

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 June 2016

Portfolio Holder Priorities 2015/16 – Year end report

End of year updates against priorities for all Portfolio Holders are included within this report.

Members will note that some Portfolio Holders report to a different scrutiny committee and are unable to take questions at all committees.

2015/16 Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture: Councillor Rosie Denham

	Priority	Update
1	Enhance the knowledge economy with particular emphasis on the Innovation Exeter initiative to raise the profile of the area for inward investment and to address skills development	Programme of activities progressing:- specialist advice and discussions with partners have identified that the objective should be "to establish Greater Exeter as an internationally recognised knowledge economy, foremost in the areas of high performance computing, data analytics and applied environmental science, most importantly to raise both skills and income levels for the benefit of residents and businesses across the area." Examples of projects include establishing a "skills escalator" providing a route through different levels of education and training enabling individuals to gain or improve upon their skills starting at school progressing up to post graduate level, upskilling the workforce and to provide potential employees for new or growing organisations; a new Centre for Data Science at the University to promote the development of expertise in data analytics; establishing a collaboration facility for businesses to work with MET office climate data and expertise; reviewing specialist business start-up and growth support and access to finance with a view to scaling this up to increase business formation and growth.
2	Deliver a successful Rugby World Cup 2015	Completed
3	Procure an operator for the new leisure complex	Project plan in place. Competitive dialogue selected as the optimal procurement route. Risk register in place. Key external resources providing legal and consultancy support are now in place. IT resource (procurement portal with data room) currently being sourced. A soft marketing exercise has been conducted which has seen a high level of interest and participation from all the UK's leading leisure operators. Energy audit at Riverside Leisure

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		centre has been commissioned, with the other sites within the portfolio to follow. The tender pack is being prepared, with a current focus on the PQQ in the context of the 2015 Public contract regulations.
4	Work with the Business Improvement District (BID) Board to progress the City Centre Strategy	Meeting to take place with Exeter BID first week in June 2016 to determine which actions Exeter BID will take forward and ownership of. General update on the City Centre Strategy will be taken to Place Scrutiny Committee September 2016.
5	Review the way we deliver and fund tourism activities in the future	The pressure to find other organisations to share the tourism facilities has reduced. However in May 2016 the BID ambassadors will be using EVIT as a base for their operations, this has generated some additional income. The service has recently taking over the banner bookings within the city centre, a more commercial approach to this operation is in place therefore generating more income. At all centres the staff strive to increase income either through running special events, increasing the amount of tickets sold. The new Custom House facility has been a resounding success, attracting more visitors and generating more income, in addition to normal retail income, income has been gained through expanded ticket sales, commission from art sales and rental income from functions. The staff at the Custom House have also been responsible for the bookings of the public spaces on the Quay and Haven Banks, which has benefited the economy of the whole area.
6	Look at alternative governance arrangements of the RAMM	Report has been circulated to key Members and Senior Officers and meetings held to consider significant issues and map process for taking forward, which it was agreed would resume post Election.
7	Adopt a new Parking Strategy and develop the Parking Action Plan	Strategy and action plan adopted in March 2016
8	Develop a new Waterways Partnership for Exeter to steer the future of Exeter's waterways	The need for a Waterways Partnership was surpassed by the need to establish a Port User Group to achieve compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code and to enable the Harbour Authority to make Harbour Directions. This is in its early stages of formation. The Waterways Partnership has become an informal Advisory Board for the Council to inform its strategic direction on the future management of the Canal and River
9	Progress Exeter City Futures work with Andromeda and	Community Interest Company now set up and ECC are a member with Cllr Denham as the

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	key partners	appointed Director on the board. Pilot Active Transport programmes are in the early planning stage alongside intensive stakeholder engagement. Community engagement has been recognised as a weakness and will be approached with a social media campaign in June 2016. The buy in of the local residents is essential to this programme's success and longevity. The themes of work for ECF remain Transport, Energy and Health.

2015/16 Portfolio Holder for City Development: Councillor Rachel Sutton

	Priority	Update
1	Continue to work towards low carbon initiatives including district heating schemes at Monkerton, City Centre and SW Exeter and sustainable travel proposals including railway station provision and improvements, park and ride and delivery of footpath/cycle networks	District heating scheme at Monkerton has now commenced. Procurement is being investigated for city centre feasibility is being researched for SW Exeter. New railway station has opened at Newcourt and a further station is underway at Marsh Barton. DCC planning application for Ide Park and Ride.
2	Submit a Development Delivery Plan to the government and start work on a longer-term planning and infrastructure strategy for Greater Exeter	Submission of Development Delivert DPD delayed for the result of the Exeter Road planning appeal. Implications of the appeal decision are being considered. Informal discussions have commenced with the local authorities in the Exeter Housing Market Area regarding a new joint strategic plan to 2040.
3	Negotiate local labour/contractor agreements as part of new planning commitments	The council can only seek to negotiate agreements due to lack of a policy basis in the development plan. Progress has been limited due to other priorities that are also sought through negotiations.
4	Progress delivery of IKEA, Princesshay Leisure and the leisure complex and address issue posed by retail proposals in the Honiton Road corridor and at M5 Junction 27	IKEA is engaged in discharge of planning conditions and preparation of detailed designs to enable it to be in a position to start on site late in 2016. Resolution to approve Princesshay Leisure scheme, S106 being finalised. Moor Exchange appeal defended, B & Q scheme withdrawn. Mid Devon District Council has not yet made a final decision on whether to promote J27 through its local plan.
5	Ensure council consents are in place to deliver the Exe Flood Prevention Scheme	Full planning permission has been granted and no further council consents are required.
6	Work with the University of Exeter to provide appropriate	Reports have been submitted to Planning Member Working Group and Task and Finish

