

14 December 2020

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

Overview & Scrutiny of:-
Strategic Direction; Environmental Health; Waste & Recycling; Climate Change
Emergency; Communities; and Housing & Information Technology.

A meeting of the **Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1** will be held on **Tuesday, 22nd December, 2020 at 10.00 am**. This will be a virtual meeting and you can observe the meeting [via our Youtube Page](#).

PHIL SHEARS
Managing Director

Membership:

Councillors H Cox (Chair), Jenks (Vice-Chair), Clarence, D Cox, Eden, Foden, Gribble, Hocking, Mullone, Nutley, Patch, Rollason and Thorne

Please Note: The meeting will be live streamed with the exception where there are confidential or exempt items, which may need to be considered in the absence of the media and public.

AGENDA

1. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 6)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020.
2. **Declaration of Interest**
3. **Public Questions (if any)**
4. **Councillor Questions (if any)**

5. **Executive Forward Plan**
To note forthcoming decisions anticipated to be made the Executive over the next 12 months. The Executive Forward Plan can be found [here](#).
6. **Work Programme** (Pages 7 - 10)
7. **Executive Member presentation - the Leader Councillor Connett Strategic Direction**
8. **Council strategy performance monitoring Q2** (Pages 11 - 22)
9. **Members IT Update**
Executive Member Councillor Wrigley to report.
10. **Future strategic planning working with Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council** (Pages 23 - 50)
11. **Tourism contribution Update**
To receive an update by Executive Member Councillor Jefferies.
12. **Ecological Emergency Update**
To receive an update from the Executive Member Councillor J Hook
13. **Covid-19 Community Impact Review Group Update**
To receive an update from Members of the Review Group
14. **PSPO (control of dogs) Review Group report** (Pages 51 - 56)
15. **Minutes of the Strata Joint Executive Committee 22 September 2020** (Pages 57 - 60)

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

MONDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2020

Present:

Councillors H Cox (Chair), Jenks (Vice-Chair), Clarence, D Cox, Eden, Gribble, Hocking, Mullone, Nutley, Patch, Rollason and Thorne

Members Attendance:

Councillors Connett, Dewhirst and MacGregor

Apologies:

Councillors Foden

Officers in Attendance:

Trish Corns, Democratic Services Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Chris Braines, Waste & Cleansing Manager

12. MINUTES 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed at the earliest convenient time.

It was noted that additional information requested had been provided to Members.

13. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The following Members advised that they represented wards that currently had skips provided by the Council, and which was the subject of Minute 16 below:
Councillors Clarence, Patch, H Cox, Gribble, and Nutley.

Councillor Mallone declared an interest in Minute 16 below on the grounds that he had a licence which enabled him to dispose of waste. Councillor Mullone did not vote on this matter.

14. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

15. COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

None.

16. CALL-IN RURAL SKIP SERVICE

Councillor Mallone declared an interest in Minute 16 below on the grounds that he had a licence which enabled him to dispose of waste. Councillor Mullone did not vote on this matter.

The Chair advised he had called-in the Executive decision of 6 October, 2020 regarding the rural skip service because he believed there should be an opportunity for affected towns and parishes to have their say on the matter and further questioning and debate to take place. The call in was supported by Councillors Clarence, Gribble, Hocking, Nutley and Patch.

The decision of Executive was that the non statutory service be discontinued and necessary arrangements be made with the existing contractor for early contract termination; and that support be provided to the town and parish councils impacted to assist them with their own arrangements where requested.

In support of his call-in the Chair acknowledged that the service could not continue in its current form due to budget constraints. However town and parish councils had various options to enable a service to continue, and the Council should delay the cessation of the service and engage with them to explain and explore the options.

During debate issues raised by committee members included: there should be a 12 month transitional period before withdrawing the service; increased fly-tipping would result; the service benefitted only a few parishes and towns but was being provided for by all Teignbridge tax payers; Teignbridge was the only District in Devon which provided such as service; and the service should continue until the service expires in 2022.

In response the Executive Member for Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health advised that: difficult decisions were required in relation to the budget; the service had not been provided since the start of Covid lockdown in March 2020; there had been no overall consequential increase in fly-tipping, and fly-tipping had decreased over recent years; free bulky waste collection provided by charities was available to residents; a number of parish councils had objected and Teignbridge would assist and facilitate those wishing to continue the service to do so; continuing the service until 2022 was not viable and not an option because continuing with the service would result in another service being cut in order to fund the rural skips; statutory services and other valuable services such as opening public toilets were continuing.

The Waste and Cleansing Manager advised that the cost of the rural skip service contract was approximately £51,000, and approximately £9,000 for disposal of the waste.

The Leader of the Council added that parish and town councils had until January 2021 to submit their precept requests, in which time they could identify means to continue the service, and work together to potentially reduce costs.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 (19.10.2020)

It was proposed and seconded that the Executive reconsider the timing with a view to delaying for 12 months to enable parish and town councils to arrange the continuation of the service.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that financial information be provided to affected parish and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

A roll call was taken on the amendment as follows:

For the proposal: Chair, Vice Chair and Cllrs Clarence, D Cox, Eden, Gribble, Nutley, Patch and Rollason -Total 9

Against the proposal: Nil

Abstention: Cllrs Hocking, Mullone and Thorne – Total 3

A roll call was taken on the substantive motion. The result replicated the above voting. The amendment was carried.

It was proposed and seconded that £10,000 from the savings be used to help parish and town councils fund the service within the first 12 months.

For the proposal: Cllr Gribble, Hocking and Patch – Total 3

Against the proposal: Chair, Vice Chair and Cllrs D Cox, Eden, Nutley, Rollason, and Thorne -Total 7

Abstention: Cllrs Clarence and Mullone – Total 2

The proposal was lost.

RECOMMENDED – The following decision be referred to the Executive for consideration:

That financial information be given to affected parishes and towns within four weeks to enable them to make a decision whether they wish to take on and continue the service.

CLLR H COX
Chairman

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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (1) WORK PROGRAMME 2020 – 2021

Agenda Item 6

Strategic Direction; Environmental Health; Waste & Recycling; Climate Change Emergency; Communities; Housing & Information Technology

Chair – Cllr H Cox
Vice Chair – Cllr Jenks

Portfolio Holders

Strategic Direction (Council Leader - Cllr Connett)
Recycling, Household Waste & Environmental Health (Cllr Dewhirst)
Homes & Communities (Cllr Wrigley)
Climate Change (Cllr J Hook)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planning activity to be undertaken over the coming months.

The dates are indicative of when the Committee will review the items. It is a flexible programme however and it is possible that items may need to be rescheduled and new items added with new issues and priorities.

Standing Item

Strata Joint Executive Minutes

22 December 2020 Deadline for final reports 7 Dec 2020	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Executive Member Presentation	Presentation	Leader Councillor Connett Strategic Direction
Council Strategy performance Monitoring Q2	Report	Project Manager, BID EM Cllr A Connett Executive Members
Ecological Emergency	Report	Head of Operational Services EM Cllr J Hook
COVID-19 Review Group Update	Update	Review Group Members Covid Recovery Officer
PSPO (control of dogs) RG	Report	Review Group Members Environmental Protection Manager
Members IT	Update	EM Cllr Wrigley Executive Member Democratic Services Team Leader
Strata Joint Executive 24 Sept 2020	Minutes	Strata Director
Tourism Contribution	Report	Economy Projects Officer EM Cllr Nina Jeffriets
GESp	Report	EM Cllr Gary Taylor Principal Planner, Spatial Planning Head of Place & Commercial Services
12 January 2021 10am Deadline for final reports 16 December	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps

Executive Member Presentation	Presentation	Cllr Dewhirst – Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health
Budget (OS2 invited for budget update, and to ask questions)	Report	Chief Finance Officer EM Cllr Keeling
Community Safety Annual Report	Report	Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager EM Cllr Wrigley
Covid -19 community Impact Review Group	Report of RG	Covid Recovery Projects Officer Review Group Members
BAME Review Group Update	Report of RG	Head of Community Services and Improvement Review Group Members
Joint Waste Strategy	Report	Waste & Cleansing Manager EM Cllr Dewhirst

9 February 2021 10am Deadline for final reports 22 January	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Executive Member Presentation	Presentation	Cllr J Hook climate change and ecological emergency
Budget	Report	Chief Finance Officer EM Cllr Keeling
Council Strategy Performance Monitoring Q3	Report	Project Manager, BID EM Cllr A Connett Executive Members
Connecting Devon and Somerset Scheme.	Report/ Presentation	Head of Place & Commercial Services /Matt Barrow DCC (All Members of OS(2) to be invited for update)

Additional meeting March for [Devon-wide review of Devon Home Choice](#)

20 April 2021	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Executive Member Presentation	Presentation	Cllr Wrigley - Homes and Communities
Safeguarding Annual Report	Report	Community Safety & Safeguarding Manager EM Cllr Wrigley
Housing Strategy (To Executive following this meeting)	Report	Head of Community Services and Improvement/Housing Enabling & Development Manager/ Housing Strategy Officer EM Cllr Wrigley

13 July 2021	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Executive Member Presentation	Presentation	Strategic Direction - Leader, Cllr Connett
Council Strategy Performance Monitoring Q4	Report	Project Manager, BID EM Cllr A Connett

		Executive Members
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Items to be scheduled

