

EXECUTIVE

21 JULY 2020

Present:

Councillors G Hook (Leader), Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), Connett, Jeffries, MacGregor, J Hook, Taylor and Wrigley

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Daws and Purser

Officers in Attendance:

Phil Shears, Managing Director
Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services
Neil Blaney, Head of Place & Commercial Services
Michelle Luscombe, Principal Policy Planner
Alex Lessware, Spatial Planning Officer
Tom Butcher, Senior Estates & Development Surveyor
Tony Mansour, Housing Needs Lead
Estelle Skinner, Green Infrastructure Officer,
Louisa Brinton, Economic Development Officer Town Centres
Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer
Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

37. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

38. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The question and response is attached to the minutes.

39. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

40. ORGANISATIONAL RECOVERY PLANS - VERBAL UPDATE

The Recovery Project Lead gave a presentation (attached to minutes) on the Organisational Recovery plans.

Executive thanked council staff, councillors and the voluntary sector for their hard work and dedication in supporting the residents and the local community during the pandemic. They acknowledged that it would be important to work with all partners across Devon to going forward to mitigate against job losses and secure the future of the prosperity of the district.

41. 2019/20 DRAFT FINAL ACCOUNTS & TREASURY MANAGEMENT - 2020/21 BUDGET MONITORING - REVENUE & CAPITAL , TREASURY MANAGEMENT LENDING LIST

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources presented report which considered the 2019/20 draft final revenue results including the draft closing general reserves and to bring the 2019/20 draft final capital and updated ongoing programme for members' approval. He brought Members attention to the budget gap of £6.9 million for 2020/21 due to loss of fees and charges as a result of COVID 19.

The Chief Finance Officer advised that Central Government had announced a measure of packages to support local government and the Council would receive just over £200,000 from a spending pressure budget allocation totalling £500 million. A scheme to help fund income losses from sales and fees and charges had been announced in more detail which allowed the Council to claim 75% of losses if the loss from the income stream had been greater than 5%. The Council would suffer the first 5% loss and Government would fund 75% of the remaining 95%. The detail still needed to be worked through but this could produce further funding of over £4.25 million for 2020/21. Rents and investment income were excluded from the support as was income from Council tax and business rates which could be recovered over a three year period.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the draft revenue results be noted;
- (2) approve the draft year end capital and updated programme as shown at appendix 1 be approved;
- (3) the updated lending list as shown at appendix 2 be noted; and

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (4) the draft treasury management results for 2019/20 at appendix 3 are noted.

(The vote was unanimous)

42. GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report to approve the consultation for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) draft policies and site

options consultation document and associated reports, hold a further 'call for sites' to inform the plan making process and increase staff resources in the GESP team.

A non-Executive Member voiced his concerns regarding the overstated housing figures and that GESP should be reassessed in light of the repercussion of COVID 19.

Executive Members commented that they did not like the housing numbers dictated to the district by Central Government and had made their position clear to the Government. They were working to look for brownfield sites to develop and to generate as much affordable housing as possible.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 July 2020 considered the report and supported amendments to recommendation (2); to replace wording of Chief Executive with Managing Director; add the Leader of Opposition to the consultation; the changes to be minor editorial changes; and that all Members to be notified within 24 hours of any changes. Executive supported the amendments.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the GESP Draft Policies and Site Options consultation document (attached at Appendix A) for public consultation be approved as detailed in Appendix A to the agenda report;
- (2) the GESP Draft Policies and Site Options Sustainability Appraisal Report be approved for public consultation as detailed in Appendix B to the agenda report.
- (3) the Initial Habitat Regulations Assessment Report be approved for public consultation as detailed in Appendix C to the agenda report.
- (4) the content and conclusion of the GESP Equality Impact Assessment Screening Report be noted as detailed in Appendix E to the agenda report.
- (5) Delegate authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, the Leader of the Opposition and Managing Director, to agree minor editorial changes to the above documents arising from decisions by the other GESP authorities and to advise all Members by email within 24 hours before they are published for consultation.
- (6) a further 'call for sites' process, to be held alongside the consultation on the GESP Draft Policies and Site Options document be approved;
- (7) the content of the consultation statement for the 2017 Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Issues consultation be noted as detailed in Appendix D to the agenda report.

- (8) The GESP team is brought up to 8 full time equivalent members of staff and all Local Planning Authority staff resources are provided equitably to the team through equalisation arrangements. Subject to future confirmation of the additional GESP staff roles that will be required, for Teignbridge this is likely to equate to a total contribution of approximately £62,000 per annum towards staff costs, or up to an additional c£30,000 per annum on top of existing staff contributions.

