



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2019**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend. The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

- | | | |
|----|--|--------|
| 6 | Planning Committee - 30 September 2019 | 3 - 8 |
| 14 | Executive - 8 October 2019 | 9 - 18 |

Date: Monday 14 October 2019

Karime Hassan
Chief Executive &
Growth Director

NOTE: Members are asked to sign the Attendance Register

Office of Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support

Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN

Tel: 01392 277888

Fax: 01392 265593

www.exeter.gov.uk

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 30 September 2019

Present:-

Councillor Lyons (Chair)

Councillors Williams, Bialyk, Branston, Ghusain, Harvey, Mrs Henson, Mitchell, M, Morse and Sheldon

Apologies

Councillors Foale and Sutton

Also Present

Service Lead City Development, Principal Project Manager (Development) (MD), Project Officer (KF) and Democratic Services Officer

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MINUTES

Subject to the amendment of the first paragraph of the resolution to refuse in Min. No.56 to read "the proposal is contrary to Core Planning Policy Section 4, 11, 12 and 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Objective 9 and Policy CP4 and Cp17 of the Exeter Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Policies H5(a) and (b), C1, C2, C3, T3, DG1 (b) (c) (d) (f) (g) and (h) of the Exeter Local Plan First Review 1995-2011" the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made by Members.

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PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 19/0255/RES - HOME FARM, PHASE 2

The Principal Project Manager (Development) (MD) presented the application for 'reserved matters' approval for the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the remainder of the Home Farm site (Phase 2) comprising 90 dwellings (14 x 2bed, 30 x 3bed, 24 x 4bed and 22 x 5 bed). He reported that the house types comprised a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced dwellings with on-plot parking. The layout of the site was consistent in broad terms with the 'illustrative masterplan' submitted at outline stage. The new road into the site led to a number of cul-de-sacs branching off it on the northern part of the site, and then extending into the southern part of the site with dwellings on one side facing some of the open space before changing to have houses on both sides on the lower half of the site.

Councillor Wood, having given notice under Standing Order No. 44, spoke on the item. He raised the following points:-

- general concern regarding developments in Pinhoe and impact on transport network;
- question the density proposed in view of the challenging nature of the topography and do not feel that the relationship with the existing buildings and landscape is appropriate. There is an adverse impact on Home Farm and other listed buildings which are part of the local distinctiveness in Pinhoe and should be protected;

- this further development is likely to exacerbate flooding problems experienced in the area and there is concern that discussions are still on-going regarding mitigation measures to prevent flooding;
- the north west corner of the site allocated for public open space also incorporates a water management scheme which should be fenced off for safety reasons.

Councillor Oliver having given notice under Standing Order No. 44, spoke on the item. She raised the following points:-

- not opposed to further provision of homes but believe the scale proposed is excessive and the cumulative impact of this and other developments is detrimental to Pinhoe as a whole;
- original linear park landscape has been changed and the revised location of the play area is questioned as it is too far from houses in this development and can not be easily accessed from neighbouring developments;
- Home Farm is a valued part of the Pinhoe heritage and this development will have an adverse impact on its setting. There is also an adverse impact on the general contours of the area and the application should be deferred for further discussions with local residents;
- request a site visit to examine the concerns around flooding and the suggestion for improvements to gullies; and
- concerned that, as with other developments, non-compliance with conditions will occur.

Anthony Farnsworth spoke against the application. He raised the following points:-

- accept that the principle of development on this site has been settled. The developer has been contacted over questions of site layout, levels and treatment of boundaries as they impact upon Home Farm;
- the Planning Inspector's assurances on the impact of the development on the setting of the listed building were given before the detail of the actual layout and levels were known. The Inspector's findings refer to a different and more sympathetic layout. The current proposal does not attempt to assess the impact upon the listed building and its setting;
- in view of the scale, prominence, proximity and loss of visual permeability caused by aspects of the proposed development it is apparent that a significant detriment to the setting of the heritage asset will occur. In particular, the proximity and height of the proposed new buildings along the northern and eastern boundaries will overwhelm the architectural context of Home Farm;
- the requirement to assess the impact upon the setting of a heritage asset has not been covered;
- the proposal comprehensively severs the link between the asset and its setting and changes the character of the setting. The proposals are driven by the topography of the site and fail to be balanced by adequate consideration of setting. The developer's attempt to achieve compliance with highways requirements is at the expense of the setting of the heritage asset; and
- request deferral of the application to allow the development of a more sensitive proposal. The listed building has been here 400 years and the hill has not changed its contours. Adjustments to the proposal could achieve a more sensitive treatment of the setting of a heritage asset.

