

PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 January 2017

Portfolio Holder Priorities 2016/17 – Half Year report

Half 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.

2016/17 Leader of the Council: Councillor Peter Edwards

	Priority	Update
PH1	Work with partners in the Heart of the South West on a devolution deal that meets the needs of Exeter	No appetite from Government to progress Devolution Deal with Heart of South West. Proposal is to pause work on combined authority and to create a combined committee to produce productivity plan. Indication is timetable for this work is slipping. Following visit of Secretary of State to Exeter I did ask him whether he would be prepared to consider a different proposal. He confirmed he would and since then both the Leader of Plymouth and I have explored an alternative approach. This was set out in my response to Councillor Leadbetter at Council on 13 December 2016.
PH2	Set up a new vehicle for delivering housing and commercial schemes	Outline business case being written. Detailed business case being prepared.
PH3	Introduce a pan-council performance framework	Training on system set-up took place on 4/5 October and InPhase workshops on 12-14 December to start building an on-line Exeter performance framework.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Support Services: Councillor Ollie Pearson

	Priority	Update
PH4	Produce and implement a digital customer platform and maximise opportunities for shifting customers to digital services	Technical work is currently taking place by Strata and the Business Improvement Officer to prepare for the first services to go live in Feb 17.
PH5	Introduce a new communication and marketing strategy	On 13 December 2016 Council agreed to appoint a Director of Communication and Marketing. A draft strategy has been prepared for implementation.
PH6	Oversee prioritisation of the council's IT requirements and effective and efficient delivery by Strata Solutions	Regular monthly meetings now taking place.
PH7	Take forward the Asset Management Plan	Approach determined. Early work will be on commercial acquisitions and community transfer.
PH8	Introduce new procurement arrangements	Following Executive, the AD Finance is able to proceed to the first consultation stage of the Council's Organisational Change Policy for the restructure of the Procurement Function.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Customer Access: Councillor Emma Morse

	Priority	Update
PH9	Investigate and deliver more cost effective and responsive temporary accommodation to meet housing needs	A temporary accommodation report is due to be presented to Executive in February 2017.
PH10	Implement the action plan for the Homelessness Strategy	A venue has been identified for Safe Sleep which will commence mid-December until March 2017. The Members Steering Group has met to review progress in the Strategy. The Council has worked with partners to develop two bids for funding to Government to support delivery of actions in the Strategy. The bids have been submitted and we expect to hear the outcome before the end of the year.
PH11	Ensure the City Council is taking an active role in development and monitoring the priorities of Integrated Care Exeter and CoLab	The ICE Executive and the Council's Transformation Board have agreed to the development of a full Business Case for consideration in January 2017, outlining a proposed new model for working with Homeless and Vulnerably Housed residents. Progress on the other workstreams is monitored by the ICE Executive which includes the Assistant Director Customer Access and reported to the Exeter Health & Wellbeing Board.
PH12	Consult on and implement the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme for 2017/18	Draft scheme was considered by Executive 8 November and agreed at Council on 13 December. The proposals generally reflect the steer given by the Leaders at the Devon Local Government Steering Group.
PH13	Work with partners to support the development of money management skills	The current EMAP contract delivered by CAB and HomeMaker will end in March 17. As part of our funded partnership agreement with the DWP, we are able to offer some money management support to customers in receipt of Universal Credit. There has been no indication of other funding available from the Council. The Portfolio Holder and officers have met with Plough & Share following a previous exploratory meeting with them. A report will be prepared for the 10 January Executive and 21 February Council proposing how the Council might work with Plough & Share to deliver on Members' Council resolution regarding an alternative to pay day lenders which will also offer some basic money management skills to members of the credit union.
PH14	Ensure that the impact of Welfare Reform on	Ongoing. The draft Exceptional Hardship Policy was part of the Local Council Tax

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	residents and the Council is identified and mitigated where possible	Support Scheme agreed by Council on 13 December. Members also agreed at the meeting, the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments Policy.
PH15	Continue to focus on the recovery of funds due to the Council, based on principles of understanding customers' ability to pay	With the restructure finally concluded, we have increased resources to maximise our collection whilst working to develop sustainable solutions with residents. There remains the need for support for staff in change management around the new expectations and ways of working.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Housing Revenue Account: Councillor Keith Owen

