

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT
DATE OF DECISION:	16 MAY 2018
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

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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 21st March 2018

RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	That the report be noted.
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REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.
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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2.	Not applicable.
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DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

3.	Over the last few years, we have been working to deliver the Council Strategy and our Executive Commitments whilst ensuring effective medium term financial planning to help us become sustainable. We have now reviewed our commitments, revised our Outcome Plans and considered the LGA Peer Challenge report, the details of which are in a separate report on this agenda.
4.	We have always valued the contribution of our staff, who are the council's greatest resource and we agreed in 2015 to establish Annual Staff Awards as one of the ways of responding to staff feedback that they wanted to see their work recognised and their contribution appreciated. We are delighted that this year we have received 266 nominations from staff across the council in the 3 categories (Employee, Team and Manager) and the winners will receive their awards at this meeting.

	STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
5.	We are pleased to announce that over 1,100 people have signed up to receive progress updates about Southampton City Council's own brand energy company which will be called CitizEn Energy. Following a procurement process, we will partner with Robin Hood Energy and launch CitizEn Energy in the summer of 2018. Our partners, Robin Hood Energy, were launched by Nottingham City Council in 2015. CitizEn Energy will provide residents with a competitively priced, local alternative to the Big Six energy companies.
6.	We are pleased to announce that Southampton City Council has now signed a lease on a 12,500 sq. ft. redundant storage space on the top floor of the Marlands Shopping Centre, to create an Innovation Hub. This venture will create a facility for growing knowledge-based enterprises, and is scheduled to open in November 2018. The Innovation Hub will have a strong emphasis on creating collaborative action between businesses and nurturing networks of entrepreneurs, funders, higher education and other support elements in order to generate new jobs and prosperity in Southampton
7.	It was excellent to see students involved in the Opportunity Meets Talent event, organised by Business South, and held at St Mary's stadium on 26 April 2018. Representatives from the council's Recruitment, Apprenticeships and Economic Development teams were in attendance on the day, on hand to talk to hundreds of students who are looking to find out about local opportunities for future employment, as well as attend a number of 'insight in to' sessions to learn more about working within specific sectors. The event was also attended by local and national businesses such as Old Mutual Wealth, ABP Southampton and Carnival UK, as well as many others.
8.	We were pleased to hear that the Estates Gazette Question Time on 27 March 2018 was a huge success. The event was a question and discussion session made up of a panel of policy makers and business leaders, engaging with local and national property experts to discuss the key issues affecting the city. More than 250 policy makers and business professionals attended and the panel of experts included Mike Harris, Service Director for Growth. The panel spent 90 minutes taking questions from attendees on how Southampton is going to achieve its ambitious growth plans.
9.	We were delighted to hear that an audience of over 100 people attended the launch of Creative Growth Southampton (CGS) on 19 April 2018. CGS aims to support the growth of small creative businesses in the city through mentoring, networking and training, using funding secured by Southampton City Council and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire. Other members of the CGS partnership include Southampton Solent University, Southampton Cultural Trust, ASpace, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and the Solent Growth Hub.
10.	We were pleased to hear that recent research by TotallyMoney has found Southampton to be the third best place to earn a living in the UK. The research also found that Southampton was the 10 th best city in terms of cost of living. This reflects the strength of our local economy, and the benefits this has for the people of Southampton.
11.	We were pleased to see the launch of the Life Skills Programme in April 2018, through which 155 adults with learning disabilities will be supported by the Employment and Skills team, with the aim of securing paid employment or

