

To the Chair and Members of the Scrutiny Committee - Economy

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AGENDA FOR EXETER CITY COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY

The Scrutiny Committee - Economy will meet on **THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2013**, commencing at **5.30 pm**, in the Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter to consider the following business. If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Sharon Sissons, Member Services Officer on **Exeter 265115**.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Pages

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

1

APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for absence from Committee Members.

2

MINUTES

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013.

3

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests that relate to business on the agenda and which have not already been included in the register of interests, before any discussion takes place on the item. Unless the interest is sensitive, you must also disclose the nature of the interest. In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, you must then leave the room and must not participate in any further discussion of the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

Office of Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support						
Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN	Tel: 01392 277888	Fax: 01392 265593	www.exeter.gov.uk			

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 -EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 15 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

5

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

A period of up to 15 minutes will be set aside to deal with questions to the Committee from members of the public.

Details of questions should be notified to the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support at least three working days prior to the meeting. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Member Services (01392 265115) and also on the Council's web site <u>http://www.exeter.gov.uk/scrutinyquestions</u>

6

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 20

To receive questions from Members of the Council to appropriate Portfolio Holders.

7 BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PRESENTATION

Presentation by Stephen Oliver from YTKO who has been commissioned by Connecting Devon and Somerset to manage their business support programme aimed at equipping businesses across the two counties with the knowledge and skills to take full advantage of the improved broadband services being brought by the recently announced £94 million private and public sector investment to be made in Devon and Somerset.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY EXECUTIVE

8 PREPARATION OF KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY STRATEGY 2013 - 2018

To consider the report of the Assistant Director Economy – *report circulated* 1 - 4

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CITY CENTRE BID

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PRODUCTION OF PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

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MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ECONOMY

11 PROGRESS REPORT: EHOD EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

To consider the report of the Assistant Director Economy – *report circulated* 11 - 16

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

To consider the report of the Assistant Director Economy – *report circulated* 17 - 30

13 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP SCOPING REPORT

To consider the report of the Assistant Director Economy – *report circulated* 31 - 32

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

14 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

To consider the joint report of the Strategic Director and Assistant Director 33 - 44 Finance – *report circulated*

PART II: ITEM SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION BY EXECUTIVE

15 EXETER AND HEART OF DEVON GROWTH BOARD MINUTES

Members are invited to note the minutes of the Exeter and Heart of Devon45 - 52Growth Board held on 22 January 2013 – minutes circulated to Members45 - 52

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next **Scrutiny Committee - Economy** will be held on Thursday 30 May 2013 5.30 pm

FUTURE BUSINESS

The schedule of future business proposed for this Scrutiny Committee and other Committees of the Council can be viewed on the following link to the Council's website:<u>http://www.exeter.gov.uk/forwardplan</u> Councillors can view a hard copy of the schedule in the Members Room.

Membership -

12

Councillors Crow (Chair), Brock (Deputy Chair), Baldwin, Bialyk, Bull, Choules, Crew, Lyons, Mottram, Pearson, Prowse, Robson and Wardle

Find out more about Exeter City Council services by looking at our web site *http://www.exeter.gov.uk.* This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Member Services Officer on (01392) 265115 for further information.

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EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

EXECUTIVE 19 MARCH 2013

PREPARATION OF KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY STRATEGY 2013-2018

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek support for the preparation of a strategy and action plan setting-out how the City's economy could benefit from focussing on the development and attracting of science and technology organisations, creating high quality employment.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Development of the knowledge economy has been an ongoing priority for sometime for the City Council and its existing Economic Development Strategy, and in its partnership working with its neighbours, East Devon District Council, Devon County Council, the University of Exeter, Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, Exeter College, the Met Office and others. The current ongoing economic difficulties and the uncertain future facing different sectors in the city, have lead to a realisation that the city has to embrace the need for managed change in its economy and that it has had to deliver the infrastructure needed to support and facilitate economic growth.
- 2.2 The knowledge economy is described as being based around activities which create value from exploiting knowledge and technology rather than physical assets and manual labour. It is growing primarily because consumer demand has increased for different types of products and services, and because the methods involved in making them are changing. New highly skilled jobs in developing, managing, and applying these knowledge based assets are replacing older technologies and approaches. The economic drivers resulting from these changes represent a fundamental and sometimes considered irrevocable shift in how organisations work, apply their resources, create value, change employment practices and where they choose to operate.
- 2.3 Against a background of reducing average income levels and enforced restructuring of the economy, supporting the growth of higher value jobs is an essential element of looking to the future success of the city. There is no room for complacency arising out of the relative positive position of the city's economy. In the short to medium term, supporting the creation of such employment opportunities will be especially important as the city seeks to recover from the recession. In order to facilitate recovery and growth, it will be important to be clear about and play on the city's strengths, identify its relevant key assets and be realistic about the sources from which growth is likely to come.
- 2.4 Recent developments and the achievements of key organisations in the city have created what might be regarded as a platform for facing up to the key challenges to

- Exeter's position as a principal economic driver and its relationship with the wider "real" economic geography of the city, including its economic relationships with East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge.
- rationalising and promoting the city as a prime location for investment and relocation
- the important strategic developments including the Exeter Science Park, Skypark Business Park, and existing developments, organisations and networks such as the Innovation Centre, the Met Office and the "Exist" initiative by the Chamber of Commerce
- the research and development strengths of the University of Exeter, recently acclaimed as University of the Year with its developing world class research environment with positive engagement and knowledge transfer between users of research in industry, government and the third sector.
- the above national average level of employment in the knowledge economyin the area and the above average skills levels
- the high quality of life in the city and surrounding area

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is recommended that specialist advice is sought and provided to the City Council, and to key partners, on the potential opportunities to grow the city's knowledge economy further as a focus for attracting investment and renowned expertise, growing businesses, developing new sources of business activity for local companies, and creating employment opportunities for local people.
- 3.2 A strategy needs to be developed to set out the opportunities for growing the knowledge economy and key realistic and achievable actions that should be taken to realise these opportunities. The strategy should identify and deal with barriers to progress which might be related to the workforce and skills, access to finance, sites and premises, issues affecting the productivity of the area, targeting key potential "anchor" organisations and the perception of the area.
- 3.3 The consultants will be required to engage with other key agencies and major private and public (including academic) sector organisations involved in or whose activities influence economic development in the Exeter economy and who will be instrumental in achieving the aims of the strategy.
- 3.4 The consultants will be required to include realistic recommendations for how key proposals could be achieved and resourced.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is estimated that the cost of this piece of work should be no more than £20,000, but that measures will be taken to produce the strategy for less.
- 4.2 The project can be funded from the unallocated element of the New Homes Bonus receipts.

5. **RECOMMENDATION** that:

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committee Economy agree that a strategy be developed to promote the further development of the city's knowledge economy.
- 5.2 Executive approve funding of up to £20,000 be provided to secure specialist advice to prepare the strategy.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: None This page is intentionally left blank



EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

EXECUTIVE 19 MARCH 2013

CITY CENTRE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To propose City Council support and funding towards the costs of establishing a City Centre Business Improvement District (BID).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members previously supported the development of a BID for Exeter City Centre in 2011. A BID is an area within which local businesses agree, through a local ballot, to levy a supplementary rate in addition to their business rates, to support a programme of activities and improvements in that area. Legislation enacting Business Improvement Districts came into force in September 2004.
- 2.2 The businesses in the designated area are primarily responsible for drawing up the BID proposal which is the subject of the vote. This includes a business plan, an indication of the facilities or services which will be provided within the BID, the geographical area, and the amount to be levied on each business.
- 2.3 A BID can be established for a period of up to, but not exceeding five years and, if extended for a longer period, must be subject to a further vote.
- 2.4 BIDs have been delivering a wide range of improvements to local areas from town/city centres and business parks to complete market towns. Successful BIDs across the country have claimed the following benefits:-
 - improvement of existing services or facilities, or securing finance for initiatives that enhance a local area;
 - making areas cleaner and safer, including addressing inaccurate negative perceptions where this is more the case
 - enhanced marketing and entertainment to attract visitors
 - attracting inward investment and development
 - improving/developing tourism attractions
 - improvement in communication between the Council and local businesses in order to address agreed issues and priorities
- 2.5 Approval to "make BID arrangements" to hold a ballot for a proposed BID has to be sought by application to the Secretary of State. In summary the arrangements involve:-
 - the BID proposer notifying the Secretary of State at least 84 days before the notice of ballot is issued of the intention to hold a ballot

- the BID proposer notifying the local authority of their wish to hold the ballot
- the local authority arranges for the notice of the ballot to be published to the voters (at least 42 days prior to the date of the ballot)
- ballot packs including the proposal sent out (at least 28 days prior to the day of the ballot)
- final ballot day (within 90 days of notice of ballot)
- ballot results announced (usually within a day of ballot closing)
- 28 days allowed for veto requests
- implementation day (within 365 days of notice submitted to the local authority)
- 2.6 BID proposals are not regarded as approved by a ballot unless two conditions are satisfied; the first, removing the risk that the majority of smaller operators will be outvoted by a small number of larger organisations.
 - that a majority of the persons voting in the ballot have voted in favour of the BID proposals and
 - that A exceeds B where: -

A: is the aggregate of the rateable values of each hereditament in respect of which a person voting in the ballot has voted in favour of the BID proposals

B: is the aggregate of the rateable value of each hereditament in respect of which a person voting in the ballot has voted against the BID proposals.