	Priority	Update
PH16	Set up a HRA Management Board	Once the detail on this has been agreed, a report will go to Scrutiny and Executive Committees. It is hoped that this will be soon.
PH17	Maximise value from contractors	Regular contract management meetings with principal contractors are now in place, performance is being closely scrutinised and challenged, and changes are being made to IT systems to improve the effectiveness of service delivery. Further proposed changes to the operating model will be presented to Members later in 2017.
PH18	Ensure that the efficiency and effectiveness of the housing function matches, or aims to match that of best-in-class providers	Externally benchmarked performance data is being produced and reviewed on a quarterly basis, which forms the basis for targeted management intervention. Specific areas of focus at present are improving the resolution of cases of anti-social behaviour in Council properties, greater emphasis on challenging contractor performance, and reducing levels of sickness absence.
PH19	Propose and consult on a new model for supporting residents of our older persons' accommodation	Final business case approved by Executive in November 2016. Work now underway to implement the new model with effect from 1 April 2017.
PH20	Undertake a comprehensive survey of our housing stock in order to understand future investment requirements and inform budget planning	Out to tender via a procurement framework. Survey of 60% of housing stock scheduled to commence in February 2017 with a completion date of 30 June. An interim stock condition report should be available by 30 April 2017.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Place: Councillor Rob Hannaford

	Priority	Update
PH21	Work with Devon & Cornwall Police to provide extra police officers in Exeter	Discussions with Police about the potential for co-location at Civic Centre ongoing. Existing collaboration being strengthened through the work of the CSP, AVENTE, StAG, ASBAT and linked structures.
PH22	Develop and implement a strategy that provides public reassurance and reduces the root causes of ASB	December meeting to align ASB Strategy & Housing ASB Policy. Four open public meetings for local residents and businesses regarding a revised PSPO carried out 1 st week December.
PH23	Improve the recycling rate	Report and presentation to Scrutiny Place detailing challenges and planned actions delivered 10 October 16. The recycling rate is static at just under 34% and is unlikely to change much until we make a substantial change in collection methodology such as introducing a food waste collection. However, the good news is that our residual rate is falling (down 5.6%) compared with a UK average of an increase of 0.6 % - this will keep us in the top 10% of well-performing councils in terms of waste produced per household.
PH24	Improve cleansing of the city centre (to achieve A grade in the city centre and B grade elsewhere)	The Clean Streets Strategy was adopted in September. Performance standards A-D for litter, detritus and weed growth have been introduced. A routine performance reporting system is being established for SMT. A business case for organisational change is being presented to January Executive. The business case for mechanisation is being prepared for February Executive.
PH25	Complete the business case for doorstep food waste collections and introduce it as soon as possible	Eunomia (waste management consultants) modelling collection options, with preliminary draft report anticipated mid-December.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture: Councillor Rosie Denham

	Priority	Update
PH26	Lead the Council's work with Exeter City Futures, including exploring how new technology can help to tackle congestion, achieve energy independence and progress a smart city agenda, including digital technology infrastructure	<p>Exeter City Futures (ECF) launched their 'Crowdicity' platform engaging with specialists and the public to explore ideas around issues; workshops on 7 December included Council staff/managers, and some external partners. 10 'challenges' have been identified and uploaded to the Crowdicity platform for anyone to vote on, with a view to narrowing this down in late January and putting the selected challenges on the accelerator programme for entrepreneurs and businesses to offer solutions.</p> <p>Developing HNDU work programme having secured some grant funding from BEIS.</p> <p>Data sharing project starting in December.</p> <p>Transport Strategy meeting scheduled for January with the Council, ECF and Devon County Council.</p>
PH27	Support the Innovation Exeter project with the University and others to develop the knowledge economy to create more graduate and higher-paid jobs	<p>Executive have approved setting up the Joint Committee. Awaiting other partner authorities to take reports to their Cabinet/Executive. Detailed proposals for major Climate Science Institute and Centre for Data Science progressing. New Data Analytics qualification being promoted. Proposals for enhanced support activities for new and existing business being pursued. A growth & productivity strategy for all four Local Authority's has been finalised and is due to be presented to Place Scrutiny Committee in January 2017.</p>
PH28	Work with local residents and businesses to explore ideas for future investment in South Street and the wider West Quarter, including options for a new city-centre performance venue	<p>The New Exeter Venue Advisory Group has met twice.</p> <p>Area group convening in January 2017.</p>
PH29	Conclude the review of governance arrangements for the RAMM	<p>Following further consideration of the external consultant's report, the Senior Officer/Member Working Group decided not to pursue transfer to trust at this stage, instead to maintain the museum within the local authority framework.</p>

