

EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 12 February 2019

Present:

Councillor Edwards (Chair)
Councillors Bialyk, Harvey, Leadbetter, Pearson, Sutton and Wright

Apologies:

Councillors Denham and Morse

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Director (BA), Director (JY), Director (DB), City Solicitor & Head of HR, Chief Finance Officer, Director (J-PH), Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support, City Surveyor and Democratic Services Manager

Councillors Attending Under Standing Order No. 44 for Min. No. 21

Councillors Branston, Foale, Mitchell, Prowse, Sills, Mrs Thompson, M. Vizard and N.Vizard.

Councillors attending Under Standing Order No. 44 for Min. No 22

Councillors Sills, Mrs Thompson, M. Vizard and N.Vizard

Councillors attending under Standing Order No. 44 for Min. No. 23

Councillors Musgrave, Warwick and Wood

12

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2019 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

13

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

14

VISION FOR A TRANSFORMATIONAL HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive & Growth Director gave a presentation (attached to minutes) setting out a vision for delivering a transformational housing programme for Exeter. This was a visionary place shaping document looking forward 20 years to inform and support planning in the city and the production of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. It was not a formal planning document but rather a strategic vision for place that captured the development opportunities in the city that required public sector support and leadership for the city of Exeter. It would help to guide the approach to the housing land supply problem, redevelopment of City Council's assets, council

house building, and corporate priorities centred on Building Great Neighbourhoods; Promoting Active & Healthy Lifestyles; and Tackling Congestion and Accessibility.

It had the potential of being an advocacy document for government funding for infrastructure and housing programmes, and in engaging with the private development sector and investors. Exeter had to provide for 13,100 houses within its municipal boundaries in the next 20 years. This emerging vision was about making Exeter one of the leading global cities in the area of responding to urban challenges and environmental futures.

The city's road network was approaching capacity and there was a need to reduce car usage and improve the environment. The key was to provide mixed use neighbourhoods combining living, working and recreational space in high quality urban villages with pedestrian and cycle networks that would transform the city. Members were informed of the Transformational Housing Growth with active design being key to encourage activity for all and the vision for eight Strategic Projects - Red Cow Village at St David's Station, Water Lane, Marsh Barton, East Gate, West Gate, South Gate, North Gate and Sandy Gate.

The Chief Executive & Growth Director explained that the level of infrastructure investment would be considerable and no less than what would be required for a Greenfield site. It was vital that the City Council adopted this vision to inform the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan and shape future planning in the city.

The Leader stated that this was an exciting vision for the future of the City and was important for the Council to plan for the future to ensure that it met its five year housing land supply. This document would help to prioritise pedestrian and cyclists travelling across the city.

The Chief Executive & Growth Director stated that this document was a vision which would support the planning process, whilst it would have no planning status it would help developers to think differently and be more ambitious. In a changing digital world the city needed to look at employment sites differently and the vision would support development through that process. High level discussions had already taken place with the stakeholders to take forward a shared vision for St David's ward.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport commented that he fully supported the vision which would support the challenges ahead and the requirement to build 13,100 homes in the next 20 years. This document would support opportunities for the future generations to create sustainable decent communities in the city.

RECOMMENDED to Council to:-

- (1) adopt the Vision for a Transformational Housing Programme which would inform the production of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) and provide a strategic context for: redevelopment of the City Council's assets, the production of Site Planning Statements to clarify expectations on sites offering scope for redevelopment; investigating options resulting from the Government's removal of the cap on local authorities' borrowing to fund the delivery of new council housing, and to assist planning responses to an acute housing land supply problem in Exeter; and
- (2) note the Greater Exeter Industrial Strategy which sets out an ambitious land acquisition and infrastructure investment bid amounting to £350m in support

of a transformational housing programme for the sub-region, and it is assumed that the Transformational Housing Programme would require significant investment in infrastructure and land assembly to realise the 20 year programme.

15

EXETER LIVE BETTER AND MOVE MORE DRAFT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY

The Director (JY) presented the report on Exeter Live Better and Move More Draft Physical Activity Strategy which recommended a period of public consultation with a final report to be presented to Council in July 2019. The strategy set out the various challenges and opportunities and how resources and commitment would align from various stakeholders. It also provided an overall guidance to increasing physical activity in Exeter in line with the Council's vision. Physical activity was not solely sports activities, but included other activities such as walking, cycling and various other forms of recreation.

Investment from Sports England had been successful in increasing sports excellence across the country, however the overall health, wellbeing and physical activity in everyday life had diminished. The 'Active Life' survey concluded that Exeter was the most physically active city in the UK, but this largely reflected, the demographics of younger residents living in the city, who were more likely to engage in physical activity. The strategy would therefore focus on making improvements to health & wellbeing, by promoting physical activity and addressing the various lifestyle challenges of other residents and communities, particularly in the areas of greatest need.

