MEET THE TEAM

“We will continue to build on our 2019 success in 2020.”
Sandy Hopkins
Chief Executive

Sandy is an experienced leader who has worked in public and private sector service industries. She holds a Masters in Business Administration, Diploma in Marketing, BA (Hons) Degree and Institute of Directors Certificate in Company Directorship (CertIOD), is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and a Fellow of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (FRSA).

As Chief Executive at Southampton City Council, Sandy joined in January 2019 having previously been the CEO at two councils in East Hampshire, where the portfolios included a variety of ventures and business entities.

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“Meet our new team – the leaders across our £1bn organisation and the 700+ services that we offer to residents, businesses and visitors. We are delighted to introduce ourselves to you and are here at your service.”
Mike Harris
Executive Director for Business Services (Deputy Chief Executive)

Mike is Deputy Chief Executive at Southampton City Council, having held a number of previous roles including Service Director for Growth, Head of Planning, Transport and Culture and Head of Leisure and Culture, and through these experiences has secured a wide range of experience across different services, in place making, service development and alternative delivery models.

Mike is focused on delivering the best support services for the rest of the organisation ensuring that the council is working in a modern and sustainable way. He has delivered a range of large projects and changes in the past and brings this experience to this role. Developing close and positive relationships with private and voluntary sector stakeholders is a key feature of Mike’s approach, along with his experience of working with a broad range of political administrations.

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James Strachan
Service Director
Business Development

The Business Development service supports the work and transformation of the council working with all departments to deliver modern, effective customer focused services. Teams include: IT support, IT Security and Infrastructure, IT Application Management, Project and Programme management, Policy, Data and Intelligence, Communications, Customer Service, Digital Experience and Facilities Management.

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Janet King
Service Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development

The HR and OD service supports the achievement of excellence in all services provided by Southampton City Council and ensures that the council enhances its reputation as an “employer of choice” and a “great place to work”. Alongside effective HR policies, procedures and guidelines that support the full life-cycle of employment, the service offers a wide range of specialist HR and support services. The service comprises teams offering Workforce Data Analytics, Payroll and Pensions; an HR Advisory service; Organisational Learning and Development; Recruitment; Apprenticeships advice and learning; Health and Safety and Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.

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Richard Ivory
Service Director Legal & Business Operations

Legal and Business Operations covers the core governance and business support functions for the council. It comprises an award winning shared legal services partnership with Fareham Borough Council. The team includes corporate complaints, records management and information governance. The team are currently the LLG national legal team of the year. Additionally, Democratic Services, Electoral Services, Land Charges, the Executive PA team, Members Services and Business Support are services within the wider service. The Service Director; Legal and Business Operations is also the Monitoring Officer, Solicitor to Fareham Borough Council and Senior Information Risk Owner.

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“Building sustainable, agile and flexible services, with people who have the capacity, capability and confidence to adapt to and drive changing environments.”

Mary D’Arcy
Communities, Culture and Homes

As Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes, Mary joined Southampton City Council from Adur & Worthing Councils where she led a number of teams supporting, enabling and delivering excellent services to their communities, including housing, community health & wellbeing, environment & leisure, voluntary sector liaison, management of contracted community services and democratic services.

Her ambition is to work in and with communities to build resilience and capacity to grow and develop, improving outcomes for our communities, individuals, business and customers; working in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector agencies to protect the vulnerable and enable resilience and self-reliance.

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Stronger Communities, Neighbourhoods & Housing manage several areas which are customer facing and front line, we manage 1 in 5 properties in the city and so are the biggest landlord in Southampton. Teams include, Housing Needs (homelessness, Housing Register and Welfare Rights), Local Housing Offices, Neighbourhood Wardens, Stronger Communities Team consists of the IDVAs who are helping those survivors of domestic abuse, the Employment & Skills Team assisting people to get in to employment, our Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), our Tenant Engagement Team as well as managing partnership such as Prevent and the Safe City Partnership.

Email: steve.smith@southampton.gov.uk
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Consumer Protection and Environmental Services are responsible for a range of services which protect residents. Teams include: Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Community safety, Licensing, Port Health Services Private Sector housing including licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation, Parking Services including Itchen Bridge, Registration and Bereavement Services.

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The Culture service is responsible for strategic cultural development as well as the delivery of the council’s cultural services. Teams include: Museums and Gallery, designated collections and stores, Archive, Archaeology Unit, heritage assets, city-wide events team and tourism.

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Claire has been appointed to take forward Southampton’s Bid for City of Culture 2025, working with Southampton’s communities, cultural organisations, businesses, and academic partners locally and in the wider Solent region.

Email: Claire.Whitaker@southampton.gov.uk
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"Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities."
John Harrison
Finance & Commercialisation

John has been a corporate director and S151 officer since 1996 including a period as Deputy Chief Executive. In 2018 he worked on establishing a Children’s Trust for children’s social care services.

He has been a member of LGA Peer Review teams, including Southampton in 2012 and led the first LGA Finance Peer Review.

John is a former President of the Society of Municipal Treasurers and has spoken nationally and internationally on areas such as commercialization and energy. John joined Southampton City Council in November 2019.

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Steve Harrison
Head of Financial Planning and Management

Financial Planning and Management support the aims of the council by ensuring the budget and capital programme aligns with our corporate plans and that services have access to good quality and timely financial advice and information. We also produce the council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy, the annual statement of accounts, manage our cash flow, monitor and report on corporate risks and offer advice on issues such as VAT and insurance. Teams include, corporate finance, finance business partnering and also risk and insurance.

