

EXECUTIVE

Date: Tuesday 11 September 2018
Time: 5.30 pm
Venue: Rennes Room - Civic Centre

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business.

If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Manager (Committees) on 01392 265275.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Membership -

Councillors Edwards (Chair), Bialyk, Denham, Harvey, Leadbetter, Morse, Packham, Pearson and Sutton

Agenda

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

1 **Apologies**

To receive apologies for absence from Committee members.

2 **Minutes**

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2018.

(Pages 5 -
16)

3 **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 item 8 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

5 **Urgent Decision - Material Reclamation Facility**

To note the Urgent Decision to allocate £15,000 of capital funding to install four CCTV cameras and an intruder alarm in the Material Reclamation Facility (MRF) building. The work is urgently required to improve fire prevention measures and to comply with the conditions of the Council's operating permit.

This decision was made by the Director (DB) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Place and Commercialisation. The Chair of Place Scrutiny has agreed that this is an Urgent Decision.

6 **Greater Exeter Strategic Plan Update**

To consider the report of the City Development Manager. (Pages 17 - 34)

7 **Freedom of the City**

To consider the report of the Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support. (Pages 35 - 40)

Part II: Item suggested for discussion with the press and public excluded

No representations have been received in respect of the following items in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

8 **Materials Reclamation Facility Investment**

To consider the report of the Cleaning & Fleet Manager. (Pages 41 - 56)

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Executive will be held on **Tuesday 9 October 2018** at 5.30 pm in the Civic Centre.

A statement of the executive decisions taken at this meeting will be produced and published on the Council website as soon as reasonably practicable.

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EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 10 July 2018

Present:

Councillor Edwards (Chair)

Councillors Bialyk, Denham, Harvey, Leadbetter, Morse, Packham, Pearson and Sutton

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Director (BA), City Solicitor & Head of HR, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Interim Corporate Manager - Commercial and Procurement, Service Manager, Community Safety & Enforcement, Housing Enabling Officer and Democratic Services Manager

65

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

66

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

67

URGENT DECISION - LIVESTOCK MARKET DRAINAGE AND REPLACEMENT TOILET FACILITIES

The Chief Finance Officer advised Members on the urgent decision taken for the installation of drainage and replacement toilet facilities at the Livestock Market. The issue was raised as an emergency decision due to both the Health and Safety and operational impact of the matter. The budget for the installation of the replacement systems was £200,000. The decision had been made by the City Surveyor in consultation with the Leader, Place Scrutiny Committee Chair, the Chief Executive and Growth Director and the Chief Finance Officer.

RESOLVED that the urgent decision be noted.

68

OVERVIEW OF REVENUE BUDGET

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report advising Members of the overall financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2017/18 financial year and to seek approval for the General Fund working balance, HRA working balance, a number of supplementary budgets and the creation of new earmarked reserves.

The Chief Finance Officer advised Members that the General Fund currently had an underspend of £964,022 of which £425,000 was due to the delay in finalising the arrangements for the transfer of management of Exeter's valley parks to the Devon

Wildlife Trust. The HRA had an underspend of £4,132,405 which was mainly due to the delay in delivering the programme of works.

Members were advised of the five new earmarked reserves being proposed and that there were a number of supplementary budgets totalling £1,880,480, of which £335,000 related to the HRA that had been requested as part of the 2018/19 budget.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approves the net transfer of £2,419,076 from Earmarked Reserves as detailed in paragraph 8.3.6 of the report presented to the meeting;
- (2) approves supplementary budgets of £1,880,480 as detailed in paragraph 8.3.8 of the report presented to the meeting;
- (3) notes Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2018;
- (4) notes the Council Tax account and collection rate;
- (5) notes the outstanding sundry debt, aged debt analysis and debt write-off figures;
- (6) notes the creditor payments performance;
- (7) taking into account the overall financial position of the Council, approves the General Fund working balance at 31 March 2018 at £4,692,404; and
- (8) approves the Housing Revenue Account working balance at 31 March 2018 at £10,212,244 and approves the Council Own Build working balance at £256,943.

69

CAPITAL MONITORING 2017/18 AND REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19 AND FUTURE YEARS

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report advising Members of the overall financial performance of the Council for the 2017/18 financial year in respect of the annual capital programme and sought approval of the 2018/19 revised capital programme, including commitments carried forward from 2017/18.

Members were advised that the expenditure in 2017/18 amounted to £10,331,102 which represented 79.6% of the revised Capital Programme. There was a further funding request for an additional budget of £40,000 for the replacement of lifts at Mary Arches Street Car Park. This was due to an increase in costs following advice from a specialist consultant that a more robust solution was needed.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the:-

- (1) overall financial position for the 2017/18 Annual Capital Programme; and

- (2) amendments and further funding request to the Council's annual capital programme for 2018/19.

70

TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2017/18

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the current Treasury Management performance for the 2017/18 financial year and the position regarding investments and borrowings at 31 March 2018. The report was a statutory requirement and was for information only with no key decisions required. Members were advised that the net interest was £82,031 and currently the Council had no longer term borrowing in respect of the General Fund.

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted a fixed term deposit relating to Guildford Borough Council which had exceeded the level set out in the Treasury Management Strategy made available to a lower tier authority. He advised Members that he considered this to be a low risk investment for the Council and no further action would be taken to recover the funds early, although procedures had been put in place to ensure such actions would not be repeated.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the content of this report.

71

EXETER CITY GROUP LTD BUSINESS CASE (AUGUST 2018 TO MARCH 2019)

The Chief Executive & Growth Director confirmed that he was no longer a named Director for the Development Company.

The Chief Executive & Growth Director presented the report proposing the establishment of a group of wholly-owned Council companies (ECG). The Council owned its own housing stock but the Housing Revenue Account was very limited as to what it could build and the aspiration of the ECG was to build high quality affordable and social housing in the city. The business case set out how the ECG would operate and that it would be financed by the City Council. A Director, currently David Bartram, was proposed to be the Council's shareholder representative on the Board.

Members were advised of a proposed additional recommendation:-

'That Members agree that the Vaughan Road development identified for year two of the Development Company's operation will go forward, subject to the remaining assurance work. This is in order to ensure that the Housing Revenue Account is not disadvantaged and that the Development Company is able to deliver on Members' expectations on Affordable Housing.'

In response to a Member's question, the Chief Finance Officer clarified that the Council would borrow the required £4.25 million identified in the business case from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) at a rate of 2.5% and then lend to the company at the higher rate of 4.86%, therefore giving the Council a net interest rate of 2.3% on the loan. The reason for this was because the Council was constrained by state aid rules.

Members were advised that the Council's shareholder representative would liaise with the Steering Group to ensure the Council's interest for retaining the necessary control over the ECG and to ensure that it had autonomy to carry out the proposed actions in the Year One business case.

