

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
DATE OF DECISION:	17 March 2021		
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 04 November 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 November 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 November 2020.
	Communities, culture and homes
4.	We experienced a different Christmas this year and although it may seem a long time ago, I want to start by thanking the people of Southampton for continuing to follow precautions and keep each other safe at this difficult time. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, our annual Christmas Toy Appeal received an astonishing 21,661 donated toys – more than double the amount of toys donated last year. This record number of toys was distributed to local children over the Christmas period by council staff.
5.	In the absence of the Christmas Market, the Events Team created sparkle and illumination in the city centre, working collaboratively with GO! Southampton to install festive lights spanning from Bedford Place, along the Cultural Quarter

	and the QE2 mile. This year included not one, but three Christmas trees located in Guildhall Square, Bargate Monument and Bedford Place. The Events Team also co-ordinated festive lighting in the six district shopping centres of Bitterne, Bitterne Triangle, Lordshill, Shirley, Portswood, and Woolston.
6.	A very successful Tenants Winter Housing Conference was held in December 2020, held digitally via Zoom with around 50 attendees. Successfully chaired by Executive Director Mary D'Arcy alongside Cllr Kaur, the conference consulted on next year's rent increase and updated attendees on the exciting new Asset Management Plan and work in tenancy fraud. The conference was not the usual format, but it was informative and well received by attendees.
7.	Contactless payments were introduced at the Itchen Bridge at the end of November 2020 - this has been a long-awaited modernisation making it quicker and easier for drivers to cross the bridge.
8.	Towards the end of last year the council was awarded £154K of government funding to support local authority Covid-19 compliance and enforcement activity. Following a competitive tender process Southampton City Council appointed a local company, Synergy Security, to deliver a Covid-19 Marshals programme across the city. Since the beginning of December 2020 our Covid Marshals patrol the city seven days a week, engaging with members of the public to encourage compliance, and supporting local businesses to help keep everyone safe. Across the team, our Marshals speak 38 different languages, have been able to engage with our diverse communities and are an invaluable source of information as our 'eyes and ears on the ground'.
9.	Our Covid-19 Community Champions have been profiled in the local media, with tenant reps supporting the value of the network on BBC South Today. The network has grown to more than 400 strong with a Young Champions scheme under development with Life Lab and schools. At least 17,500 shielded residents have been contacted via various means including by letter, text and direct phone call, with the Customer Services team maintaining the Covid Residents Helpline which has successfully connected the most vulnerable to support.
10.	This year we will all be taking part in the national census and our libraries have been successful in winning a contract to offer local residents digital support to complete their online census forms. The project runs from March to July 2021 and local people will be able to get support in filling out their online forms by appointment.
11.	The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Hampshire, supported by Southampton City Council, recently made a successful bid to the Safer Streets Fund to tack crime in Southampton's central parks and their immediate surrounds. The successful bid identified 13 objectives supported by 21 items of work, based on data and community consultation. These include the renovation of buildings in Hoglands Park, physical access control to delivery areas for shops, improved lighting, excessive vegetation control to improve vision, and improvements to CCTV in the area. These works are due to be completed by the end of March 2021. In addition to this important investment, the Southampton Violence Reduction Unit has been awarded continued funding for 2021/22 by the Home Office, to continue their work with children and young people and help make Southampton a safer city.