	Priority	Update
	student accommodation	Groups. Schemes have been considered on a number of sites and the University is being encouraged to increase provision at Streatham Campus.
7	Establish the business case for the creation of a new Housing Development Company	Arcadis have prepared a draft scope of services for preparing a business case for a new wholly owned housing company. Fee proposal awaited.
8	Support the Exeter Community Forum in the development of a Community Strategy to inform future spending for New Homes Bonus and Community Infrastructure Levy	The Community Strategy was completed earlier this year and adopted by the Council on the 19 April 2016. Proposals for the Grants Panel Terms of Reference (to allocate funding from the Neighbourhood proportion of CIL and New Homes Bonus funding) will be going through People Scrutiny and Exec/Council June and July. The CIL/NHB funding will be open for applications from September with plans for the first Grants panel meeting to take place in November.

2015/16 Portfolio Holder for Housing Revenue Account: Councillor Rob Hannaford

	Priority	Update
1	Agree a new Housing Strategy 2015-2020	A new Housing Strategy has been agreed by full Council.
2	Improve standards in our social housing stock	The future capital programme continues to provide for investment to improve the standards of our social housing stock.
3	Improve the management of our housing assets and achieve greater value for money from housing contracts	Proposals for improving our housing asset & contract management functions will be reported to Members for consideration in the near future.
4	Examine alternative options for communicating with and engaging council tenants	We continue to work closely with the Performance Scrutiny Partnership to look at additional mechanisms for resident engagement and discussions are ongoing.
5	Review the way we deal with reactive repairs	An interim manager has been appointed to review the effectiveness of our reactive repairs function and proposals will be brought forward shortly.

2015/16 Portfolio Holder for Health and Place: Councillor Keith Owen

	Priority	Update
1	Address antisocial behaviour by introducing a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)	Extensive public consultation was completed at the end of February 2016 with a report going to Council on 26 July 2016.
2	Increase the recycling rate from 34% to 35% and increase year on year	It is thought that the target 1% uplift in recycling rate will be very difficult to achieve due to a combination of factors that have unfavourably impacted upon the recycling calculation formula, namely increased tonnages from litter bins and street sweepings (residual waste), decreased tonnages in leaf sweepings and garden waste output (counted as recycling), and excluded data on community-based recycling schemes. Unfortunately, these abnormalities to trend equate to a 1% reduction in recycling rate. However, preliminary data analysis is indicating a recycling rate of 35%, but this needs to be externally validated by the Disposal Authority (Devon County Council), which will be completed and published on June 29th.
3	Improve cleansing of the city centre and implement new ways of keeping the city looking good	A 3-year SLA is in place for Exeter BID to fund an additional operative and vehicle to provide additional rapid response, deep cleaning and pavement scrubbing of public spaces within the BID area except for the private shopping centres of Guildhall and Princesshay. In addition, further work is ongoing on mechanisation, improved targeting of resources and demand management.
4	Work with Devon County Council to tackle the issue of weeds and highway verges	Completed.
5	Review management of the Exe Estuary Harbour	The focus for this year is achieving compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code
6	Support Exwick Sports Hub by transferring the playing fields to Exeter College	Heads of Terms have been agreed with the College to grant a long lease of the Exwick and Flowerpots fields subject to Executive approval. This should facilitate the development of the Sports Hub while preserving public access
7	Renew the Gambling Policy	New and improved policy has now been approved by Council and implemented.
8	Reduce the carbon footprint of our vehicles by 3%	Fuel reduction programmes, driver behaviour programmes, refuse rounds optimisation and electrifying fleet have assisted the drive for carbon neutrality with a 7% reduction in fuel use for our Waste Operations (this represents 14,000 litres of diesel fuel saved) and a 4% reduction overall.
9	Consider an evening trade waste collection service	In partnership with BID, a survey of all BID members was conducted in January 2016 to

		ascertain the viability of such a service for the City Centre. Results from this survey indicate an appetite for an evening collection, but further work will be needed to craft an appealing service offering. BID has also indicated that a BID-wide collection of cardboard is being developed for tender, and that an evening collection is likely to be the preferred option.
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2015/16 Portfolio Holder for Enabling Services: Councillor Ollie Pearson