- 2.7 BID arrangements may be reviewed by additional ballots, for one of more periods, each no more than 5 years. Changes to the operation of a BID area also require a ballot of those who are liable for the payment of the levy.
- 2.8 A ballot to establish a BID in the city centre was held in July 2011 and failed by a narrow margin.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 Members received a report on the draft City Centre Strategy at the Scrutiny Economy and Executive meetings in January. The draft, agreed as the basis for widespread consultation, will be the subject of future discussions and revision prior to the final document being approved as the agreed City Centre Strategy to be taken forward by the City Centre Partnership in conjunction with all the key partners, including the City Council and Devon County Council.
- 3.2 The City Centre Strategy will include a number of proposed actions which will not be deliverable without the potential substantial resources which could be secured by a successful BID proposal the BID Business Plan.
- 3.3 It is likely the BID proposals will at least include the following aims:-
 - increase new and repeat customers promoting the area, its attractions and events
 - improve the visitor and resident experience making the area brighter, cleaner and safer

- provide a significant financial resource to make a real difference to business success, protect and create employment, and support projects targeted at specific areas of the city centre
- introduce a positive brand and profile involving pro-active promotion of development and investment opportunities
- help to attract and retain quality staff
- encourage and co-ordinate proactive strong businesses groupings around the city centre – to collaborate on key projects or address issues in their locality
- be fair and inclusive allocating BID funds to benefit all businesses in the city centre
- act in a honest and transparent way proposals would be decided by businesses, developed by businesses, delivered by businesses.
- 3.4 Development of a BID proposal and Business Plan will include the preparation of baseline statements covering central services provided by the City Council, Devon County Council and other organisations responsible for services and activities in the city centre. It is likely the BID Business Plan will include proposals to enhance these services funded by the BID levy.
- 3.5 The services and projects contained in the final proposal document will have been subject to extensive consultation and communication with the business community in the city. The final Plan will also be brought before Members for approval as they will include financial and other commitments from the City Council.
- 3.6 The development of the BID Business Plan and undertaking the campaign and BID vote process requires funding. It is estimated the total cost to prepare the BID Business Plan and prepare for and undertake the ballot will be £50,000. The BID proposals need to involve and be taken forward by the business community including the Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations and representatives of specific areas of the city centre.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the City Council contribute up to £25,000 towards the costs of the preparation of the Business Plan and holding of the ballot. The balance should be met by funds and measurable in-kind contributions from the business community.
- 4.2 The City Council's contribution can be met from the unallocated element of the New Homes Bonus funding.
- 4.3 The City Council's annual liability for the additional levy payment would be about £24,000 at the time of writing this report. Therefore, provision would have to be set aside in the relevant individual council budgets for the additional funding to meet the BID levy requirements. If the BID vote was successful in early 2014 then this liability would occur from financial year 2014/15.

5. **RECOMMENDATION** that:

5.1 Scrutiny discuss and confirm its support for the development of a City Centre Business Improvement District.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: Report to Scrutiny Committee – Economy dated 9 June 2011 and Executive 21 June 2011.



EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

EXECUTIVE 19 MARCH 2013

PRODUCTION OF PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To seek support for the production of a promotional video (also known as a Vodcast) that will appear on Exeter City Council's website and be available in an edited format for personal presentations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The City Council undertakes a range of marketing activities to promote the city for investment and to continually raise its profile. This is against the background of most growth orientated cities in the UK also promoting themselves proactively and some very effectively with lively imagery and a combination of a range of communication techniques and convincing current presentations.
- 2.2 Exeter City Council's website <u>www.exeter.gov.uk</u> is currently very successful in that the home page receives approximately 18,500 page views each month. It is highly optimised which means that Exeter City Council pages will often come at or near the top of a Google search.
- 2.3 The Business section <u>www.exeter.gov.uk/business</u> is the main point of contact for businesses seeking information about business support available, the Commercial Property Register, other business related issues involving the Council and acts as a key mechanism for promoting investment in the city. The Business Section home page receives approximately 600 page views each day and 19,000 each month, many visitors bypassing the home page to reach the business section direct.
- 2.4 Around 92% of the 1,000+ enquiries received each year related to business sites or accommodation searches arrive via the Exeter City Council business web pages.
- 2.5 It has now been recognised that the business pages of the website in particular are less effective because of changes in the ways people use technology. Attention spans have become shorter. Videos on websites are engaging ways that enable key messages to be better communicated in a 'time poor' culture.
- 2.6 The growing use of videos on websites by partners such as University of Exeter and also our competitors has led to a realisation that the City Council has to embrace this form of presentation in order to achieve the desired impact or be left behind.
- 2.7 Senior officers and directors at Exeter City Council often make presentations to organisations that are considering relocation. Such presentations can be significantly enhanced and greater impact using an effective video-based element embedded within them, bringing the city and its advantages to life.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 It is recommended that a specialist film production company should be used to create the video and three local companies have been asked to estimate likely costs.
- 3.2 It is possible to get a video made cheaply. However, if Exeter City Council is to maintain its normal standards of excellence, it is strongly advised to use industry specialists and not to be tempted by false economies. Having a weak video would be worse in commercial and reputation terms than having no video at all.
- 3.3 For the stated budget of £18,000, industry specialists would be able to provide a film that would bring their full production acumen to bear. The film would encapsulate the key message of Exeter as a centre of business excellence, demonstrating the benefits of business relocation to the city.

They would generate concepts, storyboards and spend time in research, carefully selecting a series of high-profile interview subjects and developing themes in the production that would generate an effective identity for the city.

The film would benefit from thorough research and development, strong concept options and the greatest possible variety of footage to best promote Exeter. The film would be dynamic and involving and would include set-pieces in and around city landmarks. High-quality graphics and CGI (computer generated imagery) where appropriate would bring the narrative to life and best display the full array of opportunity the city has to offer the individual and the business community.

3.4 A 2 minute (approx.) highlight edited version will be produced for use in presentations, trade fairs etc. when the longer format is not necessarily appropriate.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

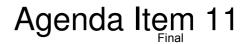
- 4.1 It is estimated that the cost of this piece of work should be no more than £18,000.
- 4.2 The immediate costs of the project can be funded from the unallocated element of the New Homes Bonus receipts.

5. **RECOMMENDATION** that:

- 5.1 Scrutiny Committee Economy agree that a video be produced to promote the advantages of the city for local and relocating businesses.
- 5.2 Executive approve funding of up to £18,000 to produce a 5 minute video to be included on the Exeter City Council website and a shorter edited version to be available for separate presentations.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: None



EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

PROGRESS REPORT: EHOD EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the activities of the Employment and Skills Board for the Exeter and Heart of Devon area and progress make made getting local people into work, promoting the value of skills and supporting business growth.
- 1.2 The report explores some of the skill issues affecting the local economy, sets out the Employment and Skills Board's strategic priorities and provides examples of where the Board has made a difference so far.

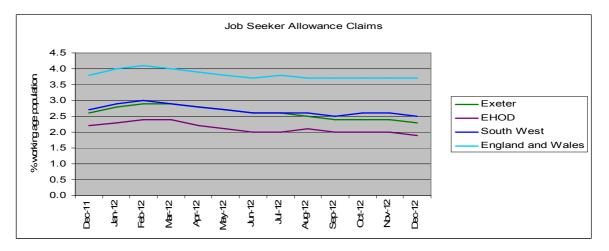
2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Employment and Skills Board (ESB) is information led, steered by reports and research (eg. SLIM Employment & Skills Analysis, RTP Growth Point Study) that indicate a number of underlying labour market dynamics which affect employment levels, skill development, business productivity in the Exeter area. The ESB are looking to address underlying issues in order to improve opportunities for local people and help them to benefit from employment growth.

Major trends in the local labour market are highlighted below:

2.2 Low unemployment but relatively low business productivity

Unemployment levels in the Exeter and Heart of Devon (EHOD) economic area have constantly remained below South West and national levels.



