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| <b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>   | COUNCIL                   |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>          | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT |
| <b>DATE OF DECISION:</b> | 15 March 2023             |
| <b>REPORT OF:</b>        | LEADER OF THE COUNCIL     |

| <b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b> |               |                                  |                    |
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| <b>Executive Director</b>     | <b>Title</b>  | Chief Executive                  |                    |
|                               | <b>Name:</b>  | Mike Harris                      | Tel: 023 8083 2882 |
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| <b>Author:</b>                | <b>Title</b>  | Policy & Strategy Manager        |                    |
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| <b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b> |
| None.                               |

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| <b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b> |
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| This report outlines the Executive Business conducted since 16 November 2022. |
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| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b> |
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| (i) | That the report is noted. |
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| <b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b> |
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| 1. | This report is presented in accordance with Part 4 of the Council's Constitution. |
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| <b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b> |
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| 2. | Not applicable. |
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| <b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b> |
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| 3. | This report outlines the activity of the Executive and activities to progress the priorities. |
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| <b>Family</b> |
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| 4. | The successful Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme in Southampton continues to receive national recognition for its diverse and creative programme. These programmes are essential to supporting vulnerable families and those who are eligible for Free School Meals. National funding only provides programmes for Easter, Summer, and Christmas holidays. Through the Housing Support Fund (HSF) programme, we proposed a unique solution to make sure children are supported during more school holidays. With £70,000, we provided a Mini-HAF style provision for the February half term, as well as school voucher support. We also ensured there were warm spaces for families with free food and online training courses. This programme engaged over 5000 pupils and had nearly 92% attendance across the week. The feedback from providers and families was fantastic and the investment in their children and the support offered was really welcomed. |
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| 5. | We have agreed on the necessary funding to make sure the Hearing Unit at Newlands Primary school provides suitable specialist education to deaf children. Last year, we approved plans to build this safe and purpose-built space. By committing this extra |
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|     | funding, the Council will ensure that despite rising inflation and increasing costs, this space will provide quality education for deaf children.  |
| 6.  | After listening to customer and colleague feedback, our Customer Experience team replaced and enhanced the Southampton Information Directory and related web content with a new Directory of Support Services. The new Directory went live on 31 January 2023. Residents can now enjoy a more user-friendly experience when they navigate the website on their mobiles, tablets, and laptops. On the new-look Directory webpage, there are filters, such as the “family” filter. This filters “family” related support where residents can find details of organisations to support them with childcare, to live independently, SEND support and so much more.   |
| 7.  | Following a Housing Related Support review, a gap in meeting vulnerable adult needs, regarding hoarding, was identified. The ICU consulted with a range of external and internal partners, such as Adult Social Care Connect and the Hospital Discharge Team. With partners, the team developed a single consistent service offer for hoarders, regardless of whether they are privately housed or a Council tenant. The model is the start of a more coherent and robust offer of support with a focus on early intervention and long-term, sustainable outcomes. The aim is to improve the lives of people who hoard and reduce the impact on multiple Council departments. The model is being funded for two years initially with a further review to be undertaken after 12 months to determine longer-term provisions. The team is also developing a city-wide hoarder’s agreement and forum to promote a joined-up approach with numerous services to ensure more timely intervention. |
| 8.  | The Council has been chosen as one of seventy-five local authorities to receive funding from the Department for Education. This funding is to support the development of a Family Hub network in the city, as part of the Start for Life programme. The new Family Hubs will run from the existing Sure Start Centre located across Southampton. They will bring services together to provide a holistic offer that will support families with key issues such as infant feeding, and perinatal mental health and provide parents and carers with tools to nurture their babies and children and improve health and education outcomes for all.  |
|     | <b>Safety</b>  |
| 9.  | The Stronger Communities team has contributed to tackling anti-social behaviour and feelings of vulnerability by placing CCTV cameras on Empress Road, using external Safer Streets funding. Thank you to our Stronger Communities team who are continuing to work closely with the Police to improve safety in this area for residents and businesses.  |
| 10. | On top of this, our Community Cohesion Team is working closely with the University of Southampton, Solent University, and the Police to improve lighting and safety along the most commonly used routes for students to and from the city centre. This will also help to provide patrol plans for Police and Street Pastors.   |
| 11. | On the 6th of February, the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the Council and many partners supported Youth Hub to host a local event. There was a community lunch, music, and art performances open and free to the public. This event successfully raised awareness about the harmful practices of FGM and the support for people at risk.  |
| 12. | We have teamed up with GO! Southampton and other partners in the city to apply for Purple Flag Status. This scheme recognises cities and towns that take measures to ensure their vibrant centres are welcoming and safe destinations for visitors and residents. One assessor said Southampton was one of the cleanest cities they had visited, and it is deemed the most graffiti-free.  |
|     | <b>Affordable</b>  |