David Seaton spoke in support of the application. He raised the following points:-

- Burrington Estates, purchased the site after the appeal decision was issued

and are a regional housebuilder, not a plc, with a reputation for delivering high quality development. The site lies in two parts with the south western parcel in the process of being built out;

- the reserved matters submission was made on 19 February and since then changes made to minimise disruption to the community and proposals revised in response to comments including amended house types and ground levels to minimise unneighbourly impacts;
- the matter of impact upon Listed Buildings has been dealt with by the Inspector, and that decision must be respected.
- unfortunate that there remain some issues but every step taken in response to concerns but the objectors are seeking, to a great extent, to re-run matters that were resolved by the former appeal decision and that shouldn't be re-visited.;
- all reasonable changes that can be made to this application have already been made and, in order to minimise disruption to the local community, don't stop this development in its' tracks.

outline permission, impact on listed building; surface drainage issues and access established and agreed at appeal. Heritage Officer supportive of the proposal; and

He responded as follows to Members' queries.

- the open space area will be in a large, flat and rectangular area suitable for play activities, The alternative linear area through the middle of the site was not appropriate because of the levels. The play area is overlooked from the first floor of nearby houses; and
- house types are of a broadly similar mix to those in Phase I

The Service Lead City Development advised that a condition in respect of flood prevention measures had been agreed at outline approval and that details were subject to fine tuning by the County Council. He also stated that Historic England was not a statutory consultee on this type of application. He further advised, in general terms, on the monitoring and enforcement of conditions.

Because of the concerns expressed in respect of the impact on listed buildings and noting that Historic England was not a consultee, a Member moved deferral of the application to obtain an independent opinion from a heritage expert on the impact on listed buildings. The motion was seconded, put to the vote and lost.

The recommendation was for approval, subject to the conditions as set out in the report with the proposal that condition 5 be amended for photographic evidence to be provided of the condition of hedgerows prior to development and for these hedgerows to be protected during construction.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED that planning permission for 'reserved matters' approval for the layout, scale, appearance and landscaping for the remainder of the Home Farm site (Phase 2) comprising 90 dwellings is now sought for 90 dwellings (14 x 2bed, 30 x 3bed, 24 x 4bed and 22 x 5 bed) be **APPROVED**, subject to the following conditions:-

- 1) All conditions imposed on application number 16/1576/01 are hereby reiterated in as much as they relate to the development and have yet to be discharged in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
Reason: To safeguard the rights of control by the Local Planning Authority in respect of the reserved matters.

- 2) The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in strict accordance with the submitted details received by the Local Planning Authority on datedwg. nos. as modified by other conditions of this consent.
Reason: In order to ensure compliance with the approved drawings.
- 3) No individual dwelling comprised in the development hereby approved shall be occupied until secure cycle storage in the form of a shed within the garden as indicated on drawing no. BSL.01 Rev C has been provided and made available to serve that dwelling.
Reason - To ensure that facilities are provided for cycle storage to serve each property in the interests of encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport.
- 4) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, and any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification, no development of the types described in the following Classes of Schedule 2 shall be undertaken on any dwelling within the development without the express consent in writing of the Local Planning Authority other than those expressly authorised by this permission:-
Part 1, Class A extensions and alterations
Part 1, Classes B and C roof addition or alteration
Part 1, Class E swimming pools and buildings incidental to the enjoyment of the dwelling house
Part 1 Class F hard surfaces
Reason: In order to protect residential and visual amenity and to prevent overdevelopment.
- 5) Notwithstanding the details shown on drawing no. ML.01 Rev D all the existing hedgerows on site shall be maintained and managed both throughout the course of construction and the subsequent occupation of the dwellings in accordance with details that shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The submitted details will be expected to include photographic evidence of the hedgerows prior to the commencement of the development and demonstrate how the hedgerows will be managed to secure their long term retention and health, and how any additional boundary treatments alongside them will be erected so as not to compromise them in the future.
Reason: In the interests of the privacy of the occupants of both existing properties adjoining the site and the proposed properties, the visual amenities of the area and the ecological interest of the site.
- 6) No more than 50% of the dwellings hereby approved shall be occupied until the pedestrian/cycle connection to Broadparks Avenue has been approved in accordance with detailed plans which shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter the said pedestrian/cycle connection shall be retained for that purpose at all times.
Reason: To provide a safe and suitable access for pedestrians and cyclists in accordance with Paragraph 108 of the NPPF.
- 7) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into its intended use until the steps adjacent to plots 103/105 have been provided in accordance with details that shall previously have been submitted to and

approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To provide a safe and suitable access for pedestrians and cyclists in accordance with Paragraph 108 of the NPPF.

- 8) Notwithstanding the details indicated on the plans hereby approved a footway adjacent to plot 63 shall be constructed in accordance with details that shall previously have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the first occupation of plots 56 to 63.

Reason: To provide a safe and suitable access for pedestrians in accordance with Paragraph 108 of the NPPF.

66 **PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 19/0921/FUL - LAND AT MONMOUTH STREET, TOPSHAM**

The Project Officer (KF) presented the application for the use of agricultural land for keeping of horses and construction of two stables. He confirmed that the stables would be within one stable block

Margaret Seaton spoke against the application. She raised the following points:-

- speaking on behalf of some 55 people objecting to the proposed development as concerned that this is the first stage to housing, as happened with the recent boathouse to house in Topsham
- objecting also to disturbance to a wildlife haven and destroying an undeveloped natural landscape;
- will lead to an increase in vermin, flies and smell in a location adjacent to housing;
- the land was historically used as a market garden and not for livestock;
- the land contains a registered priority habitat, is within the lapwing and redshank consultation zones and is in close proximity to the Exe Estuary Ramsar Site Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area. It is also a wetland site of international importance;
- there is a risk that any stables erected are subsequently converted into dwelling houses via a change of use or used to facilitate the grant of permission for dwelling houses in the future;
- there would be a number of overriding objections to the grant of planning permission for the construction of dwelling houses on the application site following from the landscape setting policy and Local Plan for Exeter;
- object to the application for permission to construct stables; and
- if granted, it should be subject to a condition that the application site is not further developed into or used for the construction of dwelling houses.

In response to queries, Members were advised that the highway authority was satisfied with the access and that it was not appropriate to seek to limit the number of horses or condition the arrangements in respect of water supply. Given the main concern of objectors that the proposal could be a precursor for future housing, Members acknowledged that any such proposal was subject to the consideration of applications by this Committee and that this site in any case was not considered appropriate for housing.

The recommendation was for approval, subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

The recommendation was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED that the use of agricultural land for keeping of horses and construction of two stables be **APPROVED**, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.
Reason: To ensure compliance with sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 2) The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in strict accordance with the submitted details received by the Local Planning Authority on 08 July 2019 (including dwgs. LOCATION PLAN 19-013 1-0001 REVISION C and PROPOSED 19-013 0-0001 REVISION A) and 10 September 2019 as modified by other conditions of this consent.
Reason: In order to ensure compliance with the approved drawings.
- 3) The development hereby approved shall be carried out and managed strictly in accordance with the approved measures and provisions of the Ecological Report
Reason: In the interests of protecting and improving existing, and creating new wildlife habitats in the area in compliance with Policy LS4.

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LIST OF DECISIONS MADE AND WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS

The report of the Service Lead City Development was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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APPEALS REPORT

The schedule of appeal decisions and appeals lodged was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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SITE INSPECTION PARTY

RESOLVED that the next Site Inspection Party will be held on Tuesday 15 October 2019 at 9.30 a.m. The Councillors attending will be Ghusain, Harvey and Mrs Henson.