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for City Development: Councillor Rachel Sutton

	Priority	Update
PH30	Progress the publication of a new development plan and address securing a future five year housing supply (working with the Leader)	Member steering group established and met. Report to Executive in January on timetable, resources and governance. The proposal is for a Greater Exeter strategic plan including Teignbridge, East Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter. The aim is for adoption in 2020.
PH31	Sit as Chair of Planning Committee	Completed
PH32	Establish governance arrangements for the CIL and an infrastructure fund for the 3 authorities	Exeter City Futures 'Grass Roots Grants Programme' has now launched with round one open for bids until 2 January 2017.
PH33	Meet government targets for time taken to determining planning applications	Government has recently published performance targets for October 2014 to September 2016 of 50% for major applications and 65% for non-major. The Council has achieved these (61.3% and 67.7%). Higher targets of 60% and 70% will be set for October 2015- September 2017. The Council's performance is 61.1% and 75.5% at half way stage. Performance should improve if vacant posts can be filled.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods: Councillor Paul Bull

	Priority	Update
PH34	Oversee implementation of the community strategy	<p>Launch of Grass Roots Grants programme in October 2016. First deadline 2 January 2017.</p> <p>Community Builders (CB) programme launch 13 December. Invitation to community groups to work together on proposals for CB role for their neighbourhood.</p>
PH35	Explore how Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) can be introduced across the council and in key services	Ongoing work with different departments in Council to support greater community engagement. This includes Parks, Open Spaces and Community Safety teams.
PH36	Work with partners to improve the health and wellbeing of Exeter's communities	<p>Launch of Community Builder programme linking ICE/Wellbeing Exeter funded Social prescribing/community resilience programme with Exeter Community Forum/NHB funded initiatives.</p> <p>Ongoing support for Exeter Health & Wellbeing Board, new development of Strategy for Exeter Food network and plans for launch of Sugar Smart City in New Year.</p>
PH37	Implement the council's Equality and Diversity Policy	A draft implementation plan is being drawn up with Portfolio Holder which will set out priority areas for action, timescales, resources etc.
PH38	Renew Exeter's Fairtrade City status and seek additional partners and new support for this initiative	Fairtrade city status has been renewed. The Fairtrade Foundation was particularly impressed with our engagement with schools through the organisation of the conference for Fairtrade Fortnight.

2016/17 Portfolio Holder for Sport and Health and Wellbeing: Councillor Phil Bialyk

	Priority	Update
PH39	Take forward the St Sidwell's Point and bus station developments, including procurement of operators	<p>Planning permission granted.</p> <p>Tendering period ongoing.</p> <p>Tender return period extended to 20 Jan 2017.</p> <p>Control Point 6 – Main contractor approval scheduled 9 February 2017.</p>
PH40a	Improve cycle routes – Assist Exeter Cycling Campaign to produce a manual of good design for cycle routes	Initial discussions with Exeter Cycling Campaign regarding the production of a manual of good design.
PH40b	Provide more cycle parking around St Sidwell's Point	Initial discussions with Exeter Cycling Campaign and DCC to establish numbers and locations.
PH41	Sign off and help implement the City Sports Strategy	Visit to Sheffield for best practice planned for January 2017. Sport England Strategic Director meeting with Portfolio holder early January to discuss.
PH42	Continue working with partners to make Exeter the most active city in the South West by 2018	<p>Positive progress with Get Active Exeter (GAE) being made. Awaiting latest output figures, but very good gender balance of participants to date. GAE is working alongside the Greater Exeter Sports Board on a series of exciting programmes which will run throughout 2017, beginning with a launch of a 'This Girl Can' project to encourage women & girls into Sport & Physical activity. A particular focus will be given to traditionally hard to engage inactive families, targeting busy adults. This will be achieved via community focus groups, activity in the workplace and collaborative working with local delivery partners.</p> <p>Winter Citizen article focus on risks of sedentary behaviour, and encouraging citizens to introduce more breaks between sitting for long periods at work and home. This ties in with the Devon Public Health campaign to combat sedentary behaviour.</p>
PH43	Progress a solution for management of the Exe Estuary Harbour, canal and waterways	A report on the Management of Exeter's Waterways will be presented to Place Scrutiny and February Executive.