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| 13. | Southampton City Council has been using our Sustainable Warmth funding to help improve energy-efficiency measures in homes. This has included home insulation, install air source heat pumps and other measures to help reduce residents' energy bills and to keep their homes warm. We have also paired with the charity, the Environment Centre, to support vulnerable households who are concerned about keeping warm. Residents can register for Healthy Homes support and receive a wealth of advice, such as how to access funding for home energy upgrades. Moreover, as part of our commitment to saving energy and reducing bills for our tenants, we are making sure our council properties are more energy efficient. We are carrying out energy-efficient assessments in council homes across Southampton to provide properties with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC). These enable us to see how and where we need to make investments in council homes. |
| 14. | Understanding the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis on our residents, we have launched Southampton's Warm Welcome initiative. Southampton's libraries, family hubs and housing-with-care schemes are extending a warm welcome to residents who are concerned about the cost of heating in their homes. In libraries, there is a programme of free activities, access to books, computer facilities and Wi-Fi. Two modern council-run housing with care schemes are also opening their doors to allow the wider community to enjoy activities and a hot lunch at the on-site restaurants. We have also partnered with Wessex Community Bank to offer more financial support to individuals and community groups during this difficult period.  |
| 15. | Affordable leisure is important to improve health and well-being. Therefore, I am delighted to announce that the improvements to the much-loved Bike Park at the Outdoor Sports Centre have been completed. This was officially opened on 26 January 2023. The improvements include a new start hill, three all-weathered trails with a dedicated push-up, and a new advanced jump for Southampton residents to enjoy. The works have also formed part of the ongoing partnership between British Cycling and the Council. This will provide a safe and free-of-charge space for residents and visitors of all ages to cycle.  |
| 16. | We have a focus on ensuring money made, spent, and generated in the city supports our local economy and brings about social and environmental benefits. Therefore, we awarded Wave Utilities with the wastewater contract and water supply because they committed to meeting social value requirements. They will deliver several ongoing social-based volunteer projects to support schools and communities. This contract is in accordance with our Social Value and Green City Procurement Policy and Southampton Pound initiative.   |
|     | <b>Green</b>   |
| 17. | I am proud to announce that two of the Property design staff have worked hard to obtain full accreditation as Passivhaus Designers. Passivhaus is an evidence-based solution that provides a range of approaches to delivering net-zero-ready new and existing buildings. Passivhaus buildings ensure little energy is needed for heating and cooling and provide comfort to the occupant. It is fantastic news that two of our design staff have achieved this accreditation and are contributing to the Council's aim to become a sustainable organisation and to achieve net zero by 2030.  |
| 18. | The Flood Risk Management Team has successfully delivered a 140-meter length of rock armour revetment at Weston Shore to reduce coastal erosion. This will protect Southampton's only publicly accessible natural coastline from erosion for the next 50 years. With Balfour Beatty Living Places and using local suppliers, they completed this project two weeks ahead of schedule and under budget. Moreover, this project has helped to improve biodiversity in the area with the installation of more than 30 rock pools, several bird and bat boxes, and coastal planting. Using a hybrid generator with additional external solar panels, they reduced the carbon footprint of the project. The community has also contributed by providing donations for materials, such as park benches, and picking up litter.   |