	work placements. Currently, the Employment and Skills team are supporting 482 people into work in the city.
12.	We were pleased to hear the announcement in April 2018 that, through Employment and Skills Plans for Major Developments in 2017/18, 165 previously unemployed local people have been supported into jobs on major construction sites and into businesses such as Lidl distribution and retail, Premier Inn and Westquay retail & hospitality. During the year, 106 apprentices have also been appointed and sustained in employment.
	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GOOD START IN LIFE
13.	We were immensely proud to hear that four Southampton schools (Regents Park, Holy Family, Fairisle Junior, and Mason Moor) were inspected by Ofsted during February and March 2018, and all were graded as 'Good'. Moreover, Regents Park and Holy Family have been put forward for further review to substantiate an 'Outstanding' grade. Ofsted no longer give an 'Outstanding' grade immediately to schools, but when they consider that a school falls into this category, they put it forward for a later inspection to ascertain whether they can sustain the high quality of provision over time. This is great credit to the Head teachers, staff, governors and pupils of all the schools inspected.
14.	We are pleased to announce that 88.3% of Secondary School children in Southampton were successful in getting their first preference school, and 87.9% of Primary School children were successful in being placed in their first preference school. Well done to the council's School Admissions team for achieving these excellent results.
15.	It was fantastic to hear the announcement in April 2018 that the number of young people aged 16-17 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), and those that are 'unknown', has reduced by nearly 25% against the same time last year. The figure now stands at 5.4%. This is in comparison to 9.7% in the South-East as a whole. This is as a result of a new approach to tracking and supporting young people.
16.	It was great to hear that the Portswood Teaching Alliance has been successful in their bid for Strategic School Improvement Funding to enhance the quality of KS2 Maths provision in specific schools. The grants come from the Department of Education, and require Teaching Schools and the Local Authority to work together to identify key schools and develop a programme of subject specific support. The grant allocated for this project is £354,606, and will involve 18 primary schools across the city.
17.	We are pleased to announce that a recent recruitment open evening for Children and Families was a great success. 92 people attended and, of those surveyed on the night, 85% said they were very likely or quite likely to apply for a job at Southampton City Council. 100% said they would recommend attending the event to a friend. Applications for vacancies in the service have increased by 475% this quarter, in part due to this vibrant open evening event, as well as positive social media communications.
18.	We are pleased to hear that we have secured funding to train Social Workers in Children & Families so that they can secure a Post-Graduate qualification in Social Work. This will enable staff to further develop their skills, which will have positive effects on the work they do with the city's most vulnerable children. This is on top of securing fast track funding to enable Southampton City Council to help develop four more of our own staff into Social Workers.

19.	It is great to see officers and Members getting involved in the campaign 'Bring a Bear to Support Foster Care'. The official event will happen on 18 May 2018 to raise money and awareness for foster care, when staff and Members will bring in bears for the day, as well as donating £1. There will also be a staff raffle to win a rare 'Mayor Bear', as well as an afternoon tea for staff to find out about fostering. A video has already been created to promote the event.
20.	We are pleased to hear that Sholing Junior School and Swaythling Primary School have received a Gold award from Modeshift STARS (Sustainable Travel Accreditation Scheme). The award was presented by Sam Fox, Service Lead for Infrastructure, Planning and Development for their exceptional efforts in promoting cycling, walking and scooting on the school run, resulting in a noticeable reduction in car usage around the school gates.
21.	It was pleasing to note that eight young people from Southampton have completed a four-night voyage from Southampton around the South Coast on 23 April 2018, returning on 27 April. The voyage was facilitated by the Ocean Youth Trust South, with funding from Southampton City Council, which uses Adventure Under Sail as a personal development opportunity for young people aged 12-25, by taking them to sea on a 30-metre vessel <i>Prolific</i> .
22.	It was great to hear the latest updates from the Children in Care Council, which included some of the fun activities the children have been involved in. In the April half term, the Junior Children in Care Council held an Easter Crafts and Sprinkles event which was enjoyed by all who took part. Additionally, the Teen Children in Care Council visited a local bowling alley where their competitive sides were put to the test. The Children in Care Council will also be meeting with Senior Management at our new Chatter that Matters group which will be held quarterly. This event is an additional opportunity for young people to express their views and have their voices heard by those that make decisions about their care.
23.	We were very pleased to hear that Valentine Primary School in Sholing won 'School of the Year' in the Energise Me Awards held on 8 March 2018. It was commended for the wide range of sports activities at the school, with the judges noting the school had trained 33 Year 5 pupils to be Play Leaders so they could run activities with younger children, that the school runs a variety of after school clubs, and that "they give as many pupils as possible the opportunity to represent the school, particularly those who are disengaged". Congratulations also to Jon Flynn, Deputy Head Teacher at Swanmore Primary School, who won the Outstanding Achievement award for running 2017 miles in 2017, raising over £8,000 for a charity set up to help with the care of one of his pupils after he suffered severe injuries in a car accident.
24.	It was good to see the Healthy Early Years Awards being held in the City Art Gallery in April 2018. The ceremony recognised six pre-schools who were honoured with the health award. The six Pre-Schools recognised for this award were Brambles Pre-School, Jane Cook Pre-School, Ladybirds Pre-School, Kanes Hill Pre-School, St James Nursery and Pre-School and Over the Rainbow. The awards recognise settings that have made changes to their practice and environment that promote healthy eating physical activity and good oral health.

	PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT LIVES
25.	It was fantastic to hear that Southampton has been recognised for the work in Adult Social Care by England's Chief Social Worker for Adults, Lyn Romeo, in her annual report for 2017/18. She noted the work staff are doing to implement a strengths-based approach, and to support social workers to better help people lead independent, fulfilled lives by building on the strengths of individuals, their families and communities.
26.	It was great to see staff enjoying World Social Work Day on the 20 March 2018. The event was supported by Anita Dobson and Lorna Fitzgerald, who took part in a promotional video that has been viewed over 4,000 times on YouTube and Facebook. Congratulations to Abi Hamilton and Clare Gott for organising a successful event that was enjoyed by staff across the council.
27.	We were pleased to hear about the second Beds, Begging and Business Conference held on 19 April 2018, to discuss and review progress since the January conference. 'Love Southampton' showcased their Southampton Street Support website at the conference. The website coordinates services for homeless people including advice, accommodation, meals and health services. It also acts as a hub for people to offer support by donating money or their time to charity organisations who are committed to ending rough sleeping in Southampton.
28.	We were pleased to hear that we have been successful in our application to receive funding from the Warm Homes Fund. The fund was set up by National Grid and Affordable Warmth Solutions. The Warm Homes Fund was set up to provide funding for the installation of affordable heating solutions in fuel poor households who do not use mains gas as their primary heating fuel. We have received a total of £439,515 in funding that will go directly to helping alleviate fuel poverty in Southampton.
29.	It was great to see the launch of Care-Team in April 2018. This is a joint initiative between the Council and University of Southampton, to test innovative approaches to integrating digital solutions in Adult Social Care. Over the next three months, 50 Adult Social Care clients, their carers and care professionals will be provided with a mobile application for integrated management of their wellbeing and services. The impact and further study will be completed over a two year period.
30.	We have been successful in a bid for Home Office funding to deliver projects relating to migration, which are being delivered by local agencies. These include a project to increase capacity in Southampton's Citizen Advice Service by establishing a new outreach centre which will benefit both resident and migrant communities and includes recruitment and training of recent migrants as volunteers. It will also help ongoing work to develop our intelligence about demographic change through use of a network of voluntary communicators and software. Finally, it will enable work with Women's Aid to increase and encourage the earlier reporting of domestic violence and abuse amongst recent migrants.
31.	We were pleased to hear that Southampton Crematorium has donated £5,000 to 4Louis, a charity which supports families who suffer a stillbirth or neonatal death. The crematorium raised this money from their Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) recycling of metals scheme. One of the ways that the charity helps families is providing over 200 hospitals and hospices across the UK with memory boxes, so parents can capture as many memories as they can.

