

**TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
1 JUNE 2021
PART I**

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| Report Title | TEIGNBRIDGE JOBS PLAN |
| Purpose of Report | To approve the Jobs Plan that will be used to set Teignbridge's Covid 19 economic recovery priorities. |
| Recommendation(s) | The Committee RESOLVES to: (1) Approve the Jobs Plan at Appendix 1 as a guide for how the council will help to support economic recovery and job growth across Teignbridge. |
| Financial Implications | Chief Finance officer and Head of Corporate Services Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk Please refer to sections 2.2 and 2.7, which confirm that the work can be managed within existing staffing resources and capital programme budgets. |
| Legal Implications | Solicitor to the Council and Monitoring Officer Email: karen.trickey@teignbridge.gov.uk No legal implications |
| Risk Assessment | Fergus Pate Email: fergus.pate@teignbridge.gov.uk Please refer to section 2. |
| Environmental/ Climate Change Implications | Report Author to comment on the Environmental/Climate Change Implications Name/Title of person giving advice Email: @teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Report Author | Fergus Pate Email: fergus.pate@teignbridge.gov.uk |
| Executive Member | Executive Member for Economy, Nina Jeffrey |
| Appendices / Background Papers | Appendix 1 – Jobs Plan Appendix 2 – Jobs Plan Monitoring Framework Appendix 3 – Response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 Employment Delivery Review. Appendix 4 – Latest Economic Indicators Appendix 5 – Equality Impact Assessment |

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

1.1. Teignbridge Council has identified Homes, Environment and Jobs as its three priorities. This report proposes approval of a Jobs Plan that will guide our activities in supporting economic recovery across the district.

1.2. The Covid 19 pandemic has had a very significant impact on businesses and the ways that business is done across the globe and across Teignbridge. In the immediate pandemic response phase, Teignbridge Council has worked with partners to provide businesses with as much support as possible.

1.3. The focus of our activities over the past year has been on:

- Deploying £55m of funding support to help businesses meet their costs, especially during *lockdowns*. This includes approximately £14 million of discretionary grants.
- Running a Gap Grants scheme to help employers to keep going financially and plot a route to recovery.
- Responding to 71 expressions of interest for Kickstart scheme apprenticeships across the district, including by creating placements within the council.
- Working with partners to agree priorities for future government support, including the Devon districts, Devon County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Regular surveys and workshops with businesses and local leaders to understand the priorities for support from the council as we move towards economic recovery.
- Working with local communities on priorities for schemes like the Welcome Back Fund.
- Engagement in the council-wide recovery planning programme.
- Bringing forward the Newton Abbot Future High Street Fund scheme.
- Supporting the recent Overview and Scrutiny 2 review of employment development delivery.

1.4. Learning from these activities has been brought together in the proposed Jobs Plan at Appendix 1. The Plan is focussed on four main *missions*:

1. Transforming town centres
2. Helping Businesses to Start and Grow
3. Connectivity and Access to Markets
4. Modernising the Visitor Economy

1.5. Across those missions, a variety of priority projects are identified. This includes activities like introducing a new voluntary coastal contribution, so that visitors to our resorts can help to fund enhancements to the attractiveness of our area in order to benefit future visitors. Other projects include training and support to help businesses trade on-line more effectively; bringing forward town centre manager arrangements for all of our main towns; and working with partners to deliver new work hubs.

1.6. The Plan also summarises the main ways that we will go about keeping up to date with intelligence and indicators that show whether recovery is on track or our priorities need to be adapted. It is also accompanied (at Appendix 2) by a monitoring framework that provides measures of success for each project identified. Of course, it needs to be recognised that other external factors will often have a bearing on these outcomes.

Overview and Scrutiny 2 Employment Delivery Review

1.7. A recent review of employment land and space delivery was undertaken by a sub-group that was formed by Overview and Scrutiny 2 Committee. The report of the review group was considered on 9 March 2021 and included a number of recommendations. Appendix 3 itemises those recommendations and a current response to each of them. In many cases, the response is a work in progress and this is reflected in the commentary.

2. IMPLICATIONS, RISK MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT IMPACTS

2.1. The Jobs Plan is intended to help maximise employment levels and economic success across Teignbridge. It responds to the latest economic data and extensive discussion and feedback from stakeholders. We will continue to monitor and report

key economic indicators through the Council Strategy process and review whether and when the Plan needs to be updated.

2.2. Resource implications of the Jobs Plan have been taken into account and, whilst ambitious, it is considered feasible that existing staff resources can be prioritised to focus on and implement the main projects that have been identified.

Risk Management

2.3. In many cases, the strategic risks associated with the Jobs Plan projects are limited. Much of the focus of the Plan is on communicating opportunities and coordinating training and business support.

2.4. Other projects like collecting and deploying funding, or investing in new employment site delivery, present greater potential risks. These schemes, however, will be subject to separate approvals and will require an associated assessment of risks and mitigations at that stage.

2.5. Whilst it is considered feasible to take forward the Jobs Plan using existing budgets and staff resources, the Plan is ambitious and the adequacy of existing resources to fulfil all of its elements will need to be kept under review.

Climate Change and Environmental Impacts

2.6. The Jobs Plan is focussed on maximising Teignbridge's economic resilience and the ratio of jobs to working age population across the district. This will help to minimise the need to travel and, therefore, the significant climate change impacts associated with commuting (travel currently accounts for approximately 1/5th of the district's emissions).

2.7. One of the recommendations that is most likely to result in environmental impacts that will need to be managed, is our work in supporting the delivery of new employment land and premises. Focussing on delivering new employment schemes will help to minimise businesses moving to other local economies outside of

Teignbridge. However, the specific impacts of individual development proposals will need to be considered through the Local Plan and planning application processes.

Financial Implications

2.8. The proposed Jobs Plan does not bring any new financial pressures. It has been designed to make best use of existing staff and financial resources, whilst retaining flexibility to fully harness future opportunities (including any additional government funding schemes) as they arise.

2.9. Amongst the key priorities identified in the Jobs Plan is supporting employment land delivery. This priority has been given particular emphasis following the recent O&S2 review but is likely to involve financial implications, either associated with spending Section 106 agreement developer contributions towards employment delivery, or investing council capital into schemes. In the case of capital investment, projects will need to be backed by a business case that demonstrates an adequate level of financial return (1% in line with the Commercialisation Strategy). The current Capital Programme identifies a budget of up to £2 million for such investments.

Legal Implications

2.10. There are not considered to be direct legal implications associated with approving the Jobs Plan. Obligations associated with our duty to consult and equalities impacts have been considered. In the case of the duty to consult, the plan has been informed by a range of consultations, including:

- Public and business surveys;
- Stakeholder workshops; and
- Discussions and feedback from Covid grant scheme recipients.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 The Council already has an Economic Development Plan that was produced for the period 2018 – 2023. We could continue to implement that plan. However, whilst there are overlaps between the proposed Jobs Plan and Economic Development

Plan, it has become necessary to respond to changes in circumstance associated with the impacts of Covid 19.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Executive is asked to approve the Jobs Plan at Appendix 1 as a guide for how Teignbridge Council will help to drive the local area's economic recovery.