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UPDATE SHEET

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.00 pm)

Chair

EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 8 October 2019

Present:

Councillor Bialyk (Chair)
Councillors Foale, Ghusain, Harvey, Morse, Pearson and Wright

Councillors in attendance under Standing Order 44

Councillor D Moore speaking on items 5, 7 and 13 (minutes 92, 94 and 100 below)
Councillor Hannaford speaking on item 13 (minutes 100 below)

Apologies:

Councillors Sutton, Leadbetter and Mitchell, K

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Director (BA), Director (DB), Director (J-PH), Chief Finance Officer, City Solicitor & Head of HR, Cleansing & Fleet Manager, Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support and Democratic Services Officer (MD)

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MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2019, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

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COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Executive received the report on the Council House Building Programme which informed Members that following the lifting of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap, an opportunity had arisen to increase the number of properties held within the Housing Revenue Account to help meet the City's' housing needs. The programme included the acquisition of properties in a scheme being developed by Exeter City Living, with three additional schemes to deliver 100 new homes by 2022.

Particular reference was made to the sites identified for use for Council Housing and that it was proposed that 500 new homes could be developed over a 10 year period, which would be funded through HRA borrowing. A housing needs and viability survey on Council stock would be undertaken and work to address retrofitting low energy properties was also underway.

Councillor D Moore, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item, commenting on the likely impact the Exeter City Living business plan would have by moving sites to the HRA and the proportion of the £18 million that would be funded from borrowing.

During discussion, Members welcomed the scheme and the following points were raised:-

- Working with Exeter City Living to build housing and borrowing through HRA was beneficial in continuing to develop new properties;
- The right to buy scheme had led to a loss of 95% of houses to private landowners;
- The development of 100 new homes was considered to be a good start and would increase Council stock, with more work and consultations being undertaken, with levels of borrowing being monitored.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) Note the sites referred to in the report presented to the meeting, together with the timescales for delivery and the costs to complete each of the schemes;
- (2) Approve a budget totalling £18million to deliver the sites detailed in this Report, which will deliver 100 new homes into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA); and
- (3) Note that approval of future years' development activity will be via an Annual Council House Building Development Plan and the annual capital programme budget report.

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OPTIONS FOR INVESTMENT IN EXETER KERB SIDE RECYCLING SERVICE

The Executive considered a report, which had already been presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2019 (Min. No. 48 refers) setting out investment options for the Council's Materials Reclamation Facility (MRF) and kerbside recycling service. The scheme would ensure that food waste and glass was collected as part of the kerbside recycling service, meeting the expectations of both the Government and City residents, whilst reducing carbon emissions.

Particular reference was made to the ongoing Government consultation on a new waste strategy and its findings would be included in the scheme. Emphasis on the work undertaken by officers was made and that Members had been given the opportunity to inspect one of the potential new recycling vehicles and consider potential issues before the fleet was rolled out. Other authorities had also been consulted to learn from their experiences of adopting a similar style service.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The new recycling vehicles contained food waste storage, which during inspection contained four day old waste, with very little odour;
- The work for the recycling scheme had faced several obstacles, but challenges had been overcome and the work of all staff involved was acknowledged;
- The work of the MRF team had been recognised at the recent staff awards;
- The Ocean Recovery Project (a partnership between Keep Britain Tidy, Exeter City Council and Odyssey Innovations) had produced a series of kayaks using recycled plastics and contributed to the building of the Shangri-La stage from entirely recycled marine plastic at the Glastonbury Festival, earlier this year;
- Following the roll out of the new recycling bins, the previous bins could be recycled into the Council's new bins or offered to allotment holders for storing water and this would be suggested to the Allotment Forum.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:-

- (1) The adoption of Option 4 (weekly kerbside-sort recycling collection, incorporating glass and food waste collection, with three weekly rubbish collection) and associated investment in the Materials Reclamations Facility; and
- (2) To implement the chosen service Option 4, Council approve budgets of:-
 - £200,000 is set aside from General Fund revenue reserves to provide the project management and assistance with roll out;
 - A capital budget of £2,105,000 is provided for the improved recycling containers; and
 - A capital budget of £1,500,000 to enhance the MRF.