In response to a Member question, the Director (JY) confirmed that the consultation would be sent to various organisations, stakeholders and schools across the City to ensure engagement and contributions which would inform the final strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport stated that a targeted approach was required to manage the challenges ahead, especially for deprived areas of the city. Members welcomed the strategy and the further consultation necessary to create the final document.

RESOLVED that the draft strategy for public consultation be approved with a final report and strategy to be presented to Council in July 2019.

16

PARKING TARIFFS

The Director (DB) presented the report on increasing car park tariffs from April 2019, including the further regulation of car parking at King George V Playing Fields. Members were advised that the report proposed to increase tariffs in Zone 1 and 2 by 10 % and to increase tariffs in Zone 3 by 50p, although there would be no increase for season ticket holders. Car parking at King George V Playing Fields would now be for a maximum of four hours to ensure that the car park was available for recreational users and not used by commuters.

The Leader commented that the Council had not made any general inflationary car park rises for a number of years.

During discussion, Members highlighted the facilities at the King George V Playing Field welcoming the four hour parking limit and acknowledging the need to encourage more sustainable modes of transport across the city.

A Member raised an objection with regards to the increase in the car park charges in Topsham.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 17 January 2019 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that the following be approved:-

- (1) To increase tariffs at Premium, Zone 1 and Zone 2 car parks by a maximum of 10% within the existing linear pricing structure as set out in the table below;
- (2) To increase the tariffs at Zone 3 car parks by 50p as set out in the table below;

Premium Car Parks (Guildhall, Mary Arches, John Lewis)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£3.00	£3.30
2 hours	£4.00	£4.40
3 hours	£5.00	£5.50
4 hours	£6.00	£6.60
5 hours	£7.00	£7.70
6 hours	£8.00	£8.80
7 hours	£9.00	£9.90
All day	£15.00	£15.00
Zone 1 Car Parks (Bampfylde Street, Bartholomew Terrace, Harlequins, King William Street, Magdalen Road, Magdalen Street, Matthews Hall, Princesshay 2, Princesshay 3, Smythen Street)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.20
2 hours	£3.00	£3.30
3 hours	£4.00	£4.40
4 hours	£5.00	£5.50
5 hours	£6.00	£6.60
6 hours	£7.00	£7.70
7 hours	£8.00	£8.80
All day	£12.00	£13.00
Zone 2 Car Parks (Belmont Road, Bystock Terrace, Cathedral & Quay, Haven Road 1, Howell Road, Richmond Road, Parr Street, Topsham Quay, Triangle)		
Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£2.00	£2.20
2 hours	£3.00	£3.30
3 hours	£4.00	£4.40
4 hours	£5.00	£5.50
5 hours	£6.00	£6.60
All day	£10.00	£11.00
Zone 3 Car Parks (Flowerpot, Haven Road 2 & 3, Holman Way, Okehampton Street, Tappers Close, Turf Approach)		

Stay	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff
1 hour	£0.50	£1.00
2 hours	£1.00	£1.50
3 hours	£1.50	£2.00
4 hours	£2.00	£2.50
All day	£3.00	£3.50
Zone 3 Car Parks with Maximum Stay (Bromhams Farm, Clifton Hill, Gordons Place, Station Road (Exwick))		
1 hour	£0.50	£1.00
2 hours	£1.00	£1.50
3 hours maximum stay	£1.50	£2.00
Coach Parking at Haven Road 3 (per day)	£5.00	£5.00
Quarterly Commuter Season Ticket	£375.00	£375.00
Residents Annual Season Ticket	£150.00	£150.00
Bartholomew Terrace Business Permit	£250.00	£250.00
Cathedral & Quay Business Bays	£750.00	£750.00

- (3) To restrict parking to a maximum 4 hour stay at King George V Playing Fields (Appendix 1); and
- (4) the Director (DB) be given delegated authority to consider any objection that may be received.

(In accordance with Standing Order no. 43 Councillor Leadbetter requested that his vote against the recommendation be recorded)

17

GENERAL FUND/HRA ESTIMATES AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report proposing the General Fund revenue estimates for 2019/20 and to recommend the Band D level of Council Tax for 2019/20. The report also included the proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 and future years, and the proposals in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The proposed capital programme for 2019/2020 presented the General Fund with a £37.8 million spend and the HRA with a spend of £20.6 million, which included £9.2 million to build new council homes in the city. This was the final year of the HRA one percentage rent reduction and whilst the income would be lower there would only be a small reduction in the HRA working balance.

In regards to the General Fund, attention was drawn to appendix two and the reduction in the core spending power which had reduced since 2016/17 by 15.2 %

which equated to £2.3 million. There was a £2.2 million in savings and additional income proposed in the revenue estimates. The recommendation to Council on 26 February 2019 was for a proposal for an increase in £5 for a band D property, this was the maximum allowed without having to hold a referendum. Council would also be asked to approve the Council Tax for Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority. The Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner had set an increase at the maximum, without holding a referendum of £24 per band D property, the other two authorities had not yet met.

