



Exeter City Council

A meeting of **EXETER CITY COUNCIL** will be held at the **GUILDHALL, HIGH STREET, EXETER** on **TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2018**, at 6.00 pm, at which you are hereby summoned to attend. The following business is proposed to be transacted:-

| | Pages |
|---|---------|
| 1 Minutes | |
| To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings held on 16 October 2018. | 5 - 14 |
| 2 Official Communications | |
| To receive minutes of the following Committees and to determine thereon:- | |
| 3 Planning Committee - 29 October 2018 | 15 - 30 |
| 4 Planning Committee - 3 December 2018 -To follow | |
| 5 Licensing Committee - 20 November 2018 | 31 - 34 |
| 6 People Scrutiny Committee - 1 November 2018 | 35 - 40 |
| 7 Place Scrutiny Committee - 8 November 2018 | 41 - 64 |
| 8 Corporate Services Committee - 22 November 2018 | 65 - 74 |
| 9 Audit and Governance Committee - 5 December 2018 - To follow | |
| 10 Executive - 13 November 2018 | 75 - 78 |
| 11 Executive - 11 December 2018 - To follow | |

Notices of Motion

- 12 Notice of Motion by Councillor Bialyk under Standing Order No. 6
Exeter City Council notes with concern that:-

1. On 11 October 2018 it was announced that 74 crown post offices across the UK, will be franchised to WHSmith. Taken together, successive franchise announcements mean the loss of 60% of the crown office network since 2013.

| Office of Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support | | | |
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2. These privatisations are financed using millions of pounds of public money, despite the fact that the public has never endorsed the closures, indeed they have only ever protested against them. In 2014/15 alone, £13 million of public money was used to pay compensation to get rid of post office staff, and the CWU estimates the staff compensation cost of the latest privatisation will be at least £30 million, affecting as it does, 800 staff.
3. Reports by Consumer Focus (2012) and Citizens Advice (2016) have identified issues with the franchising of post offices to WHSmith including poor accessibility for people with mobility impairments, longer queuing times, and inferior service and advice on products.
4. Franchising means the loss of jobs with good terms and conditions at the Post Office. WHSmith replaces experienced post office staff with new employees in typically minimum wage part time roles. This is clearly bad for jobs in the local area and the Post Office workers, many of whom are CWU members
5. The closure of Crown post offices and relocation to a WHSmith, also means the loss of prime high street stores and this contributes to the demise of town centres. No explanation has been given as to why the profit-making Crown post offices are being handed to a failing retailer with an uncertain future, and what will happen to these services if WHSmith folds.
6. All Crown post offices are under threat of closure and/or franchising in future, and if the latest round of privatisations, are allowed to go ahead, it could prove the tipping point for the viability of the entire post office network.

This Council believes that:-

7. Our post offices are a key asset for the community and the expertise and experience of staff there is invaluable
8. The relentless franchising and closure programme of the profit-making Crown post Offices, points to a lack of vision rather than the plan for growth and innovation that is needed.
9. Government should therefore halt these closures and bring together stakeholders, including the CWU, and industry experts to develop a new strategy that safeguards the future of the Post office.

This Council resolves to:-

10. Write to Government to raise concern about the apparent managed decline of the post office network across the UK and the impact on high streets, as well as the service in the franchised premises, and the poor quality jobs that result
11. To join campaigns to raise awareness of the value of our Post Office and the need for it to remain an asset of and for the people.

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13 Notice of Motion by Councillor Mitchell under Standing Order No 6

Exeter City Council notes that:

1. Green spaces within the city boundary are highly valued by residents and enhance our environment.
2. The green space surrounding the Clifton Hill Sports centre is approximately nine acres and provides an inner-city haven for wildlife and residents.
3. The "Save the Clifton Hill Green Space Group" has campaigned to keep the green space in public ownership, and to enhance biodiversity and community use of the site.
4. The Council is planning its Physical Activity strategy, which will inform future use of all green spaces and related amenities.

The Council therefore resolves that the whole of the green space surrounding the Clifton Hill Sports Centre will remain in Exeter City Council ownership and form part of the city-wide Physical Activity strategy.

14 Notice of Motion by Councillor Musgrave under Standing Order No 6

Exeter City Council notes that:-

1. On 13th June 2018, the Council resolved that Minute 56 of the Executive held on 12 June, concerning the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and surrounding land, be received and adopted.
2. The decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre, demolish the building and sell the land; as well as to delegate authority to the City Surveyor "to include the sale of the adjacent driving range, ski slope and Exeter Small Bore Rifle Club areas of the Clifton Hill site as a single development site if this offers the best value to the Council", without consultation, has proved highly controversial.
3. The report presented to the Executive on 12th June contained several inaccuracies and appears to have underestimated the number of residents who made use of the sports centre facilities. In addition, the report failed to describe the land surrounding the sports centre, including its size and amenity value.
4. A city-wide petition opposing closure of the sports centre, signed by 1,800 supporters of the "Save the Clifton Hill Sports Centre" campaign group, was received by the Council on October 16th 2018; and a further petition calling for the council to retain ownership of the land surrounding the sports centre and "keep it green", with 500 signatures collected door-to-door by the Save the Clifton Hill Green Space group, was received by Cllr. Pete Edwards on 13th November 2018.
5. The Council plans to hold a consultation before presenting its Physical Activity and Built Facilities strategies, clearly demonstrating that the above decision relating to the Clifton Hill Sports Centre -- and the other facilities and land surrounding the centre -- was taken prematurely.

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Exeter City Council, therefore, resolves that the decision taken at the Council meeting of 13th June be reversed.

15 Questions from Members of the Council under Standing Order No 8

Question from Councillor Mrs Thompson

Is the Leader able to please confirm how much of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is being set aside from the major housing developments to fund the Bus Station redevelopment/ St Sidwells Point?

Question from Councillor Mrs Thompson

In the absence of a Planning Solicitor at a meeting of the Planning Committee is the Leader able to confirm who would be the appropriate person able to give legal advice and interpret the Constitution at Planning Committees should a legal query or point of order be raised as per the example queried on 3 December 2018 by Cllr. Yolonda Henson?

Question from Councillor Mrs Thompson

Could the Leader please confirm how many agreed Planning Consents for housing developments in this municipal year have not met the City Council's policy of 35% affordable housing?

Question from Councillor Mrs Thompson

Could the Leader please confirm if Chairs of Committees when chairing meetings are able to effectively unilaterally override all other Standing Orders by way of Standing Order 49?

A plan of seating in the Guildhall is attached as an annexe

Date: Monday 10 December 2018

Karime Hassan
Chief Executive &
Growth Director

NOTE: Members are asked to sign the Attendance Register

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|--|-------------------|-------------------|--|
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COUNCIL

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Present:-

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor (Cllr Hannaford) (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Rachel Lyons (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillors Begley, Bialyk, Branston, Denham, Foale, Foggin, Gottschalk, Hannan, Harvey, D Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland, Leadbetter, Mitchell, Morse, Owen, Packham, Pattison, Pearson, Pierce, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Thompson, Vizard M, Vizard N, Warwick, Wood and Wright

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MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings held on 24 July 2018 were moved by the Deputy Leader, seconded by Councillor Pearson, taken as read, approved and signed as correct.

45

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The minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings held on 24 July 2018 were moved by the Deputy Leader, seconded by Councillor Pearson, taken as read, approved and signed as correct.

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APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Edwards, Keen, Lamb, Musgrave and Newby.

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OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor congratulated Simon Tootell, the RAMM's Volunteer Co-ordinator, who had recently been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, for his work in managing the huge task of co-ordinating the army of volunteers who help at the RAMM. This was the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK and is just reward for this important work.

The Lord Mayor stated that it had been his privilege to meet Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal when she had celebrated the 150th anniversary of the RAMM with a visit.

The Lord Mayor advised of some of the many events he had attended in recent months including:-

- Lord Lieutenant's Awards for voluntary service in Exeter;
- Coldstream Guards Freedom of the City;
- British Empire Medals and Queen's Awards for Volunteers at County Hall
- Memorial to Canadian World War II Forces at Stover School;
- Heritage Open Day at the Guildhall including displays of Exeter Hospitals and Life in Wonford during World War I
- Battle of Britain Parade for the 100th anniversary of the RAF cadets
- Visit of the Duke of Gloucester to the Exeter College Technology Centre; and
- Consecration of the Bishop of Crediton at Southwark Cathedral.

The Lord Mayor also passed on his best wishes to Councillor Denham who would shortly be on maternity leave and congratulated Councillor Packham on a work promotion.

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PETITION

The Deputy Leader presented a petition to Council of some 1,802 signatures on "Save Clifton Hill Sports Centre". The petition would be dealt with in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE - 23 JULY 2018

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 23 July 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 23 July 2018 be received.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE - 13 AUGUST 2018

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 13 August 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 13 August 2018 be received.

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PLANNING COMMITTEE - 3 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 3 September 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

In respect of Min. No. 166 as well as Min. No. 175 of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 October 2018, the Chair commented that, although the Government had indicated its intention to lift the cap on the Housing Revenue Account, there was no guidance at present and that it would not have been appropriate to delay or defer the projects that were the subject of these applications. It was hoped that Councils would have a genuine ability to build additional, much needed, homes in the future.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 3 September 2018 be received.

52

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 1 OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 1 October 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 1 October 2018 be received.

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LICENSING COMMITTEE - 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 18 September 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Owen, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 18 September 2018 be received.

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PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 6 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee of 6 September 2018 were presented by the Chair for that meeting, Councillor Owen, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the People Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2018 be received.

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PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 13 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee of 13 September 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sills, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Place Scrutiny Committee held on 13 September 2018 be received.

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AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 19 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 19 September 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor N Vizard, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 19 September 2018 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

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CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 27 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 27 September 2018 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sheldon, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee held on 27 September 2018 be received.

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STRATA JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee of 24 September 2018 were presented by Councillor Lyons and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Strata Joint Scrutiny Committee held on 24 September 2018 be received.

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STRATA JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 25 SEPTEMBER 2018

The minutes of the Strata Joint Executive Committee of 25 September 2018 were presented by Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Strata Joint Executive Committee held on 25 September 2018 be received.

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EXECUTIVE - 11 SEPTEMBER 2018

In the absence of the Leader, the minutes of the Executive of 11 September 2018 were presented by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Executive held on 11 September 2018 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

EXECUTIVE - 9 OCTOBER 2018

In the absence of the Leader, the minutes of the Executive of 9 October 2018 were presented by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Sutton, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Executive held on 9 October 2018 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Deputy Leader, Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Pearson, moved the following changes to appointments to Committees and Outside Bodies.

RESOLVED that the following appointments be agreed:-

Portfolio Holder for the Housing Revenue Account

Councillor Wright to replace Councillor Packham
Councillor Wright to stand down from People Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Planning Committee

Councillor Sheldon to replace Councillor Denham

Licensing Committee

Councillor Pattison to replace Councillor Keen

Place Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Owen to replace Councillor Keen

Outside Bodies

Councillor Sutton to replace Councillor Denham on the following:-

- Exeter Strategic Board
- Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board
- Exeter Area Rail Project Working Party
- Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership - Steering Group
- Greater Exeter Strategic Partnership - Member Reference Forum
- Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee

Appointments to the People Scrutiny Committee and the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee and to the Planning MWG would be made in due course.

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MUSGRAVE UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 6

Councillor Mitchell, on behalf of Councillor Musgrave who had submitted his apologies, seconded by Councillor Sills, moved a Notice of Motion in the following terms:-

This Council notes:-

- 55% of Exeter residents who voted in the EU referendum voted to remain in the EU.
- Exeter has a greater share of exports to the EU than any other city in the UK (70% of exports from the city are destined for EU countries).
- A recent Local Business Survey showed that confidence among SMEs in the West of England in the government to deliver a Brexit that works for business is on the wane, with only 11.69% of 230 businesses polled being confident or very confident that there will be a good deal.
- Polling in July 2018 found that 71% of British people disapprove of how the Brexit negotiations are being handled.
- Polling in August 2018 found that voters in the South West of England back a second referendum on the Brexit deal by a margin of 42% to 35% .