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CARBON 2030 ROADMAP

The Executive considered the report on the Carbon 2030 Roadmap which sought funding to support the delivery of a series of events and engagement activities to address the challenges and provide solutions, ensuring that the Council could deliver its aspiration to become carbon neutral by 2030. There had been a vast amount of progress made, but the next step would be to consult and engage with organisations, communities and individuals across the city to ensure the best chance of success to achieve this goal.

Particular reference was made for additional funding to support Exeter City Council in producing activities and meaningful engagement across the city to address the challenges and aspirations for achieving the carbon neutral goal. The Council could not achieve this goal on its own and the more engagement it received the better the chance of success.

Councillor D Moore, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. She wanted to ensure that the purpose of the engagement was explained to participants, maximising participation in the consultation and she also referred to the potential risk of Exeter City Futures CIC or other partners not supporting the road map.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The events and engagement activities would include highlighting the realities of the climate change emergency to a wider audience, looking at the work undertaken in other areas and receiving ideas through the consultation;
- The need to look at the city infrastructure and build more cycling routes to tackle congestion issues;
- Following the issue of the first tenders the consultation could also look at previous steps taken to support the roadmap;
- The subject of climate change was important, and the Council was working to be carbon neutral, ahead of the 2030 deadline. More work was still required to effect change in the city and getting additional information, promoting active lifestyles and green travel from across the city was vital.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve a budget of up to £30,000 for the project to be completed.

ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Executive considered a report, which had already been presented to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2019 (Min. No. 35 refers) and set out the Council's activities and performance in relation to health and safety at work during 2018. Particular reference was made to the 50% reduction of reportable accidents since 2017. During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- There had been a greater emphasis on health and safety made between 2017 and 2018, with the inclusion of the Health and Safety Committee and the focus on job safety;
- Staff going through the agile and flexible working scheme were being supported through workshops and managers working to reduce potential of work place stress. Although there was no confirmed connection to work place stress from the agile and flexible working, work place stress had increased. The Chief Finance Officer had detailed information which would be provided to Members.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1)The Executive notes the content of the Annual Health and Safety report; and
- (2)The Chief Executive & Growth Director and the Leader of the Council be named as the joint owners of the report.

OVERVIEW OF THE GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET

The Executive considered a report, which had already been presented to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2019 (Min. No. 32 refers) which advised Members of the overall projected financial position of the General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2019/20 financial year after three months.

Particular reference was made on the budget being on target, with no significant issues to report during the first quarter. Reference was made to the request for the supplementary budget of £493,930, which £78,500 would be financed General Fund working balance and the remainder financed from the Neighbourhood CIL and earmarked reserves.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:-

- (1)The General Fund forecast financial position for the 2019/20 financial year;
- (2)The supplementary budgets of £493,930 and budget virements as detailed in paragraph 9.10 of the report presented to the meeting;
- (3)The outstanding Sundry Debt position as at June 2019;
- (4)The creditors' payments performance;
- (5)Consideration to be made in relation to paragraph 9.7 of the report, subject to consultation with Human Resources and the Trade Union; and
- (6)To remove the shop attached to the Guildhall in relation to paragraph 9.5 of the report.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL MONITORING

The Executive considered a report, which had already been presented to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2019 (Min. No. 33 refers) which

reported on the current position of the Council's revised annual capital programme and the expected level of deferred expenditure into future years.

Particular reference was made to the £42.5 million budget of the General Fund Capital Programme, of which, £5.5million had been spent in first quarter. Although significant projects were being delivered there was a further funding request for £600,000 for the agile and flexible working programme, funded from the Transformation fund, which required Council approval.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:-

(1)The revision of the annual capital programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in paragraph 9.1 and Appendix 1 of the report presented to the meeting; and

(2)The additional budget request detailed in paragraph 9.7 of the report.

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HRA BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 1

The Executive considered a report, which had already been presented to People Scrutiny Committee on 5 September 2019 (Min. No. 32 refers) and to Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee on 26 September 2019 (Min. No. 34 refers). The report advised Members of the overall financial position of the HRA Revenue and Capital Budgets for the 2019/20 financial year after three months.