However, measures of productivity in the workforce for 2011 show that Gross Value Added per head in Devon (£16,711) remains below the national average (£21,349) and below neighbouring areas of Somerset (£17,209) and Bristol (£26,164). The clear link between training and productivity indicates a need to encourage local employers to invest in relevant training and promote the value of continuous development.

2.3 Rising levels of youth unemployment and strong competition for entry level jobs

Although unemployment levels in the EHOD area are low, young people make up a disproportionately high percentage of benefit claimants. The level of young people (18-24) claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) has increased in EHOD over the previous year and the number of individuals claiming JSA for 12 months or more has doubled.

Area	Dec 2011	Dec 2012
Exeter	40	115
East Devon	25	45
Mid Devon	25	65
Teignbridge	25	55
EHOD	115	285
South West	1,320	4,110
England & Wales	32,365	67,115

Escalating university fees and the raising of the school leaving age is likely to increase competition for apprenticeship placements and entry level jobs. This will require a corresponding increase in the amount of employers willing to offer opportunities to young, in-experienced job seekers. However, destinations data from 2011 indicates that there are four times as many school leavers in jobs without training as there are in jobs with training, which may reflect availability of this option in the labour market.

2.3 Growth in Knowledge Intensive Industries but low take-up of key subjects

The development of the Exeter Science Park and investments by the University of Exeter will lead to significant job growth and creation in knowledge intensive industries; those that are characterised as requiring a strong foundation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills. Furthermore, several new commercial development sites are intended to contribute to growth in technology, engineering and professional service based companies, all of which have a strong requirement for skills and training in these subjects. Targeted campaigns started in the mid-2000s to encourage and inspire young people into "STEM" subjects and careers have resulted in a significant increase in STEM-subjects at A-level, particularly in maths and further maths. Furthermore, the University of Exeter and Exeter College recently announced plans to establish a specialist Maths free-school in Exeter for 120 16-19 year old students. South West Universities have also seen growth in applications to study engineering and technologies. However, the Government's target for number of entries in Physics may not be met and recent data indicates falling participation in design and technology, computer science and IT at GCSE and at A-level (SLIM, 2012).

2.4 High proportion of people with high skill levels but low graduate retention

Analysis of the skills profile across the EHOD area indicates a requirement for people with Level 3 (A-level equivalent) and 4 (degree equivalent) skills across all sectors, particularly in management positions, research and development and professional occupations. The Exeter area appears to be well suited to supply a highly skilled workforce, especially due to the presence of University of Exeter, which is in the top 1% of leading world universities and brings large numbers of well-educated and skilled young people into the EHOD area. However, data from the 2010-11 Graduate Destinations Survey suggests that out of 2,245 University of Exeter graduates surveyed only 405 (18%) had found employment in Devon and fewer still were in graduate level employment. Furthermore, data suggests only 5% of employers in the Heart of the South West area had recruited a graduate in the last 12 months. This indicates a need to stimulate business demand for graduates and encourage graduate recruitment, especially for high-growth knowledge-intensive companies.

2.5 Employer engagement versus employer overload

Apprenticeships are at the heart of the Coalition Governments long term strategy for developing a skilled workforce, emphasising the need for people to develop practical, work-place skills in order to increase their likelihood of sustainable employment. Despite national, regional and local campaigns to promote the value and benefit of apprenticeships they are still underutilised by employers in Devon. Only 6.3% of Employers in Devon take on apprentices compared to 8.1% nationally. Slow take-up by employers can be attributed to a myriad of issues, particularly around their image, accessibility and quality. In the EHOD area these issues are compounded by the high proportion of small and micro businesses, who have a lower propensity to invest in training.

Furthermore, employers are under pressure to tackle rising youth unemployment by engaging with workplace skills programmes. This includes pressure to engage with education, to offer work experience to job seekers, to provide internships to college and university students, to take on apprenticeships or to offer volunteering; at a time when very few have the time to engage.

- 2.6 These factors indicate a need for the Employment and Skills Board to work collaboratively to:
 - improve opportunities for local people by encouraging and facilitating employers to offer jobs and training to young people and the unemployed
 - ensure people making the transition from education to employment have developed skills aligned with labour market need
 - promote the value of skill development and its link to business productivity
 - provide clear mechanisms for local employers to influence, engage with and utilise skill development programmes

3.0 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS BOARD

- 3.1 The Employment and Skill Board (ESB) supports economic development by helping to address issues which affect business and job growth.
- 3.2 The ESB is an employer-led partnership between local businesses, training organisations and statutory bodies such as Jobcentre Plus. It has established itself as an independent body and voice for local employers, with quarterly Board meetings held since 2008 and a core membership of committed stakeholders. The private sector is represented by a range of key employers, including Waitrose, Michelmores and Interserve Construction, as well as member-representative organisations, such as the Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Hoteliers Association.
- 3.3 The ESB's primary objective is to understand, facilitate and promote the skills needs of businesses within the Exeter and Heart of Devon economic area and improve the skills of the workforce in-line with local economic priorities. The ESB's overarching vision is for a strong local economy built from productive, sustainable businesses and a workforce armed with relevant skills to enable them to enter and progress in employment.
- 3.4 The Employment and Skills Board are currently developing a high level strategic priorities statement with benchmarked data for performance management purposes. It is proposed that the following three themes are prioritised for the ESB's attention and activity:
 - (i) Helping people back to financial independence, by
 - up-skilling unemployed people to meet labour market needs
 - (ii) Reducing youth (16-24) unemployment, by
 helping young people make the transition into employment

- raising aspirations and encouraging development of skills which meet employer requirements
- (iii) Helping businesses to be more successful, by:
 - promoting clear messages to employers about the value of investing in skills and how they can influence the training offer by engaging directly with mainstream training providers
- 3.5 The ESB has already begun to deliver results in some of these areas. Examples are provided below.

(a) Coordinating and delivering projects to address skill issues, for example:

- Focus Five Award Piloting a new award for16-19 year old students, aiming to give them a head start in the employment market by enhancing their skills in the "big five" employability areas; organisation, team work, problem solving, communication and customer care. The Award is led by local employers, who volunteer their time to mentor students and undertake final assessments via mock-interview.
- Community Energy Fit Exeter Working with e.on and National Energy Action to coordinate an energy-saving themed training programme to up-skill unemployed residents. A total of 66 unemployed people have received free training so far and 5 have progressed to a City & Guilds qualification.
- (b) Developing new tools and resources, for example:
- Secured funding from Devon County Council to produce 6 sector-focused case studies, giving honest accounts of employers experiences taking on an apprentice. Case studies have been disseminated and accessed by hundreds of employers, aiming to reduce misconceptions and increase take-up of apprenticeships. Case studies also disseminated about two alternative models for recruiting apprentices (Group Training Association and Apprentice Training Association models) to help small businesses.
- So far 18 "Skill and Career Progression Maps" have been produced in key employment sectors, to help employers and training providers identify and address the skills needs and gaps in the workforce. These Maps have been endorsed by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) and are now used by training providers and National Apprenticeship Service to engage thousands of employers about skills issues

(c) Communicating clear and consistent messages to businesses, for example:

- A partnership of training and employment service providers was formed to deliver a branded event and follow-up media campaign; "Get Devon Working". This led to over 100 "warm leads" being followed-up up with employers and 15 confirmed new apprenticeships directly attributed to the campaign, plus 2 work experience placements and 2 graduate internship placements. Softer outcomes also reported, leaving a legacy of stronger collaboration between project partners
- Signposting website under development, to provide a single mechanism for employers to access information and resolve queries about local skills and training provision.
- (d) Facilitating delivery of training and employment, for example:
- Establishing a central hub ("the WorkTrain") to coordinate and support employment and training activity to coordinate a range of skills, training and recruitment activity for major development programmes in the Exeter area. This initiative aims to help businesses recruit local people, take on apprentices and facilitate investment in workforce development. Dedicated Coordinators will work with employers to:
 - understand their current and future labour market needs
 - communicate skills needs, gaps and issues to partners, so that they can develop and provide people with the right skills

- identify dates and timescales for recruitment peaks and coordinate timely support
- 3.6 The skill landscape is under great upheaval as the current administration moves to greater employer ownership of the skills agenda. Funding structures are being simplified and devolved and it is anticipated that the HoSW Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will soon be allocated 20% of the Skills Funding Agency budget (£4b invested in adult skills in UK) to be utilised on training that meets local business need. The LEP has indicated that it will be looking to the local Employment and Skills Boards to help articulate what is needed.
- 3.7 The Employment and Skills Board has already developed a close link with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), representing the Exeter and Heart of Devon area to the LEP Skills network, championing local skills issues and influencing strategic decisions. In addition, the five ESB's in Devon and Somerset were recently commissioned by the LEP to bid for the Local Response Fund, to deliver pilot projects which address skill issues in the area. Successful applicants will be notified by late March 2013.

