

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 11 January 2022

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 22 February 2022

Report of: Chief Executive and Growth Director

Title: Strategic Case for the Exeter Development Fund

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The strategic case for the Exeter Development Fund, which is provided as an annex to this report, sets out the concept of a fund that combines public and private sector finance to transform the built environment. The fund would harness capital flows within the city and enable investment in infrastructure development in a way that delivers place-making aspirations without long term dependence on bids for Government grants.

1.2 Work is being done to finish the business case as per the funding from One Public Estate. A full business case will be submitted to members before any decisions are taken on establishing a fund.

2. Recommendations

That Executive and Council note progress on the Exeter Development Fund Strategic Case and, recognising the complexity of the matter, agree to:

- (1) additional, dedicated briefings for members on the strategic case and, when published, for the full business case; and
- (2) a report to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee on the full business case including, if considered appropriate, the formation of a Task and Finish Group to review this in detail.

3. Reasons for the recommendation

To ensure members are aware of the strategic case for the Exeter Development Fund.

4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources?

There are no additional resource implications at this point. The work on the business case is funded by the One Public Estate.

5. Section 151 Officer comments

There are no financial implications for Council to consider contained in this report. Any potential impact will be considered when the business case is submitted and relayed to members before a decision is taken.

6. What are the legal aspects?

Please see below.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments

It is difficult for the Monitoring Officer to comment at this early stage. This advice will be forthcoming once the business case has been finalised, and the delivery mechanism worked through as this will clarify how "best consideration" in accordance with section 123 of the Local Government Act will be achieved.

8. Report details

The detailed strategic case is included at Annex A.

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

9.1 The strategic case contributes directly to the priority Building Great Neighbourhoods, Active Lifestyles and Net Zero Exeter 2030. The premise of the Fund is that business as usual too often fails to deliver the outcomes that matter to the community. This is addressed in the strategic case for the fund.

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

10.1 A detailed risk assessment would be included with the business case.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the report is for information only. An Equality Impact Assessment would accompany any business case that members are asked to approve.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations as the report is for information only at this stage. A key goal of the Fund is to support the city's Net Zero objectives and ensure the development programme does not create a legacy burden for the future to meet local and national net zero carbon targets.

13. Are there any other options?

The Business Case that will be presented to Executive and Council will address a number of options which will include business as usual, i.e., do nothing and allow the market to deliver.

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

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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