

**Executive**

**Statement of Decisions**

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 26 January 2016. Decisions made by the Executive will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Sarah Selway, Democratic Services (Committees) Manager on 01392 265275 or email [sarah.selway@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.selway@exeter.gov.uk)

**Development of Council's Homelessness Strategy - Draft for Consultation**

<b>Agreed</b>	<p>That:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the content and aims of the draft Homelessness Strategy 2016 – 2021 as a draft for Consultation; and</li> <li>(2) a public consultation be undertaken to gain feedback from stakeholders and other interested parties.</li> </ul>
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	<p>The strategy has been developed follow a series of Task and Finish Group meetings highlighting different issues which impact homelessness. There is a legal requirement to consult partners about our plans, which is essential as they are key components in our successful delivery.</p>

**Housing Rents and Service Charges 2016/17**

<b>Agreed</b>	<p>That:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) rents of Council dwellings are reduced by 1% from 1 April 2016;</li> <li>(2) garage rents remain at their existing levels from 1 April 2016; and</li> <li>(3) service charges remain at their existing levels, with the exception of charges specified below from 1 April 2016 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 1.2% increase in respect of cleaning communal areas in line with anticipated rises in cleaning contract costs;</li> <li>(b) 3.5% increase in respect of fire alarm testing in line with rises in maintenance and monitoring contract costs; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	(c) 5% increase in respect of repair costs in line with Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) rates.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

### Annual Review of Support for Small Businesses

<b>Agreed</b>	That:-  (1) continuing to fund business support for embryonic, new and existing businesses in providing opportunities for individuals to secure the means of improving their financial position and promoting job creation, at a cost of £25,000, be supported; and  (2) following an advertisement for the continued delivery of services outlined in this report under the banner of Exeter Business Support with £25,000 secured from each of the neighbouring local authority areas of East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge to match that of the Exeter Contribution also of £25,000, officers within Economy & Tourism be authorised to negotiate a contract for £100,000 for 2016/17.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

### Rugby World Cup 2015

<b>Agreed</b>	That:-  (1) the wide-ranging benefits resulting from the tournament including those anticipated from the programme of legacy activities in contributing to the well-being of residents and the positive profile of the city, be welcomed; and  (2) appreciation be expressed to all the agencies and especially the volunteers and staff for all their commitment and hard work to make the event such a success.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

### RAMM Digital Media Road Map and Progress

<b>Agreed</b>	That:-  (1) the RAMM digital road map as set out in the report as extant at December 2015, be implemented;  (2) the Museum Manager be given delegated authority to apply any necessary adjustments to the road map as necessitated by changes in resources or funding from external factors;
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	<p>(3) a follow up report is produced for Members to present the results and findings around the implementation of the road map with regular reporting to ACE and the Council to capture changes to existing digital products; and</p> <p>(4) outcomes of the work that deliver both Exeter City Council objectives and those of its partner, Arts Council England, be noted.</p>
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

### 2016/17 Council Tax Base and NNDR1

<b>Agreed</b>	<p>That:-</p> <p>(1) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012, the amount calculated by Exeter City Council as its tax base for the year 2016/17 shall be 35,429; and</p> <p>(2) responsibility to approve the Council's NNDR1 return by 31 January 2016 be delegated to the Assistant Director Finance (Section 151 Officer).</p>
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	To ensure that the Council meets its statutory deadline for notifying Precepting Authorities and the Government by 31 January 2016.

### Debt Collection Policy in respect of Council Tax Recovery, Rent and Former Tenancy Arrears Recovery, Housing Benefit Overpayment Recovery and Rechargeable Repairs Recovery

<b>Agreed</b>	That it is recommended that Council approval the Debit Collection Policy.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	Ensuring that the Council have a clear Policy for the way that its will collect debt owed to the Council helps to ensure that the approach is transparent, fair and applied with consistency. It will also minimise the risk of legal challenge to our recovery action.

### Council Tax Penalty Policy

<b>Agreed</b>	That it is recommended that Council approval the Council Tax Penalty Policy.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

## Staffing within the Housing Development Team

<b>Agreed</b>	That it is recommended that Council approve an increase in the establishment of the Housing Development Team; the contract term in accordance with the legal agreement with Mid Devon District Council.
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

## Delegated Decision - Waiver of Contract Regulations

<b>Agreed</b>	The Delegated Decision – Waiver of Contract Regulations was noted
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## Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 - Exclusion of Press and Public

<b>Agreed</b>	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.
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## Future of Older Persons' Housing Services

<b>Agreed</b>	<p>That:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) no major changes to be made to the provision of the warden service in 2016/17. The HRA will continue to fund both the warden service and the emergency alarm system as it has been doing this year. The cost will not exceed £131,000 which includes £51,000 for supporting the emergency alarms. These arrangements will apply to existing tenants only;</li><li>(2) new tenancies will only be offered to people over 60 years old who will not receive the warden service;</li><li>(3) new tenants will have the use of a dispersed emergency alarm (paid for by themselves and provided through Home Call). Any hard-wired alarm will be removed prior to their moving in;</li><li>(4) the contract for the maintenance of the current hard-wired system will be extended from April 2016 to March 2017. This will cost no more than £20,000 and is necessary to maintain the system; and</li><li>(5) the part-time Housing Community Partnerships Officer will start to explore initiatives for combating loneliness and isolation among older residents, with particular emphasis on social activities in the communal rooms which are currently under-utilised, with a view to moving to an alternative model of service delivery from 1 April 2017, subject to further consideration and approval by Members.</li></ol>
<b>Reason for Decision:</b>	As set out in the report.

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**Exeter Heart of Devon Growth Board Minutes - 17 December 2015**

<b>Agreed</b>	the minutes of the Exeter Heart of Devon Growth Board meeting held on 17 December 2015 be noted.
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**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 23 February 2016.**