This Council believes:-

- That the EU referendum on 23rd June 2016 should be considered the beginning of a democratic process, not the end of one.
- That the conclusion by the Electoral Commission that the Leave campaign committed serious offences by breaking electoral law casts doubt on the legitimacy of the result of the 2016 referendum.
- That new information on the way the referendum campaign was conducted and the economic, environmental and social impacts of Brexit, which have come to light since the referendum, may have altered some voters' preferences regarding desired outcomes of the Brexit negotiations.
- That giving the British people a final say on the Brexit negotiations will help to rebuild trust and engagement in the political process.

This Council resolves:-

- To express our support publicly for a People's Vote on the final terms of any Brexit deal.
- To write to our local MP, Ben Bradshaw, and the Prime Minister, Theresa May, informing them that Exeter City Council has passed this motion in support of a People's Vote.

In moving the motion, Councillor Mitchell stated that he believed that there were many security, social, environmental, cultural and economic advantages to remaining in the European Union. He referred to the significant number of leading political figures in the Conservative and Labour parties who advocated a People's Vote and to the support for this vote by his party, the Liberal Democrats, as well as the Scottish National Party and the Green Party. He believed that people, not politicians, should have the final say on the terms of any Brexit deal.

A number of Members spoke in support of the motion, many having campaigned in favour of remaining in the European Union prior to the Referendum in June 2016. They referred to significant changes in public opinion on the issue as negotiations on the nature of the UK's departure from the European Union had progressed. Much further information was now available on the minutiae of Brexit and the likely implications of leaving. Because of this, they felt that it was appropriate for the public to be further consulted as there was a better chance of an informed decision being made. Furthermore, the view was expressed that there had been significant misinformation during the debate leading up to the Referendum and that, with

additional information, it was believed that many of the public had altered their stance on the issue and were now in favour of remaining.

Members also referred to the wider political ramifications of leaving, mentioning the political makeup of Europe before and after the 1975 Referendum and the implications for the future, particularly with regard to the United Kingdom and its relationship with Ireland.

A Member who did not support the motion suggested that it would be an unacceptable precedent to seek a further vote on a matter on which the public had already decided. In her experience, there had been significant support in the City for leaving including from young people and that there was no wish to be part of a European state.

Councillor Sills, in seconding the motion, provided statistical data to back the importance of remaining part of the European Union. He highlighted the health and education sectors in particular, the latter, for example, having received the highest national share of European funding. His data also indicated that there would also be a direct negative economic impact on Exeter and he, with other Members, believed therefore that there would be significant disadvantages to the City's young people and future generations.

Councillor Pearson moved, and Councillor Denham seconded, that the letter should also be sent to Sir Hugo Swire, the other City MP. Councillor Mitchell agreed to this amendment.

The motion, as amended, was put to the vote and carried.

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QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER NO 8

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the following questions were put by Councillor Thompson to the Deputy Leader.

Question - Is the Leader able to explain why individual employees of the City Council are making planning applications for Exeter City Council where the development is to be undertaken by the Councils Private Development Company building housing to be sold on the open market : the application presented at Committee 3rd September 2018 made no reference in the report of the application being for Exeter City Council or the Council's private development company?

The Deputy Leader replied that the planning application was in the name of Gary Stenning who was the Council Officer involved with the HRA development sites. As we have done over the past 10 years all our planning applications have needed to be in the name of an individual and this will be an Officer of the Council. The planning application was submitted before the Development Company was established, even if the Development Company had been in existence they would have been in the name of Emma Osmundsen on behalf of Exeter City Living Ltd. This is normal practice, undertaken by the majority of applicants. Applications will in future show that they are by the City Council or the Development Company.

Councillor Thompson asked a supplementary question surrounding the Council's Scheme of Delegation to Officers and, in particular, officers' authority to submit planning applications on behalf of the City Council.

The Deputy Leader undertook to provide a written answer.

Question - How can decisions taken under Delegated Authority be democratic if Members scrutinising a lease already signed cannot reverse the decision such as in the case of leasing accommodation to the Police at the Civic Centre?

The Portfolio Holder for Support Services responded that the Council's scheme of delegative powers are entirely democratic in that they are issued, altered and withdrawn by elected Members under the constitution. He advised that the City Council benefited from leasing space to other organisations such as CAB, Devon County Council Early Years, Multilingua, Ubuntu Counselling Service, National Family Mediation Service and Sanctuary Housing. The issue of parking space was delegated to officers.

Councillor Thompson asked a supplementary question – was the delegation taken on the basis of a strategic decision ?

The Portfolio Holder responded that the decision to relocate their offices to the Civic Centre was a strategic decision for the Police to make best use of their resources and mirrored the City Council delivery of other front line public services, but was an operational decision as far as the City Council was concerned.

Question - In a report to Corporate Services Committee it is noted the Section 151 Officer issued a first warning stating the financial reserves may fall below the minimum and action was required to reduce spend and a report is to be brought to Executive on the costs of agency and consultancy fees: in view of this should the Council be engaging consultants to brief members on the Development Company for future briefings or could a member of staff undertake this role?

The Deputy Leader responded that the briefing to be held on Thursday will be undertaken by Emma Osmundsen and Justin Pickford of Baker Ruff Hannan (BRH) will be in attendance to assist with questioning if required. BRH do not charge for their time for events of this nature. The Development Company does not employ any staff direct and there is only one Officer, Emma Osmundsen who works exclusively for the Company, her work is supported by external advisors/consultants. The business model for the early years of trading is on this basis to avoid the costs of employing staff as costs are allocated to individual developments.

Councillor Thompson asked a supplementary question – is there insufficient in-house expertise to advise ?

The Deputy Leader responded that, as this was a new initiative, it was prudent to obtain the best advice at no added cost and at the same time utilise the advice of those officers in the Council with in house expertise in this area.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the following questions were put by Councillor Prowse to the Deputy Leader.

Question - Is the Leader in a position to indicate the date when the first tenant is able to move into Chester Long Court ?

The Portfolio Holder for People responded that we anticipate the first of the new tenants moving into Chester Long Court around the end of November. This is subject to final snagging prior ECC agreeing to take full ownership.

Councillor Prowse asked a supplementary question - as the snagging such as vented window installation has been quite significant and has led to a delay in occupation by tenants will a penalty clause be invoked because of the delay ?

The Portfolio Holder for People responded that there had not been a major delay and that it was appropriate, because of the high quality of this passiv haus scheme, to ensure that all works were completed satisfactorily prior to occupation.

Question - is the start contractor the same contractor that completed the work?

The Portfolio Holder for People responded in the affirmative.

Question - Is the Leader in a position to indicate to the Council the current position of the Exeter Pound Project ?

The Deputy Leader responded that at the Exeter Pound Board meeting in June, the board decided to mothball Exeter Pound Scheme and that trading in the local currency has ceased from the end of September 2018. The current £1, £5, £10, and £20 Exeter Pound notes expired on 30th September 2018, with no further notes planned for re-printing/replacement.

As of 1 October Exeter Pound notes would no longer be accepted by trader members in exchange for goods and services, as well as Exeter City Council who accepted Exeter Pounds for payment of business rates. Instructions were issued to trader members in how they exchange Exeter Pound notes for sterling.

Exeter Pound was managing significant challenges, including:

- a general decline in the use of paper currency and coins
- a lack of progress at a national level with regard to regulatory measures which would have enabled Exeter Pound to develop a digital local currency
- unable to secure funding to print new notes
- unable to sustain support and back up staff to manage a digital pilot with app-based payments
- resources to reprint the guide and update their website

At the June Board meeting, Exeter Pound acknowledged the support they had received from Exeter City Council over the past 3 years. Without the backing of the City Council, Exeter pound would not have been able to achieve what they did. The Exeter Pound Board continues to have discussions with several different businesses and organisations and hope to be back at some stage, bigger and better, with new notes and an enlarged team. Exeter Pound are pleased they have able to publicise the independent sector in Exeter and to bring substantial new custom to some of our traders. The public is encouraged to use independent traders using sterling.

Councillor Prowse asked a supplementary question - can the cost of the project from day one to the day of mothballing be provided please ?

The Deputy Leader replied that the Exeter Pound Board would have detail of these costs.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 7.30 pm)

Chair

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Tuesday 16 October 2018

Present:-

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor (Cllr Hannaford) (Lord Mayor)
Councillor Rachel Lyons (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillors Begley, Bialyk, Branston, Denham, Foale, Foggin, Gottschalk, Hannan, Harvey, D Henson, Mrs Henson, Holland, Leadbetter, Mitchell, Morse, Owen, Packham, Pattison, Pearson, Pierce, Prowse, Sheldon, Sills, Sutton, Thompson, Vizard M, Vizard N, Warwick, Wood and Wright

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APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Edwards, Keen, Lamb, Musgrave and Newby.

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HONORARY FREEMEN

Councillor Sutton, the Deputy Leader, moved and Councillor Leadbetter seconded the recommendation that Sir Steve Smith and Dr Todd Gray be awarded the honour of Freedom of the City in recognition of their services to Exeter as set out.

Freedom of the City - Sir Steve Smith

RESOLVED that, in pursuance of its powers under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer on Sir Steve Smith Freedom of the City Status in recognition of his outstanding service to the City of Exeter, during his period as Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter.

[Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the foregoing honour may be conferred by resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.]

Freedom of the City - Dr Todd Gray

RESOLVED that, in pursuance of its powers under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do confer on Dr Todd Gray Freedom of the City Status in recognition of his passionate interest in Exeter's historic buildings and his concern for their continued preservation.

[Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the foregoing honour may be conferred by resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon, at a meeting specially convened for the purpose.]

[The foregoing resolutions were passed unanimously]

(The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and closed at 7.32 pm)

Chair

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PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 29 October 2018

Present:-

Councillor Sutton (Chair)

Councillors Lyons, Bialyk, Branston, Edwards, Foale, Harvey, Mrs Henson, Morse, Prowse, Sheldon, Thompson and Vizard M

Also Present

City Development Manager, Principal Project Manager (Development) (PJ), Principal Project Manager (Development) (HS) and Democratic Services Officer

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MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

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PLANNING APPLICATION NO. 18/1185/RES - EAST PARK, UNIVERSITY OF EXETER, STREATHAM CAMPUS, EXETER

The Principal Project Manager (Development) (PJ) presented the application for development to build student accommodation and central amenity facilities up to a maximum of 32,230 square metres with associated infrastructure (Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline permission 16/1232/OUT granted 5 July 2017).

The Principal Project Manager (Development) explained that outline permission had been previously granted with associated conditions and a Section 106 Agreement and detailed the layout plans, elevational details, access arrangements, computer generated images and the elements of the student management plan. He reported the receipt of a further email in respect of the number of students to be accommodated and concerns regarding parking, the City Development Manager referring to changes to conditions three and five as requested by the applicant.