Task & Finish Groups		Lead Officer
COVID 19 Community Impact		Amanda Pujol
PSPO		David Eaton
BAME	Joint with OS2	

Past Meetings

22 September 2020	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Leader & PH updates (5 Minutes each)		Portfolio Holders
Fly Tipping	Report	David Eaton
Notice of Motion from Council 28 July 2020 Black Lives Matter		Amanda Pujol
Grounds Maintenance weed Control-non toxic weed control	Report	Lorraine Montgomery
Council Strategy performance Monitoring Q1	Report	Liz Gingell

19 October 2020 11am	Report	Lead Officer / Next Steps
Rural skip service Cllr H Cox Supported by Cllrs Gribble, Hocking Nutley, Patch	Call-in of Executive decision 6 October 2019	Chris Braines

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TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1

22 DECEMBER 2020

PART I

Report Title	Quarter 2 2020-21 Council Strategy Performance
Purpose of Report	To update members on the delivery of the Council Strategy 2020-2030, providing the detailed performance information used to track its delivery. Members are asked to review the performance information and areas where performance is not on track.
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: Review the report and the actions being taken to rectify performance issues detailed in Appendix A.
Financial Implications	A summary of the financial information supporting the delivery of the council strategy has been provided as part of this report. Finance Systems Manager Email: steve.wotton@teignbridge.gov.uk
Legal Implications	A summary of the legal requirements are contained in the detail of this report. Monitoring Officer Email: Karen.trickey@teignbridge.gov.uk
Risk Assessment	Failure to deliver the council strategy or parts of it will be identifiable in both the performance and risks reports, enabling both senior management and members to take action where necessary. Chief Finance Officer Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	The council strategy contains a dedicated programme entitled Action on Climate alongside other projects in the strategy that also impact on climate and the environment. Detailed information about this programme and actions being taken are contained within this performance report. Climate Change Officer Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk
Report Author	Liz Gingell – Project Manager, Business Transformation Team
Portfolio Holder	Corporate Resources - Cllr Alan Connett
Appendices / Background Papers	Appendices A –Quarter 2 Performance Exception Report

1. REPORT DETAIL

This performance report looks at the Council Strategy 2020-2030 and covers the period from 1st July to 30th September. Any questions should be asked in advance of the meeting.

1.1 T10 Finance

[Executive report 3 November](#) suggests a budget gap of £4.6 million – this includes Council tax and NDR which can be recovered in future years. The income funding package from Government should address most of the remaining gap but any deficiency will have to be met by reserves or further savings.

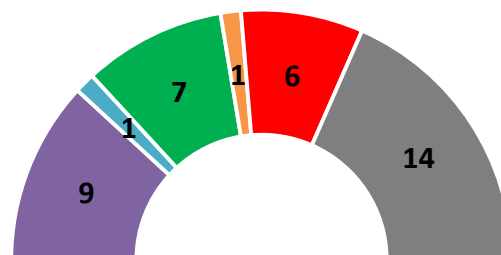
1.2 T10 Programmes

7 of the T10 Programmes are reported as 'On track'. The following 3 continue to be reported with a caution status.

- A Roof over our Heads
- Going to Town.
- Out and About and Active

1.3 T10 Performance Indicators

A total of 38 PIs are included in the Q1 report. 10 PIs are either ahead or well ahead of target, 7 are on target and 7 PIs are underperforming. This is an improvement on Q1 PIs performance where 11 PIs were underperforming. There 14 monitoring indicators that do not have targets.

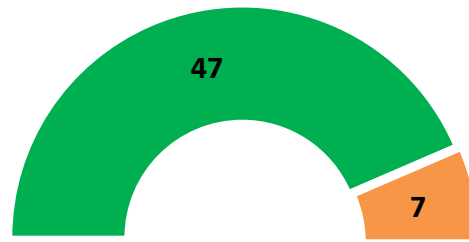


Q2 Status of all Performance Indicators



1.4 T10 Projects

A total of 54 projects are included in the report. 47 are on track and 7 are reported with a caution status compared to 4 in Q1.



Q2 Status of projects

- Completed
- On track
- Will not be achieved
- Ahead of target
- Caution

Details of the Programmes, projects and performance indicators with a concern or caution status together with an explanation of their performance and improvement plan can be found in **Appendix A**

2. Implications, Risk Management & Climate Change Impact

2.1 Legal

Although there are no direct legal implication regarding this report, it will be appreciated that the Committee has constitutional responsibility to review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to policy objectives and performance targets to which this report refers.

2.2 Risks

The Council Strategy has a comprehensive set of risks associated to its delivery. Each risk has a set of mitigating actions which are reviewed and updated by the officers directly responsible.

These risks are monitored and discussed as part of the strategic and corporate risk reports that are presented regularly to the Strategic Leadership Team and Audit Scrutiny Committee. Any areas of poor performance or unacceptable risk are identified in the reports.

2.3 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

The council strategy contains a dedicated programme entitled Action on Climate. This programme looks at the actions the authority can achieve to reduce carbon emissions and to increase the district's resilience to the changing climate.

The organisational carbon footprint for the authority has been completed for the financial year 2018/19 and reviewed by SLT and Informal Executive; the carbon footprint report and supporting data are now available on the council website. Work is undergoing to develop a Carbon Action Plan to reduce the authority's carbon footprint.

The authority continues to support the Devon Climate Emergency, which is seeking to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across Devon at the earliest credible date.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

None

4. CONCLUSION

The Council Strategy performance report provides Members with an overview of performance for the Teignbridge Ten Programmes including details of any areas of poor performance.

The Council Strategy runs from April 2020 to 2030.

01 Action on Climate

Lead contact: David Eaton, Cllr Jackie Hook

Programme Status: On track

02 A Roof over our Heads

Lead Contact: Graham Davey, Cllr Martin Wrigley

Programme Status: Caution

15

Summary Statement:

4 indicators well ahead of target and 5 reported as a concern.

3 indicators are annual and therefore no data is reportable in Quarter 2

Details of these are summarised below and a fuller explanation is in the Performance Indicator section of the report. All of the areas of concern are as a direct result of Covid19 and lockdown especially in respect of the housing delivery chain.

Of the 14 projects 10 are on track with 4 raising concern. Projects have still been able to be progressed due to staff working from home and now gradually returning to the Office.

Make sure plans take full account of all housing needs

Following the formal withdrawal of East Devon District Council from the Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership it has been agreed that a joint statutory plan will not be progressed. We will therefore pursue our Local Plan, consolidating strategic and non-strategic matters. Consolidation will cause delay resulting in a revised Local Development Scheme (timetable) to be taken to Executive in December 2020 for approval.

Deliver affordable housing

The net additional homes is a concern with only 111 delivered against a target of 380 in the first two quarters. The target for affordable homes delivery in Q2 of 64 has not been met with only 33 new affordable homes completed. However end of year projections total 107 and a delivery of over 200 in the next financial year is currently projected unless there is a further slowdown in the market.

Drake Road and East Street, Newton Abbot schemes both granted planning consent and successfully tendered. Start on site delayed due to Covid 19 but will now start on site in late October and early November respectively. Sherborne House, Newton Abbot also acquired with 10 social rented homes to commence in January 2021, completing in July 2021.

Further schemes are being worked up on Teignbridge land to form a pipeline of future delivery. A potential site acquisition for supported housing to alleviate homelessness has not been progressed on viability grounds. Work has not yet commenced on the shared housing project.

Improve housing conditions and reduce empty homes

The number of dwellings improved by Council intervention is well ahead of target although the number of vulnerable and elderly residents assisted to remain in their home is below target due to the Pandemic. The number of empty properties impacting on New Homes Bonus, whilst below last year's figure of 323 has exceeded the revised target of 450. Reaching a figure of 345 is a considerable corporate achievement bearing in mind that a number of staff were furloughed and that there was limited scope for property inspections.

Prevent homelessness wherever possible

Both targets to prevent homelessness, either by enabling people to stay in their own home or finding them alternative accommodation are again ahead of target. The rough sleeper statistics have however increased. Therefore this will continue to be an area of concentrated Officer work during the Covid 19 Pandemic, supported by a dedicated outreach team.