The Leader advised of the changes and the additional recommendation proposed by Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee. He stated that before the report was considered by Council on 24 July 2018, he would meet with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Corporate Services Scrutiny to clarify the Committee's proposed changes to recommendation (7).

In response to a Member, it was clarified that the proposed condition regarding the development of a Registered Provider of Social Housing (RP) would not preclude the Housing Revenue Account from building homes.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing Revenue Account supported this exciting proposal that would bring forward affordable and social housing for the city.

Members welcomed the proposal which would support the building of good quality affordable homes for the residents of Exeter.

The Leader proposed the recommendation that was agreed by Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, with the amendment to recommendation (7) to replace the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture with Portfolio Holder for People and clarification with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee regarding Members to be consulted with and the additional recommendation as advised by the Chief Executive & Growth Director.

This was agreed by the Executive.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018. A revised recommendation had been supported at the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approves the establishment of Exeter City Group Ltd and Exeter City Living Ltd;
- (2) notes that whilst Exeter City Homes Ltd and Exeter City Living Property Ltd have already been registered at Companies House, no approval was being sought for the Companies' activities as their financial impact on the Council had not yet been assessed;
- (3) the Year One Business Case at Appendix A of the report presented at the meeting be implemented by Exeter City Living Ltd for the period August 2018 to the end of March 2019;
- (4) develop a Registered Provider of Social Housing (RP) to take ownership of any social housing created as a result of Exeter City Living Ltd works, subject to a satisfactory business case demonstrating the RP's viability being approved by the Council. The Registered Provider would be established and functional in advance of the availability of the social housing. The two work streams to be linked to ensure appropriate staging would coincide;
- (5) approves a loan of £4.35 million to Exeter City Living Ltd in order to implement and complete the year one Business Case set out in Appendix A of the report presented at the meeting;

- (6) approves the Management Agreement set out in Appendix B of the report presented at the meeting;
- (7) delegate authority to the relevant Director (currently David Bartram) to agree any necessary amendments to the Management Agreement in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Chief Finance Officer and the appropriate three Portfolio Holders (currently the Portfolio Holder for Place and Commercialisation; the Portfolio Holder for People and the Portfolio Holder Housing Revenue Account) and three Members of Scrutiny as appropriate – subject to clarification with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Corporate Services Scrutiny;
- (8) approve the Articles of Association for Exeter City Group Ltd and its subsidiary companies as set out in Appendix C of the report presented at the meeting;
- (9) delegated authority be given to the City Solicitor and Head of Human Resources in consultation with the City Surveyor to sell at open market value any council owned land identified in the Year One Business Case; and
- (10) delegated authority be given to the appropriate Director (currently David Bartram) to act in the role of Shareholder Representative and to undertake the activities and decisions as identified in the Shareholder Representative Delegated Powers Document (Appendix D, of the report presented at the meeting), including the ability to financially commit up to £499,999 funding for use by Exeter City Living Ltd for matters not in the Year One Business Case (August 2018 – end March 2019); and
- (11) agree that the Vaughan Road development identified for year two of the Development Company's operation be brought forward to year one, subject to the remaining assurance work. This is in order to ensure that the Housing Revenue Account is not disadvantaged and that the Development Company is able to deliver on Members' expectations on Affordable Housing.

72

UPDATING THE COUNCIL'S PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT PROCEDURES

The Corporate Manager – Commercial and Procurement presented the report updating Members on the review of the current “Procurement and Contracts Regulations, which set out how the Council’s undertakes its procurement activities and contracts with third party suppliers, and proposing new procedures titled “Procurement and Contract Procedures (July 2018)” for Members to approve.

Members were advised that the implementation of new Procedures was a major step on the journey towards ensuring that the procurement process was transparent and making the necessary improvements. It was important to recognise that the implementation of updated Procedures was just one part of the further progress required. Further activity would be necessary to help embed the positive change in how the Council undertook procurement which would include transforming supporting processes and systems as well as strengthening the resource capacity to support effective procurement across the Council.

The Corporate Manager – Commercial and Procurement brought to Members attention the recommendation that the Section 151 Officer be granted delegated

authority to sign off any final amendments in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Support Services. Any amendments would be reported back to Members.

The Portfolio Holder for Support Services supported the proposal which provided clarity and accountability and welcomed self-delivery as the first model for procurement of Council's services and goods.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approves substituting the current "Contracts and Procedures Regulations – May 2017" with the new "Procurement and Contract Procedures (July 2018)" and supporting Procedural Notes;
- (2) agrees that, whilst the Procedures (July 2018) as set out in the circulated report be adopted with immediate effect, where necessary, the current "Regulations" (May 2017) may apply until 1 June 2019 to afford the necessary time to fully transition to the new Procedures; and
- (3) grant delegated authority to the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Support Services to sign off any amendments (e.g. Procedural Note for Evaluation). Any updates to be reported back to Members as part of the wider update on progress.

73

REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND LICENSING STATUTORY SERVICE PLAN 2018/19

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented the report seeking approval for the adoption of the Environmental Health and Licensing Statutory Service Plan 2018/19 which set out the Council's regulatory function in respect of food safety, health and safety, licensing, environmental permitting and other statutory functions over the forthcoming year.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager highlighted some of the challenges and achievements of the service during 2017/18:-

- Food business inspections - a target of 96% achieved.
- 4,465 requests for the service including food safety, health and safety regulation, infectious disease control, air quality, environmental permitting, contaminated land, licensing and antisocial behaviours, statutory nuisance as well as staff supporting health promotion and training activities.
- 342 antisocial behaviour cases, with a further 59 more complex cases which were all very time consuming for the service.
- good levels of compliance with regards to CCTV coverage which became mandatory in all Exeter Hackney Carriage vehicles.

The Leader welcomed the work that the Council was undertaking in this area in particular the CCTV installation in Exeter Hackney Carriage vehicles.

In response to Member's questions, the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager commented that the working relationships with partner agencies such as the Police and Fire Authorities and the voluntary sector had improved considerably over the past three years. The food business premises were inspected anything between six months and three years depending on their rating and if there were any reports to the Council.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves:-

- (1) the Statutory Service Plan 2018/19; and
- (2) the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager be authorised to change the Statutory Service Plan in the light of centrally issued guidance and/or to meet operational needs.

74

EXETER CITY CLEAR STREETS CHARTER

The Service Manager Community Safety and Enforcement presented the report on introducing the Clear Streets Charter for Exeter. The Charter sets out how Exeter City Council and Devon County Council proposed to work together to ensure that the built environment of the City, was as safe and obstacle free as possible.

Members welcomed the development of this Charter acknowledging the adverse impact that pavement clutter had on those affected by sight loss or mobility problems.