32.	We are looking forward to seeing Southampton DemFest, which takes place on 24 May 2018, at West Quay Esplanade. This will be the city's first ever festival for people living with dementia, and for their friends, family and carers. Information will be available at the event to raise dementia awareness, as well as over 40 organisations, singing from Thornhill Singing for the Brain Group and guest speakers, all aimed to help, support and educate people about living well with dementia.
33.	We were pleased by the success of the recent 'No-idling' campaign in the city which raised awareness and encouraged drivers to switch-off their engines whilst stationary. Billboard messages and over 130 drivers and many other people were informed that by regularly turning off their engine when stationary, they can save fuel and money, and improve the quality of air in the immediate area for themselves, pedestrians, cyclists and other car users.
34.	It was great to see the launch of 30 new electric vehicle charging points in council owned car parks. These are available for use in The Marlands, West Park, Grosvenor Square, Bedford Place and Eastgate car parks. The chargers are currently free to use for an introductory period. The installation of the chargers shows that the city council is fully committed to reducing air pollution from exhaust emission from vehicles in the city.
SOUTHAMPTON IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND MODERN CITY WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO LIVE AND WORK	
35.	It was fantastic to see the ABP Southampton Marathon, Half Marathon, 10k and Children's races take place on 22 April 2018. This is the fourth year that the event has taken place, and this year has seen more entrants than ever before. Special congratulations to the winning marathon runner, Richard Waldron, from Revenue and Benefits, who completed the marathon in 2 hours and 40 minutes. Well done to everyone who took part!
36.	We were pleased to see the successful launch of <i>We March On: Southampton Football Club, Then & Now</i> at Southampton's Sea City Museum. The exhibition launched on 29 March 2018, and will run until the 28 October 2018. At the official launch event, former and current players and Club dignitaries such as Matthew Le Tissier, Fraser Forster and Lawrie McMenemy were in attendance. The exhibition covers the Club's 130 year history, the highs and lows of football, and provides an insight into life at the Club through the supporters, ex-players and backroom staff.
37.	<p>It is fantastic to hear that we have been awarded £1.7M from the Government to help us enhance existing cycle infrastructure and introduce new cycle routes, as part of our plan to promote active and sustainable travel and improve air quality in the city. The funding will deliver improvements to three Southampton Cycling Network routes identified in the council's Cycling Strategy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high quality segregated Cycle Freeway and associated wayfinding along The Avenue • Delivery of an alternate route to Bitterne Road West in the east of the city • The development of a series of Quietways to give all cyclists the ability to access local services and the cycling network • Promotional and engagement work to encourage use of the infrastructure and cycling across the city and beyond. <p>This is in addition to the £2.64M awarded by the Government to work in partnership with the four bus operators in the city (First, GoSouth Coast,</p>