12.	I led work to install a memorial plaque to Charles James Fox in Mayfield Park at the request of a local resident, to commemorate the life of the 18th century anti-slavery campaigner, MP, and former British foreign secretary.
13.	Well done to Aidan Cooper and Becky Davies, two of our colleagues who were recently awarded Solent Mind's External Partner Award for their work on the council's Plants for People Project. The project helps encourage people to get involved in gardening - particularly those who are vulnerable - and has been running for three years in four locations. The project helped many of our residents to get through lockdown, particularly those who live in flats.
	Green City
14.	Our City Services teams have been working with volunteers and partners on our wildflower meadow planting programme, which is ahead of schedule. Wildflower meadows have been sown at a number of locations, including the Millbrook roundabout, Daisy Dip play area, Hoglands Park and Riverside Park. A landscaped wildflower meadow is also in progress at Chapel Road.
15.	A total of 142 solar compactor bins have now been installed across the city. These bins, installed in targeted areas to tackle the issue of litter in the city, are enclosed units containing sensors which activate a compactor mechanism to crush the waste when needed, maximising capacity and minimising the number of collections that need to be made. The bins also currently display anti-littering campaign artwork, and are available for advertisers to secure, providing a valuable income stream for the council.
16.	In December we introduced two new electric vehicles for use by our City Telecare Services Responding Team when doing emergency home visits. The City Telecare Service offers 24 hour help to over 6,300 city residents (and almost 2,700 Portsmouth residents), providing security and peace of mind whilst at home. In 2020, the Responding Team attended over 6,000 emergency calls. The new electric Nissan Leaf electric vehicles are part of the council's commitment to tackling climate change and are at the centre of the Green City agenda which is outlined in the Green City Plan published March 2020.
17.	In February the council took delivery of the first of four all-electric eSwingo compact sweeper vehicles from Aebi Schmidt UK. Charge points have been installed at council depots, supplied by charging specialist JoJu Solar, which is a major supplier under the Central Southern Regional Framework agreement for EV charging infrastructure. The zero-emission eSwingos will contribute to the council's sustainable energy and carbon reduction objectives including helping us to deliver our pledge that all our corporate assets will have a net zero carbon footprint, and 90% of our fleet will be zero-emission by 2030.
	Place Shaping
18.	I announced the establishment of a new Business Task Force (BTF) at Full Council in July 2020, to facilitate business input into the development of council policy. To date, the BTF has met on three occasions, and has had input into the development of the Economic & Green Growth Strategy which is being presented to Cabinet in March 2021.
19.	The Economic & Green Growth Strategy sets out the aspirations of the city's economy to 2030, with a focus on four interrelated themes: supporting people

	in employment, supporting business growth, sustainable place shaping, and placing the city on the international stage. A consultation was launched on 9 December 2020 and ended in January 2021. A total of 453 responses were received, including responses from local residents, businesses and third sector organisations with 65% of respondents telling us that the new strategy will have a positive impact on their businesses or the wider community.
20.	Following a decision in February Cabinet, we announced that management of the Southampton Golf Course will return to the council on 1 April 2021. The council will release Southampton Golf Course operators Mytime Active from their contract from 31 March 2021, with the change of management taking place by mutual agreement. It is anticipated that all current Mytime Active staff members who solely or mainly work at the Southampton course will transfer in their roles over to the employment of the council. The migration process for existing golfers should also be seamless. We are excited to be able to use this opportunity to maximise everything that the municipal golf course has to offer and work on longer-term plans.
21.	Southampton City Council has been awarded £1.25m from the Department for Transport's Active Travel Fund for cycling and walking schemes across the city. These will be implemented from Spring following engagement and consultation with people living, working and using the routes.
22.	The £360K scheme at the junction of Thornhill Park Road and Hinkler Road was completed on time and on budget. This provides new traffic signals and technology with better crossings for people walking and a link to Kootenay Avenue.
23.	Cabinet has agreed to enter into a partnership with University Hospitals Southampton NHS Trust to develop a Park & Ride for Southampton, initially for weekend operation into the city centre. This trial will be funded by the £57M Transforming Cities Fund programme and will have upgraded junctions, bus shelters and facilities.
24.	Following a series of co-design workshops, the council is undertaking work to create a greener, safer and healthier neighbourhood in the St Denys area with an Active Travel Zone (ATZ). This is the second phase of the St Denys ATZ scheme, and works began on 11 January, continuing over a 14-week period.
25.	The site of 103 new homes on 'Starboard Way' (named by Fairisle Junior School) continues to progress, with electrical infrastructure to be installed in February 2021. First units are anticipated to be handed over in June 2021.
26.	We have now confirmed the details of our £18.5m project to overhaul public transport and public spaces in the city centre. Part of the Transforming Cities programme, our proposals focus on transforming gateways into the city centre and creating a greener, more inviting environment. Proposals include the conversion of New Road to promote ties between the city's parks, the cultural quarter and the high street, improvements to Civic Centre Place to make it more pedestrian friendly, and a new multi-modal interchange on the south side of Southampton Central Station.
27.	Southampton City Council has entered into a new partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) that aligns national programmes and initiatives with our local needs. We are the first unitary council to enter into this kind of partnership agreement with DWP, with the aim to support unemployed Southampton residents with the skills and experiences they