In response to Member's questions, the Service Manager Community Safety and Enforcement clarified that Place Scrutiny Committee would receive updates on the implementation of the Charter.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager clarified the position with regard to the difficulties of commercial waste collection and A-board enforcement which was a Devon County Council function.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that Clear Streets Charter be supported.

75

PARKING BACK OFFICE AGENCY AGREEMENT

The Service Manager Community Safety and Enforcement presented the report which sought approval for Devon County Council to provide a parking back office function to the Authority under an agency agreement. This agreement would be cost neutral to the City Council as Devon County Council would be taking up operational occupation of an Exeter City Council owned empty office.

Members welcomed the way forward.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that Exeter City Council enter into a five year agency agreement with Devon County Council to provide parking back office function be approved.

76

MANAGING HARBOUR AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

The Service Manager Community Safety and Enforcement presented the report on the options for discharging the Council's Harbour Authority duties to an appropriate standard as soon as was practically possible. He advised that subsequent Marine

advice had indicated that the 'Duty Holder' should be independent to the Harbour Master with marine and Health and Safety experience who was able to provide the Harbour Board with reassurance by checking and reporting back to the Executive.

Members were circulated with an amendment to the recommendation with regards to the 'Duty Holder'. The City Solicitor and Head of HR advised that the Duty Holder role should be in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder. This was agreed by Executive.

In response to a Members question, the Service Manager Community Safety and Enforcement clarified that the Port Users Group and Exe Estuary Partnership had been consulted.

Members noted that updates on the Harbour Authority duties would be brought back to Executive.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 14 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

- (1) a new Harbourmaster post be created within the Waterways establishment and recruit a suitably experienced and qualified candidate to the role;
- (2) two new Harbour Patroller posts be created within the Waterways establishment and recruit suitably experienced and qualified candidates to the roles;
- (3) the Duty Holder role be delegated to the Service Manager with responsibility for waterways and the Principal Health and Safety Manager in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder for waterways and the Constitution be amended accordingly; and
- (4) the options for a Harbour Revision Order be explored with the Port User Group.

77

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MODEL FOR EXETER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Chief Executive & Growth Director presented the report seeking support to explore a solution to structural challenges of building in the city through a new sustainable financing model that puts development outcomes back into the hands of the city's leaders, so as to deliver the outcomes that the city had been asking for.

The existing development model for Exeter was under strain and arguably broken and the private sector currently controlled the majority of development in Exeter. A city-controlled fund source could control the financing and delivery of projects and subsequently control the outcomes that deliver what the city and residents had been asking for, as well as profit retention for the city. This would be a joint venture and the setting up of a Company would enable borrowing to be at a favourable rate and enable funding from Central Government to be sought.

The Portfolio Holder for City Transformation, Energy and Transport welcomed this proposal to explore different ways to achieve and control the growth of the city.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) officers commit support, time and energy into exploring the benefits, risks and mechanics of a collaboration in a City Development Fund as a means of financing and delivering future developments in the Greater Exeter region and within the city. Developments will embrace innovative solutions and a fresh approach to the procurement process to successfully compete with the scale and agility of private sector development funds;
- (2) the City Council encourage other public sector institutions within the city to commit resources to exploring the proposal for a City Development Fund; and
- (3) it be noted that the fund would operate and be governed under the following four key principles: -
 - Publicly owned: The Fund is owned and controlled by Exeter's public-sector institutions;
 - Impact driven: The Fund has place-making as its ultimate goal. All developments are measured for success on the basis of long term impact, outcomes and social benefit;
 - Professionally run: Experienced, world class team of fund and asset directors; and
 - Locally retained profits: All excess profits from developments are kept within the Fund and recycled back into Exeter developments.

78

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY POLICY

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented the report which sought approval for an updated Equality and Diversity policy and to note actions to implement the Policy.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the updated Equality and Diversity Policy be approved.

79

THE COUNCIL'S HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK POLICY

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented the report on the Council's Health and Safety at Work policy which had been revised to reflect changes to the council structure, legislation and best practice. This report highlighted the main revisions that had been made which included terms of reference for a new Health and Safety Committee and a new Safety Representatives Committee.

The Leader welcomed the policy and the way forward.

In response to a Member's question, the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager clarified the role that the Members had in respect of their duties with regards to the Council's Health and Safety.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the Corporate Health and Safety Policy be adopted.

80 **THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT FOR 2017**

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented the report on the Council's activities and performance in health and safety at work during 2017. Members were advised that there were no serious matters to report.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 28 June 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED the content of the Annual Report be noted.

81 **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME**

The Chief Executive and Growth Director presented the report approving a revised Local Development Scheme which provided a revised timetable for plan preparation. Members were advised of the main factors that had delayed the preparation of the Greater Exeter Strategy Plan (GESP).

RESOLVED the Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix A to the report presented to the meeting be approved, with effect from 20 June 2018.

82 **HONORARY ALDERMAN**

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support presented the report setting out a proposal to offer the position of Honorary Freeman of the City to Mrs Margaret Anne Baldwin in recognition of her outstanding service to the Council over her near 12 years of office on the Council.

Members supported the offer of the position of Honorary Alderman to Mrs Margaret Anne Baldwin.

RECOMMENDED that, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor be requested to convene an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council, on the rising of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council on 24 July 2018, to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mrs Margaret Anne Baldwin.

83 **APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

The report of the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support was submitted to appoint Members to serve on outside bodies. Members were advised that should it be necessary to re-appoint representatives during the course of the year, it was proposed to grant delegated powers to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support to appoint representatives in consultation with the Group Leaders.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:-

- (1) appointments be made to those outside bodies set out in the Appendix to the report presented at the meeting; and

- (2) the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support be granted delegated powers, in consultation with the Group Leaders, to appoint, when necessary, representatives to outside bodies during the course of the Municipal Year.

84 **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 paragraphs 1,2, 3 and 4 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

85 **CREATION OF THE NEW POST OF LITIGATION LAWYER**

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support left the meeting before consideration of this item.

The City Solicitor and Head of HR presented the report on identifying the business case for the creation of the new part time (0.8 fle) post of Litigation Lawyer. Members were advised that legal services had experienced a significant increase in demand for its services and the creation of this post would increase the ability of Legal Services to provide a comprehensive, responsive legal service to the Council.

Members were updated on the age of the demographics of the service and the importance of succession planning.

Members supported the proposal.

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

- (1) the creation of a new part-time post of Litigation Lawyer (four days per week) be approved; and
- (2) an additional budget of £23,500 per annum be agreed to cover the cost of this part time post.

86 **ST LOYES EXTRA CARE SCHEME**

Councillor Leadbetter declared an interest as the Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services.