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Paul Paskins
Head of Supplier Management

Supplier Management’s role is to provide an oversight of all of the council’s third party expenditure, lead on strategic and key contracts management activities, provide procurement and buying services and support the whole organisation in developing its contract and commercial management skills and approach.

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Nigel Ashton
Head of Commercialisation

Commercialisation are responsible for supporting the council to ensure we can maximise revenue creating a financial surplus in appropriate areas in order to facilitate a better offering to our customer as well as key services who gather income or operate commercially. Teams include, housing operations, Council Tax and Benefits, Customer Payments and Debts and Client Monies.

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Kate Martin  
Executive Director of Place

Kate has supported the delivery of community outcomes in local government for over 20 years, most recently at Director level for the City of Wolverhampton Council, the London Borough of Camden and the London Borough of Brent. Prior to this, Kate led public service teams in the West Midlands, East Midlands and the North West of England.

A Fellow of the Institute of Place Management, the Chartered Institute of Housing and a Member of the Institute of Economic Development and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, Kate is passionate about placemaking, with an award-winning track record of delivering community-led Economic Development, Regeneration, Infrastructure, Housing, Property, Neighbourhood Services.

Kate has also held a wide-range of Non-Executive Director Board roles, for both commercial and charitable organisations across the UK.

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Dave Tyrie  
Head of City Services

City Services are responsible for lots of the day to day upkeep of the city and delivery of a wide range of services to residents and business across Southampton and beyond. Teams include: Waste Operations; District Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing; Fleet Operations; Ecology & Engagement; Arboriculture; Tree Surgery; Pest Control; Landscape Operations; Play Areas; School Grounds Maintenance; Safety, Health and Compliance; Clinical Waste; Outdoor Recreation and Landscape Design.

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Pete Boustred  
Head of Infrastructure, Green City and Transport

Infrastructure, Green City and Transport are responsible for Southampton’s transport infrastructure and the work on achieving the aims of the Green City Charter, making the city a cleaner, greener, healthier, more sustainable and attractive place to live, work and visit. Teams include: Green City Initiative; Sustainable City Programme; Transport Delivery and the Transforming Cities Fund project.

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Paul Barton  
Interim Head of Economic Development and Planning

Economic Development and Planning are responsible for the way buildings and developments are managed in Southampton and for support the local economy. Teams include: Planning – policy, development control and compliance; Employment & Skills; Economic Development and Building Control.

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Tina Dyer-Slade  
Head of Property

Property are responsible for the council’s buildings, construction developments and regeneration. Teams include: Construction Projects; Development & Regeneration and Asset Management.

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“Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time”

Grainne Siggins
Wellbeing (Health and Adults [DASS])

Grainne is Executive Director Health & Adults at Southampton City Council and joined in January 2020, having held similar previous roles at the London Borough of Newham where she was Executive Director - Strategic Commissioning for nearly two years and prior to that Director of Adult Social Care from 2010.

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The Supported Housing and Community Support service deliver support and assessments within the community to support independence and wellbeing. Teams include supported housing, ‘housing with care’ and delivering housing related support to people living in private accommodation, telecare services to residents of Southampton and the local area and an Occupational Therapy assessment service, supporting the process of delivering housing adaptations, making homes more accessible to people with physical disabilities.

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The Adult Social Care service is responsible for referral and safeguarding, managing the integration and partnerships of Adult Social Care, community social care teams, directly delivered care services, mental health and Deprivation of Liberties.

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The Public Health service helps the council to deliver its legal duty to improve the health of its population, and to reduce inequalities in health between groups. Public health will be working to four primary aims from 2020 to 2025; to ensure that:

1. The residents of Southampton are healthier for longer
2. Southampton is a healthy place
3. Health inequalities are reduced (and the most vulnerable are protected)
4. Health and wellbeing is everyone’s business

In light of the CoVid19 pandemic, the current service priority is to plan, respond and support recovery and restoration programmes in relation to this health emergency.

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Quality and Integration is a joint team with the Clinical Commissioning Group who deliver integrated commissioning across full life course for health and care, managing and developing market, ensuring and developing quality of providers.

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The Principle Social Worker is responsible for leading the development of Adult Social Care practice, developing training and supporting the operational

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“Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.”
Vacant

Executive Director of Wellbeing
(Children and Learning)

Phil Bullingham
Head of Children’s Social Care

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Julian Watkins
Acting Head of Children’s Safeguarding, Integrated and Restorative Services


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Derek Wiles
Head of Education and Learning

Education and Learning provide support and challenge to educational providers across the city. This includes Early Years settings, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools along with the three post-16 providers. The service also ensures that children with special needs and those that are looked after receive the bespoke educational provision that they require.

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Children’s social care is responsible for the day to day support and protection of the most vulnerable children and young people in the city. Teams include: Assessment Teams, Jigsaw, Courts teams, multi-agency support hub and Fostering and Adoption.

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The Children’s Safeguarding, Integrated and Restorative Service provide support to children, families and young people through specialist intervention initiatives. These deal with a variety of issues ranging from mental health to legal aid, with the unifying aim to protect livelihoods and mitigate potential risks to wellbeing.


Email: Julian.Watkins@southampton.gov.uk
Direct: 023 8083 4267

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