Councillor Owen, having given notice under Standing Order No. 44, spoke on the item. He raised the following points:-

- it is accepted that outline planning permission has been granted but there remain a number of issues of concern to local residents;
- submitted drawings are believed to be incorrect;
- an access road is too close to the arboretum;
- concerns that the pedestrian/cycle route into Higher Hoopern Lane will be used by motorcycles and scooters with fast food deliveries late at night to a large market at great disturbance to neighbouring residents;
- working hours should not include 8:00am to 1:00pm on Saturdays and should be restricted to the normal five day working week and that the hours during the working week, as set out in the condition, should be strictly adhered to unlike in some other developments in the city. The residents have already suffered from certain Sunday working on the campus and the justification put forward for this by the University is not valid;

- Hill Crest Park residents have complained about noise resulting from work near the entrance to the site;
- request that any proposed bund or bank be of sufficient height to reduce noise and dust pollution during construction;
- assurances sought that the northern meadow will not be used for locating caravans accommodating workers;
- a robust student management plan is necessary to prevent anti-social behaviour including the prevention of student parties and bar-b-ques on the northern meadow;
- best practice to be utilised on external lighting to prevent overspill of artificial light;
- residents request that tree screening is effective and that new trees are at least five years old and of significant size and that the University engages with residents on the landscape details; and
- the local community have requested compensation such as the provision of super fast broad band to the residents of Higher Pennsylvania and that a strategy be agreed to facilitate its provision prior to the occupation of the first student flat. This has been achieved in Cambridge as part of planning permission agreed by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Principal Project Manager responded to the queries raised:-

- the correct revised drawings had been submitted and changes to the master plan were inevitable during the detailed drawing up of developments and were within the limits set by outline conditions for this development;
- the access road near the arboretum had been narrowed slightly in consultation with Natural England;
- access on to the site by scooters and motorbikes would be difficult to control by condition and would be for the University to monitor;
- a bund/bank may assist in reducing noise and because of concerns around noise during construction. The extra half day construction period would assist in the earlier completion of the development. Further, the central communal area would be located away from residential properties;
- construction vehicles and accommodation facilities were not being provided in the paddock to the north of the site;
- meadow to the north would remain and enhanced as part of the landscape/biodiversity plan;
- a condition had been imposed on the original outline requiring the submission of external lighting details;
- the University would liaise with residents on the tree strategy; and
- the applicant had fully consulted with the Police and Fire authorities

Mr McNeile spoke against the application. He raised the following points:-

- it is understood that this is a reserved matters hearing and that the proposed development has already been approved in principle;
- many of the objectors, and a far greater number at the provisional application, believe it is a development on too large a scale for the site despite the requirement placed on the developers to reduce the quantum and scale of the development;
- significant areas of the site include five storey, 50 bedroom extensions running north/south on the site and is combined with some significantly misleading illustrations in the current submission;
- little faith in the planning process nor the relationship between the University and its immediate neighbours in respect of planning issues;
- it is a done deal and therefore not worth pursuing other than to provide context

- to the remaining areas of objection which are largely concerned with the impact on immediate neighbours of the nearly, three year-long construction period;
- concerns regarding noise generated by vehicles and machinery and power tools as well as generation of dust and overspill of floodlighting during periods of darkness. This is in contrast to the natural and peaceful amenity that has been so important to many local and University residents;
 - the immediate access to quiet green space has been trumpeted as an important part of the University's offer and is also recognised as important in the city's green space strategy;
 - request that building operations are limited to week days only to provide some respite over the prolonged building period to neighbours on and off campus; and
 - request that residents and neighbours are consulted in the development of the detailed tree planting strategy to ensure that sufficiently mature trees (at least five years old) are planted in strategic locations to reduce line of sight overview and reduce acoustic transmission from the finished development and that existing trees are properly maintained in the boundary valleys.

Mr Upton spoke in support of the application. He raised the following points:-

- representing WYG planning consultants. Outline planning permission has been granted for the scale of the development proposed by this reserved matter application, subject to a number of strict parameters;
- the main purpose is to accommodate more students, particularly first years, on campus to benefit the wider community by reducing pressure on the City's housing stock and support the University's plans for gradual growth over the next few years;
- the proposed floor area, the height of each building and the location of each building within the site accords with the approved parameters for the site. On average, the proposed buildings are over one metre lower than the approved height parameters, with some of them being as much as four metres lower than the approved scheme;
- the key considerations are the design and appearance of the buildings and the proposed landscape setting with the design evolved through a number of meetings with key stakeholders such as the Design Review Panel, the Fire and Police services and Council's officers as well as consultation with the local community;
- the scheme has been improved since outline permission by retaining trees and hedges, enhancing the overall bio-diversity of the site through the creation of wild meadows and the planting of over 450 trees and lowering the buildings;
- care had been taken to reduce environmental and residential amenity impacts through submitted bespoke construction management plans, noise, air quality, lighting and noise assessments;
- a Combined Heat and Power system is proposed to provide electricity and heat to the whole site to ensure the outline permission requirement for a BREEAM excellent rating and carbon reduction is achieved; and
- the approach taken is considered to be logical in design terms and is landscape led, proposing buildings set into the landscape and using high quality materials.

He responded as follows to Members' queries:-

- a condition requiring the provision of broad band to the wider community would not be practical. Although infrastructure can be provided there would be difficulties in agreeing provision with the utilities. It would be for the community and the University to lobby separately;
- the landscape scheme will include the larger "heavy standard" trees and these

will be provided in key locations to provide additional screening as well as ensuring that any gaps in the hedgerows are replaced to accord with the existing hedge height. Consultation will take place with residents on the scheme;

- lifts within the blocks can accommodate heavy electric wheelchairs;
- development includes sprinklers and any fire alarms will be filtered through the campus wide control centre before emergency vehicles are called. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service consulted and access roads to the campus fully “tracked”;
- Natural England consulted on biodiversity issues;
- students will be required to sign a residents’ agreement;
- a mitigation manager will meet fortnightly with residents to discuss the construction plan and seek to resolve any problems including those relating to noise. Construction will not occur on Sundays; and
- the construction and environment plan identifies a site within the development in the south west corner away from neighbouring properties and adjacent streets for the location of vehicles and materials.

The Principal Project Manager (Development) (PJ) further explained that a student management plan will include 24 hour warden living on the site, additional University Partnerships Programme staff and a 24 hour security presence. The developer and University had undertaken to ensure robust tenant liaison. In response to a Member, he also confirmed that a five and a half day working week was standard practise and had been set out in the outline permission.

The recommendation was for approval, subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that planning permission for development to build student accommodation and central amenity facilities up to a maximum of 32,230 square metres with associated infrastructure (Reserved matters application for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline permission 16/1232/OUT granted 5 July 2017) be **APPROVED**, subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development hereby approved must be begun with five years from the date of the grant of outline planning permission, or two years from the final approval of the reserved matters, whichever is the longer.
Reason: To ensure compliance with section 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- (2) The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in strict accordance with the submitted details received by the Local Planning Authority on 9 August 2018 as modified by other conditions of this consent.
Reason: In order to ensure compliance with the approved drawings.
- (3) Samples of the materials it is intended to use externally in the construction of the development shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. The following materials shall not be used before their approval is obtained in writing and the materials used in the construction of the development shall correspond with the approved samples in all respects.
 - i) hard surfacing material;
 - ii) external light fittings.**Reason:** To ensure that materials conform with the visual requirements of the area.

- (4) All conditions imposed on notice of outline approval (ref no. 16/1232/FUL) are hereby reiterated in as much as they relate to the development and have yet to be discharged in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
Reason: To safeguard the rights of control by the Local Planning Authority in respect of the reserved matters.
- (5) Notwithstanding condition 2, no superstructure work shall commence on site under this permission until full details of the following have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall thereafter be provided in accordance with such details:
- i) brick detailing including mortar colour;
 - ii) cladding including colour and fixings;
 - iii) windows farming including reveals and cills;
 - iv) roofing material.
- Reason:** Insufficient information has been submitted with the application and in the interests of visual amenity.

Notes to Applicant:

1. In accordance with paragraphs 186 and 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework the Council has worked in a positive and pro-active way with the Applicant and has negotiated amendments to the application to enable the grant of planning permission.

2. The Local Planning Authority considers that this development will be CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) liable. Payment will become due following commencement of development. A Liability Notice is attached to this permission. It is also drawn to your attention that where a chargeable development is commenced before the Local Authority has received a valid Commencement Notice (ie where pre-commencement conditions have not been discharged) the Local Authority may impose a surcharge and the ability to claim any form of relief from the payment of the Levy will be foregone. You must apply for any relief and receive confirmation from the Council before commencing development. For further information please see www.exeter.gov.uk/cil.

3. In accordance with Chapters 1 and 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, this development has been screened in respect of the need for an Appropriate Assessment (AA). Given the nature of the development, it has been concluded that an AA is required in relation to potential impact on the relevant Special Protection Areas (SPA), the Exe Estuary and East Devon Pebblebed Heaths, which are designated European sites. This AA has been carried out and concludes that the development is such that it is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on protected habitats, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

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PLANNING APPLICATION NO 18/1405/FUL - LAND AT SUMMERLAND STREET, EXETER

The Principal Project Manager (Development) (HS) presented the application for demolition of existing buildings (Transport Club and Exeter Auto Centre) and redevelopment to provide student accommodation (sui generis), ancillary facilities, and ground floor uses in classes A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, D1 and D2, cycle parking provision and public realm improvements.

The Principal Project Manager (Development) reported that the application was a revised design following issues raised at this Committee in July of this year when the previous application had been refused, The design now presented being that

preferred after a series of options had been put to the Planning Member Working Group. He detailed the amendments being revision to the external design and increase in the number of studio rooms by three through sub-division of a larger studio and enlargement of the top floor. The design and materials also better reflected that of the adjoining Phase 1 of the overall development.

The key issues remained noise impact on residents, contamination (both of which could be dealt with by condition following submission of surveys) and design.

Mr O'Brien spoke in support of the application. He raised the following points:-

- represent the applicant, Graduation Exeter (Phase 2) Limited. The previous refused scheme had been acceptable in all respects apart from appearance and shape;
- since July, there had been engagement on design options, the revised design seeking to address concerns and the reason for refusal and then put to the Planning Member Working Group on 28 August 2018, with feedback confirming that the design was preferred over the other options presented;
- City Council planning officers were fully supportive of all aspects of the revised application;
- the applicant is keen to deliver this scheme at the earliest opportunity following the progress being made on the construction of Phase 1 and to speed up delivery of Phase 2, the majority of the vacant buildings on site having been demolished;
- the scheme offered a good quality development delivering purpose built accommodation to assist in reducing the current shortfall in supply. The smaller rooms of Phase 2 delivered an affordable option to students with rents being lower than those of Phase 1. It completed the development of this key city centre site and was a further step to the delivery of the Council's vision for the Grecian Quarter. The introduction of ground floor retail and leisure floor-space would create activity along Summerland Street and public realm improvements, including widening of pavements and tree planting as well as new employment opportunities. The development would complete this key city centre block following the Phase 1 development.

He responded as follows to Members' queries:-

- although precise data could not be provided at the meeting there was significant evidence from other University Cities that there was a shift in student occupation from houses in multiple occupation to purpose built student accommodation. This was a feature particularly in towns and cities with University's with growing student numbers, as was the case in Exeter, where it was also a key economic driver;
- prior permission had been obtained for demolition; and
- no application had been made for additional hours of construction.

Responding to Members, who referred to problems reported regarding working outside permitted hours on Phase I, the Principal Project Manager (Development) advised that these issues had been taken up with the developer and that more formal action would be taken by the planning authority should the issues persist. The City Development Manager further advised Members that occupancy of purpose built student accommodation was very close to 100% with information on the University web showing that many were full prior to the beginning of the student year.

Some Members expressed continued disquiet regarding the design considering it

to be over dominant in the skyline with one Member referring to a view that the revision had still failed to address the rectangular block nature of the proposal. It was explained that no pedestrian access had been lost and the pavements would be widened by stepping back of the building line.