The Housing Enabling Officer presented the report on the development of an Extra Care scheme that would deliver 53 self-contained apartments and communal areas for older persons with care needs that precluded them from being able to live in their existing homes. He advised of the identified need for 201 extra care apartments within Exeter, detailed in the Devon County Council report "Devon Commissioning Strategy for Extra Care Housing".

The report addressed the cost related to the building. The decision as to how the building would be managed and the care provided would be subject to a future report by the Service Lead Tenant Services.

In response to a Member's question, the Director (BA) clarified the gross income that the development could regenerate for the Housing Revenue Account depend on future decisions regarding the management of the building.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (1) approve additional capital budget of £3.15 million;
- (2) agree to enter into the build contract for the construction of the extra care scheme with the preferred contractor on the condition that the total development does not exceed £14 million; and
- (3) agree to part-fund the project using retained Right to Buy receipts to save relinquishing them to central government.

(The meeting commenced at 5.34 pm and closed at 6.58 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 24 July 2018.

REPORT TO: PLANNING MEMBER WORKING GROUP

Date of Meeting: 28 August 2018

REPORT TO: EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 11 September 2018

Report of: City Development Manager

Title: Greater Exeter Strategic Plan: Update and Vision

Is this a Key Decision?

Yes.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive.

1. What is the report about?

To provide an update on the progress of preparing the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) and to recommend that a public consultation on a new vision for the plan, together with engagement on homes and infrastructure matters is held in October and November 2018.

2. Recommendations:

Executive is recommended to resolve that:

- 1. The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan document “Our Vision and how we make it real” attached as Appendix A to this report is agreed as the basis for public consultation; and**
- 2. Modifications to the draft consultation document to be made with the agreement of the Portfolio Holder for Growth and City Development, jointly with the equivalent Portfolio Holders in the other GESP local planning authorities.**

3. Reasons for the recommendations:

Approval is required to enable the Authorities to hold a joint consultation. The report has been agreed jointly with officers of the five participating authorities and is being presented (with appropriate variations to reflect local matters) to each. The consultation will build on the information provided during the ‘issues consultation’ in 2017 and enable debate on key issues which the GESP will address in advance of a draft plan consultation being held in 2019.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources:

The financial implications were considered by Executive and Council on 12 July 2016 and 26 July 2016 respectively. There are no additional resource implications.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

Section 28 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 makes provision for two or more local authorities to prepare joint local development documents. There is a requirement for the joint plan to be agreed by each Council separately (rather than, for example, by joint committee).

There is a legal duty to co-operate in preparing joint local plans through joint working with other local authorities. The Localism Act 2011 introduced a legal duty to co-operate with other local authorities in the preparation of local plans and this is reflected in the provisions of Paragraph 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The purpose of the proposals in this report is to inform the development of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

This report raises no issues of concern for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Equalities Impact:

Any issues arising under Equalities legislation must be considered in the context of the proposed steps identified in this report.

9. Risk:

Risks include the potential failure of all partner authorities to agree recommendations resulting in further timetable slippage.

10. Report details:

10.1. BACKGROUND

10.1.1 The four Local Planning Authorities of East Devon, Mid Devon, Teignbridge and Exeter confirmed that they will prepare a joint plan to cover strategic matters for their area, known as the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). Devon County Council has supported the progress, and joint funding and staffing arrangements have been set up. An "Issues" consultation was undertaken in 2017, which included an earlier draft vision. Responses to that consultation can be read on the website www.gesp.org.uk together with other GESP information.

10.1.2 The joint GESP team has been preparing evidence (including procuring it from consultants) and considering the responses received. The aim is to prepare a draft plan for consultation in the summer of 2019, in line with the most recently agreed Local Development Scheme. A number of the completed studies can be found on the GESP website and more will be published between now and the draft plan consultation.

10.1.3 During the issues consultation, comments were sought on the vision, and in relation to housing and infrastructure policy. Given this interest, and the further work now undertaken on these matters, an additional consultation event is now proposed to engage further on these matters in advance of consulting on a draft plan.

10.2 MAIN IMPLICATIONS

"Consultation: Our Vision and how we make it real"

- 10.2.1 The work undertaken, and the issues raised during previous consultations have resulted in the recommendation for a further consultation on the specific issues covered in this consultation.
- 10.2.2 The consultation will be held between 5 October and 30 November 2018. The draft consultation leaflet attached as Appendix A to this report will provide the basis of the consultation. This contains some explanatory text and diagrams to prompt people to respond. It will be accompanied by a more detailed infrastructure evidence document, to which people will be signposted during the consultation.
- 10.2.3 As a joint consultation document, the four GESP local planning authorities will need to sign it off before it is formally published. This should happen during meetings in September, allowing the October consultation date. The recommendation includes a mechanism to allow further modifications to the document before it is finally published. This allows for minor changes such as typos, etc. It also ensures that a recommended change to the document by one authority does not hold up the consultation by requiring a further round of committee meetings to agree the change.

Vision

- 10.2.4 The previous consultation included a draft vision and responses provided views on whether it was appropriate for guiding the future of the Greater Exeter area up to 2040. The responses have been analysed and published on the GESP website as part of the 'summary of responses'. Comments were varied but feedback suggested that the vision should be more locally specific and include more specific targets. In this context, the vision has been reviewed and is now separated into three sections covering 'the plan, 'the place' and 'the priorities'. This explains the role of the plan, what kind of place we are trying to create and the key priorities to make this happen.

Transport

- 10.2.5 Transport investment generates significant interest and debate, and is an important element of delivery the GESP vision of an "accessible and networked city region". The consultation will set out the main concepts and elements of a potential transport strategy for Greater Exeter. Like other forms of infrastructure, this will need continued work alongside the spatial development strategy leading to the draft plan. The transport approach concentrates on an avowedly sustainable approach to movement, and seeks to harness the swift technology changes affecting the transport sector, tying in with the digital theme of the vision.

Infrastructure

- 10.2.5 The consultation provides information regarding recently provided and currently planned infrastructure to provide a context for GESP strategy. The financial considerations are highly relevant given the cost of infrastructure and the continued importance of viability in plan making. The document sets out the kind and broad scale of new infrastructure needed, although clearly any site specific information will need to await the draft local plan consultation next year, when the spatial strategy is being considered. During the consultation, people will be provided with the opportunity to set out their key issues and infrastructure projects to give us more opportunity to take those concerns on board. A key message concerns the benefits for infrastructure (including transport) of a more certain long term funding regime.