Furthermore, in anticipation of future funding opportunities the Employment and Skills Board has improved its position to bid for funding by setting up as a social enterprise company (ie. not-for-profit), led by employers as Directors.

3.8 Officers will continue to report progress to future meetings of this Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Exeter City Council and East Devon District Council co-fund the Project and Partnerships Manager role each contributing £15,000 per year to coordinate and deliver Employment and Skills Board activity. Exeter College are intending to contribute funding to support the Board's activities.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATION** that:

5.1 Members comment on progress made.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: 'Unemployment in Exeter', 31 May 2012 Scrutiny Committee – Economy, Exeter City Council This page is intentionally left blank

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To provide Members with a brief overview of provision in Exeter for business support including the contribution made by services funded by the City Council and recommend changes in delivery to assist small businesses to start up, survive, and grow.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In order to sustain Exeter's economic strength, it is important to assist those small businesses which are struggling, encourage and support new businesses to replace those that have ceased trading, to create new or perhaps better employment opportunities, and to enable the economy to respond to changing economic circumstances.
- 2.2 The generation of new social enterprise businesses is also important to help strengthen and diversify the local economy. Social enterprises are businesses that principally have social objectives, with any profits achieved ploughed back into the business or into the community. In essence, the efforts of the social enterprise are invested into providing social benefit not for private financial gain.
- 2.3 In March 2012 this Committee received a report on the Council's funding of free professional advice and guidance support for small businesses and social enterprises in Exeter. The report proposed that assistance should still be available to those looking to start up in Exeter, but an increasing emphasis on support should be given to clients who had been assisted to start up in the previous 2 years of trading. The aim was to provide additional support to clients during the economy's challenging trading conditions.
- 2.4 The Council funded business adviser works with colleagues in the University's Innovation Centre and meets clients primarily in the Customer Services reception area in the Civic Centre providing services under the banner of Exeter Business Support. Exeter Business Support is a partnership consisting of Peninsula Innovations Limited (PIL), which is responsible for the management of the University's Innovation Centre, Exeter College's Business School, and the Fruit Tree for Business. Exeter Chamber of Commerce and the Exeter branch of the Federation of Small Businesses support the partnership. The Fruit Tree for Business is contracted to deliver support to new or existing social enterprises.
- 2.5 The range of advice offered by Exeter Business Support has the main benefit of ensuring expertise is available in the city across a wide spectrum of business needs that encompasses support for pre-starts, start-ups, and existing businesses; from privately owned entities to social enterprises, co-operatives, and mutuals and spans traditional smaller "traditional" to innovative/high growth businesses. The City Council funded element is aimed primarily at the smaller more traditional end of the spectrum whereas the Innovation Centre focuses on the more technically specialised business proposals.
- 2.6 As part of the Council's contribution towards business support a range of other activity is also provided directly or in partnership with other organisations. These include: information for businesses on the Council's website including the on-line

commercial property register, the Exeter Business Centre (Marsh Barton), the retail shops leased by Estate Services, partnership activities with the Employment and Skills Board and the implementation of the Place Marketing Strategy, promoting the city for investment.

2.7 The landscape of business support provision continues to change both nationally and locally, and the nature of support has perhaps become confusing to referral agencies and clients in the city because of the wider variety and different costs involved. To respond to the changes in business support and to continue to address gaps in provision, whilst maintaining funding for the activities of Exeter Business Support is recommended, some adjustments to its delivery are proposed.

3.0 UPDATE

Nationally

- 3.1 Business Link as the Government's nationally supported programme and provider of support for small businesses has ceased altogether, and support is only available on-line via one website, https://www.gov.uk. There is no longer central provision of a call centre providing access to telephone support.
- 3.2 A "Business Finance Taskforce", which was set up by the British Bankers' Association operates a separate on-line tool at <u>www.mentorsme.co.uk</u>. This portal enables individuals to search for help for businesses at different life-cycle stages and is available as an offer at county and national level. However, according to a survey in September 2012 by the Department of Business (BIS) some 23% of small and medium sized businesses are aware of the service, but only 3% used it.
- 3.3 According to an October 2012 survey by 'Cobweb,' a business information website for businesses, business support and advice organisations have been experiencing record levels of demand for their services, particularly from start-ups and pre-starts and those small businesses struggling to survive.
- 3.4 A report by the Financial Times in November 2012 may shed light on where the demand comes from; according to their research people aged over 50 years and older have accounted for more than 80% of the increase in self-employment since 2008.

Locally

- 3.5 Research undertaken by Experian entitled, 'BBC Local Growth Research' (February 2012) 'looked at evidence for growth between 2010 and 2012 in every local authority area in England.' Exeter in particular performs well in the region and is within the top 10 local authority districts 'in the country that possesses businesses with high growth potential. Such businesses are defined as 'young, small but rapidly expanding growing firms with entrepreneurial skills, with an appetite for business risk and an international outlook.'
- 3.6 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) statistics for Exeter highlight that on average around 360 new enterprises start up in the city every year. The survival rates of new businesses in Exeter in the first year of trading are 88% (England and Wales 87%) but fall off in subsequent years of trading. By year 2 it hovers around 75% for Exeter and 74% for England and Wales. By the 5th year of trading, around 51% are still in business within Exeter, and 45% across England and Wales. These "failing" businesses, particularly as the economy continues to experience tough trading conditions, are likely to benefit from further business support. However, achieving awareness of the service requires a higher profile via marketing.

- 3.7 Provision of business support services by other organisations in Exeter has been summarised within Appendix 1. The appendix contains two tables which highlight the range of support available by type of businesses supported and services offered. Some information is being sought but has yet to be provided, hence why some cells within the tables are empty.
- 3.8 Initially, most providers provide free limited access to their services which is largely tied to support those individuals looking to start traditional small businesses (prestarts). Individuals claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) can, if they secure support via the Government's New Enterprise Allowance, receive 6 months of free support once they have commenced trading. However, for the majority, on-going support is fee-based. Struggling businesses may not be able to afford access to advice that could make the difference to their survival and growth in the vital early period. In addition, existing small businesses, and those looking to start-up often lack adequate access to finance.

4.0 EXETER BUSINESS SUPPORT

4.1 The table below summarises the outputs secured from Council funding. The results reflect the change in service delivery reported in March 2012 focusing more on new start-ups and existing small businesses and particularly assistance to clients from the previous two financial years.

Outputs secured from Council funding for business support services	April 2011 – March 2012	April 2012 – January 2013	Target
Traditional	businesses sup	ported	
pre-start businesses assisted:	159	100	120
small businesses assisted to start-up	45	35	20
recent start-ups and existing businesses	51	88	70
number of jobs created	49	35	40
participants at workshops	224	174	N/A
on-going support for 2010/2011 and 2011/12 start-ups	N/A	53	70
Social enterpr	rise businesses s	upported	
pre-start businesses assisted:	67	20	No Target Set
small businesses assisted to start-up	8	6	5
social enterprises in the pipeline to start-up	6	1	No Target Set
recent start-ups and existing businesses	15	15	20
number of jobs created	15.45 FTE	8.1 FTE	No Target set
on-going support for 2010/2011 and 2011/12 start-ups	8	16	20
Additional funds leveraged for clients	£80,600	£3,250 directly and £49,000 through support (additional £20,000 in the pipeline)	£10,000

- 4.2 The client profile of those people looking to start up or are trading as a traditional businesses or as a social enterprise is broadly as follows:
 - for traditional businesses
 - pre-starts some 70% have been unemployed and 30% have been or been in the process of being made redundant;

- around 75% have been trading for up to 2 years
- around 25% have been trading for over 2 years
- for social enterprises
 - pre-starts the profile of clients is split 50-50 unemployed/facing redundancy
 - around 80% have been trading for up to 2 years
 - around 20% have been trading for over 2 years
- 4.3 Business advisers have informed officers that some small businesses struggle for more than 2 years before they are in a position to prosper and therefore may be unable to pay for fee-based services on offer from providers within Exeter.
- 4.4 In terms of gender, age and ethnicity, the breakdown for 2012/2013 is as follows:
 - for traditional businesses
 - 59% male, 41% female
 - 59% aged under 44; 37% aged 45 to 54; 4% aged 55 years and over
 - 95% white and 5% black and minority ethnic communities (ONS population estimates for Exeter are 93% white and 7% are from black and minority ethnic communities (BME)
 - for social enterprises
 - 38% male, 62% female
 - 54% aged under 44; 31% aged 45 to 54; 15% aged 55 years and over
 - 85% white and 15% black and minority ethnic communities
- 4.5 Appendix 2 contains an illustrative list of typical small businesses and social enterprises assisted by the services funded by the City Council. These include a range of business to business services, retail, IT, education and training, arts and health related rational businesses and social enterprises.
- 4.6 The services funded by the Council deliver a range of intensive one to one support dependent on need and includes the following:
 - business health check & recovery strategies to assist with finance and cash flow
 - business viability evaluation
 - detailed financial analysis to help prepare strategies for survival
 - marketing review, helping to develop strategies for growth
 - provide detailed feedback on clients' draft submissions to various agencies and potential funders
 - advice on changes to business structure, e.g. from sole trader to limited company
 - independent business assessments for clients facing change, provide reports for management on suggested priorities and remedial actions
- 4.7 With regard to sustaining small business clients which have started in the previous two years, the survival data is set out in the table below. Survival rates for traditional businesses are lower than as reported in section 3.6 above highlighting the need for support during businesses formative years.