Other Members, whilst in support, referred to the growing preponderance of new student blocks in the city centre, one suggesting that locations slightly peripheral to the centre would be more appropriate along with on campus locations. Another Member, in addition to referring to the need for data to be provided on the existing and predicted student occupancy rates across all types of accommodation, was concerned that such developments were at the expense of general housing provision, particularly given the continuing pressures on the housing market. There was some consensus that clarity on the delivery of student accommodation versus demand was necessary to better inform and monitor the background to, and decisions on, such applications.

The City Development Manager referred to the report of Professor Smith of Loughborough University to the Planning Member Working Group in July which concluded that the provision of purpose built accommodation was the appropriate way forward and that there was evidence that such provision was freeing up houses in multiple occupation for use by the wider population and keeping rent levels down.

The recommendation was for approval, subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that, subject to the completion of a Section 106 Agreement under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, securing:-

- a restriction to student occupation;
- a Student Management Plan;
- a financial contribution of £19,968.72 towards District Heating delivery to this site;
- occupation to be in conjunction with the Phase I development; and
- off site highway works;

planning permission for demolition of existing buildings (Transport Club and Exeter Auto Centre) and redevelopment to provide student accommodation (sui generis), ancillary facilities, and ground floor uses in classes A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, D1 and D2, cycle parking provision and public realm improvements be **APPROVED**, subject also to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.
Reason: To ensure compliance with sections 91-92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- (2) The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in strict accordance with the submitted details received by the Local Planning Authority as listed below and as modified by other conditions of this consent.
Floor and roof plans 001224-AHR-AP-010 rev P03, AP-011 rev P03, AP-012 rev P03, AP-013 rev P03, AP-014 rev P03, AP-015 rev P03, AP-016 rev P03, and AP-017 rev P03 received 26 September 2018.
Elevations 001224-AHR-AP-110 rev P03, AP-111 rev P03, AP-112 rev

P03, and AP-113 rev

P03 received 26 September 2018.

Sections drawings 001224-AHR-AP-200 rev P03, AP-201 rev P03, and AP-202 rev P03, and

AP-203 rev P03 received 26 September 2018.

Reason: In order to ensure compliance with the approved drawings.

- (3) a schedule of all materials it is intended to use externally in the construction of the development shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Samples of the materials shall be submitted as requested. No external finishing material shall be used until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed in writing that its use is acceptable. Thereafter the materials used in the construction of the development shall correspond with the approved materials in all respects.

Reason: To ensure that the materials conform to the visual amenity requirements of the area.

- (4) A detailed scheme for landscaping and ecological enhancement of the site, including the planting of trees and/or shrubs, the use of surface materials and opportunities for wildlife shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the development shall not be brought into use until the Local Planning Authority have approved a scheme; such scheme shall specify materials, species, tree and plant sizes, numbers and planting densities, and any earthworks required together with the timing of the implementation of the scheme. The landscaping and ecological enhancement measures shall thereafter be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme in accordance with the agreed programme.

Reason: To safeguard the rights of control by the Local Planning Authority in these respects and in the interests of amenity.

- (5) In the event of failure of any trees or shrubs, planted in accordance with any scheme approved by the Local Planning Authority, to become established and to prosper for a period of five years from the date of the completion of implementation of that scheme, such trees or shrubs shall be replaced with such live specimens of such species of such size and in such number as may be approved by the Local Planning Authority

Reason: To safeguard the rights of control by the Local Planning Authority in these respects and in the interests of amenity.

- (6) No development related works, with the exception of demolition works, shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological work has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme shall include on-site work, and off-site work such as the analysis, publication, and archiving of the results, together with a timetable for completion of each element. All works shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the approved scheme, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure the appropriate identification, recording and publication of archaeological and historic remains affected by the development.

- (7) Unless otherwise agreed by the Local Planning Authority, development other than that required to be carried out as part of an approved scheme of remediation must not commence until parts 1 to 4 have been complied with. If unexpected contamination is found after development has begun, development must be halted on that part of the site affected by the unexpected contamination to the extent specified by the Local Planning

Authority in writing until condition 4 has been complied with in relation to that contamination.

a. Site Characterisation

An investigation and risk assessment, in addition to any assessment provided with the planning application, must be completed in accordance with a scheme to assess the nature and extent of any contamination on the site, whether or not it originates on the site. The contents of the scheme are subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken by competent persons and a written report of the findings must be produced. The written report is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The report of the findings must include;

- (i) A survey of the extent, scale and nature of contamination;
- (ii) An assessment of the potential risks to;
 - human health,
 - property (existing or proposed) including buildings, crops, livestock, pets, woodland and service lines and pipes
 - adjoining land,
 - ground waters and surface waters,
 - ecological systems,
 - archaeological sites and ancient monuments;
- (iii) an appraisal of remedial options, and proposal of the preferred option(s).

This must be conducted in accordance with DEFRA and the Environment Agency's 'Model Procedures for the Management of Land Contamination, CLR 11'.

b. Submission of Remediation Scheme

A detailed remediation scheme to bring the site to a condition suitable for the intended use by removing unacceptable risks to human health, buildings and other property and the natural and historical environment must be prepared, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority. The scheme must include all works to be undertaken, proposed remediation objectives and remediation criteria, timetable of works and site management procedures. The scheme must ensure that the site will not qualify as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to the intended use of the land after remediation.

c. Implementation of Approved Remediation Scheme

The approved remediation scheme must be carried out in accordance with its terms prior to the commencement of development other than that required to carry out remediation, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Local Planning Authority must be given two weeks written notification of commencement of the remediation scheme works.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme, a verification report that demonstrates the effectiveness of the remediation carried out must be produced, and is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

d. Reporting of Unexpected Contamination

In the event that contamination is found at any time when carrying out the approved development that was not previously identified it must be reported in writing immediately to the Local Planning Authority. An investigation and risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of part a, and where remediation is necessary a remediation scheme must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of part b, which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

Following completion of measures identified in the approved remediation scheme a verification report must be prepared, which is subject to the approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority in accordance with part c.

Reason: To ensure that risks from land contamination to the future users of the land and neighbouring land are minimised, together with those to controlled waters, property and ecological systems, and to ensure that the development can be carried out safely without unacceptable risks to workers, neighbours and other offsite receptors.

- (8) No development (including ground works) or vegetation clearance works shall take place until a Construction Method Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Statement shall provide for;
- (a) The parking of vehicles of site operatives and visitors
 - (b) Loading and unloading of plant and materials
 - (c) Storage of plant and materials used in constructing the development
 - (d) The erection and maintenance of securing hoarding, if appropriate, which shall be kept clear of graffiti and fly-posting
 - (e) Wheel washing facilities
 - (f) Measures to control the emission of dust and dirt during construction
 - (g) A scheme for recycling/disposing of waste resulting from construction works, with priority given to reuse of building materials on site wherever practicable
 - (h) No burning on site during construction or site preparation works
 - (i) Measures to minimise noise and vibration nuisance to neighbours from plant and machinery
 - (j) No driven piling without prior consent from the LPA
 - (k) construction working hours and deliveries from 8:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays or Bank Holidays

The approved Statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period of the development.

Reason: In the interest of reasonable amenity of surrounding occupiers.

- (9) Details of the storage and management of waste for each commercial unit and the residential accommodation shall be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority before that part of the development is first occupied.

Reason: In the interest of public health and amenity and to ensure footways are not obstructed.

- (10) The applicant shall make recommendations for sound insulation based

on the submitted Mach Residential Environmental Noise Assessment revision P08 dated 21 September 2018. The sound insulation measures shall be submitted to the LPA for approval in writing prior to commencement of the development, and implemented in full prior to occupation of the development. The approved insulation shall be maintained as agreed thereafter. Measures to protect against noise should not conflict with the needs of future occupants to prevent and address over-heating.

Reason: In the interests of the living conditions of future occupiers.

- (11) Prior to the commencement of any commercial kitchen, the kitchen ventilation system for kitchen shall be installed in accordance with details previously submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include drawings of the location and design of the system, and information on how odour emissions shall be controlled, including abatement, and how the system shall be maintained to ensure it does not adversely affect the amenity of surrounding uses. The applicant is advised that further guidance on the required information is available in annex B of the DEFRA document 'Guidance on the Control of Odour and Noise from Commercial Kitchen Exhaust Systems'.

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of the area, especially nearby residential uses.

- (12) Before any unit is brought into an A3, A4, D1 or D2 use, a noise assessment shall be undertaken and submitted for approval to the LPA. This shall assess the impact of noise from the use on nearby receptors, and make recommendations for mitigation or control measures where necessary. The report shall be approved in writing by the LPA, and any agreed mitigation and control measures implemented in full prior to the commencement of the use.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

- (13) Prior to the installation of any new plant on the site, details of the plant shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The details shall include location, design (including any compound) and noise specification. The cumulative noise from all plant shall not exceed 5dB below the existing background noise level at the site boundary. If the plant exceeds this level, mitigation measures shall be provided to achieve this in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. (All measurements shall be made in accordance with BS 4142:2014).

Reason: In the interests of the amenity of the area, especially nearby residential uses.

- (14) The Energy Plant installed and operated at the development shall meet all the criteria and specifications described in section A4 of the submitted report 'Air Quality Assessment: Land Off Summerland Street Exeter' (ref J322), from Air Quality Consultants dated 18 April 2018. Any changes to the criteria and specifications (either at the time of installation or at any point thereafter) should be agreed in writing in advance with the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of protecting air quality.

- (15) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into its intended use until further details of pedestrian/cycle facilities/crossing points in the immediate area (including from the site to Belgrave Road/Bampfylde Street) have been approved in writing by the Local

Planning Authority. No part of the development shall be occupied until the facilities have been provided, surfaced and marked out in accordance with the approved plans retained for those purposes at all times. The applicant will need to enter into a S278 agreement.

Reason: To ensure that a safe and suitable access to the site is provided for all users, in accordance with Paragraph 32 of the NPPF

- (16) No part of the development hereby approved shall be brought into its intended use until the redundant dropped kerbs adjacent to the site have been reinstated have been provided and maintained in accordance with details that shall have been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the Local Planning Authority and retained for that purpose at all times.
Reason: To provide safe and suitable access and adequate facilities for traffic attracted to the site.
- (17) Travel Plan measures including the provision of sustainable transport welcome packs and details of the arrangements of how student pick up/drop off will be managed, shall be provided in accordance with details agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority and Local Highway Authority in advance of occupation of the development.
Reason: To promote the use of sustainable transport modes and in the interest of highway safety, in accordance with paragraphs 32 and 36 of the NPPF.
- (18) No development shall take place until adequate areas shall have been made available within the site, or other areas as agreed in writing by the local planning authority, to accommodate operatives' vehicles, construction plant and materials and a Construction Method Statement has been submitted to, and approved in writing by, the local planning authority.
The statement should include details of access arrangements, measures to minimise the impact on the adjacent footpath and timings of the proposed works. The approved Statement shall be adhered to throughout the construction period.
Reason: In the interests of highway safety and public amenity
- (19) Details of secure cycle parking provision for the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Development shall not be occupied until the secure cycle parking facilities have been provided in accordance with the submitted details.
Reason: To provide adequate facilities for sustainable transport.
- (20) The residential accommodation shall be constructed with centralised hot water systems that have been designed and constructed to be compatible with a low temperature hot water District Heating Network in accordance with the CIBSE guidance "Heat Networks: Code of Practice for the UK". The layout of the plant room, showing provision for heat exchangers and for connection to a District Heating Network in the Highway shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the approved details shall be implemented on site unless otherwise agreed in writing.
Reason: In accordance with the requirements of policy CP13 of the Exeter Core Strategy 2012 and in the interests of sustainable development.
- (21) Unless otherwise agreed, notwithstanding condition no. 3, no work shall

commence on the fit-out of tenant and associated landlord areas of the A, B and D class units on the ground and lower ground floors until 'Sustainable Fit-out Guidance' for these areas has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The fit-out of these areas shall only thereafter be carried out in accordance with the approved guidance.

