

04 Going to Town

Lead Contact: Neil Blaney, Cllr Nina Jeffries

Programme Status:

Caution

Summary Statement

The projects within 'Going to Town' are mostly on track, but some projects related to the Future High Street Fund are now experiencing delays that give the overall status of 'caution'. The status will be reviewed in light of the work being undertaken over the next three months in relation to the Future High Street Fund project.

Designing and delivering small and large scale schemes:

The Council is in negotiations with the NHS regarding land at Brunswick Street, Teignmouth following Full Council's agreement to sell the land subject to planning permission.

The recent decision by Full Council to request that plans for the Market Hall and Alexandra Cinema elements of the Future High Street Fund projects has created a significant risk in relation to the timescale to draw down and spend the grant by March 2024. Officers are working to consider options, but the timescale for the project did not allow for such a delay. A report will be taken back to Council following a review of options.

A planning application for a new four screen cinema in the Market Square has been submitted and work is underway to prepare for construction and delivery within the timescales of the funding.

Running and improving Newton Abbot Markets:

The business case for the Markets Quarter project was approved by Council in February 2022, but the Full Council decision to request a review of plans means that the work undertaken to date will need to be paused and reviewed. There is a risk to this project as set out above.

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Footfall into the Market Hall hasn't recovered since the end of covid restrictions and occupancy remains lower than the pre-Covid period.

The Council's Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund includes a bid for funding to support markets and town centre promotion and coordination.

Town centre health checks:

Regular liaison with the local chambers of commerce or equivalent takes place to monitor vacancy and business experience. Town centre 'health checks' have not been undertaken this year.

The Council's Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund includes a bid for funding to support markets and town centre promotion and coordination.

Working with and supporting continued town centre management:

Officers continue to work with those responsible for managing or leading on projects within the towns across Teignbridge. The Council's Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund includes a bid for funding to support markets and town centre promotion and coordination.

Using our powers to bring about improvements and support business growth:

The Environmental Health team provides significant support to businesses and uses its powers to deal with breaches, which helps consumer confidence. The Planning Department is prioritising enquiries and applications related to employment and job growth.

Improving accessibility and encouraging more town centre living:

The Future High Street Fund proposals for pedestrian enhancements along Queen Street in Newton Abbot have been supported by the Teignbridge Highways and Traffic Orders Committee and a report will go to Devon County Council's Cabinet for final approval. Opportunities for more residential development in town centres continue to be investigated.

The proposal for a Health and Wellbeing Centre in Teignmouth will provide accessible health facilities for the community.

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Supporting evening cultural and leisure opportunities:

The Future High Street Fund projects will bring forward a wide range of evening activities that will complement the town centre. As noted above, there is now an increased element of risk to delivery for this project.

The Council's Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund includes a bid for funding to support exhibiting, performing, and participating in art.

05 Great places to live and work

Lead contact: Rosalyn Eastman, Cllr Gary Taylor

Programme Status:

On track

Summary Statement

As with previous reviews, all teams within the Council continue to work hard towards ensuring that we are able to keep Teignbridge as a Great Place to Live and Work.

Individual projects and indicators reflect the variety of the work undertaken as part of this Super Project and the wide range of issues involved from Town Centre and transport improvements through to ensuring through our development management and enforcement functions that development is undertaken in the right way and to the benefit of existing and future communities.

We continue to review our practice to take account of feedback received and work hard to maintain performance with regard particularly to our key Government indicators, although this is especially challenging at present as the effects of periods with low resources as well as changing demands in terms of workload and the impact of Covid-19 continue to be felt.

Two Member Working Groups / Task and Finish Groups have been established that will report in 2022/23. These are reviewing our Enforcement function and the delivery and management of open spaces.

06 Investing in prosperity

Lead contact: Stephen Forsey, Cllr Nina Jeffries

Programme Status: On track

Summary Statement

Investment in commercial property projects

The Council continues to invest in active projects with ongoing investigations and feasibility work for the commercial development at the Aldi and Forches Cross sites. In addition, work is ongoing with T100 opportunities on Council owned land. The Beachcomber Restaurant in Teignmouth has recently been marketed and discussions are ongoing with the selected tenant which will see a comprehensive refurbishment and enhancement of the building over the winter of 22/23.