	need to secure good quality jobs and in doing so, help our businesses to grow.
28.	We are already working with DWP in the roll out of Kickstart - an employment initiative to support young people on Universal Credit, which sees them in fully paid, six-month placements to boost their skills and job prospects. We have also been successful in securing funds from DWP to establish a Young Adults Learning and Employment Hub - an important service to support young people on benefits into the world of work. More plans are being developed with DWP, which we will share in the future.
	Wellbeing – Adults & Health
29.	It continues to be a busy and challenging time for our Adult and Children’s Social Care teams, and our Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU). Colleagues have been working hard to identify social care frontline staff for the vaccination rollout, alongside a number of important projects to support vulnerable adults in the city. These include delivering £25K winter pressure funding for SO: Lets Connect project to support digitally excluded individuals with identified mental health needs, working with Southampton Voluntary Services (SVS) who have been appointed to provide the coordination of Dementia Friendly Southampton, and working with our Public Health colleagues, in securing additional resources to support sex workers.
30.	Southampton’s new Young Adults Employment Hub was launched on February 19, delivering an innovative approach to supporting young adults whose job prospects have been hit hard by the pandemic. The hub is delivered in partnership by Southampton City Council, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and No Limits, and offers a one-stop-shop advice centre on a range of issues such as housing, benefits, health, and wellbeing.
31.	Southampton City Council has received £587K funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) to support local delivery of services that are required as part of the new statutory duties contained within the Domestic Abuse Bill. In addition, MHCLG has funded capacity to support a local needs assessment to gauge the council’s readiness for the Bill. This work coincides with preparations to start the retendering of local Domestic Abuse Services, which will be informed by the requirements of the bill.
32.	From 8 March, we will launch a symptom-free Community Testing Programme targeted at workers that need to leave home to attend work. The key objectives of the programme are to reduce community transmission of Covid-19 by identifying asymptomatic carriage within the Southampton population, ensuring positive cases and their close contacts isolate to avoid passing the virus onto others, and to inform surveillance by contributing to a more accurate picture of incidence, prevalence and trends of Covid-19 in the Southampton population.
33.	Following a successful pilot phase, Southampton Test and Trace service has moved into its production phase covering the whole city and will be in place until June 2021. The key objectives of the local service are to prevent the spread of Covid-19 infection in the city, increasing the proportion of Southampton residents and their close contacts, which are successfully contacted when they have tested positive, and protecting vulnerable residents by providing support to self-isolate through the community support hub. Case numbers as at 25 February 2021 were a total of 1,287 cases received, 665