PI Code	Title	Executive Member	+/-	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	PI Verifying Manager	Officer Notes
CSROH01	Net additional homes provided	Planning	+	380 (2/4)	32	111			Michelle Luscombe, Fergus Pate	<p>(Quarter 2) Reason: Covid 19 lockdown coincided with Quarter 1, numbers have increased in Quarter 2 as builders are back on site but due to social distancing there is still a downturn. It is considered very unlikely that the housing target of 760 dwellings will be met this year. Even before the impact of Covid 19 was felt, the 760 dwelling target was not being met. The target had increased in line with the Government’s standard method for calculating housing need once the current Local Plan turned 5 years old. Before then, the Local Plan target had been 620 homes per year and average completions had been more than 640 dwelling per year.</p> <p>Government is now consulting on a new standard method for calculating housing need.</p> <p>Improvement plan: The Local Plan Review process is underway. This is the formal mechanism for responding to updated housing targets. Teignbridge’s new plans are due to be in place by 2023. Government is consulting on a planning White Paper, which promotes the preparation of a new type of Local Plan to similar timescales. It is considered very unlikely that the housing target of 760 dwellings will be met this year. (HW)</p>

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PI Code	Title	Executive Member	+/-	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	PI Verifying Manager	Officer Notes
CSROH05	Deliver an average of 128 affordable homes in urban areas as per Local Plan target (E1)	Communities, Housing & IT	+	64 (2/4)	0	33			Graham Davey	(Quarter 2) Following 3 months non activity due to Covid 19, year end projections now increased to 100 homes. 70 rent and 30 intermediate. (GD)
CSROH06	Deliver 29 affordable homes in rural areas to include delivery within the DNPA (E1)	Communities, Housing & IT	+	10 (2/4)	0	0			Graham Davey	(Quarter 2) There have been no completions in the first 2 quarters but 10 homes at Denbury well under construction, planning application submitted for 8 homes at Widecombe in the Moor and TDC schemes being worked up in Ideford and Kenn (GD)
CSROH07	Deliver 5 affordable homes a year that are fully wheelchair accessible (E1)	Communities, Housing & IT	+	3 (2/4)	0	0			Graham Davey	(Quarter 2) No delivery so far this year but scheme at Denbury includes 5 bungalows built to a wheelchair accessible standard which are due to complete in 2020/21. (GD)
CSROH10	Number of vulnerable & elderly residents assisted to remain in their own home (P1)	Communities, Housing & IT	+	125 (2/4)	34	101			Alison Dolley, Tony Mansour	(Quarter 2) In total 101 households have been assisted to remain independent in their own home. Since the easing of lockdown we have seen an increase in the number of disabled facility grant cases currently within the system with 110 grants that have been approved and 55 applications pre approval. It is likely that these will be completed in Q3 and Q4 (AD)

Project Status	Code	Title	Executive member	Last Review Date	Progress Review	Project Responsible Officer
Caution	CS01	Delivery of the Local Plans*	Planning	05/10/2020	Reason: Following the formal withdrawal of East Devon District Council from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan, it has been informally agreed by all partner authorities that a joint statutory plan will not be progressed. Each Local Authority will now proceed with preparing individual Local Plans to cover both strategic and non-strategic planning matters. Because of the need to consolidate two plans into one, there has been a delay to the preparation of the Local Plan while we review our Local Development Scheme. Improvement Plan: It is anticipated that a new Local Development Scheme (timetable) will be taken to the Executive in December 2020 for approval.	Michelle Luscombe, Fergus Pate
Caution	CS04	Set up 13 shared ownership schemes in Chudleigh	Communities Housing & IT	13/10/2020	Reason: Scheme details delayed due to Covid 19. Improvement Plan: However Chudleigh Town Council are still keen to develop the scheme now that the housing market is returning to some normality, so further work to take place in association with Chudleigh TC during November 2020	Graham Davey
Caution	CS06	Develop 10 units of supported accommodation to help households find more permanent homes	Communities Housing & IT	14/10/2020	Reason: Proposal is based on a further scheme of 10 units using the "Albany House" model. An opportunity was considered based on the acquisition of a building in central Newton Abbot but was not pursued due to the capital costs of acquisition, demolition and rebuild. Plan: A further scheme may require additional management staff resources also placing pressure on revenue budgets	Graham Davey

Project Status	Code	Title	Executive Member	Last Review Date	Progress Review	Project Responsible Officer
Caution	CS07	Develop a plan for a shared housing scheme for single households	Communities Housing & IT	13/10/2020	Work has commenced on trying to locate a suitable property for acquisition whilst purpose built options are also being investigated. This project is to be included within a larger pipeline of Teignbridge developments.	Graham Davey

03 Clean Scene

Lead contact: Chris Braines, Cllr Alistair Dewhirst

Programme Status:

On track

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PI Code	Title	Executive Member	+/-	Current Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	PI Verifying	Officer Notes
CSCLS 3.2	Street cleaning & litter responsibilities. £'s per household	Waste Management and Environmental Health	-	£11.44 (2/4)	£6.33	£13.16			Chris Braines	(Quarter 2) Reason: Prepaid vehicle leases have been adjusted so costs are for half year only. (SW)
CSCLS 5.3	Residual household waste per household	Waste Management and Environmental Health	-	174.50kg (2/4)	96.20kg	188.40kg			Chris Braines	(Quarter 1 - 2) Reason: Cumulative figure under target due to Qtr 1 having higher than normal residual tonnages due to Covid-19 and lockdown. Improvement Plan: Further awareness and campaigns to reduce waste as well as some sort of return to normality in the next few quarters should bring residual down (EB)

09 Strong communities

Lead contact: Rebecca Hewitt, Cllr Martin Wrigley

Programme Status: On track

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TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY 1

22 DECEMBER 2020

Report Title	Supporting information for the 03.11.20 Executive report relating to Recommendation 2 for future strategic planning working with Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council
Purpose of Report	To provide further detail to the options set out in the 3 November 2020 report to Executive on future joint strategic planning arrangements with East Devon, Exeter and Mid Devon Councils and agree a preferred approach.
Recommendation(s)	<p>The O&S 1 Committee recommends to full Council :</p> <p>1. that the Executive’s recommendation to support in principle the production of a joint non-statutory plan, to include joint strategy and infrastructure matters, with East Devon, Exeter and Mid-Devon Councils, and in partnership with Devon County Council is approved. This will be subject to agreement of details of the scope of the plan, a timetable for its production, the resources required, and governance arrangements to be agreed at a later date.</p>

Financial Implications	These are as set out at paragraph 2.1.1 Martin Flitcroft Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01626 215246 Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk
Legal Implications	These are as set out at paragraph 2.2.1 Paul Woodhead, Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01626 215139 Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk
Risk Assessment	These are as set out at paragraph 2.3.1 Michelle Luscombe Principal Planning Policy Officer Tel: 01626 215754 Email: michelle.luscombe@teignbridge.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	The preparation of joint plans is a key method for climate change mitigation and environmental protection, through appropriate policies and development strategy. Commitment to joint planning will give an opportunity to consider climate and strategic environmental matters at a more effective larger-than-local scale. William Elliott Tel: 01626 215754 Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk
Report Author	Michelle Luscombe Principal Planning Policy Officer Tel: 01626 215706 Email: michelle.luscombe@teignbridge.gov.uk
Executive Member	Executive Member for Planning (Gary Taylor)
Appendices	1. Joint Strategic Planning Options Appraisal
Part I or II	Part 1
Background Papers	None

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide further information to the O&S 2 Committee on the 03.11.20 Executive report which presented options for alternative joint strategic planning approaches in light of the recommendation to withdraw from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) project. The Executive report recommended that joint strategic planning should continue in the form of a non-statutory joint plan prepared by the four authorities of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge Councils, in partnership with Devon County Council.

2. REPORT DETAIL

2.1. Financial

O&S 2

11 December 2020

2.1.1. As set out in more detail in Section 2.6, there are financial savings to be made as a result of not proceeding with GESP and preparing a non-statutory plan in its place. These savings come as a result of only having to fund one statutory plan examination and not having to fund additional staff resource for the GESP team. In addition, there are unspent funds in the GESP budget, of which some will be able to be retained for joint plan-making purposes, therefore placing no additional financial burdens on the Council.

2.2. Legal

2.2.1. Section 19 (1B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a statutory duty on each Council to prepare a plan which identifies their strategic priorities and policies for managing the development of land in their area. The Council is in the process of preparing a review of its Local Plan. It had previously been agreed that the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan would be prepared alongside the Council's Local Plan to cover all strategic policies and site allocations. However, there is no statutory requirement to prepare a joint strategic plan and, in the absence of this, the Local Plan will absorb all strategic matters alongside local issues.

2.3. Risks

2.3.1. The main risk associated with the recommendation relates to the potential loss of ability to agree a positive framework for matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity and transport if the recommendation is not supported. A joint non-statutory plan would enable us to coordinate a response to wider area aspirations and constraints, particularly in relation to transport, infrastructure and the environment. It would demonstrate a joined-up approach for addressing cross boundary and strategic issues and therefore provide a platform on which to bid for Government financial support.

2.4. Environmental/Climate Change Impact

2.4.1. Climate change mitigation and adaptation forms a key part of joint planning work. By its nature, climate change is something which cannot be considered in one isolated area, but can only be tackled through work which reflects cross-boundary transport movements and other strategic matters. Involvement in joint strategic planning provides an opportunity to consider carbon emission and climate change impacts of development and transport over a wider area. Because of this, involvement in joint planning is likely to be beneficial to climate change policy compared with seeking to achieve carbon neutrality in just one district. The key impacts will arise from the specific strategy chosen, however. These implications will be addressed as joint plan-making is progressed.

2.5. Background

2.5.1. On 03 November 2020, the Executive approved Officer recommendations to: 1) formally withdraw from the GESP project; and 2) prepare a non-statutory joint plan with the authorities of Exeter City, East Devon and Mid Devon District Councils, in partnership with Devon County Council. Following the Executive meeting, Cllr Patch requested that the decision be called in to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further consideration. The Executive decision is a recommendation to Council and therefore call in does not apply. However, it was agreed by the Leader of the Council to provide an opportunity for Members of O&S to discuss the report prior to it going to Full Council.

2.5.2. It should be noted that no issues were raised with Recommendation 1 in the 03.11.20 Executive report which agreed to recommend to Full Council that Teignbridge formally withdraws from the GESP project. As such, this is not discussed in this report.

