

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	21 July 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 May 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 May 2021.		
4.	Welcome to my first Executive Business Report of the year, covering the executive business of my administration since May 2021. Across these pages I will be detailing how my administration has already made significant progress on our manifesto commitments to Get Southampton Moving.		
	<b>Communities, Culture and Heritage</b>		
5.	Our hard-working UK City of Culture 2025 team have successfully navigated tight timescales to deliver Southampton's Expression of Interest (EOI) and Initial Bid on 19 July. Our bid is being led by the Southampton 2025 Trust, with partnerships from Southampton City Council (including my administration and established cross-party support) and many of our major institutions from across the city. This bid is a key element of my administration's plan to Get Southampton Moving, and I am incredibly proud of our city and all the hard work everyone, from across the city and all our districts, has put in to make this happen. I genuinely believe that our bid, led by Claire Whitaker and supported by many colleagues and partners, is well on the way to being longlisted to the next stage of the process in September.		

6.	Cabinet have agreed a new Destination Management Plan (DMP) for our city, with supporting resource of £100k to boost Southampton's profile as a visitor destination. Additionally, Cabinet agreed £110k of funding to support Southampton's hosting of the 2021 Women's Euros, including project management and marketing resource, and underwriting of the development of the Fan Zone area. An application for match funding to the FA was also agreed.
7.	Despite the challenges of the pandemic, I am delighted that we have been able to deliver on Southampton's Mayflower 400 cultural programme, which launched in March 2020 with a fantastic performance by young people supported by the Council's Music Service. The overall programme has included a new set of school educational resources, a community heritage grants programme, digital activities, exhibitions and events including the fantastic Towers of Light on Weston Shore, Voyages of the Heart commission at Turner Sims, and concluding with the quirky Future Cargo performance between 15-17 July 2021. The continued commitment to the Mayflower 400 programme is reflective of the value we place on Culture and recognition of Southampton's role in the world.
8.	We have also agreed an application for funds for the purchase and refurbishment of 10 properties, in partnership with Vivid Housing, to the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme.
9.	The Council have appointed Drew Smith Ltd to progress the design and securing of the detailed planning consent for around 60 homes on two development sites at Townhill Park, with these areas also benefitting from a new community green space which features a new enlarged children's play area, outdoor gym and improved car parking along Ozier Road. The creation of this green space, Townhill Green, is funded through a £3.75m Homes England grant and forms part of the infrastructure improvements for the regeneration of Townhill Park. Improvements to Ozier Road include additional parking, disabled parking and access and a serviced space with power and water for a concession stand. Carried out by the Council's strategic highways partner Balfour Beatty, work started on 14 June and is expected to last approximately eight weeks.
10.	Our hardworking Citywide Task Team have already begun to restore our city's heritage assets, and have deep cleaned Palmerston Park, Crosshouse, the Cenotaph, and St Mary Street. Historic plaques in the city were also cleaned and restored by Farmers Bronze restoration in June, including five bronze commemorative plaques on the three road bridges across the Itchen: Cobden Bridge, Northam Bridge, and the Itchen Bridge.
11.	£10,000 worth of illegal tobacco was seized in Shirley and Woolston by a partnership of our Trading Standards team, Hampshire Constabulary, and Cooper, the sniffer dog. This seizure adds to £10,000 worth of illegal tobacco seized in May and the same in March, as well as £13,000 worth seized in February.