Homes

10.2.6 The Government has changed the way in which housing targets for Local Planning Authority areas are set, instead now providing a formulaic methodology using Office of National Statistics demographic projections and relative housing affordability. This forms the basis of the housing targets which should be included in plans. Previously it was for Local Planning Authorities to set housing targets based on a recommended assessment methodology. As a result of this change, and because the four Local Planning Authorities are jointly planning to meet the development needs of the area, the current housing needs figure for the area has been identified in the engagement document. The total provision (as currently published) is about 2,600 new homes per year, although this will change in the future with new data. For example most recent affordability data suggests a further increase in the target is likely. The document reflects this, and refers to the need for additional flexibility in housing supply.

Working with government to deliver high quality development

10.2.7 It has already been noted that additional housing development will be required in the period up to 2040 and that one of the principal roles of the GESP will be to identify overall housing requirements and the locations of development. Furthermore, it also anticipated that significant investment will be needed to deliver the infrastructure required to support this development and overcome existing issues. These challenges are not new although they are being faced in changing circumstances in which the Government is providing renewed focus on the need for accelerated delivery of additional housing of a high quality supported by key infrastructure. This change in Government emphasis gives the opportunity for councils or (more commonly) groups of councils to negotiate deals with the government to fund additional infrastructure. Even more importantly, long term security of transport and infrastructure funding will be very helpful going forward in the context of long term development proposals. The consultation seeks views on how this could work, particularly focusing on 'asks' of Government and 'offers' from the GESP authorities. Such a deal would enable the councils to improve the long term planning for infrastructure in association with growth.

Future work

10.2.8 Responses will be analysed and used to inform further work on the GESP. This will take place in late 2018 and early 2019 and will result in the preparation of a draft GESP document. As per the adopted Local Development Scheme, a further public consultation on the draft plan will be held in June 2019.

City Development Manager

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

- NPPF - <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/policy/>
- Local Plans Expert Group Report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-plans-expert-group-report-to-the-secretary-of-state>
- Devolution bid statement of intent - <http://www.heartofswlep.co.uk/sites/default/files/user-1889/Heart%20of%20the%20South%20West%20Devolution%20Prospectus.pdf>

Contact for enquires:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 2.3
01392 265275

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Greater Exeter Strategic Plan



Consultation:
Our new vision and
how we make it real

October 2018



The local authorities of Devon, East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge are working together to prepare a Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP).

What is the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan trying to achieve?

- Have a joined-up vision and hopes for our area
- Meet the area’s housing needs in the right places
- Support job creation and greater prosperity
- Improve transport and other infrastructure
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Give us the basis for talking to Government about how they can support us more

What is the latest progress on the GESP?

Last spring a consultation was held to launch the GESP, explain its role and identify issues. We also held a ‘call for sites’ which allowed people to suggest areas for development. Since that consultation the GESP team has been busy analysing the consultation responses and the sites suggested. We have also been doing studies which have covered various topics:

- Housing and employment
- Environment
- Transport
- Infrastructure
- Broadband and mobile connectivity
- Climate change and low carbon

What is this consultation for?

Housing, infrastructure and transport were three key topics identified during the previous consultation. As a result, we are holding this additional consultation to provide further information and explore the issues in more detail before we prepare a draft plan for consultation next year. The consultation includes our new vision for the area, explains what the Government has said our housing need is, asks people what the most important infrastructure projects we need to invest in are and includes the main points for a transport strategy for the area.



How to get involved

You can make comments on this document between 5th October 2018 and 30th November 2018. Please fill in the online consultation form at:

www.gesp.org.uk/XXXXX

When you comment on this consultation we don't automatically keep your details. Instead if you want to be kept up to date with our progress and sign up to our email alerts please visit:

www.gesp.org.uk/stay-informed

Vision

What drives us? What are we trying to achieve?

How will Greater Exeter be different and better?

The Greater Exeter vision responds to these questions. In spring 2017, the 'issues' consultation asked for your views on an early version of our vision and we received many replies. We have published a summary on our website. Some of the key points are:

- Needs to be more 'locally distinctive'
- Should recognise the key role of Exeter and other places
- Should be optimistic but also realistic
- Should include the need for new homes, jobs and infrastructure
- Should deal with quality of life and the need for quality development

We have used these suggestions to write a new vision which we hope the communities in the area can get behind. It contains some key priorities for the plan looking to the future.

The vision is in three parts:

PLAN

What the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan does and why we need it.

PLACE

The type of area we are aiming for, looking at strengths and weaknesses.

PRIORITIES

Bringing the vision to life with a small number of key, clear targets.

The new vision is included here and we'd like to hear what you think.

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan vision

The plan

The Greater Exeter Strategic Plan makes the big, cross-boundary decisions about growth and infrastructure in the Greater Exeter area looking many years ahead. The innovative planning and ambitious investment decisions taken together by the local authority partners aim to realise our potential by creating great places to live full lives.

The place

In 2040 we are an accessible and networked city region of linked but distinct communities. Our economy is low carbon and productive. We invest in our citizens, celebrate the area's beauty and continue to work together for mutual long term benefit. We fully utilise our unique south western city-town-country-coast environment and our growing academic and skills base for smart growth. We enable prosperous and healthy lives in high quality homes and communities with access to great greenspaces and high quality jobs linked by a reliable, sophisticated and sustainable transport system.

The priorities

Greater ambition – hardwiring delivery in from the start

Greater innovation – fast growth in cutting edge businesses including becoming the UK centre for data analytics, environmental futures, knowledge-based industries and smart logistics

Greater connectivity –gigabit ready communities with majority sustainable travel

Greater prosperity – local wages rise to above the national average

Greater places for people – providing the homes we need in high quality, healthy neighbourhoods in the right places

Greater places for nature – rebuilding biodiversity and peoples' access to it

Greater education – nurturing, attracting and retaining a world class workforce

Greater efficiency – a 60% reduction in carbon emissions



Question 1

Do you have any comments to make on the vision?

“an accessible and networked city region”

The transport strategy will support travel needs of a growing population and economy whilst also contributing to better places and quality of life in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan area.

It draws on existing travel patterns, current transport issues and the Greater Exeter vision to start thinking about the key principles of managing transport in the area. It will grasp the opportunities of new technology to make travel more integrated and efficient.

The impact of more travel will be most greatly felt in Exeter and the larger towns and we will have to pay special attention to those places. Our urban areas benefit from a variety of travel choices and there is scope to boost this further, whilst in our rural areas the choices are more limited. For example, the diagram below shows an overview of commuting trips into Exeter. 90% of rural commuters into Exeter use the car, compared with 70% of town residents and just 40% of those living in the city.



In the last decade the population of the Greater Exeter area has increased by 34,000 people. However, in that time traffic volumes on the local road network have not increased. Travel patterns are changing and there has been big growth in the use of sustainable modes such as cycling, bus, park and ride and a doubling of rail usage. Advancements in technology will further change how and when people travel.