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| 19. | Our School Streets programme was successfully extended to Swaythling Primary and Bitterne Manor Primary in November. School Streets turn roads into pedestrian/cycle zones at pick-up and drop-off times. This encourages more active travel to and from school by creating a safe space for people to walk, cycle or scoot. It improves air quality whilst making it safer for children by reducing traffic and the risk of road collisions.   |
| 20. | The Council worked closely with Southampton Football Club to develop the park-and-ride scheme, which came into operation on the 11 <sup>th</sup> of January 2023. This scheme is part of our commitment to ease congestion on roads by providing more sustainable travel options for residents and visitors to the city. This supports our local transport plan which aims to make sure there is a system for everyone and a better way to travel.  |
| 21. | Southampton Central Station is set for a £5.5 million revamp, which will deliver improved waiting areas, improved taxi rank drop-off facilities and car parks and increased access to sustainable travel options. The Southampton Central Interchange scheme is part of the Council's Transforming Cities Fund programme, aiming to create a greener and more inviting city for everyone.   |
|     | <b>Pride</b>  |
| 22. | In February, First Bus saw the final running of their City Reds and we would like to express our grateful thanks to their staff who have served this City and given residents decades of invaluable service. First Bus can trace its routes back to 1898 when Southampton Corporation Transport was set up. We now look forward to a new era when our bus services will be provided by Bluestar and we are grateful to their staff for taking on all of First routes to ensure our residents have a connected and resilient bus network. We know our bus network is in good and safe hands. |
| 23. | It is also exciting to share that there have been improvements made to the Southampton City Farm in Millbrook. This is a much-loved farm in the community with volunteer programmes for adults with learning difficulties, educational visits, and community events. Together with our volunteers, Balfour Beatty and our supply chain, we have made some impressive improvements. The team is working hard to develop a new duck pond, renovate the pig pen, paint the farm reception, and much more.  |
| 24. | With the success of our Levelling Up Fund bid, the Council will be able to use the awarded £20,000,000 towards a £30,000,000 scheme, to further develop the Outdoor Sports Centre. In a public consultation in 2021, 97% of our residents shared that they would like improvements at the Outdoor Sports Centre. This funding will enable us to deliver for our residents. There will be improvements to the athletics centre, the creation of a new sports pitch, and a focus on making sure sport and exercise are inclusive to all Southampton residents.                                |
| 25. | As a result of our bid to be a City of Culture, we have secured a £1.57m grant that will ensure Southampton's Culture Trust can deliver a programme of events to transform both Southampton and the region. The Cultural Trust will use this funding, awarded by Arts Council England to strengthen our partnerships, and energise investment in culture, festivals, events, and tourism. We have also secured £2.2 million from Arts Council England to repair and improve the Art Gallery's roof.   |
| 26. | In line with our Corporate Plan, we have established the new City Renaissance Board to oversee the development of key areas in the city. This includes the mater-planning of city and district centres, ensuring the plans are adaptive, people-centred and aligned with city, regional and national strategies.  |
| 27. | Finally, I am pleased to report that Her Royal Highness, Princess Royal, came to the Civic Centre to officially present the city with its Letter Patent. This official document outlines Southampton's award for Lord Mayor status. Southampton's entry focused on the city's proud and distinct identity, its welcoming and friendly character, its commitment to Mayoralty and the important role it plays in bringing people together. Only two Lord Mayors were appointed by Her Majesty the Queen in the 21st Century, and   |

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|  | Southampton is the first English city to receive the honour since Exeter in the Queen's Golden Jubilee year of 2002. The awarding of Lord Mayor status also coincided with Southampton celebrating its 800th Mayoral year in 2022 – a special and historic milestone for the city and its people. |
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**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**Capital/Revenue**

28. None.

**Property/Other**

29. None.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

30. As defined in the report appropriate to each section.

**Other Legal Implications:**

31. None.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

32. None.

**POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

33. None.

**KEY DECISION?** No

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:** All

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**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) |
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1. None