Reason: Insufficient information has been submitted with the application and in the interests of sustainable development.

- (22) Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority the A, B and D class units on the ground and lower ground floors hereby approved shall achieve an overall BREEAM scoring of 60 percent or greater for shell and core only. Unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority the residential units hereby approved shall achieve an overall BREEAM scoring of "excellent" (70 percent or greater). Prior to commencement of any above ground construction works the developer shall submit to the Local Planning Authority a BREEAM design stage assessment report(s) to demonstrate the score expected to be achieved. Where this does not meet the above requirements the developer must provide details of what changes will be made to the development to achieve that standard, and thereafter implement those changes. A post completion BREEAM report shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the substantial completion of the building hereby approved. The required BREEAM assessments shall be prepared, and any proposed design changes approved prior to commencement of the development, by a licensed BREEAM assessor.

Reason: To ensure that the proposal is in accordance with the aims of Policy CP15 of Council's Adopted Core Strategy and in the interests of delivering sustainable development.

- (23) The recommendations in section 8 of the Explosive Ordnance Desk Top Study for Stagecoach Bus Depot, Belgrave Road, Exeter (project 15200) dated 11/05/2015 shall be complied with in full, throughout the works to implement this consent.

Reason: In the interests of public safety.

Informatives

1. In accordance with Paragraph 38 of the National Planning Policy Framework the Council has worked in a positive and pro-active way with the Applicant and has negotiated amendments to the application to enable the grant of planning permission.
2. The Local Planning Authority considers that this development will be CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) liable. Payment will become due following commencement of development. Accordingly your attention is drawn to the need to complete and submit an 'Assumption of Liability' notice to the Local Planning Authority as soon as possible. A copy is available on the Exeter City Council website.
It is also drawn to your attention that where a chargeable development is commenced before the Local Authority has received a valid commencement notice (ie where pre-commencement conditions have not been discharged) the Local Authority may impose a surcharge, and the ability to claim any form of relief from the payment of the Levy will be foregone. You must apply for any relief and receive confirmation from the Council before commencing development. For further information please see www.exeter.gov.uk/cil.
3. A legal agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act

1990 relates to this planning permission.

4. In accordance with Chapters 1 and 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, this development has been screened in respect of the need for an Appropriate Assessment (AA). Given the nature of the development, it has been concluded that an AA is required in relation to potential impact on the relevant Special Protection Areas (SPA), the Exe Estuary and East Devon Pebblebed Heaths, which are designated European sites. This AA has been carried out and concludes that the development is such that it is highly unlikely to have a significant impact on protected habitats, alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

183 **PLANNING APPLICATION NO 18/1241/ECC - ARENA SKATE PARK, SUMMER LANE, EXETER**

The Principal Project Manager (Development) (PJ) presented the application for replacement of existing skate facility with the addition of a lighting system. He reported that the application did not involve a change of use and that six lighting columns, eight metres in height would be provided. No light spillage was anticipated as the site was separated from residential properties by the railway line. Users of the facility had been consulted, many having asked for usage beyond daylight hours.

The applicant was Exeter City Council.

Paul Faulkner responded to Members' queries on behalf of the City Council. Noting a request for lights to be downward facing onto the site, he advised that hours of use would be controlled by a passive infrared sensor light control mechanism and that the lighting would be turned off at 9:30pm, starting to fade prior to that to alert users to the termination time.

A Member welcomed the proposal for this community driven project in a ward where much additional housing was being developed.

The recommendation was for approval, subject to the conditions as set out in the report.

RESOLVED that planning permission for replacement of existing skate facility with the addition of a lighting system be approved, subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.
Reason: To ensure compliance with sections 91 and 92 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- (2) The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in strict accordance with the submitted details received by the Local Planning Authority on 15 August 2018 (including concept drawings, light spillage ISO contours plan, light spillage results plan, and technical specification for lights), and 26 September 2018 (dwg. no. Exeter-DLP01) as modified by other conditions of this consent.
Reason: In order to ensure compliance with the approved drawings.
- (3) No site machinery or plant shall be operated, no process shall be carried

out and no demolition or construction related deliveries received or dispatched from the site except between the hours of 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 1pm Saturday and at no time on Sundays, Bank or Public Holidays.

Reason: To protect the amenity of the locality, especially for people living and/or working nearby.

- (4) The floodlights hereby approved shall only be illuminated between 16.00 hours and 21.30 hours Monday to Sunday.

Reason: In the interests of residential amenity.

184 **LIST OF DECISIONS MADE AND WITHDRAWN APPLICATIONS**

The report of the City Development Manager was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

185 **APPEALS REPORT**

The schedule of appeal decisions and appeals lodged was submitted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

186 **SITE INSPECTION PARTY**

RESOLVED that the next Site Inspection Party will be held on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at 9.30 a.m. The Councillors attending will be Foale, Sutton and Thompson.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 7.32 pm)

Chair

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LICENSING COMMITTEE

20 November 2018

Present:

Councillor Keith Owen (Chair)

Councillors Sheldon, Branston, Foale, D Henson, Holland, Mitchell, Newby, Pattison, Sills, Warwick and Wright

Apologies:

Councillor Hannan

Also present:

Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Solicitor, Interim Principal Licensing Officer and Democratic Services Officer

19 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2018, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct

20 **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made by Members.

21 **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 for the consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I, Schedule 12A of the Act.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

22 **Application for Consent to Street Trade**

The Chair introduced the Committee and set out the procedure. The Solicitor set out the Council's policy and the requirements under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The Interim Principal Licensing Officer, presented the report which advised the Committee that the applicant was seeking approval to engage in street trading at Manaton Close, Marsh Barton, using a purpose built mobile van, for a 12 month period. The applicant had applied to trade between 10.30am and 14.30pm, between Monday and Sunday. The business had also been registered with Environmental Health since August 2016.

The applicant was attendance and spoke in support of the application, stating that they had previously traded at Manaton Close, Marsh Barton, operating a successful street food business. The applicant had changed locations in March but would like to

return to the area. They had obtained insurance, including public liability insurance and had registered with Environmental Health, confirming that they were ready to commence trading.

In response to questions from Members, the applicant responded:-

- The wheels would be taken off the vehicle for insurance purposes and would be a stationary vehicle;
- There was little storage space, so all food including chicken and vegetables would be purchased fresh, daily;
- She was aware of the responsibilities of maintaining the site, providing bins for refuse and employed a company to take away waste;
- She had previously operated at Manaton for a year before moving and had been successful.

RESOLVED that the application be approved with the following conditions:

- a. That all of the conditions contained within Appendix A of the Street Trading Policy dated June 2015 should be included on the consent;
- b. That the consent holder will provide a bin for customer use and that the consent holder will ensure that any rubbish in the vicinity (within 100m of the business), emanating from the business is cleared away at regular intervals;
- c. The use of A boards and flags is prohibited;
- d. The consent holder will not conduct fly posting;
- e. In the event that issues do arise from this consent, then this consent may be revoked by the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee;
- f. That in line with the Council resolution of 24th April 2018; any cutlery, food/ drink containers, and drinking straws used, should not be made from single use plastics.

23 **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 not excluded during consideration of the following items on this agenda.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

24 **Change to Sex Establishment Licensing Fees**

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager presented the report which sought to amend the existing fees for 2018/19, with immediate effect, to meet the current legal requirements in accordance with the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the Provision of Services Regulations 2009. He confirmed that the report did not seek to revise the fees charged for sex establishment licences and that the statutory principle in relation to setting fees was, that they be reasonable, relating to the costs of performing functions, including staffing, administration, testing, inspections, hearings, regulation and appeals.

The recommendations of the report would enable the authority to comply with the provisions of the European Services Directive (2006/123/EC) which was incorporated into UK law by the Provision of Services Regulations 2009.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Manager explained the licence fee would be split into two parts:-

- (a) Would cover the costs of processing applications and the costs for procedures and formalities. A fee of £3,130 would be payable on submission of the application and was non-refundable.
- (b) Would cover the costs of running and enforcing the scheme. The fee of £720 would only be payable before the licence was operational.

RESOLVED that the current fee for 2018/19 be amended with immediate effect in accordance with the provisions of the Local government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 in order to meet current legal requirements. The Sex Establishment Fee would remain at £3850 in total but would be split as follows:-

- Part A - £3130
- Part B - £720

The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.00 pm

Chair

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PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 1 November 2018

Present:

Councillor Wardle (Chair)
Councillors Foale, Holland, Owen, Pattison, Pierce, Robson and Vizard N

Apologies:

Councillor Foggin

Also present:

Director (BA), Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support, Housing Solutions Lead, Principal Accountant Corporate, Technical Accounting Manager and Democratic Services Officer (Committees) (HB)

In attendance

Councillor Wright Portfolio Holder for Housing Revenue Account

39

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of People Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

40

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

41

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

None.

42

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER 20

None.

43

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT : 2017/18

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support presented the report providing an annual update on the Scrutiny work achieved during the Municipal Year 2017/18.

Following the resignation of the Scrutiny Programme Officer to take up another post within the Council the decision had been taken not to fill the vacant post. Members expressed their concern at the loss of this valuable service as they believed that it would compromise their ability to carry out the Council's scrutiny function effectively. Noting that future Task and Finish Groups would be led by respective service leads they sought further information on the future operation of scrutiny.

Responding to Members, the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support advised that the decision not to fill the post had been taken because of ever increasing budget pressures on the Council. He however highlighted that all three Scrutiny Committees would have the opportunity to input into the 2019/20 budget process prior to submission to Council. He confirmed that there would continue to be annual scrutiny reports and, in response to a suggestion from a Member, acknowledged that this would be an appropriate time for the Committee to further assess the implications of the decision.

Members asked that their appreciation for the comprehensive and hard work undertaken by Anne Marie Hawley in her role as the Scrutiny Programme Officer be recorded and their thanks passed on.

Members indicated that they would like to review the decision not to fill the Scrutiny Programme Officer post in two years' time.

People Scrutiny Committee noted and approved the Annual Scrutiny report.

44 **ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Lyons presented the report on the findings and recommendations of the Accessibility and Inclusion Task and Finish Group.

People Scrutiny Committee supported further investigations as to whether:-

- (1) to incorporate an "Access to Support" page into a prominent place on the Council's website;
- (2) to advertise Council Services and accessibility support on the internal screens in the Customer Service Centre;
- (3) to advertise Council Services and accessibility support on screens at local doctors' surgeries and whether there is an associated cost;
- (4) provide an A-Z page of Council services with general departmental contact details on the website and in paper form in various formats;
- (5) icons should be added to menu options on the website to provide better prompts and signposting to Council services;
- (6) direct links for key services should be introduced under the area headings which appear on the initial front page of the website;
- (7) to adapt the website to provide options to change the magnification, background colour and font size and colour; and
- (9) to ensure the website in general is compatible with the screen reading software often used by partially sighted customers.

45 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT - BUDGET MONITORING TO SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Technical Accounting Manager advised Members of any major differences by management unit between the approved budget and the outturn forecast for the second quarter in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the Council's new build schemes. An outturn update in respect of the HRA Capital Programme

was also incorporated in the report in order to help provide a comprehensive financial update in respect of the Housing Revenue Account.

During this period, the total budget variances indicated that there would be a net surplus of £3,868,032 in 2018/19. This represented a movement of £229,113 compared to the revised budgeted deficit of £4,097,145 for 2018/19.

The total amount of HRA capital expenditure for 2018/19 showed a total forecast deficit of £3,868,032.

The Technical Accounting Manager reported that the Government, as part of the recent budget announcement, had removed the borrowing cap so that local authorities were now able to borrow for new housebuilding in accordance with the Prudential Code.