2.5.3. In requesting that Recommendation 2 be discussed by O&S, Cllr Patch raised 4 main issues which he sought further information on:

- A. Budgetary implications (e.g. estimates of potential refunds of GESP monies and possible future commitments under each option)

especially in the context of the extreme budgetary pressures that are arising as a result of the response to *COVID-19*;

- B. Risks associated with each option, including, but not limited to, potential delays to Plan-Making - especially in light of the political position of former GESP administrations with respect to the issues thrown up by Joint Plan-Making;
- C. Potential impact on Teignbridge house-building targets, especially through the issue of cross-boundary 'target-sharing' (raised in the Paper presented to Executive: for option 1, the comment is made that under that option there would be "no opportunity to 'spread' any potential housing need asks made by neighbouring authorities (e.g. Torbay)" - suggesting that other options, including that recommended, might lead to Teignbridge accepting a greater housing target than would otherwise be the case under option 1), but also, might any delay in Plan-Making (see previous bullet point) impact TDC targets?;
- D. Potential ceding of TDC control of aspects of Teignbridge Development through a joint-plan (the Paper presented to Executive talks of 'joint governance' and 'aspirations in the plan' being 'enforced').

2.5.4. The following sections provide information relating to each of these issues and should be read alongside the original Executive report dated 03.11.20. However, for ease of reference, a list of the options are set out below:

1. Each Local Planning Authority (LPA) progresses its own Local Plan and works with the other LPAs to meet Duty to Co-operate (or replacement)
2. Each LPA progresses its own Local Plan and works to meet the Duty to Cooperate. Local Plans include model strategic policies and are informed by shared evidence where appropriate.
3. Non-statutory Joint Infrastructure Plan

4. Non-statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan
5. Statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan (i.e. GESP)
6. Full statutory joint plan

2.5.5. The Executive report sets out these 6 options for future joint plan making. These are summarised in Section 3.15 with a more detailed analysis provided in Appendix 1.

2.6. Budgetary Implications

2.6.1. As GESP was only ever intended to address strategic site allocations and strategic/cross-boundary policy issues, the preparation of a Local Plan alongside GESP was always going to be necessary. This was going to involve two separate examinations at an estimated cost of c. £110k to Teignbridge (this includes examination costs for the GESP split equally between the partner authorities). Both plans would also have required substantial evidence to justify policies as well as site investigation work to ensure that sites proposed for allocation were deliverable. Site investigation work for Teignbridge alone could easily be in the region of £100k+.

2.6.2. A huge amount of evidence has already been gathered for the purposes of the GESP and which can now be easily adapted to inform both the Local Plan, and any other joint plan that we collectively prepare. Further evidence, including Economic Development Needs Assessments and Local Housing Needs Assessments updates are still required, but this would be the case whether we were preparing the GESP and the Local Plan, or just the Local Plan. Continuing to work jointly, even in a non-statutory capacity, will enable us to collectively make savings through the commissioning of joint evidence wherever possible and appropriate.

2.6.3. As such, in relation to evidence gathering and site investigation work, there are few financial differences between any of the options. However, without GESP, and under Options 1-4 as outlined in the report, there will be only one examination, creating a potential saving of c. £40k.

2.6.4. Since the start of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan project, each Local Planning Authority has contributed £170,000 towards shared evidence and plan making costs. There are no commitments to make any further contributions to the GESP budget as part of the work to prepare a non-statutory plan. There are unspent funds in the budget in the region of £500,000, some of which will need to be retained for future joint plan making purposes whilst the remainder can be returned to the partner authorities. The amount to be retained for joint plan making purposes and returned to individual partner authorities will be looked at further following a decision on this 'in principle' proposal to proceed with a non-statutory plan and further discussions around the scope of the joint non-statutory plan.

2.6.5. Option 5 is the 'Business as Usual' scenario (i.e. continuing with GESP alongside Local Plans). On the 14 July 2020, the O&S Committee approved a recommendation to Executive to publish and consult on the GESP draft plan and at this point agreed to an additional budget of up to £62k per annum (or up to an additional c£30,000 per annum on top of existing staff contributions) for the duration of the GESP project towards staff costs. Now that the GESP is not going ahead, there is a saving of £30k per year on what was budgeted for the GESP project (i.e. Option 5).

2.6.6. Option 6 is to prepare a single statutory development plan for the 4 authorities (i.e. GESP and no Local Plans). This may have generated some savings through shared teams and a single examination cost but as it was not considered to be a politically acceptable option, no further work has been done to assess the financial implications of this.

2.7. Risks

2.7.1. Options 1-4 effectively provide maximum opportunities for unencumbered Local Plan preparation. That is because under these options, the Local Plan will not be delayed because of external political decisions or other factors which may delay progress on a statutory plan. Any joint plan prepared under options 3 or 4 will be non-statutory, so whilst it will provide strategic aims, shared solutions to cross-boundary issues and opportunities for joint infrastructure planning, it will not be required to go through statutory decision-making or consultation stages which may delay preparation of the Local Plan.

2.8. Potential impact on Teignbridge house building targets

2.8.1. The housing requirement for all local Authorities is determined by the nationally set standard method for calculating housing need. We are required to meet this requirement as a minimum through allocating sufficient land in our development plans. There was scope within GESP to look at meeting the overall requirement of the four authorities on a 'boundary blind' basis (i.e. directing development to the most sustainable and suitable locations rather than ensuring each authority met its own need) but this was increasingly becoming an issue for at least one authority and it unlikely that this approach would have been tenable in the long term. As such, continuing with GESP would most likely have resulted in each authority having to individually address at least the majority of their own housing needs.

2.8.2. Should Torbay, or any other authority, make a request for some of their housing need to be met by nearby authorities then this would be addressed under the Duty to Cooperate. It should be noted that there have been no formal requests from any authority to Teignbridge to accommodate any of their housing requirement.

2.9. Potential ceding of TDC control of aspects of Teignbridge development O&S 2

2.9.1. As a non-statutory plan, aspects of the Joint Plan we are referring to would only be enforceable if those elements were incorporated into the Local Plan and found sound at examination. For example, the Joint Plan may recommend a collaborative approach to managing development and financial contributions within the recreational zone for the Exe Estuary, but this would only be enforceable if it was then taken forward within our Local Plan. This means that Teignbridge Councillors would have the final say on whether parts of the Joint Plan become part of our own statutory Local Plan.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1. Proposed future joint strategic planning approach

3.1.1. Having considered the various merits and risks associated with each of the options, it is recommended that a non-statutory strategy and infrastructure plan (Option 4) is prepared alongside a Local Plan for Teignbridge, in order to address the vital issues that affect the whole of the wider sub-region.

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TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE

03 NOVEMBER 2020

Report Title	Future strategic planning working with Exeter City Council, East Devon District Council, Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council
Purpose of Report	To set out options for future joint strategic planning arrangements with East Devon, Exeter and Mid Devon Councils and agree a preferred approach.
Recommendation(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Recommend that Full Council formally withdraws from the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.2. Recommend that Full Council support in principle the production of a joint non-statutory plan, to include joint strategy and infrastructure matters, with East Devon, Exeter and Mid-Devon Councils, and in partnership with Devon County Council. This will be subject to agreement of details of the scope of the plan, a timetable for its production, the resources required, and governance arrangements to be agreed at a later date.

Financial Implications	These are as set out at paragraph 2.1.1 Martin Flitcroft Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01626 215246 Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk
Legal Implications	These are as set out at paragraph 2.2.1 Paul Woodhead, Legal Services Team Leader and Deputy Monitoring Officer Tel: 01626 215139 Email: paul.woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk
Risk Assessment	These are as set out at paragraph 2.3.1 Michelle Luscombe Principal Planning Policy Officer Tel: 01626 215754 Email: michelle.luscombe@teignbridge.gov.uk
Environmental/ Climate Change Implications	The preparation of joint plans is a key method for climate change mitigation and environmental protection, through appropriate policies and development strategy. Commitment to joint planning will give an opportunity to consider climate and strategic environmental matters at a more effective larger-than-local scale. William Elliott Tel: 01626 215754 Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk
Report Author	Michelle Luscombe Principal Planning Policy Officer Tel: 01626 215706 Email: michelle.luscombe@teignbridge.gov.uk
Executive Member	Executive Member for Planning (Gary Taylor)
Appendices	1. Joint Strategic Planning Options Appraisal
Part I or II	Part 1
Background Papers	None

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek formal agreement on withdrawal from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESp) project and to present options for alternative joint strategic planning approaches. The report recommends that joint strategic planning should continue in the form of a non-statutory joint plan prepared by the four authorities of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge Councils, in partnership with Devon County Council.

2. REPORT DETAIL

2.1. Financial

- 2.1.1. Since the start of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan project, each Local Planning Authority has contributed £170,000 towards shared evidence
Executive

and plan making costs. There are no commitments to make any further contributions to the GESP budget. There are unspent funds in the budget in the region of £500,000, some of which will need to be retained for future joint plan making purposes whilst the remainder can be returned to the partner authorities. This will be looked at further following a decision on this 'in principle' proposal to proceed with a non-statutory plan.

2.2. Legal

2.2.1. Section 19 (1B) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 places a statutory duty on each Council to prepare a plan which identifies their strategic priorities and policies for managing the development of land in their area. The Council is in the process of preparing a review of its Local Plan. It had previously been agreed that the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan would be prepared alongside the Council's Local Plan to cover all strategic policies and site allocations. However, there is no statutory requirement to prepare a joint strategic plan and, in the absence of this, the Local Plan will absorb all strategic matters alongside local issues.

