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| DECISION MAKER: | COUNCIL | | |
| SUBJECT: | EXECUTIVE BUSINESS REPORT | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 18 SEPTEMBER 2019 | | |
| 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 17 July 2019 | |
| 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) | |
| STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH | |
| 3. | <p>It is good to see Southampton City Council's Highways Partner Balfour Beatty beginning work on a major project to improve the A335 Stoneham Way between Wide Lane, Bassett Green Road and Thomas Lewis Way. It will include the completion of a new section of the Southampton Cycle Network – the SCN8. The project also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening the footway along Stoneham Way to create a new shared used cycle path • Introducing a new safe cycle facility from Bassett Green Road to Wide Lane which will have its own signal phase turning into Swaythling Arch to link to Wide Lane to the Airport with new pedestrian and cycle crossings • Replacing the Overheight Traffic Signs designed to stop HGVs from going under Swaythling Arch, and • Upgrades to the traffic signals at Bassett Green Road and Wessex Lane which will communicate with buses to give them priority. |

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| 4. | I was delighted to hear that Virgin Media has announced that it has chosen Southampton as the first city in the UK to receive the investment and benefit from gigabit download speeds when it is rolled out later in 2019. Southampton has a thriving digital and creative economy and our Council is committed to supporting residents, businesses and visitors to embrace the opportunities that modern technology present to the city. |
| 5. | I was pleased to welcome Barclays Chief Executive Matt Hammerstein, to Network Eagle Labs in August 2019. It was fantastic to show him the new flexible workspace which is a unique partnership between Southampton City Council and Barclays, and all the benefits it provides to its users. |
| 6. | It was fantastic to hear that in August 2019, Southampton City Council, Barclays Eagle Labs and Southampton digital marketing agency ETCH UK, held the first Southampton BASH Festival as part of a national initiative that attracted 13 young people to take part in weeklong event of coding. By the end of the festival, the group were able to present games and interactive apps that they had coded, all while gaining new skills and learning from each other. |
| 7. | It was great to see My Journey, Southampton City Council's sustainable travel brand, teaming up with local businesses to encourage more people to cycle to work. Senior staff from many local businesses have been cycling to their workplace, inspiring other staff members to do the same. In Southampton alone, cycling already provides over £5,500,000 economic benefits, including improved personal health, reduced costs to the NHS and improved productivity. |
| 8. | I was pleased to welcome Conor Burns MP, Minister of State for International Trade, along with Sandy Hopkins, Chief Executive Southampton City Council, and Southampton business leaders to the Port of Southampton on 8 August 2019. It was a fantastic opportunity to talk to the Minister about the future growth of Southampton, the challenges of a no-deal Brexit and outline our ambitions for Southampton to continue to be a clean, green city with strong economic growth. |
| CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE GET A GOOD START IN LIFE | |
| 9. | I would like to congratulate Southampton students who collected their GCSE results on 22 August. This year, Southampton pupils achieved an average Attainment 8 score of 44.0, an increase of 0.7 on the score of 43.3 achieved last year. The year-on-year increase in Southampton students' Attainment 8 scores is broadly equivalent to 3 out of every 4 students achieving one higher GCSE grade in a subject this year when compared to 2018. In addition, the results show that 65 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 to 9 in Maths and 70 per cent of students achieved a grade 4 to 9 in English. The progress we have seen in Southampton is testament to their hard work, as well as the efforts of teachers, governors and parents and carers who play a role in helping our young people achieve their potential. |
| 10. | I'd also like to congratulate students in Southampton who received their A-level results on 15 August 2019. I was delighted to hear that the proportion of top A-Level grades attained in Southampton has increased this year. One in every seven (14.9%) Southampton entries achieved A-Level A* or A Grade in 2019, an increase of 3.9% on the proportion of entries achieving the same grades in 2018. I would also like to recognise our hardworking teachers and |

