

## 04 Going to Town

**Lead Contact:** Neil Blaney, Cllr Nina Jeffries

**Programme Status:** Caution

### Summary Statement

The 'Going to Town' retains an overall status of 'caution'. The delays to the flagship projects to be funded through the Future High Street Fund projects create a risk to the ability to spend the funding within the timescales.

At the same time the economic impacts on the cost of living, energy bills and global events make this a challenging time for the local economy. No decision has yet been issued on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which included projects to support town centres.

A number of projects have not been completed due to reduced available staff resource.

### Designing and delivering small- and large-scale schemes:

The Council remains 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 approve the revised approaches for the Market Hall and Alexandra Cinema elements of the Future High Street Fund projects will be submitted to Government for approval. The delay as a result of the change has created a significant risk in relation to the timescale to draw down and spend the grant by March 2024.

A planning application for a new four screen cinema in the Market Square is due for consideration by Planning Committee.

### Running and improving Newton Abbot Markets:

The revised business case for the Markets Quarter project was approved by Council in November 2022 and constitutes the proposed approach to improve the markets.

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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 markets run at an operational loss and therefore are an ongoing cost the Council. If the Future High Street Fund projects do not come forward decisions will be required on the future of the Markets.

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.

The Future High Street Fund included a one-off budget for footfall counting in Newton Abbot.

### **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.

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

### **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 can 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: Neil Blaney, Cllr Nina Jeffries

Programme Status: On track

### Summary Statement

#### Investment in commercial property projects

Work is ongoing with T100 opportunities on Council owned land. The Beachcomber Restaurant in Teignmouth has been successfully marketed and negotiations 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 has paused pending Council approval of revised plans. If the plans are agreed a request will be submitted to Government to sign off the alternative plans, 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.

The Council has several active projects, but there have been no new opportunities due to current economic uncertainties.

#### 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 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.

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.

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### 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.

PI Code	Title	Executive Member	+/-	Annual Target	Q1 Act	Q2 Act	Q3 Act	Q4 Act	PI Verifying Manager	Officer Notes
CSIIP 1.2	Processing of minor planning applications	Planning	+	753	67%	59%			Rosalyn Eastman	(on behalf of RE) The proportion of minor planning applications determined in target (with or without an agreed extension of time) has dropped this quarter to be close to the national target of 65% over the year to date. Government performance is measured over a 2 year period and against this metric we remain ahead of target. However, the team is refocusing on securing agreement to extensions of time for determining minor applications where we can to improve our performance in this area.

## 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**

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 to commence works by around 2024. Land needed to deliver the remainder of the scheme has been secured.

Full Council approved a £600,000 funding contribution towards the Jetty Marsh link in April 2022. This has now been paid and land for the link secured.

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 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.

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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 was awarded by Homes England. This involves Teignbridge land and public consultation was undertaken in July. Consultation responses did not support the project, which has now been shelved.

Devon County Council has been awarded £14 million to improve bus provision and services across the County. 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.

### **Supporting new railway stations**

Work is progressing on Marsh Barton station. The station is due to be operational by early 2023.

Phase 1 Dawlish Sea Wall defences now are constructed, with phase 2 progressing well.

Heath Rail Link are understood to be 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. The cost of this project is very significant and a phased approach to delivery may be required.

### **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

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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. News on this submission is expected by December 2022.

Opportunities to bring forward rural transport hubs are being considered through the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

### **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 2026. Work is ongoing to ensure that sustainable transport remains at the forefront of future Local Plans.

Bids were submitted to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund for funding to support delivery of key transport infrastructure at Dawlish and Southwest 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 project is on track for completion by 2024.

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



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### Summary Statement

The programme status remains as a caution, whilst the previous quarter saw stabilisation and some growth across our activity streams, the activity programmes have been impacted by partial facility closures to accommodate the decarbonisation works. Therefore, participation numbers are impacted but with the works now progressing well, the forthcoming quarter should see a more realistic set of attendance patterns.

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. 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:**

On track

The programme is on track with 5 performance indicators well ahead of target and 3 on target.

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The Council is continuing to promote online services to residents resulting in an increase in the number of registrations for the Council's My Account. Ongoing decarbonisation work at Forde House has resulted in most staff working in a hybrid way with part of the week based in the office and part at home. The rollout of laptops and Microsoft 365 has enabled staff to work effectively in an agile way through use of the use of Teams and SharePoint.