2.3. Risks

2.3.1. The main risks associated with the recommendations relate to the potential loss of ability to attract Government support and investment as a result of not having the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan 'brand' and agreed partnership aspirations. A joint statutory plan would provide most opportunity to present our plan as a nationally significant proposition to Government.

2.3.2. Without any joint plan, there would be significantly less opportunity to agree a positive framework for matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity and transport.

2.3.3. However, a joint non-statutory plan would enable us to coordinate a response to wider are aspirations and constraints, particularly in relation to transport, infrastructure and the environment. It would demonstrate a
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joined approach for addressing cross boundary and strategic issues and therefore provide a platform on which to bid for Government financial support.

2.4. Environmental/Climate Change Impact

2.4.1. Climate change mitigation and adaptation forms a key part of joint planning work. By its nature, climate change is something which cannot be considered in one isolated area, but can only be tackled through work which reflects cross-boundary transport movements and other strategic matters. Involvement in joint strategic planning provides an opportunity to consider carbon emission and climate change impacts of development and transport over a wider area. Because of this, involvement in joint planning is likely to be beneficial to climate change policy compared with seeking to achieve carbon neutrality in just one district. The key impacts will arise from the specific strategy chosen, however. These implications will be addressed as joint plan-making is progressed.

2.5. Background

2.5.1. On 26th September 2016, Full Council resolved to prepare a strategic plan (GESP) covering the wider area in partnership with East Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter Councils with the support of Devon County Council. Since this time, the four authorities have worked collectively to produce evidence for the plan and prepared a Draft Plan which was brought to the relevant committees of each authority in the summer of 2020 to seek approval for consultation.

2.5.2. At the Executive meeting of Teignbridge District Council on 21st July 2020, it was resolved to publish the GESP Draft Plan for consultation. However, on the 23rd July, East Devon District Council's Strategic Planning Committee resolved to recommend to their Council that EDDC withdraw from working on the GESP while making a commitment to continue to work with the partner authorities. This recommendation was then agreed at their Council on the 29th August.

2.5.3. Since that time discussions have continued between leaders and relevant portfolio holders/executive members on alternative options for continuing partnership working outside of GESP. Discussions have focused on the issues that bring the partner authorities of East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge together. These are primarily that the collective authorities comprise a functional economic area and form an extensive housing and travel to work area. The wider area also faces common issues; housing affordability and the need to deliver greater numbers of homes; constraints on our infrastructure and limits to the availability of funding; the need for a flexible and efficient transport system which supports prosperity and access to services; the need to respond to the climate emergency, achieve net zero carbon development and increase habitat creation; and the need to improve accessibility for urban and rural areas by widening digital connectivity. These vital issues affect the whole area and therefore can be effectively considered in a strategic, cross-boundary manner.

2.6. Benefits of continued joint strategic planning

2.6.1. While there are real-life, practical reasons for collaboration, the need to work together effectively is currently supported by the Duty to Cooperate, a legal duty in plan preparation. Although the planning White Paper is considering the abolition of the Duty, this is some time from being removed in practice. The White Paper is also clear in identifying the on-going need to cooperate on significant matters such as infrastructure provision and central government has confirmed it is giving this further thought.

2.6.2. Turning to delivery, discussions with Homes England have shown the importance of demonstrating common aspirations, priorities and approaches to current issues when seeking funding. Joint working will be vital to help lever in this funding to support delivery, particularly regarding critical, strategic infrastructure with wide-spread benefits and where there is a large funding gap. Such an approach would help to establish a

recognisable brand reflecting a tangible and clear location which would be received favourably by the government.

2.6.3. In practical, plan-making terms, there are also significant benefits in working together because collaboration enables evidence to be commissioned jointly, expertise to be shared and effort focused flexibly. It also provides the opportunity to seek funding or work jointly with agencies such as Homes England on plan-preparation (e.g. by sharing evidence) which could have financial and consistency benefits.

3. OPTIONS

3.1. Consideration of options for future joint planning

3.1.1. The GESP Project Assurance Group (comprised of the Heads of Planning from the participating authorities) have identified 6 options for future joint working. A summary of these is provided in Table 1. The options range from continuing to prepare a joint statutory plan in the form of the GESP, to the bare minimum requirement of meeting our Duty to Cooperate obligations whilst preparing individual Local Plans. A detailed appraisal of these options is provided in Appendix 1.

3.1.2. Although in purely technical planning terms the options which include statutory joint plans and strategies would be preferred, it is considered that these are unlikely to be politically acceptable for all authorities in the current period post-GESP and taking forward such a plan without all of the partners from the sub-region would undermine the status of a statutory document and risk the soundness of the plan. This means that options 5 and 6 in Table 1 are unlikely to be deliverable.

3.1.3. It is considered that there is a clear need for joint working if we are to successfully address the shared issues the partner authorities face and lever in the infrastructure funding needed. Therefore undertaking a more co-ordinated approach than simply complying with the duty to co-operate

is considered essential. On this basis, option 1 would not be sufficient to meet the collective Councils' objectives.

3.1.4. As such, in order to effectively address the strategic cross boundary issues set out in 2.5.3, to demonstrate proactive joint working on strategic infrastructure delivery, and to have a solution which is politically acceptable to all partners, it is necessary to explore a middle ground scenario. In this case, the middle ground is the preparation of a non-statutory strategy which would ensure that there is a shared approach to strategic matters such as economic development, carbon reduction, digital connectivity, infrastructure delivery and habitats mitigation whilst enabling the individual local planning authorities to retain control over the timetable and scope of statutory Local Plans. Option 4 provides the best scenario for achieving this.

3.1.5. The following options have been considered. A full appraisal is available in Appendix 1.

Option	Scope	Comments
1. Baseline: Each LPA progresses its own Local Plan and works with the other LPAs to meet Duty to Co-operate (or replacement)	Determined by each LPA (*). Could include some joint evidence on defined topics as has happened in the past (e.g. housing, gypsy and travellers. habitat mitigation, transport)	Minimum opportunity to agree a positive planning framework for critical issues and to lever in central government funding. Maximum opportunity to prepare an unencumbered Local Plan review.
2. Each LPA progresses its own Local Plan and works to meet the DtC. Local Plans include model strategic policies (*) and are	Similar to option 1, but with model policies that can be adapted to suit local circumstances and limited in scope to cross-boundary matters (e.g. climate change) (*).	Some opportunity to have a shared approach towards common issues but unlikely to sufficiently demonstrate a collective approach to attract central government support for infrastructure delivery.

<p>informed by shared evidence where appropriate.</p>		
<p>3. Non-statutory Joint Infrastructure Plan</p>	<p>Government-facing document aimed at securing funding to deliver infrastructure needed to support growth.</p> <p>This could just be growth identified in adopted Local Plans and/or growth proposed in emerging plans.</p> <p>As a non-statutory plan it would not be subject to statutory consultation or examination and therefore would be a faster and more flexible plan.</p>	<p>Would provide a co-ordinated planned response to the area's infrastructure priorities and help to secure central government investment. However, without an overarching strategy to hang the plan on, it could lack ambition and a shared understanding of strategic issues.</p> <p>As a non-statutory plan it would not be subject to statutory consultation or examination and therefore would be faster to prepare and more able to respond to changing circumstances.</p>
<p>4. Non-statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan</p>	<p>Place-making, aspirational non-statutory plan covering strategic place making and infrastructure delivery.</p> <p>Used to promote the Garden Communities and sub-regional brand, in addition to identifying infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Part Government-facing document and part strategy document.</p>	<p>Would provide a co-ordinated response to the area's strategic economic, climate, housing, environmental and infrastructure issues and help to secure central government investment.</p> <p>As a non-statutory plan it would not be subject to statutory consultation or examination and therefore would be faster to prepare and more able to respond to changing circumstances.</p>
<p>5. Statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan</p>	<p>High-level statutory plan containing strategic policies and infrastructure requirements. This would essentially be GESP without East Devon.</p> <p>Matters/sites not covered in the strategic plan will be covered in Local Plans.</p>	<p>Would provide a co-ordinated response to the area's strategic economic, climate, housing, environmental and infrastructure issues and help to secure central government investment, with added weight because it would be in a statutory plan.</p> <p>Given recent decisions made by East Devon District Council it is</p>

		unlikely that this option will be politically acceptable.
6. Full statutory joint plan	A statutory plan containing strategic and local policies, infrastructure requirements and all site allocations. There would be no Local Plans prepared by individual LPAs.	Would provide a co-ordinated response to the area's strategic economic, climate, housing, environmental and infrastructure issues and help to secure central government investment, with added weight because it would be in a statutory plan. Given recent decisions made by East Devon District Council it is unlikely that this option will be politically acceptable. Perceived loss of local control over more locally relevant policies.

(*) Comments are caveated by the Government's proposals in the recent Planning White Paper.

