

# Southampton University – Civic Agreement

Report of the Leader

## Recommended:

**That the Council signs-up to the Civic University Agreement with Southampton University.**

### SUMMARY:

- To mark 70 years of obtaining University status Southampton University is proposing to become a “Civic University”.
- The Vice Chancellor, Professor Mark Smith, indicates that the university understands the importance of *place* particularly in the context of the Levelling Up agenda. As a result it wishes to develop productive relationships with partners in local government and other key players in local communities.
- The Vice Chancellor has, as a result, written the attached Civic University Agreement as a mechanism to develop those relationships. Whilst the document does not have legal status it is a way to describe how the civic university ethos could become a way of working, in practice.
- The Civic University Agreement is attached as an Annex to this report.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 To mark 70 years of obtaining University status Southampton University is proposing to become a “Civic University”. The Vice Chancellor, Professor Mark Smith, indicates that the university understands the importance of *place* particularly in the context of the Levelling Up agenda. As a result it wishes to develop productive relationships with partners in local government and other key players in local communities.

## 2 Background

- 2.1 The Leader and Chief Executive have met recently with the Vice Chancellor to discuss the draft Civic University Agreement and the potential for TVBC to be a signatory. Whilst the agreement itself would not commit the Borough Council any expenditure it will provide a conduit to explore opportunities for the Council to work more closely with the University, over time.

## 3 Key Elements of the Agreement for TVBC

- 3.1 The attached Agreement outlines the way in which Southampton University expects to become a Civic University. Working in partnership with local authorities in the area, is a key component of its approach.

- 3.2 In particular the Agreement envisages the University working with local authority partners to support the Levelling-up agenda. This particularly chimes with TVBC's current aspirations in respect of Andover Vision.
- 3.3 In addition there is an intention to develop collaborative approaches to research and innovation which in time could assist the Council in its evidence led approach to policy development.
- 3.4 Other areas that have a clear correlation with the Council's work include the working with the Southampton Science Park to help support the local economy, the development of a Community Engagement Hub, climate change and the development of a Civic Leadership programme.

#### **4 Corporate Objectives and Priorities**

- 4.1 Working more closely with Southampton University fits closely with the Council's partnership ethos and could help TVBC, over time, deliver on the corporate priorities highlighted in paragraph 3 above.

#### **5 Consultations/Communications**

- 5.1 The Leader and Chief Executive have met recently with the Vice Chancellor to discuss the draft Agreement and the potential for future collaborations.

#### **6 Risk Management**

- 6.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified related to signing up to the Agreement.

#### **7 Resource Implications**

- 7.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

#### **8 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **9 Equality Issues**

- 9.1 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

#### **10 Conclusion**

- 10.1 To mark 70 years of obtaining University status Southampton University is proposing to become a "Civic University". It is suggested that it would be a positive step for TVBC sign up to the Agreement.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
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(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor P North

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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	18 January 2023
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