Survival data for Council funded business support services								
Support given to traditional businesses	2010/2011 (up to 2 years trading)	2011/2012 (up to 1 year trading)						
Still trading	44%	80%						
No response/status unknown	44%	6%						
Ceased trading	12%	18%						
Support given to social enterprises								
Still trading	80%	70%						
No response/status unknown	0%	10%						
Ceased trading	20%	20%						

4.8 Outputs from April to November 2012 from the University Innovation Centre's assistance to hi-tech businesses provided under the partnership banner of Exeter Business Support are as follows:

pre-start businesses supported	40
small businesses assisted to start-up	7
recent start-ups and existing businesses supported	56
jobs created	26
people had their business skills developed	46
business network sessions – involving around 795 participants	21
investment raised by Innovation Centre businesses	£685k

4.9 Over the last financial year, 30 of the business tenants within the Innovation Centre saw a turnover in the region of £15 million, collectively employing over 170 staff.

5.0 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 The level of demand for the nature of business advice offered by the Council funded support and its success in creating and sustaining new businesses, particularly in the current climate, warrant its continuation. In the ongoing difficult economic circumstances, self employment or business formation remains an important option for some individuals to improve their financial position. There is also the need to continue raising awareness of advice and support available from Exeter Business Support, tailoring the provision from the Council funded services to fill any important gaps in the local market place.
- 5.2 There is also a need to clarify to referring agencies and potential clients the nature and provision of advice and guidance for small businesses in Exeter. Currently the services funded by the Council refer clients to each other to ensure the most appropriate support is provided. There is an opportunity to provide a better service to the clients by officers facilitating regular communications/ meetings with providers listed in Appendix 1. It is hoped that by regularly sharing information, ideas and working practices a more effective collaborative network of support for small business growth will arise.
- 5.3 In addition it is proposed that officers :
 - focus systematically on increasing awareness amongst the network of other providers, banks, accountants, the Chamber of Commerce, Exeter Federation of Small Businesses and Exeter Business for Communities about the arrange of services available from Exeter Business Support

- explore with those organisations that provide finance for small businesses such as Fredericks Foundation, Virgin Money and peer-to-peer lending bodies how they might create a framework which improves access to finance in Exeter
- 5.4 As reported earlier, provision across Exeter of pre-start advice, is largely covered by free or low cost fees charged by providers operating in the city. However, some individuals may:
 - find the duration of support is insufficient to meet their business start up needs
 - lack sufficient income to afford even a modest fee to pay for advice and guidance
 - not meet the eligibility criteria for free support, e.g. not claiming JSA or they fall out side the age range for assistance from the Princes Trust or PRIME
- 5.5 Therefore, whilst it is proposed that Exeter Business Support continue to provide pre-start assistance, the offer should be adapted for the 2013/2014 financial year and advisors should in any initial contact with an individual, quickly diagnose their ability to pay fees. Those for whom other services are available and potentially can afford to pay should be signposted to fee-charging providers. Targets for next financial year will be the same as 2012/13.
- 5.6 There remain gaps in market provision for recent start ups and existing small businesses. Exeter Business Support should fill these gaps and/or continue to assist:
 - individuals claiming JSA in receipt of the new enterprise allowance post their 6 months of support provided free of charge via West Devon BIP (see Appendix 1)
 - recent start-ups trading up to 2 years who have been previously supported by Exeter Business Support
 - struggling existing small businesses unable to pay for professional advice
- 5.7 To this end, it is proposed that the following types of small business clients are supported:
 - pre-starts not supported or eligible for assistance with other providers
 - start-ups (0 2 years of age)
 - those which are struggling to survive and unable to afford fees charged by other providers
 - those with growth potential (businesses that are not eligible for the Growth Accelerator programme or can not afford the fees see appendix 1)
- 5.8 One to one sessions should still be provided. However, in order to maximise the use of business adviser time and their effective reach to more clients, a 12 month programme of regular repeat workshops will be offered. The workshops will be delivered via three "business/enterprise clubs" and involve other local stakeholders such as HMRC, Trading Standards, legal, and accountancy practices etc in delivering sessions.

5.9 Officers will meet regularly with the Council funded service providers in order to monitor performance and adapt service delivery should local support provision need to materially change.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The cost to the City Council to fund business support and the programme of social enterprise support for 2012/13 is £42,000 and £25,000 respectively. The funding has been met from the Economic Partnerships Initiatives Budget.
- 6.2 It is proposed that the City Council continues its support at the same level in 2013/14.
- In 2012/2013, Peninsula Innovations Limited (PIL) contributed just over £81,000
 to the delivery of services supporting innovative and high growth businesses under the banner of Exeter Business Support. PIL intends to contribute £81,000 in 2013/2014.

7.0 RECOMMENDED that:

- 7.1 Scrutiny Committee support the City Council continuing funding of £42,000 and £25,000 respectively for business support for embryonic and new businesses and social enterprises, providing opportunities for individuals to secure the means of improving their financial position in these difficult times and promoting job creation.
- 7.2 Officers be authorised to negotiate service level agreements for 2013/14 with Peninsula Innovations Limited and The Fruit Tree for Business for the continued delivery of services outlined in the report under the banner of Exeter Business Support.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: 1. "Support for Small Businesses" – Economy Scrutiny 8 March 2012

Provision of business support in Exeter – type of enterprise assisted								
Provider	Pre- Start	Start-up	Existing	Technology	Hi Growth	Social Enterprise	Co-ops	Social Business/ Entrepreneurs
1. BAS (Chartered Institute of Accountants)	V	\checkmark	V	V	V	V	V	\checkmark
Notes/Limitations to Service	Initial free busine	ess advice sessior	n from a member o	of ICAEW; charges	s are dependent u	pon the individual	accountant.	
2. Business West	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Notes/Limitations to Service								
3. Exeter Business Support	. √		$\sqrt{1-1}$	$\sqrt{1}$	$\sqrt{1}$	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Notes/Limitations to Service	Unique provider	of services to all c	lients regardless of	of status - job club	s/enterprise clubs	being run succes	sfully by the busin	ess advisor
4. Growth Accelerator		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark			
Notes/Limitations to Service	Since April 2012, 24 businesses in Exeter have registered their interest in the Growth Accelerator service; according to the providers, this number continues to rise. Of these clients, 3 were looking for Access to Finance; 3 were looking for Commercialising Innovation and 18 were looking for Business Development. In terms of support given: 3 decided not to take up Growth Accelerator support, one is currently on hold and the other 20 are all in the process, moving towards coaching support; 10 have already actively received coaching support and two more started in December 2012. The service provides no free support. To be eligible for support there must be high growth potential (20% growth). The offer is up to 7 days worth of business coaching supported by a programme of workshops and master classes. The investment for companies who wish to							