The Greater Exeter transport strategy will take advantage of this shift by continuing and accelerating further improvements to the transport system.

The GESp vision will be achieved by:

- **Greater Connectivity**, improving sustainable transport networks to create a connected City Region.
- **Greater Places for People** with an emphasis on the role of transport in improving places, health and quality of life in our urban areas.
- **Greater Innovation** by utilising the opportunities arising from technological advancements to integrate travel information, improve network operation and enhance peoples travel choices.

We are seeking your views on the following key principles which together will underpin the emerging transport strategy.

Transport strategy: The key points:

Greater connectivity

- **Connected city region**
Provide a consistent standard of sustainable transport between Exeter and key towns, including trains every 30 minutes, buses every 15 minutes and high-quality cycle routes.
- **Protect and improve our strategic road and rail**
Focus on M5 gateway, A30, A38, A303, A380 & junctions on A35/A361 and mainline rail links to enhance connectivity and reduce journey times to the rest of the Country.
- **Park and Ride sites on all main corridors into Exeter**
Double the number of car parking spaces serving the city and improve bus journey time reliability on key corridors into the city.

Greater places for people

- **Healthy active city**
A comprehensive network of walking and cycling routes to achieve significantly more short distance trips being made on foot or by bike.
- **People Based Places**
Reduce the dominance of cars in urban centres and corridor enhancements to reduce pollution, support sustainable travel and contribute to improved health and well-being.
- **Attractive Urban Bus Networks**
Work with operators to achieve a modern, reliable and low carbon network of urban bus routes.

Greater innovation

- **Develop and Launch New Transport Interventions**
Utilise technological enhancements and work with innovators to test new ideas, improve the operation of the network and increased shared mobility options.
- **Single Ticketing Travel**
Develop a new integrated product which combines sustainable travel modes into a single subscription travel service. (e.g. car club, bike hire and public transport).



Question 2

Do you have any comments to make on the key parts of the transport strategy

We know that new development and transport need to be thought about together and more detail on those transport measures needed to directly support future development areas will be identified and consulted on in the draft GESP in Summer 2019.

"great places to live full lives"

Our vision and the need for housing and jobs means that we need to think hard about what infrastructure is required and how we provide it. From transport to open space, utilities to schools, infrastructure is vital to make places work and support people in their lives. We need to make sure we get it right when we plan new development and so infrastructure is at the front of our thoughts in preparing the GESP. The whole range of facilities and services need to be coordinated, funded and delivered alongside the new homes and jobs the area needs.



The Councils understand the importance of key infrastructure and so there has been major investment across the area in recent years. Since 2013, more than £320m has been spent on a range of large scale infrastructure projects in the area which bring benefits to local communities and businesses. Some examples are:

- The South Devon Highway: £110m
- Exeter Flood Defence Scheme: £32m
- Cranbrook education campus: £16m
- Crediton relief road: £8.5m
- Pavilions Teignmouth: £4.75m
- A361 junction phase 1, Tiverton: £3.9m
- Dawlish Countryside Park: £2.9m
- Sidmouth recycling centre: £2.3m
- Newcourt station: £2.2m

We also have a pipeline of future schemes which will bring major benefits to our area and support the housing we have already identified in plans. Amongst others these projects include:

- Leisure centre and bus station complex, Exeter: £40m
- A382 to A38 improvements, Newton Abbot: £28.5m
- South West Exeter all-through school: £22m
- Marsh Barton Station, Exeter: £13m
- Cullompton Relief Road: £10-15m
- Dinan Way extension, Exmouth: £10m
- A361 junction phase 2, Tiverton: £9m
- Clyst Valley Regional Park: £7m



But of course we know there is more to do. Our existing plans already identify more infrastructure and this is likely to cost around £700m. These projects are funded in part but there is still a large 'funding gap'.

We are now looking as far as 2040 with the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. We think that expensive additional infrastructure will be needed beyond that already listed. Up to 2040 this extra large-scale infrastructure is likely to cost more than £1 Billion. This will be determined to a large extent by future development sites in the plan. These sites are not yet determined, however we can take a steer from the vision, the fact that Exeter will continue to be the travel focal point of the area, our knowledge of existing infrastructure issues and the views of the public. Examples of infrastructure we may need to provide up to 2040 in the GESP area are:

- New primary and secondary schools
- Relief to major junctions on the M5
- Improvements to the A30/A303
- A number of new Park and Ride sites on the main roads into Exeter
- Walking and cycling routes in and between towns and Exeter
- Improvements to rail and bus routes and buses
- Low carbon energy generation and a smart grid
- New, accessible green space
- Healthcare facilities
- Community facilities e.g. local halls
- Internet connectivity and mobile communications



There will be a funding gap here too. Building on our previous successes, we are optimistic that we can fill the funding gap, but there is no certainty. We are therefore keen to explore new ways of providing so we can make more informed long-term planning decisions.

Public aspirations

We also recognise that communities have specific views about infrastructure. We are therefore asking people to tell us what problems people wish to solve or infrastructure they think is needed in the area. We will take account of people’s answers when writing the GESP, however we need to bear in mind how much finance may be available.



Question 3

What is the most important issue you would like to see tackled or infrastructure project you would like to see happen in Greater Exeter and why?

The already planned infrastructure projects are shown on an interactive map and in the infrastructure delivery plan available at www.gesp.org.uk

"Providing the homes we need"

The Greater Exeter area is a great place to live, with amazing scenery, stunning coastlines, thriving market towns and a vibrant city at its heart. But zero change isn't an option. People are increasingly locked out of our 'broken housing market' as house prices outstrip local wages. House purchase is beyond the reach of many first time buyers, renting is expensive and the need for affordable housing exceeds supply. Providing more, better and a wider variety of new homes is the main way to improve this unbalanced situation.

Greater Exeter houses built



2,200
in 2016/17

The Government recognises these issues and aims to provide 300,000 homes per year across England. To achieve this, they now provide housing figures which Councils need to meet so that we have enough homes locally. For the GESP area this is 2,600 per year. These targets take account of population growth, changing individual and family situations and how overheated the local housing market is.

Changing the housing market in this way will take a long time. In the meantime we also want to improve things by providing affordable housing, ensuring homes are of a good quality supported by the right infrastructure and making sure the homes are in the right places. Joint planning between councils will help achieve these aims because we can look at the area as a whole.

The government housing target may change over the next year or two. Our current plans look forward to between 2026 and 2033. Beyond this, the GESP will cover up to 2040. This table explains our housing needs in a bit more detail. We have included a +10% flexibility allowance to deal with future changes and uncertainties.