Members were reminded that they had a legal obligation to set a balanced budget at Council and that any savings or additional income removed would require alternative ways of meeting those savings or generating income.

The Leader commented that Exeter had had the highest cuts of all the district authorities in Devon with regards to its core spending power. He proposed an additional recommendation that the Council write to its MP's to ask why Exeter had had the biggest cut in core spending power when given most growth to the region.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport highlighted the £9.2 million the Council planned to spend on building new council houses, the £7.9 million of government grant that the Council had lost in the last four year period and the reduction in New Homes Bonus. The Council would need to make considerable changes going forward to address its funding shortfall.

RECOMMENDED to Council:-

- (1) the overall spending proposals in respect of both its revenue and capital budgets are recommended to Council be approved;
- (2) the council tax for each Band be approved as set out in section 8.19.3 subject to Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police, Crime Commissioner Devon and Cornwall and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority confirming their Band D levels respectively;
- (3) when the actual council tax amounts for Devon County Council, Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and the Devon and Somerset Fire Authority are set then the revised council tax levels be submitted to Council on 26 February 2019 for approval;
- (4) the Statement given by the Chief Finance Officer as required under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved; and
- (5) the Council write to its MP's to ask why Exeter City Council had had the biggest cut in core spending power when it had given the most growth to the region.

(In accordance with Standing Order no. 43 Councillor Leadbetter requested that his vote against the recommendation be recorded)

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report seeking adoption by the Council of the Treasury Management Strategy Report, incorporating the Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20, as required under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003. This report was a statutory requirement and there had been no significant changes from last year. He advised of the maximum limit to be lent to any one

organisation in respect of Property Funds which was £10 million, the Council currently had £5 million in such fund and would wait post Brexit to make anymore investments. The other limits on the value of investments to be held in any one institution was a maximum of £5 million depending on the creditworthiness of that institution.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 24 January 2019 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council adopt the new Treasury Management Strategy and delegations contained therein.

19 **THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES
(INCORPORATING THE ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MINIMUM REVENUE
PROVISION)**

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report setting out the proposed 2019/20 prudential indicators for capital finance for adoption by the Council and set the annual statement of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). He referred to the minimum revenue provision which is the amount set aside from revenue to meet the repayment of debt principal and advised of the minimum revenue provision options that the Council used, the Asset Life Equal Instalment and Asset Life Annuity Method. A change in Government Guidance now allowed for an overpayment in respect of the funds that Councils could set aside over and above the statutory minimum revenue provision which could be reclaimed in future years. The Council currently had £5.602 million in voluntary overpayments.

The Chief Finance Officer highlighted the Capital financing required, the operational boundary and the authorised limit, this was the maximum the Section 151 officer was allowed to borrow to cover the Operational Boundary and day to day cashflow.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 24 January 2019 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that Council adopt the:-

- (1) Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix A-C; and
- (2) Annual Statement of Minimum Revenue Provision for the Council.

20 **MOVE MORE LIVE BETTER DRAFT BUILT FACILITIES, PLAYING FIELDS,
PITCHES, PLAY AREAS, PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

The Director (JY) presented the report setting out proposals for how Council built facilities, playing fields, play areas and parks could be developed in future to contribute to the strategic vision of Exeter becoming the most physically active city in England and encouraging those most at risk of inactivity to become active in everyday life. A consultation process would give the residents, community organisations and stakeholders the opportunity to feedback on the draft strategy.

There was a clear need for the Council to set out an integrated strategy for the future of built sports facilities, playing fields, pitches, play areas and open spaces. Although delivery of sport and leisure facilities was a discretionary area for the Council, it was important that the draft Physical Activity Strategy and the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot, provide good quality, accessible, community based

built sports and leisure facilities and preserved and improved the city's pitches, playing fields, play areas, parks and open spaces. With on-going funding cuts to Councils it was also necessary to consult on choices available. With the exception of the planned new build St Sidwell's Point Leisure Complex, there was an aging estate and a strategic approach was necessary to determine areas for future investment which would also need to be in line with the Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership (GESP). Further aspects included a needs led approach to Play Area provision across the city and for the Council, within its statutory duty as a local planning authority for the provision and protection of sport, green spaces and recreation facilities, to publish an assessment of current and future needs for playing fields and pitches.

The Director (DB) detailed proposals for the play areas, parks and open spaces. A number of the 83 play areas across the city were not fit for purpose and decisions were necessary on the way forward for either replacing or focusing on areas with the greatest need. A reduction to 80 play areas across the city with three new Destinations play parks is being proposed. The document outlined a potential investment of £3.7 million, subject to consultation. A funding strategy would need to be developed to support the proposed investments.