(The vote was unanimous)

43. GREATER EXETER STRATEGIC PLAN JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Portfolio Holder for Planning presented the report for the proposed Joint Statement of Community Involvement (Joint SCI) that had been prepared for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). The Joint SCI set out the proposed approach to public consultation on the GESP as it progressed through its statutory plan-making stages towards adoption.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 July 2020 considered the report and supported amendments to recommendation (2); to replace wording of Chief Executive with Managing Director; add the Leader of Opposition to the consultation; the changes to be minor editorial changes; and that all Members to be notified within 24 hours of any changes. Executive supported the amendments.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the contents and adopts the Joint SCI that has been prepared for the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be given to the Leader, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Leader of the Opposition and Managing Director, to agree minor editorial changes, to the Joint SCI arising from decisions by the other GESP local planning authorities, and emailing all Councillors within 24 hours of the changes, and to approve it as a Local Development Document, noting that it will apply jointly to East Devon District, Exeter City, Mid Devon District and Teignbridge District Councils.

(The vote was unanimous)

44. FUTURE HIGH STREETS, FUNDING APPLICATION

The Portfolio Holder for Portfolio Holder for Business, Economy and Tourism presented the report to consider the proposed projects for the Future High Streets funding bid. Members were advised that this application built on work done over ten years and sought inward investment of circa 10 million, an amount which was needed more than ever post COVID-19 to reinvigorate the Newton Abbot High Street. The consultation feedback had been positive and ongoing

discussion would involve organisations like the theatre who the council recognised play a part in creating a vibrant town centre environment.

Executive Members welcomed the submission of the bid which if successful would support the revitalisation of Newton Abbot.

The Leader acknowledged the correspondence that Members had received from representatives of Alexandra Theatre and commented that the Council would work with the theatre to explore opportunities to retain live theatre in Newton Abbot.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the funding application be endorsed and the final submission to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government be approved; and
- (2) the proposed projects be referred to Full Council for approval if the funding application is successful.

(The vote was unanimous)

The meeting started at 10.03 am and finished at 11.25 am.

Chairman

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Public Questions**Executive 21 July 2020****Public Question (1)**

While recognising that the TDC has amended the plans for the Future High Street Bid concerning the loss of parking in Queen Street, in that a number of parking spaces have been retained in the stretch between Albany Street and the train station, I am still concerned about the loss of all the spaces in the stretch from Albany Street to Lloyds Bank.

Many shops there are very concerned about the potential loss to their business of accessible on street parking. I am not convinced that people who said they would like wider pavements and cafes were aware that the increase in the width of the pavement was unlikely to make this possible and that the traders there were convinced their businesses would be threatened by this lost parking.

I read that many people said they were doing their shopping on cycles and panniers were mentioned. While that might be possible for certain active people, it is not for the vast majority who would struggle even to get their shopping home on a bus.

I feel that the low numbers responding to the consultation are in part due to the time pressure for getting this bid submitted which meant that over most of that time period, we have all been in lock down due to Covid 19, including the shops. This has meant that there has been no opportunity for a public meeting about this where questions would have been asked and answered nor an opportunity for the public to even discuss it amongst themselves as there has been so little social contact. It is not possible to equate a Survey Monkey questionnaire with its often mixed messaged questions on a website with real face to face opportunities for discussion, understanding and chance to make an informed response.

It seemed that many respondents said they walked in to town which is actually not an option for the majority of people we want to attract to our town as they come from the villages, new estates or other nearby towns like Torquay. It is not possible for older people either who live in Newton Abbot itself on our many hills not even served by buses.

I am making these points because I would like to have the reassurance that, if we are awarded this grant, there will be full, face to face, democratic opportunities for consultations beyond on-line surveys before anything is 'set in stone' and these consultations will take into account people who we want to be able to shop in our town coming from the surrounding areas.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Business, Economy & Tourism

The car parking capacity in the town centre is not being lost via the Queen Street proposals, as there is replacement of town centre parking capacity proposed via the Cricketfield car park decking proposal, which forms part of the strong and interlinked package of proposals for the Future High Street Fund bid. In the question received, there is a desire stated - to attract more customers from outside the walkable area of town. In response to this, the value of customers who live nearby and regularly walk to shop in town must be recognised and appreciated. Many local resident responses

to the survey showed strong support for enhancing the pedestrian environment along Queen Street. In addition, the messaging in our engagement information stated clearly that, alongside benefits for local residents and shoppers, another main objective of the Newton Abbot Future High Street Fund bid is delivery of transformational measures that enable Newton Abbot to become more of a 'destination' town for those who live outside of the town. This requires enhancing and uplifting the town centre where it is most needed, achieving a good environment for spending time, and enhancing the offer and appeal to visitors. The out-of-town visitors would have the option of utilising the expanded Cricketfield car park, offering both short and longer periods of stay, and situated only a 2-3 minute walk from Queen Street.

The views received via the feedback have been reviewed and changes to the plans for Queen Street have been made where appropriate. Achieving success with this bid package, to secure this major investment into our market town of Newton Abbot, relies on meeting the criteria of the Future High Street Fund bid. One of the key criteria is being transformational in ways that enable the town to remain resilient now and into the future, and in a way that presents a strong business case. There is a strong business case for the overall package, and the pedestrian enhancements add notably to this, based on the suite of wellbeing benefits that can be attained, which can also in turn support footfall.