The following responses were given to Members' queries:-

- 11 sites had been identified for potential new Council house build, subject to further financial viability work. Sites referred to areas not individual units;
- the Zebcat project was a zero carbon energy improvement pilot in conjunction with partners to improve energy efficiency. It included the installation of wall panels which include windows and doors and solar panel on roofs and would involve minimal disruption to tenants due to the pre fabrication of the panels off-site and the reduced installation timescales;
- the kitchen and bathroom replacement programmes were factored over 20 and 30 year periods respectively. Works undertaken separately outside these timetables were always assessed and could result in a recharge to the tenant for the early component renewal costs;
- to address the backlog of repairs in a contract with just under 24 months to run, regular meetings were being held at a high level and on site with the Mears Management Team to ensure the continued effective delivery of all contract requirements. Members were informed that the outstanding response repairs had reduced from 420 jobs at the end of August 2018 to 337 jobs at the end of October 2018 and that further assurance was being sought from the contractor to ensure that all backlog repairs were addressed as soon as possible.

People Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

46

PEOPLE - BUDGET MONITORING TO SEPTEMBER 2018

The Principal Accountant advised Members of any material differences, by management unit between the approved budget and the outturn forecast for the second quarter in respect of People Services. An outturn update in respect of the People Capital Programme was also incorporated in the report in order to help provide a comprehensive financial update in respect of the People Services budget.

The current forecast suggested that net expenditure would decrease from the approved budget by a total of £92,740 after transfers from reserves and revenue contributions to capital. This represented a variation of 2.64% from the revised budget and included a supplementary budget of £580,300.

The 2018/19 Capital Programme showed a total spend of £174,646.

People Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

ROUGH SLEEPING INITIATIVE 2018-2020

The Interim System Lead, Housing Needs presented the report updating Members on progress with the Exeter City Council Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) including the bidding process, income received and project work streams and timescales.

The Government had announced a £30 million fund for 2018 to 2019 with further funding provisionally agreed for 2019 to 2020 targeted at local authorities with high numbers of people sleeping rough was also released. Exeter, with 35 Rough Sleepers the previous autumn, had been one of the 83 Local Authorities in England who had been able to bid for funds through Round 1 of RSI funding and its eight work stream bid had succeeded with an award of £481,600. Exeter had also been awarded a provisional allocation of £444,260 for the 2019/20 period subject to meeting certain criteria which it was believed could be achieved, one benchmark being a reduction in the homeless figures to be obtained through the official count figure to be determined in November 2018 with a further figure to follow in January.

The Interim System Lead, Housing Needs reported that the most recent count had returned a figure of 27 rough sleepers however an unverified estimate from Outreach and St Petrocks reported a figure closer to 40. Whilst a sudden increase of rough sleepers had recently occurred in London and, nationwide a 16% increase reported in the last 12 months, figures for Exeter showed a small reduction but had generally remained stable over recent years. He confirmed that priority for services was given to those with an Exeter background and the numbers incoming from other Devon origins was small.

Members welcomed the report, praising the new homeless shelter at the former restaurant on Magdalen Street many having attended the opening on 31 October 2018. The facility included CCTV coverage including the exterior and because of the location near busy roads it was the intention to provide suitable advice to users of the service. The shelter had four separate bedrooms plus ground floor areas to meet different needs and the service was mindful of clients who wished to be segregated for various reasons including drink and drug issues.

The Housing Solutions Needs lead advised that it was the intention to create Homelessness Mental Health Champions across the main Homelessness Services including Assertive Homelessness Outreach Service; Gabriel House; St Petrocks; Housing Options Service; ICE team and their partners. Ongoing training would be provided for the Champions, training them in brief interventions and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) and this could be rolled out to other parties including Members and officers, as appropriate.

Support for ex-offenders was a further strand and the prison service now had a duty to refer released prisoners to local authorities. A meeting had been held with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government lead Prison and Probation Advisor. There were regular cases of ex-offenders leaving prison without accommodation with a small number turning to rough sleeping on the streets of Exeter as well as other cities. One of the most significant challenges was assessing housing need and accessing accommodation for those who were in and out of prison on short term sentences and did not meet the threshold for accommodating by local authorities as they were often deemed as “non-priority”. Because of this a Prison Release Property had been included as one of the projects in the bid.

People Scrutiny Committee noted the contents of the Rough Sleeping Initiative report and the actions that would be used to inform future service delivery. They also thanked those staff involved in securing the award and their on-going hard work in this area.

48

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY PARTNERSHIP - MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS
HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2018

The Director (BA) reported that, following the resignation of one of the tenant representatives, the Partnership was no longer quorate and therefore the meetings had been suspended. In any event, a review was being undertaken of the department's approach to resident involvement and community development and the resources needed to deliver a revised approach. As part of the Survey of Residents and Tenants (STAR), tenants' views would be sought as to how they would like to work with the Council and the community connectors would also provide valuable insight. In due course, the agreed task and finish group would be convened to present initial findings to Members to gauge their views.

People - Scrutiny Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Partnership of 13 August 2018.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.37 pm)

Chair

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PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 8 November 2018

Present:

Councillor Sills (Chair)

Councillors Wood, D Henson, Mitchell, Owen, Prowse, Begley, Lyons, Pattison and Robson

Also present:

Director (JY), Director (DB), Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Senior Environmental Technical Officer, Economy and Enterprise Manager, Skills Officer and Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance:

Councillor Philip Bialyk

Councillor David Harvey

Councillor Chris Musgrave

- Exeter City Council

- Exeter City Council

- Exeter City Council

47

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Place Scrutiny Committee held on 13 September 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

48

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of discloseable pecuniary interest were made.

49

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19

In accordance with Standing Order 19, five members of the public submitted questions on the closure of Clifton Hill Sports Centre (attached as an appendix to these minutes).

The questions related to:-

- the closure of Clifton Hill Sports Centre and residents' concern regarding the apparent speed of the decision to close;
- green spaces in the area and Clifton Hill Leisure Centre being separate issues and such be treated as such;
- the need to fully establish costs and confirm that public funds for the building were being used correctly;

In addition to responses to the public questions (as included in the appendix to these minutes), the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport and the Chair responded to Member enquiries, stating:-

- The decision to close was made based on health and safety issues provided to the Director, following professional advice;
- The toolkits were not available and had not been considered for use or how they would fit into making the decision;
- Public questions to the committee were received up until 10am three working days before the meeting. Member questions could be received up until the day

before the meeting. If Members wished to see the questions received from members of the public in advance of the meeting, they should make an appropriate request to the Corporate Manager Democratic & Civic Support;

- All Members were given the opportunity to attend a briefing about the closure when detailed information surrounding the recommendation was presented.

A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and these, together with the responses from Councillor Bialyk, Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport is appended to the minutes.

50 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER**
20

In accordance with Standing Order 20, Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Musgrave submitted respective questions on recycling and air quality.

A copy of the questions had been previously circulated to Members, and these, together with the appropriate responses from Councillor Harvey, Portfolio Holder Place & Commercialisation and Councillor Sills responding on behalf of Councillor Sutton, Portfolio Holder Economy, Culture standing in for Councillor Denham as Portfolio Holder City Transformation, are appended to the minutes.

51 **REVISION OF THE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Musgrave attended the meeting under Standing Order 44.

The Director (JY) presented the report of the new Air Quality Action Plan following completion of a public consultation. The plan detailed a range of actions for the Council and partners to take to improve air quality in Exeter between 2019 and 2024, in line with the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018 – 2021 and the emerging Exeter Vision. The Action Plan is a statutory requirement under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995. The format of the report and action plan was in a template prescribed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

The draft Action Plan has been subject to a statutory consultation with a great response, with over 3,000 residents completing the online survey, and many others responding in written submission and through participation in targeted focus groups. The appendix in the Final Action Plan sets out how the draft action plan had changed following the feedback from the consultation exercise.

Councillor Musgrave stated that he had no criticism of the officers or their work, however he stated that the report was a year late with no action plan in place since January 2017. He commented that in his opinion, 66% of monitoring stations showed that the air quality was over the legal limit and that Devon County Council and Exeter City Council appeared to be moving in different directions on tackling the issue. He noted a letter he had received from the Director of Public Health, who claimed that all areas of Exeter required improvements to air quality. He further commented that he considered that the figures presented in the report for the workplace parking levy had included the undecided 25% as a part of the 59% figure, which he felt was misleading. The report should read as 39% against the action plan. He hoped that Place Scrutiny Committee would not recommend approval.

The Senior Environmental Technical Officer advised that the introduction of a workplace parking levy was proposed in the draft Air Quality Action Plan. Only 41%

of respondents had agreed with the implementation, with 59% either disagreeing or undecided. The measure had not been taken forward in the Action Plan, but would be kept under review with Devon County Council who were the statutory authority for implementing the scheme. An update would be brought back to Scrutiny Place Committee as part of the annual review of the Air Quality Action Plan.

In response to questions from Members, the Director (JY), the Senior Environmental Technical Officer and the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager responded:-

- The issue of whether the locations of bus stops at road junctions contributed to poor air quality in certain locations was one that could be raised with Exeter City Futures for them to consider including in their action plan.
- The report which came to the previous Place Scrutiny Committee was the Annual Status Report, which is a statutory return to Defra who require data from the previous five years. The Annual Status Report had been considered by both Place Scrutiny Committee and Executive. The reports showed that 11.9% of monitoring locations showed an exceedance of the objective level (40 micrograms per cubic meter) in 2017. There had been a clear reduction in the number of locations which were above this objective in the past 15 years.
- The data tables in Appendix C were very technical and could be difficult for the lay person to interpret. They essentially showed the methodology used for calculating the impacts of actions. They had been included for transparency and for Defra, but were not essential in understanding the overall report.
- Filtered Permeability was the name given to the way access could be restricted to make travel by active and sustainable mode relatively more attractive.
- Bonfires had not been included in the action plan which focussed on the statutory responsibilities. The Secretary of State had confirmed that there was no intention to change the current legislation on bonfires. The Council's approach was to encourage gardeners to use the garden waste service or composting.
- In relation to the taxi fleet: the Council already had one of the highest emission standards in the UK for Hackney Carriages and had introduced a new policy in 2015 for new ultra-low emission vehicles to be introduced by 2020.
- Drivers were encouraged to turn engines off at prolonged stopping sites e.g. level crossings, however new technology in cars includes start/stop systems to help reduce emissions.
- The action plan would be reviewed annually through the Place Scrutiny Committee.
- Members were welcome to speak to the City Solicitor and Head of HR about introducing bylaws on the use of bonfires.

A Member commented that, although transparency was vital for an authority, it was disingenuous to repeat questions, which had been responded to at a previous committee meeting and thanked the officers for their hard work.

Place Scrutiny Committee agreed to the recommendations in the report and requested that the Executive recommend approval by Council of the adoption of the Air Quality Action Plan, and that the feasibility of a work place parking levy be kept under review with an update being brought back to Scrutiny Place Committee as part of the annual review of the Air Quality Action Plan.

52

IKEA PRESENTATION - NICK EARLE

Nick Earle, IKEA Exeter Store Manager attended the meeting and provided a PowerPoint presentation about the arrival of IKEA in Exeter.

He explained that the Exeter IKEA store was the most sustainable IKEA store in the UK and that since opening in May 2018, the store had received more than one million visitors and recruited over 75,000 new IKEA family members. It was the intention of IKEA to provide a better everyday life to residents to help have a better home at affordable prices while protecting the environment. He explained why Exeter had been selected as a viable city to open a store.

The store paid all co-workers according to the UK Real Living Wage levels and offered generous benefits to ensure they were an employer of choice. 85% of employees lived locally. The store offered a variety of sustainability options including electric delivery vehicles, rainwater harvesting and would be introducing solar panels soon. Since opening in May 2018, the store had welcomed more than one million customers.