The Portfolio Holder for Place and Commercialisation stated that this document covered two different portfolios of sport and parks and open spaces. He commented on the varied range of play facilities across the 83 sites and that, whilst some closures were suggested, the Council would assess needs on a city wide basis. It was important that the Council ensured every child had access to play facilities with equipment suitable for children of all abilities. The Council needed a comprehensive and robust strategy which would include Destination parks and provision for all age ranges including trim trails for people who were less mobile. The Council was looking to enhance provision and identify funding sources to support this.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport referred to the importance of engaging local people on future provision to allay any concerns regarding the loss of open spaces and emphasised the relationship between the built facilities and the Council's overall vision and activity strategy including work with the NHS to promote healthy activity lifestyles. This vision would build on the success of the Wellbeing Exeter project where, since 2015, over 2,000 people had benefited through the social prescribing initiative. He highlighted the following three key elements of future built leisure facilities:-

- the redevelopment of the Exeter Arena and ISCA Centre into a Community Sports Village including a community leisure centre and a 25 metre swimming pool to replace the Northbrook Pool;
- retaining the Riverside Leisure Centre and Community Swimming Pool to maintain and provide access on this side of the river; and
- an innovative, new build integrated Community Health and Wellbeing Centre to replace the existing Wonford Sports and community centres.

The Director (JY) highlighted the success of the social prescribing scheme and the work with Sports England. In response to a question, the Director explained that a Community Asset Transfer Policy was in development.

Members supported the document and welcomed the approach outlined in the draft strategy.

RESOLVED that the draft strategy be approved for public consultation with a final report to be presented to Council in July 2019.

UPDATE REPORT ON BUILT SPORTS AND LEISURE FACILITIES

The Leader brought to Members' attention an e-petition that would close on 25 February 2019 asking the Council to respect the recommendation of Place Scrutiny Committee held on 31 January 2019 which supported the sale of the Clifton Hill site excluding the Ski Slope. The e-petitioner had been invited to present the petition at the meeting of Council on the 26 February 2019 when discussion would be welcome in accordance with the Council's normal practice. He added that the Council had received a proposal to register the Ski Slope as an Asset of Community Value which was being processed and early indications were that the application was likely to be successful.

The Director (JY) had prepared an Equality Impact Assessment showing the potential impact of the recommendation to sell the site on people with protected characteristics within the 2010 Equalities Act. A copy had been circulated to Members and is attached to the minutes.

The City Surveyor circulated a supplementary report setting out advice following the recommendation by the Place Scrutiny Committee. The report advised on the potential impact of retaining the ski slope. It also set out the impact of green space exclusion and an approach to the designation and treatment of the green space to be accommodated within the development. The combined impact of green space exclusion and ski slope retention was also set out.

The Leader continued that he had taken on board the views of the community and fellow Councillors and, as a result, would be moving the following amendment to recommendation 2.2 (a):-

Delegate authority to the Director in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and in liaison with the ward members and the City Surveyor to:

Identify and agree the area of green space to be retained by the council (comprising a minimum of 10% of the overall site area) in the current general location of the existing green space; and

agree a condition to be included in the Contract for Sale of the whole site requiring the purchaser to transfer back for a peppercorn the green space land identified and agreed in 2.2(a) above to the Council following service by the Council of a Notice requiring such transfer.

The Director (JY) presented the report providing an update on the interim Built Facilities plan agreed by Council in June 2018. The presentation is attached to the minutes. Members were updated on the original decision to sell the Clifton Hill Site, the options for the sale of Clifton Hill Site and the future investment in the existing built sport and leisure facilities. The report also set out the recommendation of the City Surveyor for the sale of the site of the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and the surrounding land owned by the Council.

Councillor Sills, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He wished to reinforce Members' views expressed at Place Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2019, and the pleas of the general public who had attended the meeting, as well as the representations of fellow Councillors. He set in context the debate at the Place Scrutiny Committee and reiterated the proposal from the Committee that the ski slope be excluded from the sale of Clifton Hill, as well as the Committee's support for the retention of 10% of the land for green open

space. He referred to the members of the public who submitted or attended to ask questions, and who spoke passionately about retaining the ski slope as well as the green open space. He was aware of the two petitions, with over 900 and 3,000 names respectively, seeking to retain the ski slope at Clifton Hill. He said that he had not fully appreciated the uniqueness of the green space, which offered a quieter, more informal open space. A member of the public who had attended had also described the green space as their sanctuary, and this had resonated with him to ensure the protection of the wildlife and flora there. The many reasons for not selling the green space were compelling and he was disappointed that the additional proposal from Place Scrutiny Committee, not to sell the ski slope, was now not being included in the recommendations going forward at Executive. He had not fully appreciated that the ski slope was such a vital community asset, with no comparable facility at least within at least an hour and half drive of Exeter. He had received many representations, all of which had a genuine interest in protecting the green space and retaining the valued uniqueness of the Exeter ski slope.