	successfully followed up and contacted and case completed. The service is funded from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund – since October 2020, Southampton have been awarded £3.6m funding allocation from DHSC to target key interventions to help manage outbreaks, reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health.
34.	We also undertook a successful surge testing programme in the SO15 5 area of the city in February. Working in partnership with NHS Test and Trace and DHSC, we asked all adults over the age of 16 in SO15 5 to take a Covid-19 test. As part of this, a Mobile Testing Unit (MTU) was set up, and home test kits were delivered to around 1,700 targeted properties. In total, the council and our partners in DHSC were responsible for the successful delivery of 1,511 tests at the MTU and 2,479 home tests.
35.	On 8 February we held another successful Outbreak Engagement Board. The Board is responsible for strategic oversight of health protection regarding Covid-19 in Southampton, and includes a Q&A session that is open to members of the public. We have received positive feedback from members of the public, including positive feedback on the opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with local experts, and on the quality of the local leadership through the pandemic.
	Wellbeing – Children & Learning
36.	Since the start of the latest lockdown in January 2021 schools have remained open, and face-to-face education provision has been available for eligible pupils including the children of critical workers and vulnerable children, as well as access for staff to ensure they can deliver learning and check-in with families safely. Now that all pupils are starting to return to schools and colleges, the close collaboration between education leaders, Public Health officers and Education teams will continue to ensure that all the benefits of being back at school can be enjoyed at the same time as remaining as safe and healthy an environment as possible.
37.	The Southampton Music Service has been focussing on diversity and inclusion during the past three months and has developed and successfully achieved funding from various external sources to drive this work forward. The service has also been working to support the City of Culture programme through helping to develop schools' recovery curriculums.
38.	The Phoenix @ Pause Southampton launched as an 18 month pilot last September. The project works with women who have had their children removed permanently from their care to help reduce repeat removals of children and reduce infant entries to care. In the first few months of operation we have had a fantastic response from the women approached and involved in this pilot.

39.	<p>To help us to continue to support children and young people across the city at this difficult time, we are focusing on the continued personal development of our workforce. We have created a Children and Learning Services Academy to deliver our learning and development programme for all staff. The Academy will launch in May 2021 and its core purpose is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure there are high quality learning and development opportunities that will attract and retain proud, competent and motivated practitioners. • Ensure there is a robust induction, mandatory and core training programme, including the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) programme for newly qualified social workers. • Sustain a learning culture through regular staff conferences, Practice Weeks and Practice Hub bulletins and access to multi-agency training. • Support career progression pathways for staff, including routes into social work for differently qualified staff and apprenticeships. • Promote evidence-based practice, including Research in Practice literature and events. • Support staff to develop and maintain professional practice standards linked to regulatory bodies. • Build adaptive and systemic leadership skills and capacity across all services, for children and their families, to lead our journey to outstanding. • Develop group and individual reflective supervision and learning opportunities, alongside interventions to support the emotional wellbeing and resilience of staff.
40.	<p>Southampton City Council's Education Welfare Service has agreed a new process with Hampshire Constabulary to support home visits for children who may be of concern to schools, not open to social care, and that schools have been unable to contact through the usual absence procedures. Education Welfare Officers will offer advice and risk assessments to schools, as well as attempt contact. Schools have already begun successfully using this process to re-engage with parents and carers.</p>
	<p>Successful, sustainable business</p>
41.	<p>The 2021/22 budget, including the council tax, medium term financial forecast and capital programme was agreed by Full Council in February, detailing the financial uncertainty around COVID-19 and its economic effects, which will continue to impact on the costs and funding of the Council into 2021/22. The financial challenge facing the council, with a forecast budget shortfall of £22.5M for the 2022/23 financial year.</p>
42.	<p>National Apprenticeship Week 2021 (08/02 – 14/02) was a huge success with over 30 members of staff attending the virtual drop in to find out more about development opportunities, over 7,000 views of our Apprentice Twitter Takeover posts, 16 former apprentices attending the graduation event hosted by the Chief and Deputy Chief Executive, a highly successful Murder Mystery event and our apprentices were even asked to be interviewed for both the Solent University newspaper and BBC Radio Solent.</p>
43.	<p>On 1 March Fareham Borough Council's Executive on agreed to extend the successful Legal Services Partnership that has been in place since 2011. Since the shared service started it has gone from strength to strength, won national awards including National Legal Team of the year and brought in a not insubstantial income to the council given the size of the service provided</p>

	along with added resilience to both councils. The members and Chief Executive Officer were extremely complimentary about the team's high standards, cost effectiveness, professional knowledge, "can do" proactive approach and its leadership. It remains a highly respected service.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
	As defined in the report appropriate to each section.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
	None.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
	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.	
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