

DECISION-MAKER:		COUNCIL	
SUBJECT:		EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT	
DATE OF DECISION:		15 MARCH 2017	
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 Council on 16 November 2016.			
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.	I am pleased that on 15 February 2017, Full Council approved the first ever medium term budget, with clear proposals for closing the gap in 2017/18 and 2018/19. In finalising our budget proposals, we considered the consultation feedback and have responded to many of the concerns expressed. I would like to place on record my Administration's gratitude to the Chief Executive, her management team and staff across the council who have worked extremely hard to achieve this.		
4.	It is a pleasure to announce that the council has been shortlisted in three categories for the 2017 Local Government Chronicle Awards. These awards celebrate best practice and innovation within the local government sector. I would like to congratulate everyone who has been nominated for the awards which are for the following categories:		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Council of the Year • Driving Growth Award – Economic Development and Skills • Rising Star Award – Customer Insight, James Marshall
5.	I would like to congratulate the Employment Support Team who have recently been awarded the Matrix Standard Accreditation, which is a unique quality standard for organisations to assess and measure their advice and support services. The team was able to demonstrate that they met the high standards required in leadership and management, resource, service delivery and continuous quality improvement. The team was commended, through inspection feedback, for their passion, commitment and design of services.
6.	Congratulations to Andy Hunter, a Family Engagement Worker based at Church View, on receiving the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) at the Restorative Justice Council. Restorative Justice focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the wider community. The RSQM is an external award which assesses the service's performance against six standards and recognises the hard work and safe, high-quality practice of the service to which it is awarded.
	STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH
7.	The opening of Westquay South was on Thursday 16 February 2017, and was attended by several hundred people. This hugely important project has been the culmination of many years' work from across a wide range of organisations and people. The council has played a critical role in this project and this was acknowledged at the opening ceremony.
8.	The first phase of the Westquay South leisure development opened in early December, with a wide range of restaurants. Its opening was marked with the launch of 'Luminate Southampton', a spectacular light show with a parade through the city's streets and a light projection onto the city walls in the scheme's new plaza. The remaining restaurants and Hollywood Bowl opened through December and the Showcase Cinema de Lux, the most digitally advanced cinema in Europe, arrived in February 2017. This exciting development is expected to bring in both residents and visitors, providing a high-quality leisure experience. Plans for a second and third phase, which could include a residential tower, hotel, restaurants and parking spaces, are being considered.
9.	I am delighted to be able to confirm that a new development that will transform the area around the Bargate has been agreed by members on Southampton City Council Planning Committee on 10 January 2017. The Bargate Centre will be demolished and replaced a new pedestrianised "terraced garden street" and a range of new accommodation, including 152 apartments, accommodation for 451 students, 80,000 square feet of shops and 147 parking spaces. It is anticipated that the development will create 700 jobs during the construction phase and 280 jobs when the scheme is complete, and will generate in excess of £5M of expenditure in the local economy.
10.	The development of the brownfield Chapel Riverside site has taken another step forward with the submission of plans by Inland Homes. The plans propose 400 new homes, marine based employment and improved public access to the waterfront. The plans also include 300m of river flood defences and a new underground surface water storage tank for Southern Water.