	<b>Our Greener City</b>
12.	Despite tree planting season not commencing proper until November, we have already planted an additional 70 trees for the Queen's Canopy project.
13.	Works to improve pedestrian and cyclist access along The Avenue started on 21 June, delivering a range of improvements that will enhance access for people walking and cycling along The Avenue between Westwood Road and Highfield Road. The pedestrian improvement works will be carried out by the Council's Highways Partners, Balfour Beatty Living Places, and will be delivered over ten weeks.
	<b>Growth</b>
14.	Following the lockdown extension on 14 June, my administration accelerated the distribution of our Additional Restrictions Grants to those adversely impacted local businesses - with 100% of the budget being issued a month earlier, by the end of June. We have focused on distributing these funds to businesses reliant on the night-time economy and we are also actively seeking additional funding from the government to support those businesses further. To date, over £120m has been distributed to local businesses by Southampton City Council.
15.	My administration has successfully lifted off-street parking charges in the evenings and on Sundays in the city centre, from 21 June – delivering on a key priority to help boost our economy and help local businesses recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also scrapped the pilot scheme for applying parking charges to Blue Badge holders.
16.	Cabinet worked closely with service areas to deliver a strong bid for the Government's Welcome Back Fund. This fund, which could allow the Council to access up to £300k of government grants if our bid is successful, will significantly help drive progress towards my administration's commitment to improve our parks, district centres, and public spaces, with Cabinet helping to shape proposals on city cleansing and dressing.
17.	A number of key projects have also come to fruition since May, or are expected to do so imminently in the coming weeks, including the Peace Fountain in East Park, Town Quay Park, Hoglands Park Games Area, and the start of the £250k procurement of a new skate park for Hoglands Park.
	<b>Wellbeing</b>
18.	Potters Court has opened its doors as the largest housing with care scheme in the city, with 83 one and two-bedroom homes offering independent living for adults with care and support needs. Tenants with significant needs, including those with dementia, can be supported, as well as those who are more independent but still require some care to treat lesser health conditions. Help is on hand in emergencies, such as falls or unexpected illness, throughout the day and night, offering extra peace of mind to tenants and their families.
19.	City Telecare Services have been successful in obtaining accreditation for the 13 <sup>th</sup> year running with the Telecare Services Association (TSA) following a recent audit. This provides assurance that the team is recognised as compliant with the TSA Quality Standards Framework in referral, service tailoring, installation, monitoring and response for all Telecare services. To achieve the accreditation, City Telecare Services had to show evidence that they had achieved various key performance indicators throughout the year.

	<p>These included answering over 97.5% of alarm calls within 60 seconds and Responding Support Officers arriving at a customers' property within 45 minutes of their call, resulting in an average response time of 25 minutes being achieved. The Telecare Services team has played a vital role in our city's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining its 24/7 support during a particularly difficult time. It's also evolving and investing in the future: the local First Responding team has two new electric vehicles for use when doing emergency home visits, making the fleet cleaner and greener.</p>
20.	<p>Southampton City Council held a Fostering Celebration Evening recently to recognise all its foster carers in the city and to celebrate those who have been caring for children for a significant period of time, including one person who has been providing a safe and loving home to children for over 40 years as a foster carer. 69 foster carers received long service awards for periods ranging from between 5 years and 40 years. They all received a certificate, and depending on their length of service, were given a bouquet of flowers and plaque or vase that was hand-delivered by their supervising social worker.</p>
	<p><b>A council that works for you and with you</b></p>
21.	<p>On Friday, 9 July, it was announced that a mid-year budget, incorporating the election manifesto pledges of my administration, will be voted on by Council on 21 July. The budget includes a range of investments which are designed to help the city bounce back from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall package of additional capital investment is £26.4 million over the next two years, with an additional £3 million per year for revenue projects. These investments will be used for a range of new initiatives that will be implemented immediately, and for some longer-term policies and projects. Full details can be found on the Council website <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
22.	<p>Eddisons have been appointed and start on 10 June to review the Council's commercial portfolio, and identify opportunities for increasing income generation. We will schedule those assets that my administration have already identified an interest in in long leasehold or freehold disposals as early priorities within that work.</p>
<p><b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b></p>	
	<p>None.</p>
<p><b><u>Property/Other</u></b></p>	
	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b></p>	
	<p>As defined in the report appropriate to each section.</p>
<p><b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b></p>	
	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>None.</p>
<p><b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>None.</p>

<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	All
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
<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>	
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at:</b>	
<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.