Councillor Mitchell, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item and reiterated that the Clifton Hill green space was an area much loved by the local community in the adjacent wards. He referred to his support for additional funding for other elements of the leisure offer and, in particular the Riverside Leisure Centre. He stated that he opposed the proposal to sell the Clifton Hill site which would have a devastating effect on a local community asset as a valuable city centre green open space and wildlife corridor. He referred to the excellent work of the Adaptive ski club and that a virtual ski centre would not allow them to continue this work. He confirmed that he had read the valuer's report, but the information from the City Surveyor was not as detailed as it could have been. He hoped that Members would consider saving the green open space and ski slope in its entirety. Place Scrutiny Committee recognised the amenity and recommended the removal of the ski slope from any future sale. The green space was uniquely different and the proposed minimum 10% green space would not be a sufficient amount to protect the local ecology wildlife corridors and social usefulness of this site. He hoped that Members would listen to the concerns that had been raised and move forward a proposal that all Members could support and save the green space in its entirety as well as the ski slope.

Councillor Mrs Thompson, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. She commented that the valuation given for whole site is approximately £9 million less allotments and 10% open space where as the valuation for a smaller brownfield part of the site was approximately £8.8m. The sale of the whole site will deprive the community of a ski slope, rifle range, golf driving range and open greenspace when a fraction of the site could fetch approximately £8.8 million even with the restriction, these facilities also bring a substantial rental income to the council. A valuation of the sports centre site in isolation with and without the voluntary restriction has not been undertaken and should be to establish if there is a figure of undervalue with the restriction. If for instance the valuation without restriction was in excess of £10.8m permission from the Secretary of State would be needed to sell at the undervalue and if the whole land is sold for £9 million with the restriction there is no guarantee the voluntary restriction could not be challenged and removed at a later date. Cllr Thompson concluded that if the restriction was successfully removed there could still be a situation where the council ended up with the purpose built student accommodation it had hoped to restrict.

Councillor Foale, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He highlighted the Council's challenging financial situation that had left it with only enough money to meet the management of its front line services and the many problems associated with the leisure facilities in the city. He referred to reactions he

had received on canvassing in the west of the city and the concerns expressed over the missed deadlines and current state of the Riverside Leisure Centre. He urged the Executive to find the £4.4 million needed to complete the required work and to provide quality facilities for the city.

Councillor Prowse, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item referring to his recent visits to the Exeter Ski slope and also the lengthy debate at the Place Scrutiny Committee. He expressed his concern at the late circulation of an impact assessment report which the City Council should provide as the site freeholder and to the absence of any reference to the ski slope in the report to Executive in June 2018. Because of the existence of three methane vents on the site and despite regular monitoring by Environmental Health, he doubted whether there would be sufficient developer interest in the site. He hoped that Members would make the right decision regarding the ski slope which had been used by the Adaptive Ski Club for over 30 years.

Councillor Branston, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He was pleased to note that the recommendation from Place Scrutiny Committee was that the sale of the Clifton Hill site exclude the ski slope which is a vital facility for both the able and disabled. Representations at the Place Scrutiny Committee from residents, campaign groups and the Chair of the Newtown Community Association reflect other campaigns to protect community open space in the City. If the original proposal were to be supported, the Newtown area and adjacent wards will, within the last 18 months, have lost a sports facility for all age groups, a golf driving range and, potentially in the future, at least 90% of the open green space area. The most important issue is to preserve and save the Clifton Hill Green Space and notwithstanding the need to generate best value capital receipts, decisions must also have regard to the value of land to the community and residents' quality of life as well as ensuring that access to any future development will not impede public access to dedicated open space areas. The retention of the ski slope and open space within Council ownership will help reduce health inequalities and support the Council's policy of promoting health and wellbeing. All Ward Councillors supported the recommendation that the Clifton Hill land is not used for purpose built student accommodation.

Councillor N Vizard, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. She asked Members to note the recommendations of Place Scrutiny Committee, which was the retention of at least 10% green space and the exclusion of the ski slope from the future sale of the site. Councillor N Vizard understood the need to access funds to invest in the other sports facilities in the city but it was also important that the Clifton Hill green open space was protected. She welcomed the 10% allocation and asked that the local community be involved in discussions on its location. The ski slope offered a huge range of benefits to the local community in particular the Adaptive Ski Club who relied on the ski club for the facility. Whilst welcoming the impact assessment for the site she sought more information on potentially new sites for the Exeter ski club.

The Leader assured Councillor Vizard that the brickwork building would remain.