11.	The transformation of the former fruit and vegetable market is continuing apace. The development will comprise 84 one and 195 two-bedroom apartments across three blocks and nearly 900 square metres of flexible commercial space. Development of the first block has already started and is progressing well. The basement of the second block is also now finished. This provision of much-needed housing and commercial space is a positive step for the city.
12.	I am delighted that the pre-employment training support from the council's Economic Development and Skills team is continuing to be successful. In recent months 45 people who were long-term unemployed have gained jobs with Lidl, while seven gained employment elsewhere. A further 139 individuals gained vocational qualifications in warehousing. These outcomes were achieved through excellent partnership working. This demonstrates the success of our commitment to ensure that every major development in the city has its own Employment and Skills Plan, enabling local residents to benefit from training and job opportunities within the city.
13.	Further to the Apprenticeship Scrutiny Inquiry, the council has been undertaking activities to increase young people's awareness and inspiration to take up apprenticeship opportunities in the city, as well as advice and support for employers to offer apprenticeships. In addition, during National Apprenticeship Week (6 March 2017) this year, staff from Economic Development visited small businesses in Southampton to promote apprenticeships. Apprenticeship branded cupcakes were distributed along with information about taking on apprentices; these visits were followed up a few days later with information about the apprenticeship reforms including Trailblazers, a group of employers who work together to design new apprenticeship standards for occupations within their sectors, and an introduction to local training providers. We are delighted to have seen a 16% increase in new apprenticeship starts compared to the same time last year as a result of similar activities.
	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GOOD START IN LIFE
14.	At the meeting on 20 December 2016, Cabinet agreed to award providers to the South Central Framework agreement for Independent Fostering Agency placements. This followed the completion of a procurement process led by Southampton City Council on behalf of a sub-regional consortia comprising fourteen local authorities. The new contract provides more cost-effective and high-quality care which is responsive to the needs of individual children. This will lead to more positive outcomes for a wide range of children across the age range from birth to 18 year olds, including children needing more specialist care.
15.	At the January 2017 meeting, Cabinet approved the Children and Young People's Strategy 2017-2020, which is a city-wide partnership vision to help children and young people get a good start in life. The strategy focuses on four key outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people in Southampton are safe and secure • Children and young people in Southampton achieve and aspire • Children and young people in Southampton live healthy and happy lives

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people in Southampton are resilient and engaged
16.	<p>At the same meeting, Cabinet also agreed the development and delivery of a fully integrated model through integrated provider arrangements and pooled budgets. This integrated prevention and early help offer for children aged 0-19 years and their families will be a cost-effective approach to deliver improved health, wellbeing and educational outcomes for children. The integrated offer will particularly focus on reducing inequalities in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved engagement with education and learning from early childhood onwards Improved health and wellbeing More young people moving on successfully to employment and training More parents/carers in employment or activities that promote employability
17.	<p>In early February, Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills) and the CQC (Care Quality Commission) came, at short notice, to inspect and review the services the Council and our partners provide for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. While we await the findings and feedback of the Inspection team, I would like to thank staff across the council, councillors, and NHS colleagues involved who did their utmost to ensure we were as prepared as possible, and also thank you to the Early Years settings, schools, parents, and young people who engaged with the inspection team. Everyone worked together to show the improvement journey we are on in ensuring children and young people with SEND get the best start in life.</p>
18.	<p>Congratulations to Southampton Music Hub for being commended in the Music Education Council Awards 2016 for its "broad community-based approach", its work with families and disadvantaged young people and its use of technology to improve both musical and social skills. I am pleased to note that music hubs have been guaranteed funding until 2020.</p>
19.	<p>The annual Rock Challenge competition is underway. It is now in its 21st year and runs over six performance days and continues to prove popular, with 50 schools taking part this year, including a partner school from Le Havre and a number of schools for students with additional needs. Over 3,000 students have taken part as performers, stage and lighting crew, hair, make-up and costume, and the high quality of all the performances has been impressive. Audience attendance has surpassed 5,000 people over the six performances, including a number of Councillors who have supported the event. Congratulations to all who have taken part and showcased the wealth of talent amongst young people in our city's schools and our region.</p>
	<p>PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT LIVES</p>
20.	<p>A number of Southampton City Council teams, including Adult Social Care, the Integrated Commissioning Unit and their partners at the Solent NHS Trust and the University Hospital Trust, have been recognised the hard work undertaken by a range of teams, in delivering a sustained improvement in reducing discharge delays by Fiona Dalton, the Chief Executive at University Hospital Southampton Trust. At a time when discharge delays are a significant problem in many areas, this reflects the hard work and commitment of Southampton's teams, and I am would like to take this opportunity to thank</p>