APPENDIX 1

Provision of business support in Exeter – type of enterprise assisted										
Provider	Pre- Start	Start-up	Existing	Technology	Hi Growth	Social Enterprise	Co-ops	Social Business/ Entrepreneurs		
	participate ranges from £600 for a business with up to 9 employees, £1,500 for a business with 10-49 staff, to £3,000 for a business with 50- 249 staff.									
	Leadership and Intellectual Prop	Each coaching intervention could last anywhere between 4 – 12 months depending on the needs of the business and their schedule. Leadership and management funding (up to £2,000 of match funded support for each person on the senior management team), an Intellectual Property (IP) Audit and a discounted membership with the Institute of Directors is part of the coaching offer. Several of these companies have already taken advantage of the IP Audit (worth £3,000) and the Leadership & Management support.								
	Advisory Service	ator works alongsic e (MAS). If the bus e service looks to re	iness is not lookin	g to achieve high	growth then Grow	th Accelerator pro				
5. Peninsula Innovations Ltd (PIL)	\checkmark	\checkmark		\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark		V		
Notes/Limitations to Service	Service only ava	ilable to high grow	/th potential comp	anies through the	Innovation Centre	e, ExIST, or to Uni	versity student ent	repreneurs		
6. PRIME	\checkmark	\checkmark								
Notes/Limitations to Service	up support. Whil who receive sup they are eligible PRIME is about researching their	ble aged 50 years st they do not hav port go on to start for support and ha to roll out an accre r business idea. T All of PRIME's se	e data available o their own busines ave registered – se edited qualification hose who comple	n local start-ups, a s. Currently, supp ee <u>www.prime.org</u> training program te are then match	according to one o ort is principally p <u>.uk</u> . me 'preparing to re ed with a mentor t	of their recent busin rovided via on-line un your own busin to support them th	ness surveys, som information on Pl ess' which suppor rough the early sta	ts individuals in		
7. Princes Trust		\checkmark			•					
Notes/Limitations to Service		For 18-30 year olds; Only one twelve-week course scheduled in Exeter in January in first 6 months of 2013; there are no pre-start courses currently scheduled for 2013								
8. West Devon BIP	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark					
Notes/Limitations to Service		Allowance (NEA) s runs until end 201								

Provision of business support in Exeter – type of enterprise assisted									
Provider	Pre- Start	Start-up	Existing	Technology	Hi Growth	Social Enterprise	Co-ops	Social Business/ Entrepreneurs	
	 March 2012), 9 have started business. From April 2012 until December 2012, they have managed 21 NEA clients, 5 are currently trading. West Devon BIP needs help in raising awareness of the need to secure a bank of mentors in Devon and Cornwall. They currently have 121 active mentors, but need many more in light of a profiled increase in number requiring support). Support duration: mentor support for NEA clients while they complete their business plan and ongoing mentor support once trading for a further 6 months. Thereafter, no support is free. Fees are charged post 6 month mentoring support for NEA clients; Advice 6 x 1hr sessions £400; Business Planning course 5 days @ 								
9. Women's	£2,500	a post 6 montn m				ons £400; Busine: $$	ss Planning cours	e 5 days @	
Development Unlimited									
Notes/Limitations to Service	A Rande of courses of personal development / pusiness coaching for women. The only funding they have to deliver services in Exeter is "East								

Provision of business support in Exeter – type of services provided in Exeter							
Provider / Service	Diagnostic	Business Planning	Financial Planning	1-2-1 service	Workshops/course	Mentoring	
BAS							
Business West							
Exeter Business Support							
Growth Accelerator							
PIL				\checkmark	\checkmark		
PRIME							
Princes Trust							
West Devon BIP							
Women's Development Unlimited							

Traditional businesses							
Sector	Forecast turnover year 1	Sector	Forecast turnover year 1				
AGA Engineer	30,000	Nutritional Consultant	15,000				
Artist	15,000	Online Retailing.	12,000				
Bespoke Rugby and Social Wear	30,000	Outdoor Events	30,000				
Builder Property Developer	25,000	Photographer	20,000				
Buying and Selling Used Furniture	10,000	Proof Reading/Editing and Admin Services	18,000				
Cleaning Services	10,000	Property Maintenance	20,000				
Consultancy	35,000	Recycled clothing and Fashion	10,000				
Counselling for Autistic Children	20,000	Singer Songwriter/Tutor.	10,000				
Counsellor	8,000	Street Food Vendor	25,000				
Creative Arts	12,000	Therapist	8,000				
Estate Agency	30,000	Window and House Maintenance	25,000				
IT Support and Services	20,000		1				

Examples of the types of traditional businesses and social enterprises assisted by City Council funded services

APPENDIX 2

Social Enterprises		
Sector	Description	Forecast turnover year 1
Arts	Theatre company linking research work with theatre in the community to engender social cohesion	15,000
Arts	Participatory photography that provides empowerment, confidence and skills to disadvantaged groups	10,000
BME	Providing BME services in the Community e.g. English tuition; secured funding of £250k	100,000
BME	Resource centre for ethnic minorities offering services such as health and well-being, mentoring and counselling	141,000
Education	A multi cultural and intergenerational community arts, culture and environmental enterprise providing education activities	30,000
Health and Social Care	Services that aid memory for dementia sufferers	94,000
Training	Workforce skills development focusing on women including BME communities	25,000
Training and support	Providing services in the South West for women to enhance confidence, skills and knowledge in developing businesses	50,000
Training and support	Online retailing of own branded and third party goods; emphasis on providing employment and skills for people with learning disabilities	30,000
Transport	Bikes for disabled people aiming to improve health and well-being	25,000

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Agenda Item 13

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

1. PURPOSE

1.1 At its meeting on 17 January, Economy Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a Task and Finish Group to look at the future funding of City Centre Christmas Lights. This brief report sets out the suggested scope for the Task and Finish Group.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Christmas Lights project was historically delivered by the Exeter City Centre Consortium (disbanded in 2007). The City Council has taken the lead for delivering the Christmas Lights project since 2007.
- 2.2 Business funding for the Lights project has gradually reduced over a number of years – with the trend of a decline in funding starting whilst the City Centre Consortium was still leading on the Christmas Lights project. Christmas Lights were only delivered in 2011 and 2012 due to private sponsorship deals.
- 2.3 The area covered by Christmas Lights has gradually reduced, with the core area now lit being limited to Princesshay (funded through the Princesshay service charge), Guildhall Shopping Centre (funded through the Guildhall Centre service charge) and High Street. Some Christmas Lights have also been delivered in areas such as Fore Street and Castle Street (funded by local businesses).
- 2.4 Cowick Street businesses have worked together to deliver St Thomas Christmas Lights in both 2011 and 2012.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1 To seek a resolution on the identification of a sustainable model for future Christmas Lights funding a Task & Finish Group is now proposed, with the key issues needing to be addressed as follows:-
 - Identifying the case for Christmas Lights do they deliver an economic benefit?
 - Review of mechanisms for delivering the City Centre Christmas Lights project during the last decade identifying weaknesses in the process.
 - Identifying funding vehicles used for support Christmas Lights projects in other towns & cities – and considering practicalities of such funding mechanisms for Exeter.
 - Identifying role played by Business Improvement Districts in supporting Christmas Lights projects.
 - Examining opportunities and means of delivery for major corporate sponsorship of elements of the Christmas Lights display.

- Making recommendations on a way forward for the Christmas Lights project in 2013 and during the lifespan of the draft City Centre Strategy.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Task & Finish Group should conclude its work by end April 2013, with a report on outputs to be submitted to the 30 May meeting of Scrutiny Committee Economy.
- 3.3 It is proposed that Task & Finish Group membership should be as follows:-
 - Cllr Tyna Crow (Group Chair & Chair, Scrutiny Committee Economy).
 - Cllr Rosie Denham (Portfolio Holder Economy & Tourism).
 - Cllr Paul Bull (Labour Group representative).
 - Cllr Percy Prowse (Conservative Group representative)
 - Cllr Stella Brock (Liberal Democrat Group representative).

Officer support will be provided by the City Centre Manager.

3.4 It is proposed that a range of expert witnesses will be called and views will be canvassed from Exeter Chamber of Commerce, City Centre Management Partnership, key retailers and City Centre businesses.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

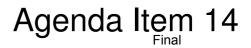
4.1 To be identified through Task & Finish Group recommendations.

5. **RECOMMENDATION** that:

5.1 Scrutiny support the proposals on Task & Finish Group scoping and membership set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.4 above.

RICHARD BALL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ECONOMY

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report: None



EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY 7 MARCH 2013

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING**

This report advises Members of any material differences by management unit to the revised budget.

1.2 CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING

Previous capital budget monitoring updates in respect of the Economy and Development Capital Programme have been reported to Scrutiny Committee – Resources as part of reporting the progress of the Council's overall Capital Programme.

Budget monitoring updates in respect of the Economy and Development Capital Programme are now incorporated into this report, which is prepared on a quarterly basis, in order to improve financial reporting to this Committee and help to provide a more comprehensive financial update in respect of the Scrutiny Committee – Economy budgets.

2. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

- 2.1 The current forecast suggests that net expenditure for this committee will decrease from the revised budget by a total of £858,350 after transfers to and from reserves, which represents a variation of 30.3% from the revised budget. This includes supplementary budgets of £71,060. Capital charges have been deducted from this to provide the total budget for management accounting purposes.
- 2.2 The current forecast variance represents a £399,580 decrease in expenditure compared with the variance forecast for quarter 2. The significant movements are:

83A1 Property & Estates Services – Additional income from property portfolio not previously projected.

83A3 Car Parking – Income from parking charges is now expected to exceed the estimate.

83A5 Festivals – Carry forward projected in quarter 2 not required due to event being staged in February.

