

## **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