The Future High Streets project is progressing which will see investment in the regeneration of Newton Abbot Market a new 4 screen Cinema (planning application has been submitted), together improvements to Queen Street, the gate way to the Town from the Railway Station and part of the National Cycle Network 2.

There are a number of other opportunities that will be put forward in future project proposals identifying the Councils investment requirements, priorities and level of proposed investment.

Greater Exeter Greater Devon

This project is ongoing although made slightly more difficult now as Exeter City Council no longer have a formal Economic Development Team, we do however share information with our Colleagues at ECC. We also continue to be part of the wider Exeter and the Heart of Devon Economic Development group.

Facilitating links between businesses and education providers

This project is ongoing as we continue to work with Building Greater Exeter (BGEX) as a partner. BGEX send Employers and apprentices into schools in an effort to enlighten young people about the variety of careers in construction from Architect to bricklayer. We aim for all Teignbridge senior schools to be included in this programme. The Economic Development Officer also visits schools to talk about life in the workplace.

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The Economic Development Officer is an Ambassador for the Careers and Enterprise Service and works with local schools to provide inspirational speakers from the world of work.

Improved broadband provision

Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) is a local government-led partnership which helps to deliver next generation broadband infrastructure to areas where the market has failed to invest.

Internet Service Provider Airband is delivering the second phase of the broadband infrastructure rollout.

Within Teignbridge there is now access to the live network in areas of Exminster, Kenn, Kennford, Kenton, Powderham, Starcross, and Teignmouth.

Build is due to be completed in Powderham and Starcross, as well as remaining contracted areas of Exminster, Kenn, Kenton, Powderham and Starcross.

Design is being carried out in Abbotskerswell, Buckfastleigh, Cockwood, Dawlish Warren, Holcombe, parts of Kingsteignton, Mamhead Park, Newton Abbot, and Teigngrace.

The Council has committed £250,000 towards the programme, but that funding has not yet been requested. The Council is represented on the board by Cllr Nuttall.

07 Moving up a gear

Lead contact: Fergus Pate, Cllr Gary Taylor

Programme Status:

On track

Summary Statement

The overall programme is on track. Priority infrastructure projects are being delivered, including major strategic pedestrian and cycle schemes and a key bus improvement scheme.

Improving the A382 into Newton Abbot and a Forches Cross A383 link

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The entire length of the A382 scheme benefits from planning permission. Phase 1 works between Forches Cross and Whitehill Cross have been completed. Teignbridge committed £5.1 million of developer funding towards the £13m project, which will include a new off road pedestrian and cycle route.

The A382 is due to benefit from an announced £45 million package of funding that has been awarded in order to deliver the rest of the scheme by around 2025. All the land needed to deliver the remainder of the scheme has been secured.

The planning application for the Jetty Marsh link has been approved by Devon County Council. This will provide the essential connection between Whitehill Cross and Newton Abbot Hospital. The land has been secured Berry Knowles development planning permission. Full Council approved a £600,000 funding contribution towards the link in April 2022.

The main street through Houghton Barton benefits from planning permission. The first phase between Forches Cross and Howton Road is complete. Teignbridge and Devon approved £1.25m forward funding of future developer contributions in order to deliver the scheme.

Bus improvements and park and ride services

Much of the work associated with bringing forward new park and ride facilities is in the hands of external partners, including Devon County Council as transport authority.

An updated scheme for an A30 park and ride is not anticipated in the short term. Devon County Council have identified potential for a Park and Ride facility at Peamore, which may need to be considered through the Local Plan Review.

Further analysis from the transport authority indicates that plans for park and ride in Newton Abbot are not viable. There may still be limited scope for park and change at locations including Forches Cross.

£200,000 funding for a bus only route between Ashburton Road and Newton Abbot town centre has been awarded. This involves Teignbridge land and public consultation was undertaken in July. Comments are being reviewed and next steps will be set out in Autumn 2022. Devon County Council has also been awarded £14 million to improve bus provision and services across the County but further details of how this may benefit communities across Teignbridge are awaited.