Table 1: Options for Joint Strategic Plan Making

3.2. Resourcing future joint planning

3.2.1. At this stage, we are seeking an 'in principle' agreement to proceed with a non-statutory infrastructure and strategy plan based on option 4 in Table 1 with details relating to budget, detailed scope, and governance reserved for discussion at a later date. However, it should be noted that any resource required for option 4 will be less than was previously committed for GESP. This is due to the fact that a non-statutory plan:

- would not be subject to statutory consultation arrangements or a public examination. Costs for the examination would have been in the region of £150k to be split across the 4 authorities and is not currently within the GESP budget;
- would not include details relating to development sites which would have required extensive site investigation work and

masterplanning (NB. it should be noted however that this work will have to be picked up as part of the Local Plan);

- can draw on the significant amount of evidence already collected as part of the GESP project. Additional evidence may be required to support the non-statutory plan but would not be above and beyond what would have been required for the GESP;
- is likely to require less staffing resource than the preparation of a statutory plan.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1. Proposed future joint strategic planning approach

4.1.1. Having considered the various merits and risks associated with each of the options, it is recommended that a decision is made to formally withdraw from the GESP project on the basis that there is not commitment from all of the necessary partner authorities to proceed with a joint statutory plan. Proceeding on a statutory plan in the absence of East Devon would significantly risk the soundness of the plan and our collective ability to meet our agreed goals of having shared solutions to common issues and being a nationally significant proposition to government to lever in critical infrastructure funding to support our new and existing communities.

4.1.2. If this is agreed, then in light on not being able to proceed with the GESP, it is recommended that a non-statutory strategy and infrastructure plan is prepared alongside a Local Plan for Teignbridge, in order to address the vital issues that affect the whole of the wider sub-region.

4.1.3. Each of the partner authorities will be taking a similar report through their relevant committees in the next few months to seek agreement on this revised joint planning approach.

Appendix 1

Joint planning options appraisal matrix

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
<p>1.</p> <p>Baseline: Each LPA progresses its own Local Plan and works with the other LPAs to meet Duty to Co-operate (or replacement)</p>	<p>Determined by each LPA (*).</p> <p>Could include some joint evidence on defined topics as has happened in the past (e.g. housing, gypsy and travellers. habitat mitigation, transport)</p>	<p>Determined by each LPA (*).</p>	<p>Determined by each LPA.</p> <p>No sharing of resources (although could allow for procurement of shared evidence where considered appropriate).</p>	<p>Greater political certainty than joint-working options.</p> <p>No need for joint Governance.</p> <p>LPA only needs to fund a Local Plans team.</p> <p>Timescale fully under control of the LPA and can reflect how far it has progressed to date.</p> <p>LPA only has to resource 1 Examination (Local Plan).</p> <p>Most likely the quickest route to achieving an adopted Plan for each LPA for the purpose of meeting housing needs, securing a 5 year supply of deliverable housing sites, and having up to date policies on key matters such as climate change, carbon reduction etc.</p>	<p>No opportunity to agree a positive planning framework for cross-boundary planning matters, e.g. climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity and (*).</p> <p>Reliant on DtC to address strategic cross boundary issues (*).</p> <p>The option least likely to attract Gov't /Homes England support for housebuilding / infrastructure delivery.</p> <p>Minimum opportunity to attract external funding for studies / evidence base required to support the Local Plan.</p> <p>Procurement of evidence by individual LPAs likely to be less efficient</p>	<p>Minimal joint working, including no joint strategic planning (although possibility to implement alongside options 3 and 4). Therefore the implications of taking a strategic boundary blind approach towards meeting housing needs would not be felt.</p> <p>Also, no opportunity to 'spread' any potential housing need asks made by neighbouring authorities (e.g. Torbay).</p>
<p>2.</p> <p>Each LPA progresses its own Local Plan and</p>	<p>Similar to option 1, but with model policies that can be adapted to suit local</p>	<p>Similar to option 1, but will require an element of common Local</p>	<p>Determined by each LPA.</p> <p>No sharing of resources</p>	<p>Opportunity to agree a positive framework for cross-boundary matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity and transport.</p>	<p>Reliant on DtC to address strategic cross boundary issues (*).</p>	<p>No comprehensive joint strategic planning (although possibility to implement</p>

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Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
works to meet the DtC. Local Plans include model strategic policies (*) and are informed by shared evidence where appropriate.	circumstances and limited in scope to cross-boundary matters (e.g. climate change) (*).	Plan timescales across the LPAs, with agreement on model policies to meet those timescales (*).	<p>(although could allow for procurement of shared evidence where considered appropriate).</p> <p>Model policies will require some form of joint working.</p>	<p>Could therefore satisfy many DtC requirements (*). Model wording would not be binding on any LPA.</p> <p>Greater political certainty than other joint-working options.</p> <p>No need for joint Governance.</p> <p>LPA only needs to fund a Local Plans team.</p> <p>LPA only needs to resource 1 Examination (Local Plan).</p> <p>Compared to option 1, provides greater scope for attracting external funding for studies / evidence base required to support the Local Plan.</p> <p>Potential for procuring shared evidence, which may result in efficiency savings.</p> <p>Model policies on key matters may result in less developer confusion (*).</p> <p>Model policies / S106 requirements may reduce opportunity for developers to</p>	<p>Potential for the model policies to be diluted and amended away from the common elements.</p> <p>Questionable if this will demonstrate a collective approach sufficient to attract Gov't /Homes England support for housebuilding / infrastructure delivery.</p> <p>Timescale less under the control of the LPA than option 1 and may not reflect how far it has progressed to date in its Local Plan review.</p>	alongside options 3 and 4). The implications of taking a strategic boundary blind approach towards meeting housing needs would not be felt. Also, no opportunity to 'spread' any potential housing need asks made by neighbouring authorities (e.g. Torbay).

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
				'take advantage' of individual LPAs (*).		
3. Non-statutory Joint Infrastructure Plan (all 4 LPAs)	<p>Government-facing document aimed at securing funding to deliver infrastructure needed to support growth.</p> <p>This could just be growth identified in adopted Local Plans and/or, growth proposed in emerging plans.</p> <p>Could cover all strategic infrastructure, or just DCC infrastructure. Could be prepared by DCC, although would need a level of buy-in from the LPAs in order to secure external funding. Geographic scope</p>	<p>Could be undertaken outside of formal Local Plan timetables if only covering growth in adopted Local Plans. Could be prepared more quickly than a statutory plan.</p>	<p>Determined by each LPA, although will require some form of joint working. Would need specific DCC involvement.</p> <p>Potential to be led by DCC.</p>	<p>Fewer joint governance pressures than options 4-6.</p> <p>Provides a co-ordinated planned response to the area's infrastructure aspirations and constraints.</p> <p>Confirms common aspirations for proactive infrastructure delivery linked to development proposal without the difficulties of joint plan making.</p> <p>Could be successful in securing Gov't / Homes England funding for infrastructure (e.g. the Kent and Medway Growth and Infrastructure Framework¹).</p> <p>Opportunity for a Devon-wide Infrastructure Plan with sub-sections focussing on different areas of Devon to avoid 'watering down' the sub-regional branding.</p> <p>Budget support from LPAs would be significantly less than</p>	<p>Still reliant on DTC to address some strategic cross boundary issues (*).</p> <p>If LPAs want the joint plan to cover growth proposed in emerging plans, the timescale will rely on individual Local Plan timescales. These may vary LPAs.</p> <p>Potential difficulties of preparing a joint infrastructure plan without a cogent joint strategy to hang it on.</p> <p>An infrastructure plan that only sets out infrastructure funding requirements for 'already planned' growth may not demonstrate a collective and ambitious approach sufficient to attract Gov't /Homes England support for housebuilding / infrastructure delivery unless some form prioritisation is</p>	<p>A non-statutory document, therefore fundamentally different to GESP.</p> <p>Can work alongside options 1 or 2.</p>

¹ Latest Kent and Medway Framework can be viewed here: https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80145/GIF-Framework-full-document.pdf.
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Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
	<p>would need consideration if prepared by DCC.</p> <p>May need an associated governance regime covering funding prioritisation.</p>			<p>existing GESP budget requirements.</p> <p>Although challenging, this provides an opportunity for some form of infrastructure prioritisation which improves the deliverability of key projects.</p>	<p>undertake which could be challenging.</p> <p>An Infrastructure Plan that sets out infrastructure funding requirements for planned and emerging growth will require a greater degree of joint governance.</p>	
4. Non-statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan	<p>Place-making, aspirational non-statutory plan covering strategic growth and infrastructure.</p> <p>Used to promote the Garden Communities and sub-regional brand, in addition to identifying infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Part Government-facing document and part strategy document.</p>	<p>Prepared alongside Local Plan preparation. The strategy elements would be likely to increase the time required to deliver the project when compared with option 3.</p>	<p>Small project team of officers from the LPAs / DCC required.</p>	<p>Allows for more effective strategic and infrastructure planning and would be more likely to attract Gov't / Homes England funding than options 2 and 3.</p> <p>Provides a co-ordinated planned response to the area's strategic growth and infrastructure aspirations and constraints (more so than 2 and 3).</p> <p>Opportunity to agree a positive framework for cross-boundary matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity, transport and development needs. Could therefore satisfy a number of DtC requirements (more so than 2/3) (*)</p>	<p>Will require Local Plans to be adopted before aspirations in the plan can be enforced.</p> <p>Relies on decision-making across multiple Councils for key strategic matters. Therefore potentially more political risky than options 2 and 3).</p> <p>Risks diverting resources away from statutory plan preparation.</p> <p>Non-binding on each Council and at risk of not being followed.</p>	<p>A non-statutory document, therefore fundamentally different, to GESP.</p> <p>Can work alongside option options 1 and 2.</p>