	Priority	Update
1	Improve procurement arrangements	The review has been expanded to look at contract management arrangements as well as procurement. This has delayed the report, which is expected to be delivered in June 2016 to officers before options are presented to Members.
2	Maximise income opportunities from the Civic Centre and Guildhall	Work is continuing to maximise revenue opportunities from the rental of spare accommodation with the Civic Centre with a number of organisations currently showing an interest. Prices for the hire of the Guildhall have been increased to bring them in line with the market place.
3	Enable customers to self-serve via digital services	The Digital Platform was finally procured in May. The Council and Strata are meeting the suppliers in June to develop the project plan for implementation. Work has commenced with services on redesigning processes for roll out
4	Progress the development agreement for the Princesshay Leisure scheme at the Bus and Coach Station site	Development Agreement close to completion. Outline Planning application approved subject to S106. New bus depot at Matford under construction. Planning application in for former bus depot site student scheme prior to site disposal. Bus station design being worked up in advance of June public consultation.
5	Implement the recommendations in relation to the ward boundary changes for Exeter	Successful all-out elections were held in May 2015 based on the new electoral wards.
6	Prepare a Corporate Asset Management Plan	Progress has been delayed by Bus and Coach Station project and Corporate Property restructure
7	Deliver a robust health and safety compliance regime for corporate property	Corporate Property restructure now in place and resource has been employed to develop and implement the overarching compliance strategy and day to day practice to effectively manage health and safety risk.
8	Roll out the Renewables	Final works at the Livestock Centre, following

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	Investment Programme	the installation of the 1.5MW array will enable ECC to supply energy to all 13 leaseholders within the building. The total PV estate installed to date exceeds 2MW, and together with energy saving works completed, a 40% reduction in consumption is expected. An appraisal of the current energy market and available technologies, to form new action plan for future projects/Energy Strategy, is underway.
9	Progress the Council's aim to be an energy-neutral Council	LED lighting installation completed in Civic Centre, progressing to car-park and other Council buildings in 2016 and 2017. More efficient gas boiler has replaced oil-fired boilers at Civic Centre. PV array installations at multi-storey car parks and Matford completed at year end.
10	Produce a plan to get residents registered on the electoral roll	An on-going campaign is held to increase voter registration which includes continual canvassing, targeted advertising in key areas and to coincide with key dates in the election timetable.

2015/16 Portfolio Holder for Customer Access: Councillor Emma Morse

	Priority	Update
1	Publish a Homelessness Strategy to ensure efficient and effective management of homelessness	The Strategy has been developed and has commenced the committee approval process for agreement by Council. An action plan has been developed to ensure delivery of the intended outcomes of the Strategy.
2	Work with partners to deliver joint programmes, including Targeted Families, Integrated Care Exeter and Exeter Community Hub	The Council's involvement with Integrated Care Exeter (ICE) has now led to development of a work stream related to Street Homeless and Vulnerably housed customers. This also involved working alongside Exeter CVS and other partners on the development of the offer at Wat Tyler Hub-CoLab.
3	Introduce further initiatives to improve standards in the private rented sector	Work has continued in partnership with the multi-agency Private Rented Forum in addition to more formal interventions via the Council's licensing and enforcement regimes. Funding has been awarded by an energy company to fund the installation of gas central heating for the first time, as well as the provision of a gas supply. This is being actively promoted to landlords and tenants through the Cosy Devon Scheme

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4	Prepare for further changes to local welfare including the Local Council Tax Scheme	Devon Steering Group in May voted to change the CTS scheme for 2017-18 throughout Devon to mirror technical changes that have occurred in Housing Benefit, and to introduce a minimum income floor (MIF) which is a concept introduced in Universal Credit. Consultation on this proposal will start at the end of June, led by Devon CC. Results will be reported to People Scrutiny and Executive in November.
5	Help customers with their financial challenges by continuing to work with Job Centre Plus (JCP), providing money management and debt advice and facilitating a Credit Union	The local delivery partnership agreement with JCP regarding Universal Credit has been re-negotiated for a further year to 31 March 2017. The assistance provided by us through this agreement remains the same. The Money Advice Service is being withdrawn by Government therefore we have lost further funding. CAB have appealed. Through the support of the local welfare support scheme, EMAP will continue to March 2017, but if it is to continue beyond that date, funding will need to be found. Only Plough & Share Credit Union submitted a tender and that is currently being evaluated.
6	Revise the Council's policy for the allocation of social housing	The revision to the Policy has been agreed and the revised policy will be implemented this Summer.
7	Work with partners to tackle rough sleeping, within current resources	This area has been addressed in the Homelessness Strategy as well as the ICE work stream which includes a focus on 'Making Every Adult Matter' which focuses on the most vulnerable Rough Sleepers.