Initial work on bringing forward a transport hub for Newton Abbot has paused because there has been a focus on other transport priorities.

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Supporting new railway stations

Work is progressing on Marsh Barton station. The station is due to be operational by late 2022.

Phase 1 Dawlish Sea Wall defences now are constructed, with phase 2 nearing completion. Heath Rail Link are continuing to work with Network Rail, GWR and Devon County Council on potential to reopen the branch line from Newton Abbot to Heathfield.

Encourage a cycling revolution

The Teign Estuary Trail planning application has been approved. The scheme remains a key priority but was not suitable for the Levelling Up Fund. Other funding opportunities will be considered as they arise, and meanwhile technical work and land negotiations are continuing.

Innovative transport schemes

Development frameworks for development allocations propose electric car charge point facilities in key public areas. The Local Plan Review is considering innovative transport opportunities.

The Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton Garden Community programme is bringing forward evidence on potential innovative public transport and walking/cycling improvements in the Newton Abbot area. Consultation on a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton area was undertaken in summer 2021 and, following overall positive feedback, is due to be approved later in 2022.

The LCWIP led to a £14.5 million Levelling Up Fund bid being submitted to government for a South Devon Cycleway between Newton Abbot, Kingskerswell and Torbay Hospital in Summer 2022.

Development supported by sustainable transport facilities

Individual new developments continue to be supported by improved transport facilities. The Development Frameworks for development allocations across the district incorporate sustainable transport facilities (including walking and cycle routes) as a centrepiece of their proposals.

The Infrastructure Delivery Plan and capital programme also continue to prioritise sustainable transport, including through funding commitments towards Marsh Barton station and more than £1 million being identified as a contribution towards pedestrian and cycle facilities by 2025. Work is ongoing to ensure that sustainable transport remains at the forefront of future Local Plans.

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Bids were submitted to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund for funding to support delivery of key transport infrastructure at Dawlish and South West Exeter. Funding totalling £4.9 million has been approved for the Dawlish link road and a planning application for the bridge there has now been approved. Cost inflation is expected to have implications for the overall scheme, and this is likely to be the subject of a future Full Council report.

The £55 million South West Exeter Housing Infrastructure Fund programme is progressing, including major junction, pedestrian, and cycle improvements.

08 Out and about and active

Lead contact: James Teed, Cllr John Nutley

Programme Status:

Caution

Summary Statement

The programme status remains as a caution, whilst the previous quarter saw the lifting of the covid-imposed operating restrictions, we are building back from the associated impacts by building our programmes and participation base.

PIs on still on hold whilst we return programme and build back from the covid, and decarbonisation works that have limited facility availability.

- CSOAA 6.1 Number of young people (under 18) who participate in activities we organise.
- CSOAA 6.2 Number of older (over 60) people participating in events we organise
- CSOAA 6.3 Number of people 30-60 participating in activities we organise.

The programmes are disrupted with partial facility closures and the impact of staff losses and membership losses post-covid.

One Project is still on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions

CSOAA 1.1 Refurbishment of Broadmeadow and Dawlish Leisure Centres. On hold until service recovered. Income streams need to be re-established to support the business case, a time frame for this is not currently identifiable.

10 Vital, Viable Council

Lead contact: Amanda Pujol, Cllr Alan Connett, Cllr Richard Keeling

Programme Status: **Ahead of schedule**

4 of the performance indicators are well ahead of target at the end of the quarter. Two of the indicators relate to the uptake of digital accounts and transactions undertaken online by customers and the other two are financial indicators relating to the cost per head of population of Council services and the amount of external funding we receive. The amount of income generated by the Council is ahead of target and a further 4 performance indicators are on target.

Work is progressing well in relation to the two projects. This quarter further work has been undertaken on the rollout of Microsoft 365 to improve the digital tools available to staff both working in the office and remotely and the decarbonisation work is continuing at Forde House. We are continuing to review the complaints process and policy and will be undertaking an equality impact assessment on the revised policy next quarter.