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
				<p>Will identify and help to prioritise common infrastructure requirements</p> <p>Budget support likely to be less than existing GESp budget support.</p> <p>Can be prepared alongside Local Plans.</p> <p>Can be used to promote the Garden Cities.</p> <p>Potential for procuring shared evidence, which would result in efficiency savings.</p> <p>DCC likely to be able to continue supporting the plan's preparation.</p>		
5. Statutory joint strategy and infrastructure plan	<p>High-level statutory plan containing strategic policies and infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>From the outset, LPAs will need to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the plan will include strategic site 	<p>Will need to be adopted in advance of Local Plans.</p> <p>Timetable would need to be jointly agreed.</p>	<p>Will require a dedicated team of officers from the LPAs / DCC. It is likely that additional LPA resource will be needed, as set out in the GESp Options Consultation Committee paper.</p>	<p>Allows for more effective strategic and infrastructure planning and is more likely to attract Gov't / Homes England funding than options 2/3/4.</p> <p>Provides a co-ordinated planned response to the area's strategic growth and infrastructure aspirations and constraints (more so than 2/3/4).</p>	<p>Unlikely to be politically viable at the present stage, given EDDC's Council decision.</p> <p>This option is most inconsistent with the White Paper proposals. E.g. two-tier planning may be inconsistent with zoning proposals. It therefore presents the greatest risk of abortive work.</p>	<p>Same status as GESp. However, scope may differ due to the potential omission of site allocations.</p> <p>Opportunity to introduce district housing targets to help overcome political concerns</p>

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
	<p>allocations or growth areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the housing requirement will be planned for on a boundary-blind basis; - If a joint 5YLS will operate*. <p>Matters/sites not covered in the strategic plan will be covered in Local Plans.</p>			<p>Opportunity to agree a positive framework for cross-boundary matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity, transport and development requirements. Could therefore satisfy many DtC requirements (more so than 2/3/4) (*)</p> <p>Will identify and help to prioritise common infrastructure requirements</p> <p>Budget support likely to be equal to or less than existing GESP budget support.</p> <p>Can be used to promote the Garden Cities.</p> <p>Would require some shared evidence, which would result in efficiency savings.</p> <p>DCC likely to be able to continue supporting the plan's preparation.</p>	<p>Relies on decision-making across multiple Councils for key strategic matters across all four LPAs.</p> <p>If the plan did not allocate sites it may be of limited value as a statutory document</p> <p>Any timetable delays will potentially affect the timetables of Local Plans.</p> <p>Will require the preparation of another Regulation 18 plan, which is likely to involve at least another 6 months.</p> <p>Greater budgetary requirements for the LPAs than options 2, 3, and 4.</p>	<p>over boundary blind approach.</p>
6. Full statutory joint plan (all 4 LPAs)	A statutory plan containing strategic and local policies, infrastructure requirements and	A single timetable for a single plan. Timetable would need to	The 4 LPAs will pool their existing Local Plans teams, ideally also with resource input from DCC.	It is technically achievable – e.g. Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan and North Devon and Torridge Local Plan.	Unlikely to be politically viable at the present stage, given EDDC's Council decision.	Same statutory status as, but significantly greater scope than, GESP.

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
	<p>all site allocations.</p> <p>From the outset, the LPAs will need to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the housing requirement will be planned for on a boundary-blind basis; - If a joint SYLS will operate. 	be jointly agreed.	One plan would offer significant efficiencies in terms of evidence costs	<p>Potential for significant skills / resource sharing benefits, through the pooling of existing staff.</p> <p>Of all the options, this will provide the most co-ordinated and comprehensive planned response to the area's strategic growth and infrastructure aspirations and constraints.</p> <p>This option will demonstrate to Gov't / Homes England the greatest level of ambition and collaboration on planning matter. It's therefore most likely to attract funding and support for delivery.</p> <p>This presents the greatest opportunity to deliver a positive framework for cross-boundary matters like climate change, biodiversity net gain, connectivity, transport and development requirements. It will satisfy all DtC requirements within the sub-region (*).</p>	<p>Relies on decision-making across multiple Councils for key strategic matters across all four LPAs.</p> <p>Potential for perceived loss of individual LPA control.</p> <p>Potential for abortive work, as may find that the plan boundaries don't coincide with possible future unitary boundaries.</p>	<p>Opportunity to introduce district housing targets to help overcome political concerns over boundary blind approach.</p> <p>Potential to consider single plan without the need for district local plans, particularly if the Government reforms establish a national set of development management policies.</p>

Option	Scope	Timetable	Resources	Pros	Cons	Comments
				<p>Will identify and help to prioritise common infrastructure requirements.</p> <p>Can be used to promote the Garden Cities.</p> <p>Requires procuring shared evidence, which would result in efficiency savings.</p> <p>Isn't contrary to Government thinking in White Paper.</p>		

APPENDIX

**TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1
22 DECEMBER 2020
PART I**

Report Title	Report of the Public Spaces Protection Order (for Dog Control) Review Group
Purpose of Report	To consider the recommendations of the Group
Recommendation(s)	<p>The Committee RESOLVES that</p> <p>1. The number of dogs that any one individual can walk at any one time remain at six, because there is insufficient evidence and justification at present to reduce this number to less than six.</p> <p>2. The local licensing of dogs is not pursued because this would have significant resource implications and there is no provision for the Council to do this under current legislation.</p> <p>3. The Task Group reconvenes in April 2021 to progress a review of the Order so that any changes can be considered by this Committee, approved by Executive and implemented before the expiry of the existing PSPO in March 2022 to ensure continuity. This would enable consultation, and data to be collated for meaningful consideration, and feedback to Town and Parish Councils. The Group's terms of reference be approved nearer to the date.</p> <p>The Committee RECOMMENDS to Executive that: The existing PSPO is promoted within the District by:</p> <p>4. The Environmental Protection Manager requesting Town and Parish Councils to publicise the PSPO in their residents' newsletters, and circulating a guidance publicity tool kit to assist with this.</p> <p>5. A-boards, or similar for dog fouling hot spot areas being financed through the Councillors Community Fund scheme, and that Councillors advise their Town and Parish Councils accordingly so that Town and Parish Councils can locate the signs when and where necessary. As part of this initiative, the Environment Protection Manager, and Cllrs D Cox and Phipps have discussions with Teignmouth Town Council to support them in a publicity campaign and for them to arrange for appropriate signage for the Den in order to address concerns raised in relation this area.</p>
Financial Implications	See paragraph 3.1 below Chief Finance Officer Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

<p>Legal Implications</p>	<p>It is understood that the review group has concluded that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>Recommendations 1 and 2</i>: There be no change to the PSPO; (b) <i>Recommendation 4 and 5</i>: In essence the existing PSPO be promoted within the district including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Officers requesting that Town and Parish Councils publicise the PSPO in their residents' newsletters and locate relevant signage paid for by the District Council; (ii) By the Executive allocating funding from Councillors' Community Fund as a contribution towards the cost of such publicity within parishes; (iii) By the local ward members holding discussions with Teignmouth Town Council to address issues specific to their area. <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (c) <i>Recommendation 3</i>: The Committee's review group reconvene to consider any overlap between existing byelaws and the PSPO; and promote public consultation on a new PSPO well in advance of the PSPO's expiration. <p>In respect to (a) as no changes are proposed to the PSPO, the Committee may resolve (rather than recommend to Executive) such matters.</p> <p>Regarding (b)(ii) which is one of the recommendations to the Executive, it should be noted that the existing Councillor Community Fund is part of approved budget and will depend upon relevant councillors (rather than the Executive) agreeing to allocate their funding allocation to such projects.</p> <p>The actions to which b(i) and (iii) refer do not need Executive approval and in the case of the proposed ward members' actions, such is a matter for them albeit it is understood that the discussions are aimed at addressing specific issues regarding the PSPO in the Teignmouth ward.</p> <p>Regarding (c) the Committee should set out the specific future terms of reference of the review group taking account of template terms of reference which have been developed in 2020 for all task and finish groups to help promote transparency, efficient and effective decision making.</p>
<p>Risk Assessment</p>	<p>This was considered as part of the original report to Executive 30/10/18 and there is no change.</p>
<p>Environmental/ Climate Change Implications</p>	<p>See paragraph 3.2 below Environmental Protection Manager and Climate Change Officer Email: David.Eaton@teignbridge.gov.uk</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Report of the Democratic Services Officer trish.corns@teignbridge.gov.uk and Environment Protection Manager david.eaton@teignbridge.gov.uk on behalf of the Review Group</p>

Executive Member	Cllr Alistair Dewhirst – Recycling, Household Waste and Environmental Health
Appendices / Background Papers	Nil

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The terms of reference for the Review Group when it was set up in 2019 were as follows:

To monitor the PSPO particularly in relation to:-

1. The maximum number of dogs that can be walked at any one time;
2. The seasonal dog exclusion areas on beaches;
3. The use of body cameras by Community Enforcement Wardens;
4. Government Guidance;
5. Insurance regulations.
6. To identify volunteers to assist the Council wardens in engaging with offending and irresponsible dog owners/walkers to become more responsible.
7. Review the implementation of the PSPO in the first 12 months.