The engagement period that we held, to attain feedback on the Newton Abbot Future High Street Fund bid, ran throughout June 2020. There was clear information on the package of proposals presented online, with surveys for feedback and comments. The response was not poor and we reached many people via the engagement process. We posted letters to businesses along Queen Street, also emailed those on the Town Centre Partnership emailing list to inform businesses directly of the proposals and the online engagement. We also promoted the engagement via social media, both via standard and paid advertisements that Pop-up.

Central government requires all Future High Street Fund bids to be submitted by the end of July 2020. We have worked to a tight timeframe but this has not meant any lack of quality or effort, during a difficult period. This has also included incorporating key changes into the proposals, where appropriate, based on the main feedback messages. The final bid submission is in the form of a business case, which includes the design plans and costs for the suite of interlinked proposals, and the amount of funding requested from the funders: the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government. If successful, the projects are expected to be delivered as proposed, within budget and within the set funding delivery timeframe.

We will continue to keep stakeholders updated but it isn't anticipated that there will be any significant changes to the bid proposals following submission. However, we will look further at street-side parking time restrictions and discuss this more post-bid submission, to ensure the current arrangement is the best option and if not to consider changes and, in addition, inputs will be sought from key local stakeholders on elements such as the species preference for tree planting and suchlike.

TDC COVID-19 Recovery Update

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Presented to The Executive 21st July 2020

Tony Mansour
Recovery Project Lead

Teignbridge District Council COVID-19 Recovery Structure

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

To receive progress review reports and establish :

- a) A working group on the impact on communities in rural, urban and coastal areas.
- b) A working group to review of the Council Strategy in light of COVID-19, whether the plans still hold true and to confirm what the recovery should aim to enable

Executive

- Organisational Recovery Plans
- Establish critical short term operational issues

Senior Leadership Team

Recovery Strategic Sponsor - Neil Blaney

Leader of the Council, Cllr Gordon Hook

Regular Reports to PH-
Cllr Nina Jeffries

Regular Reports to PH-
Cllr Alistair Dewhirst

Regular Reports to PH-
Cllr Gary Taylor

Regular Reports to PH-
Cllr Martin Wrigley

Regular Reports to PH-
Cllr Alan Connett

Economy Strategic
Lead -Phil Shears

Environment
Strategic Lead-
Lorraine Montgomery

Place Strategic Lead-
Neil Blaney

Communities
Strategic Lead-
Amanda Pujol

VV Council Strategic
Lead – Martin Flitcroft

Recovery Project Lead

Economy project Lead
Tom Winters

Environment Project lead
Lizzy Turner

Place Project lead
Fergus Pate

Communities Project lead
Becca Hewitt

VV Council Project lead
Rosie Wilson

Economy Task Group

Environment Task
Group

Place Task Group

Communities Task
Group

Vital Viable Council
Task Group

Work Undertaken

- Overview of TDC's response to the pandemic to date- provided to O&S on 14th July
- Agreement to establish O&S working groups – Agreed by O&S on 14th July
- Review of T10 projects and PIs
- Recovery framework established and agreed
- Project Leads and teams put in place
- Project Initiation Documents agreed for each theme area
- Theme frameworks and scope assessed in collaboration with strategic leads
- Draft objectives determined
- Key stakeholders identified
- Reporting mechanisms agreed- SLT updates, meetings with portfolio holders
- Data sets and questions drafted by theme area

Work in Hand

Short/ medium term

- Internal review of response phase emergency planning (led by David Eaton)
- Identification of quick-wins and funding opportunities
- Setting up a Data and Communications Cell
- Support the establishment of two O&S task and finish groups:
 1. *To establish what impact COVID 19 has had on rural, coastal and urban communities within Teignbridge District and to make recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*
 2. *To review the Council Strategy 2020-2030 objectives and actions in light of the issues arising from the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the report of the COVID-19 Community Impact Task & Finish Group.*

Upcoming Work

- Quantitative and qualitative data collection
- Reports to be provided by O&S working groups
- Engagement/ workshops with key stakeholders
- Determine recovery objectives and outcomes by theme area

Long Term Goals

- Construct overarching and theme specific recovery plans for TDC
- Complete a comprehensive review of the Council Strategy
- Provide reportable actions, outcomes and projects by service area

Representation on Devon-wide Groups

- Recovery Coordination Group- Tony Mansour/ Neil Blaney
- Economy sub-group- Neil Blaney
- Climate and Environment sub-group – Will Elliott
- Data and Impact sub group- Tony Mansour
- Communities sub-group- Rebecca Hewitt
- Devon and Torbay Health Protection Board – David Eaton & Tony Mansour
- Homelessness and Health Cell- Tony Mansour

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