Minimum need for new homes per year in Greater Exeter	Approximately 2,600
+10% flexibility	Approximately 260
Minimum 20 year need for Greater Exeter (2020-2040)	Approximately 57,200
Homes already committed: Permissions and housing in local plans	28,700
Minimum extra homes in GESP and local plans	28,500

Housing is not the only type of growth which we are looking at. The Councils in the South West have agreed that they will try to double the size of the local economy by 2036 and increase local prosperity. This will mean that we need more well-paid jobs in different industries and more space to attract businesses and allow them to grow. The GESP will help meet these aims.

Meeting the need for homes and jobs is challenging and we will need to put more detailed thought into the infrastructure implications. However, we know that there are going to be some key areas and projects where investment is needed, irrespective of where the new homes and jobs are going.

"ambitious investment decisions"

The Councils agree that homes and infrastructure are key issues which the GESP can deal with. As far as is possible, Councils would like to ensure both homes and infrastructure are planned together to provide high quality development. A lot of infrastructure funding comes from development, central government grants and the Councils themselves. However, there are always uncertainties about where funding will come from. If we could overcome this, more infrastructure could be provided with more certainty, and it could be provided earlier.



We think working more closely with the Government could help. Other Councils have worked with the Government to agree ‘infrastructure deals’ to provide more and higher quality homes in return for infrastructure investment. For example, Councils in Oxfordshire have agreed a deal where the Government provides up to £215 million towards infrastructure and housing in return for a commitment to a specific number of homes being built.

If the Councils in Greater Exeter worked with the Government, the Councils would need to make ‘offers’ of what they can do locally to provide more homes and in return, ‘ask’ the Government for support. Some examples are included here.

Example Council ‘offers’ to the Government	Example Council ‘asks’ to the Government
Councils provide more housing than Government figures (more than 2,600 per year)	Government provides more infrastructure funding
Councils provide some of the housing more quickly	Government provides more funding for affordable housing
Councils directly provide some housing themselves	Government provides public sector land or buys land for development to make building easier



Question 4

Do you have any comments to make on the idea of an infrastructure deal with the Government?

What could the Councils offer? What could the Councils ask for?

Next steps

We have already carried out an ‘issues’ consultation. This current consultation is an additional stage in the plan's preparation as a result of the interest in the vision, infrastructure and housing issues. After considering the additional views received we will be moving to a consultation on a draft GESP in the summer of next year.

Stage one (complete)	Issues Consultation and Call for Sites	You can comment on the content of the plan and provide local knowledge.
Stage two (current)	Consultation: Our new vision and how we make it real	
Stage three	Draft Greater Exeter Strategic Plan	You are invited to comment on draft policies, potential development locations and supporting information, based on the previous stage and evidence gathering.
Stage four	Publication version of Greater Exeter Strategic Plan	You can comment on the revised plan, changed in light of the previous stage and further evidence gathering. Plan and comments go to the Planning Inspector.
Stage five	Planning Inspector's hearings	An independent Planning Inspector examines the plan, evidence and comments made. He/she holds hearings to discuss the ‘soundness’ of the plan.
Stage six	Adopted Greater Exeter Strategic Plan	The plan is adopted and is used to inform local planning policy and decisions on planning applications.

Thank you very much for taking the time to look at this document.
Your views are valuable and your answers will help shape the
future of the Greater Exeter area.

More information is available at www.gesp.org.uk

To request this information in an alternative format or
language please call the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan
team on [01392 265177](tel:01392265177) or gesp@devon.gov.uk

We consider requests on an individual basis.

REPORT TO Executive

Date of Meeting: 11 September 2018

Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Title: FREEDOM OF THE CITY

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal to offer the Freedom of the City to
- Sir Steve Smith in recognition of his outstanding service to the City of Exeter, during his period as Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter;
 - Dr Todd Gray in recognition of his passionate interest in Exeter's historic buildings and his concern for their continued preservation.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 That in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, an Extraordinary meeting of the Council be arranged, on the rising of the Ordinary meeting of the Council on 16 October 2018, to consider granting the Freedom of the City to Sir Steve Smith and Dr Todd Gray.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant "Freedom of the City" to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.
- 3.2 To this end, an Extraordinary meeting of the full Council must be convened to specifically consider this matter, with two thirds of those present, voting in favour.
- 3.3 If the recommendation contained in this report is accepted by The Executive and subsequently adopted by full Council, an Extraordinary meeting of the Council will therefore be organised immediately after the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 16 October 2018, when Members will be asked to consider granting the Freedom of the City to Sir Steve Smith and Dr Todd Gray.
- 3.4 Members are reminded of the following four criteria against which nominations for Freeman of the City are considered:-
- For those who have extraordinarily served the community over a number of years (minimum of 20 years) in a voluntary or professional capacity;
 - For those who have achieved national, international or world recognition for excellence in their particular field of expertise (be it business, entrepreneurial, sport, or any other area);
 - For those who have promoted Exeter during their career so as to significantly raise the profile of the City on a national, international or world basis;

- For those who have via a particularly extraordinary act, or series of acts, put the safety or well being of themselves secondary to those of others.

3.5 The following nomination has been received in respect of **Sir Steve Smith**:-

“Over the 15 years since he became Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter, the university has not only grown considerably, bringing financial benefits to the City, but more importantly has become one of the top universities in this country and indeed in the world. It is a leading member of the Russell Group, committed to maintaining the very best research. And outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. This has resulted in Exeter attracting students from all over the world, a positive benefit to the City. The medical school, established during his Vice Chancellorship, is recognised as one of the best in the UK. He also works closely with other important establishments to promote a great city.”

As such, it meets several of the agreed criteria against which such nominations should be assessed, and as such is recommended for approval.

3.6 In response to this nomination, Sir Steve has stated:-

“It would mean a lot to me to receive this honour but much more importantly I think it would mean a lot to my colleagues at the university. This is because over the last 16 years a large number of staff in the university and the City Council have spent a lot of time building a supportive and productive relationship between the two organisations. The incredible success of the city in recent years owes a lot to a large number of people, but a central role has been played by the way the university and City Council have worked together on education, on the economy, on arts and culture, and on planning. The results have benefited the population of Exeter at a time when many parts of the UK have suffered through austerity. The City Council, working with key partners including the university, have done much to alleviate those problems here. I have been incredibly pleased to see the development of the city during my time here and have been both proud and very happy to be a small part of that process. This honour would be gone clearest possible indication of the ways in which by working together the City Council and the university have achieved so much for the city and the region. I accept with humility and warmth.”

3.7 The following nomination has been received in respect of **Dr Todd Gray**:-

1. *Dr Todd Gray has extraordinarily served the community over more than 20 years in both a voluntary and professional capacity*

He is the person to whom everybody turns if any information on the history of Exeter is needed. As an American who chose to settle in Exeter twenty-eight years ago and became a British citizen, he has spent those years researching the history of Exeter and Devon and publishing countless books using original material he has found in this county's and indeed the country's archives and repositories. He has over the years opened his home and garden to representatives of all the local history societies to bring them together. He was the person television and radio companies contacted when the fire broke out in Cathedral Yard as it was his knowledge of Exeter's historic buildings they knew they could rely on.