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| | staff who played an important role in achieving these results and giving young adults a successful start in life. |
| 11. | In order to mark the start of World Breastfeeding Week on 1 August 2019, and to help make Southampton a more child-friendly city, local mums were asked to vote for their most welcoming breastfeeding venue in Southampton by the Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme and Southampton City Council. Local mums have voted John Lewis & Partners, Bassett Team Rooms and Stakk's Pancake House as Southampton's Most Breastfeeding Welcome venues. Their efforts in making it easier for women to feed comfortable, confident and supported in breastfeeding their children wherever and whenever they need feeding. |
| 12. | I am pleased to confirm that Southampton City Council is part of a project, working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, which has been awarded £880K to set up a Violence Reduction Unit in Hampshire. The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) will focus on tackling the root causes of violence through a programme of early intervention with young people and local communities. |
| | PEOPLE IN SOUTHAMPTON LIVE SAFE, HEALTHY, INDEPENDENT LIVES |
| 13. | I was delighted to see the launch of Southampton Living Well's newest location at Chamberlayne Leisure Centre, Weston in July 2019. The Living Well Service is commissioned by Southampton City Council and Social Care in Action, who are working with Age UK Southampton to develop and run the new Living Well Service. The service hosts a range of activities such as music and sensory sessions to support older people to maintain health and independence. |
| 14. | Southampton City Council has launched a new grant fund for community organisations to help residents quit smoking, manage their weight and improve their mental wellbeing. The Public Health Behaviour Change Training fund is open to community organisations so they can train their staff or volunteers to help improve the health of adults in Southampton. The scheme offers an opportunity to train staff or volunteers on health and wellbeing challenges and opportunities to support change. |
| 15. | It was fantastic to hear the joint Portsmouth and Southampton Time to Change Hub has launched a Champions Fund on 19 August 2019 that will award small grants to facilitate community level mental health anti-stigma work, as well as assisting Hub's work encouraging people across both cities to talk about mental health and support each other with their mental health wellbeing. |
| 16. | As part of work by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) which coordinates health and care across Hampshire, Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, a programme has been put in place to support local efforts to reduce the rate of suicides by 10% by 2020/21 in line with the national target. Due to the large area covered by the STP network and the need to coordinate and collaborate this important work, a new role has been created for a suicide prevention programme manager in September 2019. This is funded by the STP, and hosted by Southampton City Council, but will work to both Southampton and Hampshire County Council. The post-holder will work with both authorities' Public Health teams, as well as NHS Trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, |

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| | district, city and borough councils, the Police, prisons, the voluntary and community sector, and those with lived experience of suicide. |
| 17. | Congratulations to Southampton City Councils' City Telecare Services who have been successful in obtaining accreditation with the Telecare Services Association (TSA) in August 2019 following a recent audit. This means that they are recognised as compliant with the TSA Code of Practice in referral, service tailoring installation, monitoring and response for all Telecare services. |
| 18. | As part of the Green City Charter, Southampton City Council has set ambitious goals to help improve air quality. It is great to hear that, to support the Charter, we have added new licensing conditions to ensure we have a clean air-compliant taxi fleet. The aim of the additional conditions is to prevent older, more polluting vehicles being provided with a taxi or private hire licence. Changes will be introduced in two stages, with the first coming into effect on 1 January 2020. The council has introduced several incentives to support taxi and private hire vehicle owners with changing to low emission vehicles. The Low Emission Taxi Incentive Scheme (LETIS), provides a grant to eligible taxi owners, providing up to £3,000 cashback in license cost. Since the launch in December 2017, 77 upgrades have been completed. |
| 19. | Southampton City Council, with its Highways Partner Balfour Beatty, has begun work to transform the newly reconstructed Millbrook Roundabout into a greener, cleaner environment with a new Living wall made up of green planting. This will be the first Living Wall of its kind on the UK's major road network. Work is scheduled to finish by October this year and will result in no disruption to travel. |
| 20. | It was good to see Southampton City Council joining forces with charities, academics and health care professionals in the UK and Europe to raise awareness of, and reduce the stigma associated with, perinatal mental health illnesses that affect thousands of parents every year. As part of this, the council's Employment Support Team held a free Teddy Bears' Picnic on 27 August 2019, giving parents support and guidance for parents who might be struggling with their newborns or are worried about leaving or returning to work. |
| 21. | It was great to see a Housing with Care research paper co-authored between the Housing Learning and Improvement Network (LIN) and Southampton City Council receive industry praise. The paper, which is titled 'Identifying the health care system benefits of housing with care', focuses on Southampton and has identified a number of benefits ranging from improvements to residents' quality of life, reduction in the use of health services and associated resources such as the reduced number of GP visits and community nursing visits, improved hospital discharge and significant cost-benefits for the health system (about £2000 per year per individual) from the use of housing with care services. |
| 22. | Southampton City Council and NHS Southampton City Clinical Commissioning Group have published an updated Market Position Statement for an Ageing Population in August 2019. It provides information, intelligence and analysis of local health and social care needs as well as potential future development opportunities for current and prospective health and care providers. |
| 23. | I'm delighted to hear that as a result of a full competitive tender over the summer, Southampton City Council have commissioned Southampton Advice and Representation Centre to provide targeted welfare benefit advice |