The IKEA Exeter Store Manager responded to Member questions on the following:-

- All feedback was appreciated, and noted the suggestion for adding seating around the store to support elderly customers;
- The Green Travel Plans survey results would be shared when they were available;
- IKEA made every effort to draw people in to the store and encouraged a good guest ethos;
- Averaging four people per car at a million customers, would be around quarter million cars visiting the store since it opened.

A copy of the presentation is appended to these minutes.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the presentation and thanked Nick Earle for his attendance.

53

EXETER CITY CENTRE

The Economy and Enterprise Manager presented the report to update Members on footfall within the city centre and factors affecting the High Street. The report also determined trends within Exeter, to enable officers to plan and mitigate against any negative impact. She commented on the Grimsey Review 2, which was discussed by officers from City Council officers. There were recommendations in the report which would be suitable for Exeter and would be included in the City Centre Strategy Review. She referred Members to the findings of the CACI Ltd report, which highlighted that Exeter city centre had a very strong national ranking and was ranked 2nd in the South West, just behind Bristol as a dominant retail centre in the South West.

Exeter had a comparison goods market potential of £665.3 million, and had the opportunity to gain market share in surrounding towns in the region. The Economy

and Enterprise Manager stated that any targeted marketing and promotional campaigns should be developed in conjunction within InExeter to promote the city centre to increase market share.

Members were informed that the Growth & Enterprise team had been collating information on the reasoning for shop closures, and could not identify any trends, but confirmed there was still a demand for retail in the city centre. The Economy and Enterprise Manager commented on online shopping, and how this also had an impact on high street stores and referred Members to the footfall information in the report, detailing trends within the city centre and annual comparisons. She also noted that the fire at the Royal Clarence Hotel in 2016 had a significant impact on footfall within Cathedral Green, as did external events to the city such as the World Cup, the Royal Wedding and adverse weather.

The Economy and Enterprise Manager discussed how people travel into Exeter, indicating that 19,000 commuters travelled to the City Centre on a daily basis. Commuters by car had reduced by 18.3%, whereas commuting by alternative means had risen by 21.5% but the number using Park and Ride had declined. She commented on the various commuter options and where improvements had been made. She considered having a 21st century city centre that was fit for purpose and agile enough to cope with change was vital. The report would be used to develop the new City Centre Strategy, and the initial findings would be presented to Place Scrutiny Committee in January 2019.

In response to questions from Members, the Economy and Enterprise Manager and the Director responded that:-

- Devon County Council were involved with City Centre Strategy and were regularly consulted;
- Congestion was an issue and impacted on the experience of visiting Exeter;
- The Car Parking team would be involved with resolving the wider city centre issues and would be meeting with Devon County Council;
- Devon County Council and Stagecoach, had provided information which indicated that the number concession passengers had declined;
- The footfall had increased in Fore Street, which could be explained by the range of shops and premises at the location.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report and

- (1) supported the stance for closely monitoring footfall, car park and park & ride data, as well as the closure and opening of shops and restaurants within the city centre; and
- (2) that the Grimsey Review 2 continues to inform the review of the Exeter City Centre Strategy and the work of InExeter.

SKILLS STRATEGY FOR EXETER

The Skills Officer presented the report which covered the development of a Skills Strategy for Exeter, including the progress made to date, an overview of required actions and required timescales. The report aimed to ensure Members were kept up to date with progress and future plans, in relation to this area of work, and understood the planned process and initial priorities to develop and deliver a skills strategy for Exeter.

She explained to Members that the city was performing well in relation to key employment and skills indicators, and that the graduate retention levels in Exeter were 7.4% and 50% across the South West region. Exeter University were continuing to engage with local businesses for graduate work placements in Exeter.

Members were referred to the feedback results from a short business survey, with local businesses which highlighted the key areas of concern from employers as; the low unemployment rate causing recruitment challenges, a mixed response to apprenticeships from employers and also that some responders were not offering work experience or engaging with schools. To date, a number of priority areas have been identified, and further robust research was required to confirm these as part of the preparing the strategy. The Skills Officer advised that a Skills Advisory Group for Exeter would be formed to support the delivery of the Skills Strategy and the projects for development.

In response to questions from Members, the Skills Officer responded as follows:-

- Members would receive quarterly update briefings on the progress of the work;
- The requirement for funding priorities was medium risk, due to the uncertainty of future European Funding and what would replace it, this could be re-assessed once more is known;
- The post of the Skills Officer was a permanent full time role;
- Exeter University managed several schemes to retain graduates locally, including internships, but there were not enough businesses engaging with them to utilise these schemes. Raising the profile of these schemes was a priority;
- The budget would be large enough to support the development of the strategy and associated research;
- There were a number of employers in Exeter offering the National Living Wage to employees;
- The report was for the local economy and a part of the remit of the Place Scrutiny Committee;
- The 7.4% retention figure covered graduates who remained in Exeter only. The number of graduates retained across Devon was around 12%, the figures for this year would need to be clarified and reported back at a future meeting.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the progress made to date in relation to the development of a Skills Strategy for Exeter, and supported approval by the Executive of the following:-

- (1) to plan for the next stages of development, leading to the publication of a strategy and associated action plans,
- (2) the formation of a Skills Advisory Group for Exeter that will support strategy development and provide ongoing support, direction and challenge to the delivery of identified priorities, and
- (3) Members continued support for the priorities identified in Section 10 of the circulated report.

BUDGET MONITORING (QUARTER 2)

The Chief Finance Officer presented the Budget Monitoring report for Quarter 2 which advised Members of the material differences, by management unit, between the 2018/19 approved budget and the current outturn forecast in respect of Place Scrutiny Committee revenue and capital budgets. At the last Place Scrutiny Committee meeting in September, the Chief Finance Officer had issued a warning about the Councils' reserves dropping below the recommended level. He explained

that following the work by the Strategic Management Board , working with their Service Leads, the reserves were now at £3.015 Million. This amount equated to just over £15,000 above the reserve level, with vigilance on spending to continue.

He referred Members to the report, highlighting that the current forecast had suggested that the net expenditure for the Committee would increase from the revised budget by a total of £246,718, after transfers from reserves, which included supplementary budgets of £755,800 which had already been agreed by Council.

In response to questions from Members, the Chief Finance Officer and Director explained:-

- Reserves were there to manage finance over several years, as a Local Authority, the Council could manage finances over a number of years, with the reserves in place for unforeseen issues and it was usual practice for Councils to use their reserves when needed. The warning issued by the Chief Finance Officer at previous Scrutiny meetings was not an indication of financial trouble for the Council, but to ensure a level of financial discipline and to ensure a sensible financial buffer.
- Business recycling was an expanding market. The City Council took mixed recyclables from neighbouring authorities, however the income generated by the Council varied, but he could provide an exact figure if requested.
- There was an £80,500 underspend for the Public Realm Development team, following the deletion of three posts under one management area with new posts created under another management unit.
- The officer employed for tree preservations was shared with another authority and was for planning purposes only. The general Public and Green Spaces posts were for Exeter City Council use only.
- The Leisure Complex budget was approved by Full Council and would be coming forward into 2019/20. The specific costs for decontamination were not known, but the Chief Finance Officer would report the costs back to Members.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

56

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2017/18

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support presented the report providing an annual update on the Scrutiny work achieved during the Municipal Year 2017/18. The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to:-

- a) track the progress of the Scrutiny function and process at Exeter City Council,
- b) comment upon the progress and direction of Scrutiny over the past year and into the future,
- c) ensure that the Scrutiny Committees were kept fully up to date in relation to the Task and Finish Groups and what they had achieved, and
- d) illustrate how effective Scrutiny could contribute towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.

The Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support discussed the various Task and Finish Group Priority topics identified during the Scrutiny Work Programme meetings that were held between November 2017 and July 2018. He expressed his

thanks for the hard work undertaken by the former Scrutiny Programme Officer, who had now taken up another post within the Council.

In response to questions from Members, the Corporate Manager Democratic and Civic Support stated that the Scrutiny Programme Officer post would be reviewed ahead of the 2019/20 budget process prior to submission to Council. The decision had been taken not to fill the vacant post, although the decision to delete the post had to be decided by Full Council. Future Task and Finish Groups would be led by respective service leads.

The Chair commented on the loss of Task and Finish groups and its impact on the Scrutiny process. He suggested duplicating the recommendation from People Scrutiny Committee, to review the decision to not fill the Scrutiny Programme Officer post, in two years' time. The Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support advised that there was no suggestion to stop using Task and Finish Groups as and when appropriate, but that they would be dealt with differently than they had previously.

Members asked that their appreciation for the comprehensive and hard work undertaken by Anne-Marie Hawley in her role as the Scrutiny Programme Officer be recorded and their thanks passed on.

Place Scrutiny Committee noted and approved the Annual Scrutiny report and recommended that the decision to not fill the Scrutiny Programme Officer post be reviewed in two years.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 8.25 pm)

Chair

PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Dr E Westland

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

Question

The Council will shortly be considering the fate of the Clifton Hill site. Can this committee give an assurance that the Victorian Brickworks Office on the edge of the site will be specifically considered in the City Surveyor's report to the Council, and excluded from any area of land put up for sale?

Response

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded to the question. He stated that this property was in a conservation area and was the in the schedule of locally listed buildings.

The future of the site and any building on it would be considered when a full report on all the options would be presented to Council, which was currently scheduled for 12th February 2019.

Dr Westland was invited to respond, stating that she was disappointed that the location of the Victorian Brickworks wasn't known, confirming that the location was near the Labour Party Headquarters. The site was important for locals and historians and was the only remaining evidence of the city's industrial heritage. She highlighted that the Council needed to be aware for when it made its decision on Clifton Hill, that the building had a local designation and wasn't nationally listed with no formal protection.

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PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Ms Emily McIvor

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

Question 1

The Clifton Hill Sports Centre building was adversely affected by snow in March of this year, and the Council carried out a survey to assess and report on the damage.

Please give the following dates:

- 1) The date that the survey detailing snow damage to the Clifton Hill Sports Centre building was received by councillors and/or the Portfolio Holder;
- 2) The date on which the decision to temporarily close the sports centre to members of the public was taken,
- 3) The date on which permanent closure of the sports centre was recommended.

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded to the questions:-

Response 1)

The Council did not “carry out a survey to assess and report on the damage”. An assessment was made utilising information from a range of sources.

Response 2)

The decision to temporarily close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre to the public was made on 14th March 2018.

Response 3)

The recommendation to permanently close Clifton Hill Sports Centre was made in the report considered by the Council Executive on 12th June 2018.

Ms Emily McIvor was invited to respond, thanking the Portfolio Holder for providing the dates which were of interest because so much had been said about the decision to sell the Clifton Hill green space and demolish the sports centre having been “rushed through”.

The sports centre was damaged by snow in early March, and the decision to sell the site was announced in June. So from March to June there was silence, and then – within a single week – an unpopular policy was announced, discussed and voted through by the Executive. She considered that announcing bad news immediately after an election – rather than before – was somewhat unfair on voters. The pre-election “purdah” period had been used to explain the lack of an earlier announcement, but that only began on 27th March.

The date of the formal recommendation to close the sports centre was 12th June – which we all knew already – but it seems the relevant date was 14th March, after receiving officers' recommendations and that Councilors knew on 3rd June that the sports centre would not reopen. Claiming a democratic mandate to take unpopular decisions – especially those agreed before an election but not announced until after the poll – seems unfortunate, and some of this should be set against the fact that in the Newtown and St. Leonard's Ward, in 2018, only 36% of those eligible to vote, actually did so.

The low voter turnout could be attributed to confidence among Exeter residents in the Council ability to run the city with minimum scrutiny, but the decision to sell the Clifton Hill site without consulting is crying out for scrutiny.