	them.
21.	I am pleased to confirm that Southampton's Shared Lives Scheme has received an overall rating of 'good' following a recent inspection from the Care Quality Commission. The Shared Lives Scheme gives vulnerable adults and young people the opportunity to live more independent lives in a domestic setting whilst being cared for by the family with whom they live. The focus is to give the individuals, who may have learning difficulties or mental health conditions, robust support within a family setting to help them develop skills which will enable them to move on into greater independence.
22.	I am also delighted to announce that our latest supported housing scheme, Erskine Court, has now opened. Erskine Court is a 54 flat complex and has an on-site café, run by City Catering, to provide a place where both residents and the local community can meet up. There is also a community room onsite to encourage greater integration between the two communities. Residents were delighted with the facilities.
23.	Work to transform the balconies at Castle House has now finished. The attractive new panels and hand rails are maintenance free, meaning they will stay looking fresh for longer, and will not need any upkeep. Over £400,000 has been invested into Castle House and other improvements include a fresh coat of paint for the tower block and extensive redecoration in communal areas. Tenant satisfaction with the improvements has been good.
24.	I am grateful to Trading Standards Officers, Southampton Port Health Authority and Legal Services, who worked together to successfully seize 10 tonnes of dried leaf powder which is believed to have been destined for the psychoactive substance market in the UK.
	SOUTHAMPTON IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND MODERN CITY WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO LIVE AND WORK
25.	I am delighted to announce that our flagship arts centre Studio 144, which is yet to be opened, has been shortlisted for best Local Authority Arts Initiative 'Hearts for the Arts' prize run by the national arts advocacy organisation National Campaign for the Arts. The award was created to celebrate councils which have overcome financial hurdles to "ensure the arts stay at the centre of community life". It is an accolade which demonstrates our firm commitment to promoting and supporting the arts across the city.
26.	I am pleased to be able to confirm that a new festival will take place in the city this coming year on 27 May 2017 at Riverside Park. Riverfest will celebrate the River Itchen with a free day of performance, music, art and science. Funded by the National Lottery, it will have a strong environmental theme and will also feature children's activities, workshops, talks and local bands and artists.
27.	<p>Many more people will be encouraged to cycle or walk to work following an investment from the government worth £2.294M to Southampton and Hampshire in a joint bid. The funding will target those looking to get back into work, recognising the potential barriers of transport and its related costs. They will benefit from discounted bus travel and bike loans. The funding will also support local projects over three years from 2017 to 2020 and will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More safety and awareness training for cyclists • Extra secure cycle storage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike repair and maintenance courses • Road safety measures • Mapping information for pedestrians • Real time bus information through smart phone apps or information at bus stops • Increased focus on car sharing clubs
28.	<p>It was agreed by Cabinet in December 2016 to transfer the running of Kingsland Community Centre to the West Itchen Community Trust (WICT), working in partnership with Kingsland Residents and Community Association (KRCA). WICT are recognised as having appropriate business and community experience, a sound business plan and a good understanding of local community needs, with a commitment to develop programmes to meet those needs. The group has a proven track record of attracting inward investment and has committed to protecting and supporting the development of existing early years' use. Approval of this proposal was part of the ongoing implementation of the Community Asset Transfer Strategy and ensures that there is continued provision of a local community centre in this area which delivers efficiencies for the Council.</p>
29.	<p>The British Art Show 8 saw a 67% like-for-like increase in visitors at Southampton City Art Gallery compared to the same period for 2015/16, totalling 11,939 visitors. Across both host venues (Southampton Art Gallery and John Hansard Gallery) there was an average increase in visitor numbers of 50%, like for like. British Art Show 8 received widespread, favourable coverage in the local and art press, highlighting the city's rich cultural diversity. Three new exhibitions, showcasing the city's collection, opened at Southampton Art Gallery on Thursday 16 February 2017. The private view event was attended by around 300 people. One of the exhibitions has been curated by a private gallery in London, Jonathan Clark Fine Art, who have also generously produced 1,000 exhibition catalogues for the Council.</p>
30.	<p>The Southampton Christmas Festival took place on the Above Bar precinct between Saturday 12 November and Friday 23 December 2016, although due to public demand, the main bar area and German sausage grill remained open until Christmas Eve. Once again it featured a traditional German market, with over 40 stalls offering authentic, hand-made Christmas gifts and traditional German food, from bratwurst to gingerbread hearts. This was accompanied by the Flying Santa, who provided two shows a day. Once again, this proved to be a popular attraction; a People's Panel survey revealed that 17% of all respondents came into the city centre specifically to visit the festival and 66% of those surveyed rated the Flying Santa show as either 'excellent' or 'good'.</p>
31.	<p>Southampton has continued to offer a wide range of interesting, family-friendly events to both residents and visitors, many of which have had a festive theme. Many events were led, facilitated or supported by the council's Events Team and since November 2016 have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decathlon Running Event: 20 November – 600 participants were at the first ever 5k run on Southampton Common • Reclaim the Night: 26 November – a protest march attracting approximately 100 people around the city centre organised by