1.2 For the purposes of information, the decision of the Executive in November 2019 was as follows:

(1) In relation to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Responsible Dog Ownership under ss59 to 75 of the Anti-Social Crime and Policing Act 2014, the number of dogs that any one person can walk at any one time remain at 6, as agreed by Council on 14/1/19.
Justification There is insufficient evidence to reduce this number to less than 6.

(2) The seasonal dog exclusion areas on beaches remain as 1 April to 30 September, as agreed by Executive on 4 December 2018.

Justification: There is no evidence to suggest the date should be altered to 1 May; there are plenty of beaches that can be used all year round; and the restrictions relate to an area of most beaches but not all of them.

(3) The use of body cameras by Community Enforcement Wardens is not progressed.

Justification There is no evidence to suggest that body cameras would be beneficial. No member of staff has requested a body camera, they all have work mobiles with the capability to record footage, the additional expense cannot be justified and it would be better allocated towards publicity campaigns.

(4) In response to the DEFRA Animal Welfare Regulations consultation, the Council respond by suggesting that dog walking individuals who are walking other peoples' dogs (by collecting the dogs from their owners house and returning them) either voluntarily or for a fee should be licensed.

Justification Individuals who do not have a residence based business such as those who provide a dog walking service only should be licensed. District Councils currently administer animal welfare licences, and fees are retained by these Councils.

The review group also considered that an option was that all dogs should require a licence. This would be a new control.

Justification

It was considered that there was merit in all dogs being licenced. It was noted that all dogs were required to be microchipped and it was considered that while dogs were being

microchipped they could be licensed. The suggested increased licensing administration could also be undertaken by District Councils.

The following matters require further consideration by the Review Group.

(5) Insurance Regulations are the responsibility of businesses to ensure they are adequately insured for their business, and this issue be included in the issues to be reviewed by the Group in its 12 month review.

(6) The Council undertake a publicity campaign to encourage members of the public, Town and Parish Councils to engage with offending and irresponsible dog owners, and assist the Council in upholding the regulations of the Public Safety Protection Order.

(7) The Review Group continue to undertake a review of the PSPO following 12 months of its implementation as set out in the Group's terms of reference.

2. PSPO GROUP 12 MONTH REVIEW OCTOBER

2.1 The Review Group considered the following issues:

Service requests - number of dogs and beaches only -The number of complaints received in regard to the implementation of the PSPO was reviewed. Two complaints were received between 1 April 2019 and October 2020 in regard to maximum number of 6 dogs (one of which resulted in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN)). The FPN did not result in a prosecution. There were no complaints relating to dogs on beaches.

The Review Group considered that there was insufficient evidence and justification to reduce the number of dogs that one individual can walk at any one time to less than six.

Extra information relating to all services requests regarding the PSPO was presented to the Review Group for information only.

	Service Request Type	Count 01/04/2019 - 23/10/2020
EWDDIR	Dog on lead by direction PSPO	2
EWDFOD	Dog found	83
EWDFOU	Dog fouling pick up after your dog PSPO	86
EWDLEA	Dog on lead area PSPO	3
EWDLER	Dog on lead on highway PSPO	6
EWDLOS	Dog Lost	65
EWDOTH	Dogs - general	50
EWDSIX	Dog maximum number six PSPO	2
EWDSTR	Dog Stray	3

Dog Licensing – The Review Group considered the administrative expense and complications of this matter in the absence of a lack of national licensing requirement. It was considered that local licensing of dogs would have significant resource implications and that there is no provision for the Council to do this under current legislation, and therefore should not be pursued.

Publicity Campaign and Signage – The Review Group noted that resources had not been available to undertake a full publicity campaign due to resource redirection to deal with Covid. However, publicity levels previous to Covid were continuing. Signage was being updated within the confines of the budget. There was insufficient resources to locate signs at all of the District's cycle paths. Ward Councillors' concerns for *hot spots* could be dealt with by locating a large movable A-board, or similar on site advising that the area is a dog fouling hot spot and does anyone know which dog owner(s) are responsible.

The Review group considered that such A-boards, or similar should be financed through the Councillors Community Fund scheme, and located when necessary by Town and Parish Councils. As part of this initiative discussions be held with Teignmouth Town Council to support them in a publicity campaign and for them to arrange for appropriate signage for the Den. This was in response to concerns of increased dog fouling and an increased number of families sitting on the Den. Although dog faeces were being removed by owners, remaining faeces residue was an increasing concern.

The Review Group also considered that a low cost publicity tool kit should be circulated to Town and Parish Councils to enable additional publicity to be included in their residents newsletters.

PSPO - The current Order would expire in March 2022. The Review Group considered it should meet again in April 2021 to progress a review of the byelaws so that any changes can be approved and implemented before the expiry of the existing to ensure continuity of byelaws. This would enable consultation, and data to be collated for meaningful consideration, and feedback to Town and Parish Councils.

3. IMPLICATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

3.1 Financial

Additional administration would be required in relation to licencing dog walking businesses but this can be managed from existing resources with the Council keeping the income received. The addition of a dog licence for all dogs within Teignbridge would create additional administration and enforcement and it is not clear that the level of fee would cover the implications on the revenue budget.

The publicity campaign would also be delivered within existing budgets.

3.2 Environmental/Climate Change Impact

The proposed policy would have a neutral impact on climate change.

4. CONCLUSION

The Group should meet in April 2021 to progress a review of the Order in readiness of the Order expiring in March 2022, so that any changes can be considered by this Committee, approved by Executive and implemented before the expiry of the existing to ensure continuity. This would enable consultation, and data to be collated for meaningful consideration, and feedback to Town and Parish Councils.

**Councillors Nutley (Chair), D Cox, Hocking,
L Petherick, Phipps and Peart**

STRATA - JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present:

Councillors Arnott (Chair), Bialyk and Dewhurst

Non-Voting Members:

Karime Hassan, Phil Shears, Mark Williams

Member Attendance:

Councillors Clarence

Officers in Attendance:

Robin Barlow, Head of Security & Compliance

Simon Davey, Strata Board Director

David Hodgson, Strata Finance Director

Peter Johns

Martin Millmow, Head of Document Centres

Paul Nicholls, Food Health & Safety Manager

David Sercombe, Head of Business Systems & Business Intelligence

Adrian Smith, Head of Infrastructure & Support

Laurence Whitlock, Strata IT Director

Amanda Coombes, Democratic Services Officer

23. APOLOGIES

None received.

24. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

26. QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCILS

In response to supplementary questions from Cllr Clarence (Teignbridge District Council) in respect of the maintenance and support of personal IT equipment and the availability of access to councillor emails and calendars on personal devices, the Strata IT Director advised that Teignbridge District Council (TDC) had not

currently taken up the option of the enhanced service, whereas East Devon District Council had. The enhanced service was a chargeable option, and this had previously been presented to the TDC Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but funding was not approved.

In respect of the maintenance, Cllr Dewhirst stated that there were no plans for Strata to maintain personal equipment, as the authority had provided an iPad for councillor use.

27. STRATA IT DIRECTOR & MANAGER'S REPORT

The Strata IT Director presented the report on activity from 1 May to 31 July 2020, identifying key activities, successes and areas for improvement (presentation attached to minutes).

He brought members attention to the 'Value for Money' question which he advised had required Strata to look at what they do now compared to the starting point in 2014, and to also look at associated costs now compared to 2014 costs + RPI. The outcome of this exercise would be circulated to councillors.

During discussion, members raised questions regarding the use of the software application Microsoft Teams. Strata were currently working with the three authorities and a series of workshops had been setup to explore how the authorities may benefit from MS Teams and this would then enable a set of clear requirements to be defined, and a business case potentially drawn up. It was emphasized that any early phase deployment of MS Teams would not replace the Skype for Business telephony platform or the Zoom conferencing platform.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28. STRATA FINANCE REPORT

The Strata Finance Director presented the report advising on the financial position of Strata at the end of quarter 1 of the financial year 2020/2021, including both revenue and capital spend. He advised that the Company had been given a total of £6.60 million to run the IT Services in 2020/21 along with funding for various capital projects.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

29. STRATA ICT REPORT - DEVON AUDIT PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT

The Strata IT Director stated previous reports had highlighted the strengths of both the Strata's strategic concept and direction and, in the day to day delivery of the full range of IT services to the Partners. Work undertaken this year further

confirmed that the direction of travel remained upwards and that the appetite to continually improve remained as strong as ever.

Devon Audit Partnership (DAP) considered the Business Plan to be of a high standard and this, along with the high standard operational reporting and metrics, provided the measures from which continual service improvement can be delivered. Strata continued to perform strongly during 2019/20 and again exceeded the financial benefit targets set by the Partners. DAP advised that the authorities had Substantial Assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control framework in Strata Service Solutions Ltd.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

30. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

31. BUSINESS CASE FOR THE NEW FINANCE SYSTEM

The Head of Business Systems, Strata presented the report which was undertaken into the case for a new finance system.

RESOLVED that the following be approved:-

- (1) the Strata Business Case for the Financial Management Convergence Project, on the basis that the tender documents would be structured to allow the procurement of a Financial Management System for one, two or three authorities. Teignbridge District Council would be the first authority to implement the system. East Devon District and Exeter City Council's retain the option of adopting the same system at a later date; and
- (2) to proceed with a formal Tender exercise for a common Financial Management System for all three authorities.

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.24 pm.

Chair

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