Headteacher and others.</p> <p>Celebrating Southampton's first-ever four to 16 all-through school, the expanded school will create 900 much-needed new secondary school places with the all-through school benefitting from a pre-school nursery, a two-form entry primary school and a six-form entry secondary school, as well as air-conditioned classrooms and a new sports building.</p>
25.	<p>I am also pleased to say that major progress continues to be made with regards to the St Mark's CE School Active Travel Zone (ATZ), a project to provide safer walking and cycling facilities and better connections to the school. Starting on 4 October, as part of the on-going works, new continuous crossings will be added at key junctions and crossings nearby, with work also underway in the Howard Road area, aiming to improve the walking route between residential areas to the north and south of Howard Road with a zebra crossing supported by new continuous crossing facilities nearby. The St Mark's ATZ scheme, co-produced with local communities and funded both from our award of £1.225m from the Government's Active Travel Fund and developer contributions secured through the planning process, constitutes a range of measures designed to make it safer and easier to walk and cycle in the local area. This is especially needed on the key routes used by children and their families of the expanding school for their journeys to and from St Mark's.</p>
26.	<p>The Council has recently actioned a range of measures to boost employment in our city. The Young Adults Employment Hub in the Central Library is now accepting drop-in appointments, TEEM (Training, Education, Employment, Motivation) Work Clubs have successfully reopened across the city, and the Employment Support Team have finalised Adult Learning courses for the 2021/22 academic year, including around Employability, Basic IT Skills, Personal Development and Confidence, Preparing for Working Life and sector-specific employment workshops.</p>

	<b>A Council that works with and for you</b>
27.	SCC has just signed a new energy contract that runs from 1 October 2021 under a new Laser framework. We estimate that this arrangement has avoided additional costs of at least £1.3m in the first year compared to our existing arrangement and could not be bettered by any other supplier. LASER Energy is owned by Kent County Council and acts like a 'buying club', where we join with other public sector bodies and have the buying power of energy supplies worth £450m (approximately 2% of the UK's non-domestic energy demand) rather than just our own £9m. SCC will still experience energy price rises that affect the whole country from October and likely for the foreseeable future, and some of these rises will be significant, but these will be much lower than if we were to procure outside the Laser framework.
28.	Lastly, I would like to say congratulations to the amazing winners of the third season of our 2021 Employee Awards. It is members of staff like Natalie Harvey-Hunter, James Marshall, Andy Mullins, Hakima Rahman, Lynn Phillips, and the entire team at Southampton Day Services that help make all of our invaluable work at the Council happen.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
	None.
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
	None.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
	None.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	None.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	None.

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	None
<b>Documents In Members' Rooms</b>	
1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	No
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	No
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	

**Other Background documents available for inspection at:**

<b>Title of Background Paper(s)</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>
1.	None.