Councillor M Vizard, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He referred to the difficult decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and, although ward councillors could have opposed it at every stage particularly in light of the opposition to its closure from local campaign groups, this had not been considered appropriate. He referred to the bigger picture to ensure a sound financial budget, invest in city wide facilities and parks, and protect front line services. He had accepted that the site of the sports centre and adjoining car park would be sold,

and appreciated that the value of the site would be diminished, but suggested that the golf driving range was also an area which could be included in the sale, as it had negligible wildlife and was essentially a grass field. He supported the retention of the open green space to the north of the centre, to the south of the golf driving range and the east of Portland Street. He praised the reclamation of this area by local residents and he thanked the Save the Clifton Hill Green Space Campaigners for their work. He emphasised the importance of preserving green space and excluded from the overall sale and to remain in public ownership under the City Council's responsibility.

Councillor M Vizard also made a plea to save the ski slope. He was pleased that an equality impact assessment had been produced and welcomed the retention of the old Brickworks office. He acknowledged and welcomed the level of public funding to create a new community building in Belmont Park and also to the value of the Wild Zones report. He felt that communication and consultation with local residents should not stop and, with the involvement of the Portfolio Holder, suggested that a working group involving local residents, the Green Space Campaign and other stakeholders in the area.

The Leader thanked the Members who had made a contribution at the meeting, it was important to look at leisure facilities provision across the whole of the city rather than just certain areas.

The Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport stated that Members had taken note of the concerns raised and this had been reflected in the proposed amendment with regards to the recommendation on the open space. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment had been circulated. In light of the views of Place Scrutiny Committee he wished to seek an acceptable solution for the benefit of all Ski Club users and the wider city. He reiterated the importance of ensuring a balance in the available leisure facilities in the city and he hoped that the repair of the Riverside Leisure Centre would be expedited as quickly as possible.

The Portfolio Holder for Support Services also referred to the informed debate by the ward councillors and the views of the local residents. He welcomed the Leader's amendment in relation to the green space, agreed it was an important part of the site and that it would be wrong to lose such space when it was the Council's ambition to enhance such spaces. He acknowledged that ski provision was in the Council's strategy and a possible virtual experience could provide an even better provision in the future.

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture referred to the difficult decisions the Council was having to make on behalf of the city because of reduced resources. She had visited the ski club and had been impressed by the work of the Adaptive Ski Club. She noted the comments made by Members and that a virtual ski facility was completely different from the current amenity. It was important to make sure that every effort was made to work with the Club to find an alternative and potentially better site. The site was part of a complex interwoven pattern to realise the financial resources from the sale of the site and contribute towards the provision of much needed homes.

RECOMMENDED that Council:-

- (a) sell the Clifton Hill site, for a mixed residential development to generate the best value capital receipt to offset the previously agreed costs of compensation, upgrades to leisure facilities and to provide investment for

other Council priorities including the future development and improvement of other leisure sites;

- (b) allocate a budget of £200,000 to cover the ground investigation works, marketing and selling of the site to deliver the optimal capital receipt to the Council; and
- (c) allocate a further capital budget of £4.4 million to allow for the full replacement of the flat roof and rebuild of the floor structure surrounding the pool at the Riverside Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre; and

RESOLVED to:

- (a) Delegate authority to the Director in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder and in liaison with the ward members and the City Surveyor to:-
 - Identify and agree the area of green space to be retained by the council (comprising a minimum of 10% of the overall site area) in the current general location of the existing green space; and
 - Agree a condition to be included in the Contract for Sale of the whole site requiring the purchaser to transfer back for a peppercorn the green space land identified and agreed in 2.2(a) above to the Council following service by the Council of a Notice requiring such transfer;
- (b) Delegate authority to the City Surveyor to take the necessary steps to ensure the Clifton Hill land is not used for purpose built student accommodation.
- (c) Note the good progress on the works associated with the £3 million budget agreed for the essential enhancements to the fabric of the buildings and replacement of essential plant and mechanical systems and interior enhancements; Exeter Arena, Wonford Sports Centre and Riverside Swimming Pool Leisure Centre and on the £950,000 budget agreed in November 2017 for Pyramids Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre.
- (d) Note the need for further capital investment at the Riverside Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre.
- (e) Note that the draft Physical Activity and Built Facilities strategies, (setting out the longer term sustainability and development plans for Riverside Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre, Wonford Sports Centre; Exeter Arena and ISCA Centre; Northbrook Swimming Pool and Northbrook Golf Course) are being recommended for public consultation with final recommendations due to be presented to Council in July 2019.

BULL MEADOW RECREATION GROUND

The City Surveyor advised that following on from Place Scrutiny Committee he had discussed matters further with the Exeter Homes Trust. He had been advised that the Trust's architect had not said that the proposed scheme could be accessed from Fairpark Road. Discussions with planning and highways officers had suggested that this might prove problematic and the additional costs would put pressure on the scheme's viability, requiring a significant wall breach and retaining structures. Devon County Council highways advice was that a Fairpark Road solution would not add the highway benefits of the turning head solution.