83B2 Administration Service - Administration restructure now reflected. The corresponding overspend is reported in Resources where the costs are now borne. 83B8 Major Projects – Expenditure on engaging the property and legal expertise required for a major project now expected to be less than previously projected. 83C1 Waterways – It is estimated that there will be a £25,000 saving on the Exe Estuary review budget.

2.3 Provision for a pay increase of 2.5% has been included in the 2012/13 budgets. The Council proposed a payment of £250 to staff earning a full time equivalent salary of under £21,000 per annum; the proposal was approved at the Executive on 19 September 2012. This has resulted in a saving on salary budgets; these savings have been included in the variance for each individual management unit.

2.4 The main variations by management unit are detailed below:

(2,832,310)2012-13 REVISED ESTIMATE Less NOTIONAL CHARGES

83A1 **PROPERTY & ESTATES SERVICES**

The reduced pay award has resulted in a saving on pay budgets, see 2.2 above.

The budget in respect of Local Land Charges has been moved to the Building Control management unit as part of the senior management restructure. Therefore any variances in respect of this budget will be report in 83A9.

It was previously reported that the majority of the income budgets in the property portfolio are broadly on profile. The figures to 31 December suggest that some areas are above profile. There are a number of properties that are currently void and therefore the income for these properties is below profile. However, it is expected that the income will be above the budgeted figure at year end by £55,000.

The liability in respect of National Non-Domestic Rates for a void property falls on the council meaning the expenditure will exceed the budgeted figure at year end.

A void allowance is included in the estimates to cover any potential shortfall of income: the indications are that the void allowance should be sufficient to cover a shortfall of income in the portfolio if required.

If properties that are currently void are let before the end of the financial year the projected overspend on the NNDR budget will reduce as the council will no longer be liable for this charge.

Savings are anticipated in respect of various supplies and services budgets with the expenditure on software licences, marketing and consultant fees anticipated to be less than the budgeted figure.

83A2 TRANSPORTATION

There are no material variances to report.

83A3 CAR PARKING

The reduced pay award has resulted in a saving on pay budgets, see 2.2 above. In addition, savings are anticipated as a result of vacant posts in the service.

External insurance charges are expected to be £13,000 less than the budget.

(57, 540)

(227, 330)

0

Income from parking charges is now expected to exceed the estimate by approximately £200,000.

The recharge from Cleansing Services has been reviewed, and a reduction of approximately £25,000 from the original estimate is anticipated.

These savings are partially offset by National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) charges exceeding the estimate by £35,000, and increased supplies & services and maintenance costs.

83A4 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The reduced pay award has resulted a saving in this unit. A further saving will be made on salary costs due to a member of staff taking voluntary redundancy with effect from 31 December 2012.

The salary saving will be offset by the associated redundancy cost; this payment will be funded from the earmarked reserve.

83A5 ARTS & EVENTS

Expenditure in respect of the Olympic Screen (\pounds 17,500) and the Royal Visit (\pounds 9,700) has been funded in this management unit.

The budget for the year in respect of the Olympic Torch Event will not be spent, the budget for this is fully funded in 2012/13 however an element of the expenditure was incurred in the previous financial year and reported as an overspend.

It was previously reported that due to the above mentioned events taking place the annual budget for summer events would not be spent in this financial year and request made to carry forward any unspent budget to the next financial year. It is now anticipated this budget will be fully spent in this financial year due to an event being staged in February.

83A6 TOURIST INFORMATION 1,430 The reduced pay award has resulted in a saving on pay budgets, see 2.2 above. Income in respect of the Visitor Information Centre is anticipated to be less than the annual budget. 83A8 DISTRICT HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS (7,500) Maintenance and electricity costs are expected to be less than estimated. 83A9 BUILDING CONTROL (31,410)

The reduced pay award has resulted in a saving on pay budgets, see 2.2 above. Additional savings are also anticipated to be made

18,770

19,310

due to non recruitment to a vacant post.

The Building Control fee earning account is budgeted on a cost recovery basis. The income from building control fees was on profile as at 31 December 2012.

The surplus on the fee earning account is expected to be $\pounds 25,480$; This takes into account the saving on the vacant post. The surplus will be transferred to the building control earmarked reserve at year end.

The Land Charges function now sits in this management unit. The fees charged for this service are calculated on a cost recovery basis and the service is expected to breakeven on a 3 year rolling cycle.

Figures as at 31 December indicate that income from search fees is expected to be lower than the budgeted figure at year end. However, the shortfall of income will be partially offset by a saving on support service recharges to this management.

The deficit is projected to be in the region of £9,000 at the end of the financial year. This deficit will be recovered by increasing the charge for search fees with effect from 1 April 2013.

83B1 LAND DRAINAGE AND WATER COURSES

The cost of an economic survey in connection with the proposed improvements to the city's flood defences will be paid by this service. The expenditure incurred is being funded by the New Homes Bonus grant.

83B2 ADMINISTRATION SERVICE

The majority of staff from the administration teams of Economy and Community and Environment directorates were transferred to the new Corporate Support Unit with effect from 1 April 2012, to combine with what was the General Office administration team.

The budget for 2012/13 for the now disbanded Economy and Development Administration team is held in this committee, while the costs are being recorded in 86B5 Corporate Customer Services within Resources Scrutiny. There is consequently an underspend in this Committee and an overspend in Resources.

83B3 DIRECTOR ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT

This management unit and the associated costs have been transferred to Chief Executive's Unit as part of the senior management restructure; any variances to the budget will be reported through the Scrutiny Resources budget monitoring report. 0

20,000

(98,960)

83B5	PLANNING SERVICES	(245,880)
	The reduced pay award has resulted a saving in this unit (see 2.2 above). A further saving will be made on salary costs due to a member of staff taking voluntary redundancy with effect from 30 June 2012.	
	It was reported in the quarter 2 budget monitoring report that income from planning fees was 76% above the profiled budget. This trend has continued and fee income is above the profiled budget as at 31 December. It is anticipated that fee income will be £195,000 above the budgeted figure.	
	Expenditure has been incurred in respect of the match funding contribution to Exeter and East Devon New Growth Point Delivery Team, this expenditure has been approved as an overspend and a budget will be funded in 2013/14.	
83B6	CONSERVATION	(6,400)
	A saving is expected on the budget for conservation grants.	
83B7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT	(20,000)
	The budget in this management unit is in respect of the running costs of the Customs House.	
	Part of the Custom House has been leased meaning additional income will be received in the year.	
83B8	MAJOR PROJECTS	(45,000)
	The expenditure in respect of engaging the necessary legal and property expertise in respect of the regeneration of the Bus Station Site is less than anticipated. The expenditure incurred is being funded by the New Homes Bonus grant.	
83B9	MARKETS & HALLS	(75,960)
	The reduced pay award has resulted a saving in this unit (see 2.2 above). This saving will be offset by the associated redundancy cost; this payment will be funded from the earmarked reserve.	
	Income figures continue to be above the profiled budget as at 31 December with income at the Matford Centre and the Corn Exchange being above the profile. It is anticipated that this will continue meaning income received from each facility will be above the budgeted figure.	
	Sources of income that are anticipated to be above the budgeted figure are Corn Exchange events income and income from concourse events, boardroom hire and car parks at the Matford Centre.	

This additional income has been partially offset by unbudgeted expenditure in respect of markets. This expenditure related to the 2011/12 financial year but was not included in the accounts for that year.

The budget in respect of event promotion at the Corn Exchange will be exceeded. This additional expenditure will be covered by the additional income received in respect of the events held at the venue.

It is anticipated that the budget in respect of Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) at the Matford Centre will be exceeded as will the budget for electrical testing at the Corn Exchange.

83C1 WATERWAYS

The Topsham Ferry Operator and Quaymaster's contract was revised from 1 April 2012. Under the previous arrangements, the operator received all income from the ferry and a reduced salary. He now receives a full salary, and the Council retains all income from the ferry. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will increase costs.

External insurance costs will exceed the estimates as no premium was charged in 2011/12.

It is anticipated that there will be a £25,000 saving on the Exe Estuary review. No budget will be required for this project in 2013/14 and future years and this has been reflected in the 2013/14 estimates.

2012-13 EXPECTED FINAL OUTTURN

EXPECTED TRANSFERS TO / (FROM) RESERVES	(82,690)
EXPECTED TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	(3,690,660)

3. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

To report the current position in respect of the Economy and Development Capital Programme and to update Members with any anticipated cost variances, acceleration of projects or slippage of schemes into future years.

