

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

Date: 17 June 2025

Outside Organisation Updates from the Councils appointed representatives:

Brief:

The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5)

Update from: Cllr Palethorpe

Outside Organisation/Body: Newton Abbot Community Interest Company

Purpose of the Organisation:	<p>Purpose of Report Update on the financial and operational position of the Newton Abbot-based Community Interest Company (CIC), outlines the range of services delivered by the CIC, and highlights the pressing need for a replacement facility for the Buckland Community Centre. It also sets out ongoing discussions regarding future development opportunities within Buckland, an area of high deprivation.</p> <p>Background The CIC operates as a charitable community interest organisation delivering essential services across Newton Abbot, with a particular focus on Buckland. Like many similar organisations, the CIC is under considerable financial strain due to increased demand for support services, driven by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and wider economic conditions.</p> <p>The CIC plays a central role in community support, operating with limited funding while maintaining a wide range of projects and services for some of the most vulnerable residents in the district.</p>
Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:	As required and programmed by the CIC Trustees
Feedback:	<p>Current Position Financial Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The full funding outturn for 2024/25 has not yet been published. The CIC reported a 7.5% reduction in turnover in 2024 compared to 2023, equating to an approximate loss of £13,000. This reduction presents a significant financial challenge for a small organisation with limited reserves.

	<p>Community Services Delivered Despite these financial constraints, the CIC continues to deliver a wide range of services, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and operation of community facilities, notably the Buckland Centre and support for the Courtenay Centre. • Youth provision, including the -Youth Club (ages 6–11) and the Newton Abbot Youth Council (ages 11–15). • Community gardening initiatives across green spaces in the town, supported by volunteers. • The Buckland Hub Project, in partnership with Citizens Advice, providing advice and support on issues such as debt, housing, and benefits. • Support for displaced communities, including English language lessons and social integration support for Ukrainian and Afghan families. • Management of the Newton Abbot Community Fridge, redistributing surplus food to residents. • Delivery of local group activities to address social isolation and community wellbeing. <p>The organisation's contribution to social cohesion, community resilience, and targeted support is significant and ongoing.</p> <p>Future of the Buckland Centre Current Condition The Buckland Centre remains operational but is widely recognised to have outlived its practical life as a modern community asset. Its current condition and layout limit accessibility and restrict the delivery of expanding services to meet growing community demand.</p> <p>Development Opportunity There is strong local support and officer engagement in progressing a redevelopment scheme for the area surrounding the Buckland Centre. The proposals under consideration would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver much-needed one- and two-bedroom social housing, contributing to the council's housing objectives. • Include a new purpose-built community centre, designed to modern standards, enabling continued service delivery. <p>A critical principle underpinning any redevelopment is that the new community centre should be constructed before the existing building is decommissioned or demolished, ensuring continuity of provision for residents and minimising disruption to services.</p>
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>Annual report provides details of assistance and interaction with residents.</p>

Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:

Conclusion

The Newton Abbot CIC is a vital community partner. Despite financial pressures, it continues to deliver a wide range of services that support some of the most vulnerable individuals and families in the district, particularly in Buckland—a community recognised as being within the highest bands of deprivation nationally.

There is a clear and evidenced need for investment in community infrastructure in this area. The proposed redevelopment scheme offers a unique opportunity to improve both the quantity and quality of housing and community facilities in Buckland. The CIC's ongoing work and the future of the Buckland Centre should therefore remain a priority for Teignbridge District Council.

Considerations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to:

1. **Note** the financial and operational challenges currently facing the CIC.
2. **Recognise** the breadth and impact of services provided by the CIC across Newton Abbot.
3. **Support** ongoing discussions between officers and stakeholders regarding redevelopment options for the Buckland Centre and surrounding land.
4. **Endorse** the principle that a new community centre should be constructed and operational prior to the demolition of the current Buckland Centre.
5. **Request** that a detailed feasibility study be brought forward to the Executive in due course, including community consultation and partnership options.