Particular reference was made to the revenue position and HRA Capital Programme which were on target for the first quarter. The only significant variances were the increase to the capital charges and that money had been set aside for spending as Capital expenditure for enhancing existing properties. There was an additional request for tree planting, following the appointment of a tree officer in the HRA and work was being undertaken with public realm to action this.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:-

- (1) The HRA forecast financial position for 2019/20 financial year;
- (2) The revision of the HRA Capital Programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in Appendix 4 of the report presented to the meeting; and
- (3) The HRA Budget recognise the importance of re-planting trees and an allocation for tree planting be included in the budget.

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STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The Executive considered the report which informed that the last statutory review in the City had been undertaken in 2014 and it was a statutory requirement to review the polling districts and places every four years ensuring the population density across city corresponded with the number of available polling areas and that there was enough polling stations available.

Particular reference was made to the consultation undertaken, which had received two responses as detailed in the report. Although the use of schools' for polling stations was avoided if possible, if there were no alternative locations available, then the use of schools could not be avoided. It was noted that it was the schools decision to close on polling day, however 85% of schools chose to remain open.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) Adopt the proposals as set out at paragraphs 8.4 – 8.13 of the report presented to the meeting, for implementation from a revised register of electors to be published on 1 December 2019;
- (2) Formally publish its final report on the Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Places within the Exeter Constituency by 1 November 2019, as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983); and
- (3) Complete a further review by 31 January 2025, as required by the RPA1983; or as necessary, in relation to the 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

100

UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive considered the report on the review of the Council's Governance Arrangements, which set out the recommendations from the cross party Working Group established at the Executive Committee meeting in June 2019 (Min. No. 56 refers). The cross party working group had proposed changes to the Constitution and the Committee process, as outlined in the report. The changes would make improvements to and accelerate the decision making process, enhance transparency and encourage more public engagement and participation at committee meetings.

Councillor D Moore, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. She enquired about the effectiveness of the new governance arrangements in holding the Executive to account, partner bodies for scrutiny and the 50 word limitation for questions.

Councillor R Hannaford, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item as the Chair of the Governance Review Group. Reference was made to the changes to Executive Committee becoming a one party committee but allowed leaders from opposition groups to speak, enabling a more focussed approach to Scrutiny arrangements and bringing value to the Council. The new Scrutiny arrangements would ensure that the role of Deputy Chair would be more active and allow for policies to be reviewed and scrutinised and making processes more robust. Particular reference was made to the improvements to public engagement which would be reviewed again in six months. He highlighted that the process would be Member led and improve the balance between Members and the Council.

During the discussion, the following points were raised:-

- The Executive would move to a single party committee with up to 10 Members;
- All reports would go directly to the Executive, removing the pre scrutiny system;
- The changes would enhance public engagement at meetings;
- The Independent Remuneration Panel had convened and made recommendations which were included in the recommendations to Council;
- The new arrangements would come into effect from 16 October 2019, and would be reviewed again in September 2020;
- The agreed budget for additional responsibility allowance was £14,000;
- A draft revised calendar of meetings would be provided to Members ahead of the Council meeting on 15 October 2019;
- Questions within 50 words was normal procedure and consistent with processes at other local authorities. The process would be supportive and inclusive for all members of the public.

The Leader of the Council commented on the important work that had been undertaken, noting the Council would want to help and support the public and

prevent any form of exclusion. He expressed his thanks for the support from group leaders to help ensure the Council continued to be a professional and well run authority.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the following changes to Exeter City Council's constitution with effect from the 16 October 2019:-

In relation to the Executive Council to agree:

- (1) The deletion of the Exeter convention requiring the Leader to allocate a seat on the Executive to a member from each political group;
- (2) That the opposition group leaders shall not be required to give notice under Standing Order 44 to speak on any item on the Executive Agenda;

In relation to the Council's Scrutiny arrangements, Council to agree:

- (3) The reduction to the number of scrutiny committees from three in number to two to be known as Strategic Scrutiny Committee and Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee;
- (4) To agree the terms of reference for these two Scrutiny Committees as set out in the appendix attached to the report presented to the meeting;
- (5) To increase the membership of both scrutiny committees from 10 to 14 members;
- (6) For the avoidance of doubt, members of the Executive may not serve on either the Scrutiny Committees or the Scrutiny Programme Board;
- (7) To set up a Scrutiny Programme Board ("SPB") to be made up of one member appointed by the Leader together with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of each of the two Scrutiny Committees;
- (8) To agree the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Programme Board as set out in the appendix to the report;
- (9) To cease the current practice of pre-scrutinising reports destined for the Executive;

In relation to enhancing public participation at Council meetings, Council agrees

- (10) To encourage public participation in city council meetings by agreeing public questions at Council meetings, the Executive and Scrutiny Committees as set out in the terms of reference attached In the Appendix to this report;
- (11) For the avoidance of doubt members of the public may not ask questions at Annual Council or special meetings;
- (12) The Monitoring officer be authorised to amend Exeter City Council's constitution to give effect to these recommendations.

In relation to Members allowances as a result of these changes, following consideration from the Independent Remuneration Panel, the Council agrees that:

- (13) A new allowance be payable to Opposition Group Leaders as follows:-
 - A Group of two to receive an allowance equivalent to 20% of the basic allowance;
 - A Group of between three and five to receive an allowance equivalent to 50% of the basic allowance; and

- A Group of six or more, to receive an allowance equivalent to 60% of the basic allowance;
- (14) The Leader of the largest political group will be appointed as the Leader of the Council;
 - (15) The Deputy Chairs of the two Scrutiny Committees and of the Planning Committee, to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance equivalent to 50% of the basic allowance;
 - (16) To note that if all of the posts eligible for the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) were paid to individuals, then this would amount to a total of 23 SRAs being payable, which is above the 50% threshold as being good practice. A review of the SRA and the operation of the new governance system, to be undertaken in September 2020, and include interviews with a cross-section of councillors and SRA recipients;
 - (17) To welcome the adoption of the parental leave scheme;
 - (18) That as a consequence of the above, to agree a budget of up to £14,000 for the additional responsibility allowances created as a result of these changes.

In the event that recommendations above are agreed, that Council agrees;

- (19) The appointment of 14 members to each of the two Scrutiny Committees;
- (20) The appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair for the Strategic Scrutiny Committee;
- (21) The Appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair for the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee;
- (22) The appointment of Members to the Scrutiny Programme Board; and
- (23) The appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board.

101

HOTSW JOINT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Executive considered the report on the Heart of the South West (HoTSW) Joint Committee Governance arrangements which updated Members on the Joint Committee's governance arrangements and budgetary position for 2019/20. The Joint Committee had undertaken a review to update its governance arrangements, for the first time, since it was established in 2018 and in response to Government policy changes and local circumstances.

Particular reference was made to the proposal outlined in the report which showed the status of the joint committee and the local enterprise partnership submission to the Whitehall Local Investor Strategy. If successful it would put Councils in a better position to move projects forward and respond to Government proposals. There would also be an increase to the costs of Membership of the joint committee, increasing Exeter City Councils contribution to £2,800 which would be shown in this year's budget.

RESOLVED that Members:-

- (1) Approve the proposed amendments to the Joint Committee's list of functions; and
- (2) Note the updated budget position for 2019/20.

102

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AMENDMENT

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report which sought Member approval to amend the Treasury Management Strategy to increase the monetary limit that can be invested in the money market funds from £5 million each to £10 million each and to increase the money that can be invested in Lower Tier Local Authorities from £3 million to £5million.

Particular reference was made to the decision to borrow £49.45 million from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB), to take advantage of the current low borrowing rates. The borrowed money would be invested in the short term and that it had been proposed that the Treasury Management Strategy required amending.

During the discussion, it was explained that an Upper Tier authority was a Unitary or County Council, which included social care where a Lower Tier was District or City Council level.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the revision of the Treasury Management Strategy.

103

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 - EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

104

RAMM LIFT - PART 2

The Executive considered the report for additional funding for the Queen Street lift at Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM), following a recent procurement process. The replacement of the lift would support residents with mobility issues and for pushchairs to gain access to the museum.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the budget as indicated at the meeting for the project to be completed. The budget and associated work will be overseen by the Corporate Property Assets team.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.00 pm)

Chair

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on

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