	<p>Southampton University Feminist Society targeting gender-based violence and street harassment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southampton 10k: 27 November – There were timed runs and the 10k race which attracted almost 200 people • Santa Fun Run: 27 November – participants donned their best Christmas outfits to take part, in aid of Naomi House • Coca-Cola Christmas Truck: 30 November – More than 8,000 people visited Guildhall Square and took the opportunity to take a selfie with the popular Coca-Cola Christmas truck • Illuminate Southampton: 8-18 December – The new Westquay Esplanade opened in spectacular style with an art installation involving projections on the city's old walls which illustrated Southampton's rich and varied history • Bikes at the Bargate: 1 January – hundreds of local motorbike enthusiasts gathered around the iconic Bargate to celebrate the New Year • Chinese New Year: 14,21,29 January and 11 February 2017 – Celebrations arranged by the Southampton Chinese Association attracted hundreds who enjoyed traditional Chinese music and dancing • Festival of Light: 10-19 February – a popular LED installation at WestQuay Esplanade featured amazing light and fire displays
	MODERN, SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL
32.	<p>At their December 2016 meeting, Cabinet agreed to set up a Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo) for the management, delivery and commercialisation of the following Council services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Street Cleansing and Waste Management and Collection • Housing Operations and Management and Parks and Open Spaces • Car Park Operations, Facilities Management and Itchen Bridge Operations • Transport
33.	<p>This development will enable the ongoing transformation of a range of in-scope council services and help to create a commercial capacity which can, where appropriate and in the public interest, profitably trade these services with a range of partners, including other councils, other public sector organisations and, where relevant, residents of the city. Any profit made by the LATCo from external trading would either be reinvested or returned to the council. This will, in turn, support the council in achieving its aim of developing an efficient, cost-effective service whilst continuing to grow the local economy, bringing investment into the city and increasing employment opportunities for local people.</p>
34.	<p>At our last Council meeting, on 15 February 2017, we adopted the new Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2017/18-2020/21, alongside budget proposals for the next four years. These set out our approach to closing the budget gap and ensuring we can deliver a balanced budget. Over the last five years, the council has made £92.4M in savings, and the new MTFS and budget proposals set out how we will make a further £42.3M in</p>

	savings by 2021. Our Medium Term Financial Strategy provides us with a financial framework within which financial stability can be achieved and sustained in the medium term to deliver our priorities, enabling us to plan more effectively for the future.
35.	In setting the new MTFS and budget this year, we have changed our approach to budgeting. Rather than making cuts every year, we have sought to implement a four-year budget based on our priorities – this is known as Outcome-Based Planning and Budgeting. This approach was undertaken with joint strategic working between Finance and Strategy so that there is a genuine alignment between resource allocation and outcomes so that decisions are increasingly based on evidence. This has allowed us to plan more strategically the services we deliver over the medium-term, enabling us to develop plans which make the most difference to residents, customers and businesses. We have then been able to allocate resources directly to where they are needed and identify areas where we are able to make savings.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
36.	N/A
<u>Property/Other</u>	
37.	N/A
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
38.	As defined in the report appropriate to each decision
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
39.	The report outlines activity supporting the delivery of the Council Strategy 2016-2020.

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
	None
Documents In Members' Rooms	
	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact	No

Assessment (EIA) to be carried out?		
Privacy Impact Assessment		
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.		No
Other Background Documents		
Equality Impact Assessment and 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	