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| | and specialist support for disabled people and their families, to ensure that they are aware of, and claiming, the welfare benefits they are entitled to. |
| 24. | It was good to see the launch of a new project this summer to increase provision of employment support to people with a mental illness. Southampton City Council Officers from the Employment Support Team have been integrated into Southampton's Job Centre Plus (JCP) to support people with secondary mental health conditions who are keen to return to work through the use of Integrated Placement Support. |
| 25. | It was also great to see a second employment project also beginning this summer. Southampton City Council's Employment Support Team has been involved in the Perinatal Mental Health Support Service by providing employment support, advice and guidance to empower families affected by perinatal mental health. The two year project will enable women, families and health care professionals prevent, diagnose or successfully manage mild to moderate perinatal mental health. |
| | SOUTHAMPTON IS AN ATTRACTIVE AND MODERN CITY WHERE PEOPLE ARE PROUD TO LIVE AND WORK |
| 26. | It was fantastic to see the return of Southampton Pride on 24 August 2019, with at least 15,000 people in attendance. I enjoyed marching with Officers and Councillors from Southampton City Council in front of a specially made banner displaying Southampton City Council's support for the event. The event is the fastest growing Pride event in the South of England, and was held in Guildhall Square. As well as a parade, there was stage music and comedy events throughout the day – including Charlie Hides (RuPaul's Drag Race), S Club 7, Felix Shepherd from the X Factor and Joe Black. |
| 27. | It was also great to see another successful year for Seaside in the Square, held between 19 July to 11 August. Activities were provided for all ages, including an open air cinema, yoga, sports events, as well as many others. |
| 28. | It was great to welcome back the Southampton International Boat Show on 13 September to 22 September 2019. Southampton International Boat Show is Britain's biggest festival of boating, boasting Europe's largest purpose built marina with some of the world's most luxurious and innovative boats. As well the boats on display, the event featured live music, interactive attractions and an excellent opportunity to network with thousands of guests and businesses. |
| 29. | I was really proud to hear that Southampton has been chosen by the Football Association (FA) as a host city for the UEFA Women's Euro 2021 football tournament, with games to be held at St Mary's Stadium. This will be a fantastic opportunity to continue to put Southampton on the map, and will encourage women of all backgrounds and abilities to take part in football and other physical activity. |
| 30. | It was fantastic to hear of an event held on 29 August 2019 to celebrate the completion of the £2 million Cuckmere Lane and Studland Close Decent Neighbourhoods Project, and to thank residents for their patience during the building work. The project improved the external environment around the blocks of flats on Cuckmere Lane and Studland Close, including a redesign and resurfacing of part of Cuckmere Lane, safety measures on the road, the installation of 90 new parking spaces, a community garden, a new play area and the planting of many new trees and plants. |
| 31. | I am delighted to announce that St James' Park in Shirley and Riverside Park in Bitterne Park have been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme 2019 as being amongst the very best in the world. This international |