The Trust had also advised that the funding allocation from Homes England which underpinned the scheme viability assumed completion of the scheme within the current grant programme. The Trust had advised that this implied a target completion date in December 2020 which, with a projected build programme of 18 months required a summer 2019 start. In view of the fact that a redesign was required to access from Fairpark Road before submission of a revised scheme, there was a danger of the funding allocation being lost.

Councillor Sills, Chair of Place Scrutiny Committee, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He commented that Place Scrutiny Committee opposed the sale of the land and that little new information had been presented since the Committee had taken place. The object of the sale of land was the impact on the volume of traffic to area and there were still alternative options that Exeter Homes Trust could explore. He asked for all options to be explored and that Place Scrutiny Committee were clear that they did not want this piece of land to be sold.

The Portfolio Holder for Support Services moved an amendment to the recommendation that the land should only be disposed of to create an extension to the highway if planning permission was granted.

The City Surveyor clarified the Council position with regards to the delegated powers in relation to the disposal of park land.

Councillor N Vizard, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. She referred to the views of Liveable Exeter that streets, spaces and parks that link neighbourhoods to the city centre should be safe and attractive and encourage active and healthy lifestyles. Whilst the majority of residents and ward councillors, supported the development of the Almshouses by the Exeter Homes Trust they opposed the sale of Council land for the sole purpose of creating a turning circle and three visitors parking bays. Given road safety concerns and the impact of construction traffic she supported a pedestrian access only solution suggesting that three dedicated car parking spaces for Fairpark Almshouses could be set aside in the adjacent Council owned car park. With letters from 211 local residents and petitions of 300+ and 400+ signatures, opposition was significant. She advocated support for the Place Scrutiny Committee recommendation to refuse sale of the land and to work with Exeter Homes Trust to bring forward the development as car-free in line with Exeter City Council's sustainability strategy for city centre developments.

Councillor M Vizard, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He supported this important housing development but not the sale of the area of land in Bull Meadow Park. He advocated continued pedestrian access from Fairpark Road with the creation of a level access walkways to the building. Referring to the Exeter Homes Trust's desire to create a vehicular access point and parking for visitors etc allied to a road safety improvement to Temple Road he pointed out that use should be made of the nearby Council car park for visitor parking and that the residents of Temple Road had not raised road safety issues. He continued that as a planning application had not been submitted could the plans not be redrawn and the developer should not be setting a deadline for the Council. He asked Members to consider their decision very carefully and listen to local residents and Place Scrutiny Community and save this park.

The City Solicitor and Head of HR clarified the amendment from the Portfolio Holder for Support Services to read as follows:-

Executive delegate authority to the City Surveyor to sell the parcel of land necessary to create an extension to the highway only if planning consent is granted for a scheme that requires it.

The Leader seconded this proposal.

The Portfolio Holder for Support Services in speaking for his proposal stated that the proposals would be dealt with through the planning process and this would then formulate what Council land would be required to facilitate the development.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 17 January 2019 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that delegated authority be given to the City Surveyor to sell the parcel of land necessary to create an extension to the highway only if planning consent is granted for a scheme that requires it.

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MAJOR GRANTS MINUTES 21 JANUARY 2019

The minutes of the Major Grants Panel meeting held on 21 January 2019 were submitted.

Councillor Musgrave, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He stated that he was representing two important community assets in his ward - Exeter Eagles BMX Club and Exeter Aces Cycle Speedway Club - who were Council tenants operating on the site for 30 years. They demonstrated strong community spirit and contributed to making Exeter more active. The clubs had written to the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Place and Commercialisation about the proposed percentage cuts in their Council rent grant. He understood the reasons for the major grants review but wanted Members to be aware that should these proposals go ahead then both clubs would close within three months of the next full Council as the clubs had no financial resilience. He asked Members to consider an asset transfer to these clubs and he invited Members to visit and see the club in action.

In response to a question, Councillor Musgrave confirmed that the BMX was very affordable for families and that they could ride the entire track for an entire Saturday afternoon for just £2. Both clubs operated on a not for profit basis.

Councillor Warwick, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He stated that use of these clubs should be maximised to reflect the Council's commitment to health and an active life style. He had received correspondence from the BMX Club regarding the reduction in their rent grant which also affected the Cycle Speedway Club. He had been working with the clubs to look at solutions and including a possible asset transfer. The clubs attracted people from all over the country and were well respected, it was important that young people had facilities to boost health and fitness. The volunteers running the organisations had improved the facilities including safety measures. Whilst recognising the main reasons for the grants cuts provision being the continued austerity these cuts left two very worthwhile projects under threat and he referred to other groups faced with cuts such as Rape Crisis. He recognised that the Council did not have a legal duty to support these organisations and that there were other funding available such as crowd funding although it did have a duty to the communities that it represented and he asked that Executive commit to a plan to help such organisations to secure their long term future.