- 3.1 **REVISIONS TO THE ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL PROGRAMME** The 2012/13 Economy and Development Capital Programme was last reported to Scrutiny Committee – Resources on 21 November 2012.
- 3.2 A review of the 2012/13 Capital Programme has been undertaken by the Strategic Management Team in consultation with portfolio holders. Resulting from this review various capital schemes have either been reduced or removed completely.

(19, 190)

PERFORMANCE

3.3 The current Economy and Development Capital Programme is detailed in Appendix 2. The appendix shows a total forecast spend of £2,207,500 in 2012/13 with £1,029,370 of the programme expected to be deferred until 2013/14. Below are explanations for the main variations from the approved programme and a general update on the schemes is also included:

Accessible City

• Well Oak Footpath/Cycleway (Budget £40,000)

The path will be completed to tie in the adjacent development. It is anticipated that this will take place in spring 2013.

Cared for Environment

• City Centre Enhancements (Budget £697,840)

Works on the London Square element of the scheme were completed by the end of October 2012. Due to additional work to deal with utilities and delays caused by the interactions with the John Lewis contractor, this scheme exceeded the budget. The final expenditure will be agreed with the contractor by the end of the financial year. There was an extremely tight timetable for completing the external works in preparation for the opening of the store. Much of the overspend will be shared 50:50 with Devon County Council.

• Cowick Street Environmental Works (Budget £140,000)

The first phase of the works has been completed. Various elements of the street works will commence on site in April –May 2013. A partial budget carry forward is required for these works.

• Exhibition Way Bridge Maintenance (Budget £7,500)

An order has been raised for a detailed inspection of the bridge structure which should enable the full extent of the necessary repairs to be identified. It is likely that that a small amount of work will take place in this financial year and the majority of the works themselves will take place in 2013/14. This will mean a budget carry forward will be required.

• Princesshay Artwork (Budget £40,000)

Works have been completed with the cost being within the allocated budget.

• Central Station Environmental Works (Budget £185,000)

Following approval by Planning Member Working Group in July and by Devon County Council Cabinet in September of this year, Network Rail were able to give notice terminating the existing tenancy of the forecourt and will gain vacant possession in May. In the meantime the necessary traffic orders have been made, and new lease arrangements are being negotiated between Network Rail and DCC, which need to be concluded before materials can be ordered. It is currently expected that work on the site will take place during summer 2013.

Prosperous City

• Canal Basin and Quayside (Budget £90,000)

The new Haven Road Outdoor Education Centre is currently under construction by DCC and should be completed by the end of May/beginning June. ECQT are remarketing the listed buildings and site at the head of the Basin. ECC are looking to carry out a tree planting and seating scheme for Haven Banks and to bring forward some walkway works around the Basin in 2012/13. Coping stones to the walls in the Haven Road car park have now been installed.

The expenditure on this scheme in 2012/13 is anticipated to be in the region of \pounds 15,000; the budget remaining will be carried forward to 2013/14 in order that the scheme can be completed.

• Science Park (Budget £735,990)

The main site infrastructure is complete and marketing activity has been increased. Funding has been secured for the Science Park Centre from the Local Enterprise Partnership which will provide over 30,000sq ft of space for businesses and programmes of support to help new businesses to start and grow and create new jobs. It is now expected that the balance of funding will be paid over as the agreed contribution to the new building costs in the next financial year meaning a budget carry forward is required.

RECOMMENDED

That Scrutiny Committee – Economy note this report.

STRATEGIC DIRECTOR

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report None

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ECONOMY BUDGET MONITORING

APRIL 2012 TO DECEMBER 2012

	ORIGINAL ANNUAL BUDGET	SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGETS	CAPITAL CHARGES	REVISED BUDGET EXC CAPITAL CHARGES	CODE		CURRENT OUTTURN FORECAST	QUARTER 3 FORECAST VARIANCE	QUARTER 2 FORECAST VARIANCE
	£	£		£			£	£	£
	(2,647,800)	43,000	0	(2,604,800)	83A1	PROPERTY & ESTATES SERVICES	(2,662,340)	(57,540)	(15,530)
	72,080	7,210	0	79,290	83A2	TRANSPORTATION/CONCESSIONARY FARES	79,290	0	Ó
	(3,361,350)	0	(129,510)	(3,490,860)	83A3	CAR PARKING	(3,718,190)	(227,330)	(51,310)
	648,060	0	0	648,060	83A4	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	666,830	18,770	18,770
	288,940	0	0	288,940	83A5	ARTS & EVENTS	308,250	19,310	(5,690)
	457,290	0	(3,190)	454,100	83A6	TOURIST INFORMATION	455,530	1,430	(2,390)
	0	0	0	0	83A7	ARCHAEOLOGY IN EXETER	0	0	0
	377,690	0	(156,620)	221,070	83A8	DISTRICT HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS	213,570	(7,500)	(12,500)
	140,510	0	0	140,510	83A9	BUILDING CONTROL	109,100	(31,410)	(18,120)
P	146,430	0	(6,070)	140,360	83B1	LAND DRAINAGE	160,360	20,000	0
a	0	0	0	0	83B2	ADMINISTRATION SERVICE	(98,960)	(98,960)	0
age	0	0	0	0	83B3	DIRECTOR ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT	0	0	0
	0	0	(150)	(150)	83B4	ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION SERVICES	(150)	0	0
41	972,510	0	(4,410)	968,100	83B5	PLANNING SERVICES	722,220	(245,880)	(246,430)
	57,300	16,000	(5,850)	67,450	83B6	CONSERVATION	61,050	(6,400)	0
	62,640	0	(4,870)	57,770	83B7	ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD UNIT	37,770	(20,000)	(20,000)
	75,000	0	0	75,000	83B8	MAJOR PROJECTS	30,000	(45,000)	0
	(175,030)	4,850	(17,030)	(187,210)	83B9	MARKETS & HALLS	(263,170)	(75,960)	(90,620)
	348,600 0	0	(38,540)	310,060	83C1	WATERWAYS	290,870	(19,190)	6,010
	(2,537,130)	71,060	(366,240)	(2,832,310)		NET EXPENDITURE	(3,607,970)	(775,660)	(437,810)

VARIANCES ON TRANSFERS TO / (FROM) EARMARKED RESERVES		
83A9 - Building Control	25,480	14,910
83A4 - Economic Development	(35,870)	(35,870)
83B1 - Land Drainage	(20,000)	0
83B8 - Major Projects	(30,000)	0
83B9 - Markets & Halls	(22,300)	0
OVERALL FORECAST EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR AFTER MOVEMENTS TO/FROM RESERVES	(3,690,660)	(3,291,080)
REVISED BUDGETS	(2,832,310)	(2,832,310)
ADJUSTED OUTTURN VARIANCE	(858,350)	(458,770)

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2012-13 CAPITAL MONITORING TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

	2012-13 Capital Programme	Spend to 31 December	2012-13 Forecast Spend	2012-13 Budget to be Carried Forward to Future Years	Programme
	£	£	£	£	
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT					
ACCESSIBLE CITY					
National Cycle Network	30,030	32,644	35,000	0	4,970
Signage / Pedestrian Interpretation	31,600	30,000	31,600	0	0
Well Oak Footpath/Cycleway	40,000	1,845	40,000	0	0
King William Street Car Park Refurb Stage 1	197,330	195,000	195,000	0	(2,330)
King William Street Car Park Refurb Stage 2	888,260	889,577	889,580	0	1,320
CULTURAL CITY					
18 North Street Panelling	870	0	870	0	0
Corn Exchange Enhancements	5,110	3,318	5,110	0	0
Floodlighting	0	0	0	0	0
St Katherine's Priory Re-Roofing	74,650	38,919	74,650		0
CARED FOR ENVIRONMENT					
City Centre Enhancements	697,840	446,844	690,960	6,880	0
Mincinglake/Northbrook Study	11,820	24,754	,	,	18,180
Ibstock Environmental Improvements	3,240	0	,		(3,240)
Planting Improvements in Riverside Valley Park	0,	0			0
Cowick Street Environmental Works	140,000	59,235		80,000	0
Exhibition Way Bridge Maintenance	7,500	0			Ő
Central Station Environmental Works	185,000	0	,		Ő
Princesshay Artwork	40,000	40,000		,	0
EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICES					
Verney House	4,360	4,671	4,670	0	310
LEARNING CITY					
Improvements to Quay House Visitor Centre	1,470	1,084	1,470	0	0
PROSPEROUS CITY					
Canal Basin and Quayside	90,000	9,620	15,000	75,000	0
Science Park	735,990	53,625	60,000	675,990	0
137 Cowick Street	33,850	30,684	30,690		(3,160)
SAFE CITY					
Security Measures for Riverside Valley Park	1,900	0	1,900	0	0
ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT TOTAL	3,220,820	1,861,821	2,207,500	1,029,370	16,050

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Agenda Item 15

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