2. *Dr Todd Gray has achieved national and international recognition for excellence in his particular field of expertise.*

Dr Gray has achieved national and international recognition for his publishing and lecturing on historical matters. His Mint Press has published 37 of his own books and 21 by other leading academics, using Exeter companies like Short Run Press and Topics Design. Professor Mark Stoyle's book "Witchcraft in Exeter 1558-1660" was a recent Mint Press publication and was accompanied by a fully booked seminar at the Guildhall in November 2017. Four of Dr Gray's books were awarded "Devon Book of the Year" by the Devon Historical Society.

His latest book chronicling the history of over forty buildings in the vicinity of those affected by the Cathedral Yard fire demonstrates his continuing deep concern for Exeter's heritage, and its preservation. The book has sold over 1,000 copies in the five months since its launch on 20 November 2017 which clearly shows the level of interest of Exeter people (and those who have lived in or known Exeter in the past) in the history of these historic buildings.

As quoted from the Mint Press website "Dr Gray is Chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Record Society, the past President of the Devon Family History Society and a past Chairman of the Devonshire Association and Friends of Devon's Archives. He is a committee member of the Devon History Society and Devon & Cornwall Notes and Queries. Dr Gray is also a member of the Devon Buildings Group. He is actively involved in supporting many local history groups and charities." He is an Honorary Research Fellow of the University of Exeter and has served on the Board of Trustees of the South West Heritage Trust. He is also a member of the Exeter Local History Society.

Dr Gray has also written questions for the BBC2 programme Mastermind and from 2004-2006 wrote a weekly column for the Express and Echo called History Matters.

3. *Dr Todd Gray has promoted Exeter during his career so as to raise significantly the profile of the City on a national and international basis.*

Dr Gray has actively promoted Exeter's profile on many occasion with exhibitions held in the Guildhall – one example being the time he was instrumental in helping gain permission to bring the Exeter Salt to the city for Exeter's citizens to enjoy.

He gave a lecture (morning and afternoon) in the Guildhall on Thursday 4 May 2017 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Exeter Blitz at which the Lord Mayor and civic dignitaries were present.

A few years ago, when the future of the Devon Record Office was threatened because of cutbacks, Dr Gray was the prime mover in a campaign to mobilise all interested parties to work to save it. He exploited his considerable academic and other contacts across the world to use their voices to protest against a likely closure of a research facility which is second to none, and is a repository of priceless original historical records. Closure would have been catastrophic to academics, to those researching family and local history and to Devon's Heritage.

The campaign took up months of Dr Gray's unpaid time and the fact that it was eventually agreed that it should be preserved is a testament to his tireless efforts.

As a consequence he was awarded an MBE in 2014 for his services to the preservation of Devon's heritage.

Dr Gray was also responsible for organising the events at the Barnfield Theatre the week after the Cathedral Yard fire, bringing together archaeologists and building specialists to talk to the county's residents about the buildings affected, The events held on the Saturday and Monday were so well attended that many were turned away as the theatre was full.

His continued concern for the welfare of the buildings affected by the fire in Cathedral Yard was demonstrated by his organisation of a day of commemorative talks in the Guildhall on 20 November 2017, a year after the fire.

Dr Gray's passion for Exeter and its buildings is further demonstrated by his organisations of a series of lunchtimes lectures and conferences earlier this year where ne was able to bring together Exeter historians to speak on various topics.

4. Dr Todd Gray, via a particularly extraordinary act or series of acts, put the safety of wellbeing of himself secondary to those of others.

During the course of the fire in Cathedral Yard, Dr Gray was constantly on the scene in Exeter and used an opportunity to go up in the cherry picker to observe for himself the fire's devastation. As a result of this, he was personally able to make the Chief Fire Officer aware that the Fire Brigade should also be paying attention to the considerably older buildings in the High Street at the rear of the Royal Clarence. Prior to this the focus had been mainly on the hotel without the Fire Brigade realising that Laura Ashley and Costa Coffee were potentially greater historical losses than the Royal Clarence. Dr Gray visited Costa Coffee with Fire Brigade personnel and witnessed a flare up in the building. Had those important buildings not been saved, the fire might have spread along the High Street and could well have reached the Guildhall.

- 3.8 In response to this nomination, Dr Gray has stated:-

"I feel not just overwhelmed but am stunned at being given this honour - who could anticipate being included in a group of individuals such as Admiral Nelson and the Duke of Wellington? Over the last thirty years I have been fortunate in working alongside great historians such as Mark Stoye, Julia Crick and John Allan and feel I share this honour with them and the many others who on a daily basis help explain the rich history of this extraordinary city which we all love and cherish."

4. **What are the resource implications including non financial resources.**

- 4.1 Other than a small cost in preparing a suitable ceremonial scroll and hosting a small reception, there are no resource implications.

5. **Section 151 Officer comments:**

- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained within this report, on the basis that the cost of a ceremonial scroll and reception will be met from approved budgets.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant "Freedom of the City" to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Council is asked to consider bestowing the honour of Freedom of the City to

- :- Sir Steve Smith in recognition of his outstanding service to the City of Exeter, during his period as Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter;
- :- Dr Todd Gray in recognition of his passionate interest in Exeter's historic buildings and his concern for their continued preservation

8.2 Members are reminded that the way in which such nominations are considered by the Council was changed earlier this year (minute number 46 of the Executive of 10 April 2018 refers) whereby an Assessment Panel would sit to consider the written submissions received.

8.3 This Panel was to comprise of:-

- The Leader of the Council (or nominee)
- The Leader(s) of other political groups on the Council (or nominee(s))
- The Chief Executive & Growth Director (or nominee from the Strategic Management Board) The Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support
- An external representative (Professor Brian Kirby has taken up this role)

8.4. The Panel met in August 2018, to consider these two nominations, and felt satisfied that both met the necessary criteria to forward the nominations to the Executive for acceptance and onward recommendation to an Extraordinary Council meeting, which, it should be noted, that legislation dictates should be convened specifically for this purpose. Statute also dictates that 2/3rds of those attending the Council meeting must vote in favour of the decision.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 This decision will help promote the City as a regional capital and one which supports those who support and promote the City as such.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 There are no risks associated with the proposals.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 None applicable with this decision

12. Are there any other options?

12.1 The Council could decide not to make the award, although it is felt that this would be against the Council's approved criteria.

John Street
Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:-

Contact for enquires:
Democratic Services (Committees)
Room 2.3
01392 265275

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