

EXETER BOARD

28 April 2015

The Operation of the Exeter Board – Strategic and Community Roles

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To amend the terms of reference of the Exeter Board to ensure an appropriate focus on its strategic and community support roles.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Exeter Board is a useful forum for city and county members to address key strategic cross-cutting issues for the city. This provides a valuable opportunity to consider issues of strategic, political or financial significance that will have an impact on the city and the work of both councils.
- 2.2 As public services have needed to make savings and changes to service provision, there has been an increasing recognition of the role of community groups and organisations in addressing community needs achieving a range of outcomes through co-design and co-delivery.
- 2.3 There is an opportunity for the Exeter Board to take a lead role in working with communities on this agenda. In view of the scope and scale of this work it is timely to review the Board's terms of reference and, at the same time, clarify the strategic role of the board to ensure that its focus is limited to matters and topics that are not being channeled through other groups, for example, the Health and Well-being Board, the Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) and each council's scrutiny committees.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Board's terms of reference are amended as set out in Annex 1 to reflect a renewed focus on the Board's **strategic** and **community** roles, which are summarised in the following table:

Strategic Role	
Areas of Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the need for savings at an early stage and their impact on both councils, the city and its communities. • Work together on funding opportunities of strategic, political or financial significance. • Review proposed funding changes that will have a significant impact on both councils, the city and its communities. • Review proposed changes to services that will have a significant impact on both councils, the city and its communities.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby World Cup 2015, The European 7s, The Tour of Britain, The impact of increasing levels of homelessness on the interface between DCC and ECC services.
Community Role	
Areas of Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace the principles of <i>Devon Local</i> to enable community groups and organisations to respond to community needs, especially where budgets/services have been removed. The principles are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote a more joined-up approach with Exeter's communities to encourage collaboration, enterprise and innovation in line with local needs. 2. Respond positively to approaches from communities wishing to work in a different way and consider how decision making and/or funding could be delegated to a local level where there is appetite and capacity to use it. 3. Consider where funding might be aligned or pooled to promote better value for money, better outcomes for communities and avoid duplication. 4. Encourage co-design and co-delivery of services and prioritise these initiatives for Exeter Board grants or 'in kind' support.
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Annex 2 for examples of community groups and organisations taking an active role in delivering, or co-delivering services and meeting the needs of Exeter's communities.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members of the Exeter Board:

- 1) Consider and agree the new terms of reference.
- 2) Task officers to draft a work programme that delivers under the terms of reference and to report back to the Board.
- 3) Task officers to ensure that future agendas and funding (guidance) is updated to reflect these changes.

Karime Hassan
Chief Executive and Growth Director, Exeter City Council

Revised Terms of Reference

- Consider cross-cutting issues and funding opportunities of strategic, political or financial significance that will have an impact on the city and with regard to the work of both Councils.
- Promote a more joined-up approach with Exeter's communities to encourage collaboration, enterprise and innovation in line with local needs.
- Respond positively to approaches from communities wishing to work in a different way and consider how decision making and/or funding could be delegated to a local level where there is appetite and capacity to use it.
- Consider where funding might be aligned or pooled to promote better value for money, better outcomes for communities and avoid duplication.
- Encourage co-design and co-delivery of services and prioritise these initiatives for Exeter Board grants or 'in kind' support.
- Representatives from the voluntary, community, business, health, police, further and higher education, inter-faith and cathedral communities be invited to participate in a future meeting, as appropriate, as "associate members."
- That an "open forum" be allowed for the public to ask questions and raise issues relevant to the work of both Councils (time limited to 15 minutes in total (and normally 3 minutes each speaker). It will be the Chair's discretion to accept these questions in the context of the Board's terms of reference and where applicable refer the proposer/submitter of the question to the relevant DCC or ECC Scrutiny Committee. The Board can only respond to questions (verbally or in writing) if someone from the appropriate agency can do so and with enough notice.
- That meeting of the Board be held at 6pm (now 5.30pm) in publicly accessible venues.
- That a Members Sub Group comprising the Chair, Deputy Chairman and other proposed & seconded Members of the Board to consider and approve applications for grants from the Board's community budget fund.

Examples of community groups and organisations taking an active role in delivering, or co-delivering services and meeting the needs of Exeter's communities.

Parks Watch – have worked in partnership with the council over a number of years to identify and raise new funds to develop play spaces. They have recently taken a lead in establishing the Exeter Green Forum to co-ordinate and support community groups across the city to take part in RHS Britain in Bloom.

St James' Neighbourhood Forum – first urban group in the country to complete a Neighbourhood Plan. Now establishing a Community Interest Group to take on management and development of Queen's Crescent Gardens.

Alphington Forum – has led on consultation with residents and community groups to identify priorities and a vision as part of the future development of the area.

St David's Neighbourhood Partnership – one of the first groups in the city to develop a community vision for their area. They have successfully negotiated with DCC the asset transfer of the community centre, attracting £1.7m to support refurbishment costs.

Wonford Community – has successfully led a Community First initiative where residents have set up a process to allocate £34k (over a four year period) to community groups in response to priorities identified in their Community Plan.

Newcourt – new developing community, have established a Community Association and Community Interest Company to take on responsibility for management of the new community centre.

Community response to closure of youth centres – with the recent DCC decision to close three youth centres in the city, three different community organisations are now in the process of agreeing leases with DCC to take on the management of the buildings to develop the centres to meet the needs of the local community.

Exeter Community Forum – New developing community forum established to give a stronger voice to community groups across the city, to share information and look at opportunities for collaborative working. Established in response to Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood funding opportunities and is working to develop a set of principles about priority setting for the city.

Flooding - St Thomas Emergency Response Group recently established to ensure the community has a plan to be able to respond in any emergency.