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| | award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. Both parks are unique in character, but are similar in having fantastic community lead friends groups at the heart of their management. They work tirelessly alongside council staff to ensure that the parks are some of the best in the world. |
| 32. | Additionally, it was also fantastic to hear that as a result of a public nomination process, Riverside Park has also been shortlisted for the Field's In Trust UK Best Park 2019. |
| 33. | It is fantastic to see Southampton City Council's transformation of Blechynden Gardens near Southampton Central Train Station is now completed. The newly created park is on the site of the remains of the Emperia Buildings, a warehouse built in 1905 which was bombed in 1940 during the Blitz of Southampton in World War II. The concept for the park, developed by Cliff Brown of Southampton City Council's City Services Team, was to create an attractive new public space which respects the rich heritage of the area as one of the last remaining World War II sites in Southampton, whilst looking forward to a peaceful future. The new design opens the park up so it is visible from the road, creating a pleasant walkway for commuters, residents and visitors to feel safe on their way to and from the station and the city centre. |
| 34. | I am pleased to see that Southampton has continued to offer a wide range of interesting, family friendly events to both residents and visitors. Many events were led, facilitated or supported by the council's events team and as well as the ones already referred to above, these have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 August – YMCA Party in the Park – Community event on Mayfield Park showcasing all that YMCA and other agencies offer in the area. • 8 August – Bitterne Festival – Fun and informative day for the Bitterne Community held at Bitterne Precinct. • 18 August – Big Fun Run – 5k run for charity of the participants choice held on Southampton Common. • 18 August – Dog Jog – Runners brought their four legged friends to Southampton Common for a 5k run. • 22-26 August – August Fair – traditional fairground of rides and attractions held on Southampton Common. • 7 September – Southampton Slamma – a free skateboarding event held in Guildhall Square, with entertainment from DJ's and MC's. |
| | A MODERN, SUSTAINABLE COUNCIL |
| 35. | On 23 July 2019, over 240 employees transferred from Capita to the council. This brought our longstanding strategic partnership with Capita to an end after 12 years. Both I and the Chief Executive, Sandy Hopkins, held a series of briefings for all of the transferred in staff making sure that they were fully welcomed as Officers of the council. I greatly appreciate the hard work, loyalty and commitment to delivering services which employees have shown and their professionalism during the complex transfer project that has taken shape over the last year. I also want to say a big thank you to the teams who worked hard on this project, ensuring our systems, equipment and services continued seamlessly, including transition over 190 contracts for services, IT systems and support. |
| 36. | It is great to see Southampton City Council working with other organisations in the city to support them to take on new apprentices and develop existing employees. After an application and shortlisting process involving local |

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| | businesses during July and August 2019 and following government reforms and as a large levy paying employer, Southampton City Council can transfer up to 25% of our apprenticeship levy fund to small and medium sized businesses in the Southampton area, helping to boost the number of high-quality apprenticeships and strengthening the long term prospects of the companies involved. |
| 37. | Congratulations to our Highways Services Partnership for being shortlisted for the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards in the Best Service Team of the Year category in September 2019. It is also great to hear that our Highways, Winter Maintenance & Street Lighting service have also been shortlisted in the category for Best Public/Private Working Initiative by the APSE. |
| 38. | I would also like to congratulate those involved in improving Fire Safety for Southampton Council tenants, whose work has also been shortlisted for the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) awards in the Best Housing, Regeneration or New Build Initiative category. The shortlisting is based on Southampton City Council's work on installing sprinklers in our High-rise blocks. |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 39. | None |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 40. | None |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 41. | As defined in the report appropriate to each section. |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 42. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 43. | None |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 44. | None |

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| KEY DECISION? | Yes/No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | None |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | |
| 1. | None |

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| 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 | |