	Wheelers and XelaBus) to upgrade all 6 non-Euro buses with technology to reduce emissions and make buses compliant in preparation for the Clean Air Zone.
38.	We were pleased to see the 'Get Cycle Savvy' event take place from 19 March - 15 April 2018. My Journey Southampton shared expert advice, cycling initiatives and real stories of people in Southampton and the wider Hampshire area who have cracked their cycling confidence issues. Expert information was made available on the Cycle Savvy webpage on the My Journey Southampton website, as well as experts on hand to answer cycling question on 7 April 2018, at the Bargate in the City Centre.
39.	It was pleasing to see the work of the temporary artist in residence at the Solent Showcase Gallery, Kev Munday, bringing the Stand Together Exhibition outside to all by creating colourful works of art on bins around the city centre, including Guildhall Square. Kev Munday is a Solent University alumnus, and is listed by The Daily Telegraph as one of the top five British artists to invest in.
40.	Following the recent introduction of ten mixed plastic recycling points across the city, we have had a fantastic response from local residents who have asked for more mixed plastic recycling points to be made available. Southampton City Council has now installed a new bank in the car park at Sainsbury's Lordshill and an extra bank at Westridge Road car park in Portswood. There are now twelve banks at eight locations around the city where residents can recycle yoghurt pots, butter or margarine tubs, fruit and vegetable punnets, ready meal trays, takeaway packaging, tetra-pak cartons and snack tubes.
41.	We are pleased to announce that through a partnership of the council working with Culture Southampton, the Chamber of Commerce, Associated British Ports, Southampton University, Solent University and the Business Improvement District, a piece of work has been commissioned to create a city brand and shared narrative that can be used to promote the city to a number of audiences. This includes potential visitors, inward investors, students and residents. An organisation called Brand Vista will be leading the work and engaging with stakeholders, and their report is expected in July 2018.
42.	It was fantastic to see the designs of thirteen Townhill Park teenagers, working with SO18 Big Local, to decorate hoardings in Meggeson Avenue with a graffiti art project, creating a focal point for the local community. SO18 Big Local is a project that covers parts of Harefield, Midanbury and Townhill Park. These neighbourhoods together were awarded £1M from the Big Lottery Fund to make a lasting positive difference to the area over 10 years.
43.	Southampton continues to offer a wide range of interesting, family friendly events to both residents and visitors. Many events were led, facilitated or supported by the council's Events team. As well as the ABP Southampton Marathon and the We March On exhibition referred to earlier in this report, these have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real-hedge maze at West Quay Esplanade: 27 March – 22 April 2018. This was a magnificent 9,000 sq. ft. 2.4 metre high real hedge maze. • Southampton Common Easter Fair: 29 March – 8 April 2018. The annual Easter Fair was a successful community event for people of all ages to enjoy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion Retold: 30 March 2018 - a re-enactment of the Easter story as told by some of the key characters that are in the biblical account. Despite the heavy rain, the event had a good attendance! • Titanic Sinking: 106 Years Commemoration: April 2018 – this saw various commemorative events including guided walks, Family Day at SeaCity Museum, theme activities and workshops, as well as performances of <i>Titanic the Musical</i> at Southampton’s Mayflower Theatre. • Cyclist Speed Dating: 7 April 2018. Residents and visitors to the City Centre were able to try all types of different bikes, at an event aimed to encourage people to take to the streets on their bikes more often. • SIXTEEN: 14 April – 18 April 2018. An art show by Fine Art students at Southampton Solent University, held in Guildhall Square. • Vaisakhi Festival: 15 April 2018 - the Sikh New Year festival. The colourful procession started from the Singh Sabha Gurdwara, made its way through the streets of the city centre, visiting the city’s Gurdwaras.
	A MODERN, SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL
44.	We are very pleased to hear that after the council agreed to invest up to £2.5M in a new IT system for social care, the procurement went live on 23 April 2018. Initial indications from the main suppliers are that they are keen to bid. Once bought and installed, the system will help our staff to be more productive, link more closely with NHS IT systems and help us give our clients a smoother, more joined-up care experience.
45.	We were pleased to see that the first module of Business World (Agresso) went live on 1 April 2018. The e-recruitment module is on track to be launched at the end of May as planned, and workshops are well underway to consider requirements for other areas. Once fully implemented we will have a much more integrated back office (in Finance, HR, Payroll and other areas), improving processes and reducing the number of systems we use.
46.	We were pleased to see the launch of the new online Housing Repair form on 10 April 2018. The new form will improve the experience of residents reporting repairs to the council, and will lead to a more streamlined process, allowing a better service to be provided to council tenants.
47.	We are delighted to hear that we are continuing to support local people into council jobs and apprenticeship opportunities. Between April 2017 and March 2018, over 50% of our new starters are local residents, and we have supported numerous recruitment events and created 43 new apprentice opportunities, as well as supporting 20 work experience placements.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
48.	None
<u>Property/Other</u>	
49.	None
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
50.	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.

<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
51.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
52.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
53.	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)
None	