Councillor Wood, having given notice under Standing Order No.44, spoke on this item. He stated that the Council continued to face funding cuts from central government and had sought to mitigate the impact of these cuts on Voluntary and community grants in an imaginative and creative way. He recognised that the Council did not wish to destabilise any groups and the detail and impact of any transitional process was crucial. Although a Trustee of Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau he was speaking on behalf of all of the organisations on this list as many of these groups had complex financial arrangements, including staff considerations. With the consultation beginning in March it would mean that they would start the new financial year with significant unknowns at very short notice. He stated that he reluctantly supported the move to transfer the cost of grants from Revenue to New Homes and CIL funding and asked Members to consider other options on core and rent grants. There was a need to ensure that the Council had mechanisms to sustain the work of many greatly valued groups.

The Leader commented that the Council had to save £2 million and that it gave over £1m in grants every year. He had agreed to meet representations from the BMX and the Speedway clubs but he could make no guarantees. He advised that all the organisations had been informed that the grants would not continue. The Council was looking at other ways in which to help organisations obtain funding.

In response to a Member's question, Councillor Wood commented that he did not know how the cuts would affect the CAB and that whilst they did have reserves the organisation did struggle and, with the cut in the rent and core grant, it was unclear the level of service that could be delivered going forward.

The Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport commented that the Major Grants Panel had made interim recommendation on grant awards for the coming year in line with the available budget for the core and rent grants in 2019/20 to allow time for public consultation for the future policy. He referred to the next item on the agenda in which Members could take into account the Red Quadrant Report and recommendation for the public consultation on a draft policy

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Living Options Devon Grant of £5,000 cease on recommendation from City Development;
- 2) Turntable Grant ceases as Housing Needs wish to place a contract for services for a similar amount for 2019/20;
- 3) Core and rent grants for the 5 Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisations (NPO's) are already subject to a 4 year contract regime and need to be funded in line with current contract terms for 2019/20;
- 4) Community Associations that run Community Centres to continue to have existing rent grants for the full financial year 2019/20 funded through Neighbourhood CIL;
- 5) All other existing rent grants be capped at 2018/19 levels and funded for 6 months from April to September 2019;

- 6) All other existing core grants to be capped at 2018/19 levels and funded for 6 months from April to September 2019;
- 7) Grass Roots Grants (Neighbourhood CIL) process suspended for the time being;
- 8) £44,183 to be transferred from the Neighbourhood CIL to cover the full year effect of the annual rent grant of the 8 Community Associations who currently receive a rent grant;
- 9) Exeter Sports Fund grant, small arts grants, city grants and ad-hoc grant funds cease; and
- 10) The decisions, as set out below be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated:

Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations (ACE NPO's): ECC grants are linked to 4 year contracts	Recommended
Exeter Phoenix	£92,000
Exeter Northcott Theatre	£65,000
Theatre Alibi	£15,360
Libraries Unlimited	£10,000
Kaleider	£8,000

Core grants 50% of 2018/19 core grant in 2019/20	Recommended
Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau	£42,400
ExeAccess (Exeter Community Transport Association)	£8,620
Age UK Exeter	£2,500
Magic Carpet	£750
Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library	£500

Rent Grants for Community Associations Funded from Neighbourhood CIL for 2019/20	Recommended
Topsham Community Association – Matthews Hall	£8,750
Stoke Hill Community Association - St Katherine's Priory	£8,300
Exeter Community Initiatives - Exwick Community Centre	£6,500
Wonford Community and Learning Centre Ltd	£6,250
Alphington Community Association	£6,000
Newcourt Community Association	£6,000
Sylvania Community Facilities Association	£1,550
Stoke Hill Pre School Group	£833

All other rent grants funded at 50% of 2018/19 grant for 2019/20 with the exception of Exeter Phoenix due to ACE NPO 4 year contract	Recommended
Exeter Phoenix	£51,098
Citizens Advice Bureau	£19,664

Exeter BMX Racing Club	£9,870
Age UK Exeter	£8,700
Exeter Relate	£6,800
Exeter Cycle Speedway Club	£6,509
Barnfield Theatre	£6,053
Exeter Water Sports Association	£4,080
The Scrapstore (Hut 2 Belmont Park)	£3,100
Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd	£2,950
Topsham Museum	£2,779
The Scrapstore (Gatehouse and 2 storage containers at CH)	£1,000

(In accordance with Standing Order no. 43 Councillor Leadbetter requested that his vote against the recommendation be recorded)

Meeting adjourned at 10.30pm until 14 February 2019 at 5.30pm

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 10.30 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 26 February 2019.