The Executive and Full council signed away publicly owned community assets in the space of days, without consultation, on the basis of papers that failed to provide information on the size of the Green Space, or its current use, and inaccurately described the duration of leases. There was still time to reverse this undemocratic and unpopular decision. Please keep the Clifton Hill green space in public ownership, and keep it green. It's not yours to sell.

PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Ms Ginny Russell

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

Question

Given the Newtown and Clifton Hill community overwhelmingly wants to preserve the green space at Clifton Hill as a publicly owned green site, has the Council been in contact with any potential buyers of all or part of the site, and will be how to buy the site become public knowledge so the community might attempt to buy it back?

Response

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded that the Council had not approached potential buyers and that any sale would be on the open market.

Ms Ginny Russell was invited to respond stating that the closure would impact the Urban green space, which were disappearing all over the country and outdoor spaces needed to be saved. The community wanted to keep them for activity, wellbeing and mental health. The Council strategy was also short term, once these spaces go they would be gone forever impacting future generations. There was also a variety of wildlife species and plant life in the area and the removal of the spaces would damage the local eco system. The Council needed to think twice before making this decision.

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PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Mr Alexander Keen

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

Question

Given that the council is planning to hold a public consultation in 2019 concerning the development of Physical Activity and Built Facilities strategies, and given factual inaccuracies and omissions in the report presented to the Executive on 12 June and Extraordinary council meeting on 13 June, the decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and sell the entire site without any consultation feels particularly inappropriate and undemocratic.

Would you clarify, please, whether it is legally possible for the council to reverse the decision to close the Clifton Hill Sports Centre and sell the whole site, including the Clifton Hill Green Space?

If you believe it is not possible to reverse the decision, please explain precisely why this is the case.

Response

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded that he did not agree that the report had material factual inaccuracies and omissions, but apologised that a formal consultation had not been undertaken. However the general public were made aware of the problems at Clifton Hill Sports Centre and had been able to put their case forward prior to the Council decision.

A decision made by Full Council could be reconsidered following a recommendation to do so from a Committee, or the Executive, or by way of Notice of Motion in accordance with Standing Order No.6.

Mr Keen was invited to respond, informing that he was a local resident with a background in design. He considered that the Clifton Hill building was basic and that replacing the roof would provide a further 25 year to life to the building life expectancy. There had been no structural survey undertaken, and highlighted that he unsure where the view that building was unsafe had come from or that a vote to close had been held.

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PUBLIC QUESTION RECEIVED for Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 from Ms Aimee Beckett

To Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport

Question

Vivid Economics worked in partnership with the Greater London Authority, National Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund to produce a natural capital account for London's public green spaces. It revealed that for every £1 spent by local authorities on public green space, Londoners enjoyed at least £27 in value. We now have evidence that reducing funding for green spaces is a false economy. Natural capital accounting is rapidly gaining acceptance as a necessary requirement to inform decision-making. Vivid Economics has teamed up with researchers at the University of Exeter to create an easy-to-use toolkit to calculate location-specific economic values of the health, social and environmental benefits of urban green infrastructure.

Will the council consider using the toolkit when it is released to reveal the true value of the nine acres behind Clifton Hill Sports Centre before allowing it to be sold?

Response

Councillor Bialyk Portfolio Holder Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport, responded that there were a wide range of tools available to support decision making and that the toolkit was not one used or had considered using.

Ms Beckett was invited to respond, stating that the finalised toolkit would be released in 2019 and that Exeter University were looking for Local Authorities to work with them. The Clifton Hill Green space had a high pollution level, which impacted on air quality and had been linked to health issues. Keeping the greenspace would make more sense, but she understood the impacts from austerity.

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**MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee –
8 November 2018 - Questions from Councillor Mitchell**

Response to be made by Councillor David Harvey Portfolio Holder Place &
Commercialisation

Question 1

It was recently revealed Exeter's recycling rate has now fallen by over 6% since the current administration took back control of the Council in 2010 and now sits just above 30%. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why there has been such a drop?

Response

This has been due to several factors:

The Controlled Waste Regulations 2012 clarified the types of waste that should be included in our domestic waste figures that are used to calculate the recycling rate. In accordance with statutory guidance, the non-recycled waste from schools, charity shops and residential homes is now included in our figures; this wasn't the case in 2010. As a result, the reported amount of non-recycled waste has increased in relation to the tonnage recycled, which reduces our recycling rate. This is something we had no control over.

'Lightweighting' of packaging materials such as glass and metal, and the ongoing decline in newsprint and magazine consumption, mean there is less material available for capture.

This affects Exeter more than neighbouring authorities because we rely mainly on 'dry' recycling rather than organic waste collection for our recycling rate.

As the machinery at our MRF has become older, the plant is less efficient at sorting materials to the standard required by reprocessors. At the same time, these reprocessors are becoming more demanding about quality standards so the proportion of rejected material has increased. There has always been a proportion of input material that was too fine for us to sort cost-effectively. We were able to send this material to commercial MRFs to process for us. However, this option is becoming more expensive due to the wider changes in market conditions.

The many new purpose-built student blocks are a challenge for our recycling system. Bin stores are often built too small to accommodate enough green and grey bins, and the building managers can opt to pay for extra rubbish collections rather than require their tenants to recycle. This increases the amount of non-recycled waste collected.

Paper, textiles and other materials collected by local community groups counts towards our recycling rate. These groups have seen the value per tonne of their materials drop so they are collecting less for recycling.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Mitchell asked a supplementary question about recycling rates in other authorities, and what they did that was different to Exeter City Council.

Supplementary Response

Councillor Harvey, Portfolio Holder Place & Commercialisation responded that he didn't know what other authorities did to increase their recycling rates.

Question 2

Over the same period neighbouring authorities recycling rates have risen. What lessons can we learn from those authorities?

Response -

Exeter's recycling rate for 'dry' materials (paper, glass, card, plastics and metal) is comparable with most of our neighbours. The higher recycling rates achieved by our neighbours are largely due to the provision of separate food waste collection and greater participation in garden waste collections in districts where more people have gardens.

Question 3

How does the Portfolio Holder intend to reverse the decline in our recycling rate?

Response -

The business case for investment in the MRF was due to be presented to Executive and full Council in Quarter 4 of this financial year. This will address the issues that have led to our higher rejection rate. We have removed the charge for new or replacement recycling bins. Through the DASWC-support Recycling Advisors contract we have paid particular emphasis on visiting flats and areas of low participation to ensure those residents have adequate access to recycling containers.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Mitchell asked a supplementary question about seeing what other authorities do with recycling and see if there was anything the City council could adopt to help the authorities recycling rate?

Supplementary Response

Councillor Harvey, Portfolio Holder Place & Commercialisation responded that they could look at what other authorities do.

Question 4

Will this administration urgently review its decision not to imminently introduce a food waste collection service for the City?

Response -

The decision not to proceed with introducing food waste recycling was made on cost grounds.

In March 2018 Executive Committee agreed "That officers provide an annual update on the food waste business case in the Recycling Plan that is submitted to Place Scrutiny Committee". This update will take place as part of the business case for MRF investment currently being carried out.

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Place Scrutiny Committee – 8 November 2018 - Questions from Councillor Musgrave

Response to be made by Councillor Luke Sills, Chairman of Place Scrutiny Committee,
responding on behalf of Councillor Rachel Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Economy and
Culture/Labour Group Deputy Leader

Question 1

Why is it that ECC and DCC are pulling in different directions on Exeter's air quality problem?

Response

Exeter City Council and Devon County Council were not pulling in different directions. Communication between officers at the two authorities was excellent and had taken place throughout the development of the Action Plan. Further discussions were taking place at a strategic level through the Exeter and Devon Transport Steering Group.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Musgrave asked a supplementary question requesting an explanation about the differing opinion of Devon County Council on parking levy, to that of Exeter City Council.

Supplementary Response

Councillor Rachel Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture/Labour Group Deputy Leader would provide a written response to Councillor Musgrave and Members.

Question 2

Why is this report not recommending implementation a workplace parking levy given that Cllr Foggin recommend the same on behalf of a recent cross party task and finish group?

Response

The introduction of a Workplace Parking Levy would have to be done by Devon County Council rather than by Exeter City Council as the legislation had been devolved to tier 1 authorities (i.e. county council not district council).

The Action Plan did not, at this time, contain a request to Devon County Council to undertake a feasibility study for a Work Place Parking Levy. This was because many respondents to the consultation said that businesses should not face additional financial burdens. There was a feeling that alternative modes of transport should be provided first. This has been reflected in the final Action Plan.

However there was a mechanism through the annual review process of the of air quality action plan where additional measures could be introduced. The scrutiny committee report included a recommendation that 'That the feasibility of a work place parking levy be kept under review and an update be brought back to Scrutiny Place as part of the annual review of the Air Quality Action Plan.'

Supplementary Question

Councillor Musgrave asked a supplementary question on why the report figures had been presented in a misleading way.

Supplementary Response

Councillor Rachel Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture/Labour Group Deputy Leader would provide a written response to Councillor Musgrave and Members.

Question 3

Isn't it true that the proposed focus on the Heavitree corridor condemns the rest of the city including thousands of residents, children and workers to many more years of exposure and health risks?

Response

The legal duty of the Air Quality Action Plan as set out under the Environment Act 1995, was for a local authority to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below the objective. This plan aimed to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below the objective. However the Council recognised that this may not be the complete extent of the health impacts of air pollution, because the objective level may not be the lower limit of health impacts for nitrogen dioxide, and because particulate matter could also have health impacts below the relevant objectives. The Council therefore aspired to reduce harm to health from air pollution further than this in the future

It should be made clear that levels of air pollution were reducing in Exeter. In 2011 there were 20 monitoring locations in the city where nitrogen dioxide levels were above the objective. In 2017 there were eight. According to data from the Centre for Cities Exeter was the top performing city in the UK for reductions in CO2 emissions down by over 4% between 2005 and 2015. This was really good news for public health and showed that we had achieved over this period, although we recognise there was still much to do.

The number of people living in the locations where concentrations of nitrogen dioxide were above the objective may be small, but the pollution levels to which they were exposed to were far higher than in the majority of the city. For example nitrogen dioxide levels at East Wonford Hill were 59 micrograms per cubic meter, which compared to between 13 and 25 micrograms per cubic meter in a typical suburban Exeter street. A change in priority to focus on other areas instead would leave this small number of most significantly affected people with no benefit.

As Cllr Denham stated at the Scrutiny committee in September 2018, we had been working with partners in the public and private sector to cut congestion and the resulting air pollution as part of the city-wide transformation programme, Exeter City Futures. It focused on addressing some of the big challenges facing the city, in particular traffic congestion and energy efficiency. It was establishing a clear delivery plan, objectives and deliverables to create sustainable change, and to help address the problems of congestion within the city.

Supplementary Question

Councillor Musgrave asked a supplementary question, stating that there was requirement for focus and action for the parts of the city that had exceeded the legal limits. What actions are planned for bad areas such as East Wonford Hill?

Supplementary Response

Councillor Rachel Sutton, Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture/Labour Group Deputy Leader would provide a written response to Councillor Musgrave and Members.

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CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday 22 November 2018

Present:

Councillor Sheldon (Chair)
Councillors Warwick, Holland, Lamb, Musgrave, Thompson, Vizard M and Wood

Apologies:

Councillors Hannan

Also present:

Director (BA), Chief Finance Officer, Policy Officer (MP-J), Benefits and Welfare Lead, Local Taxation Lead and Democratic Services Officer (SLS)

In Attendance:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Councillor Peter Edwards | - Leader and Portfolio Holder Growth and City Development |
| Councillor Ollie Pearson | - Portfolio Holder for Support Services |

45

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

46

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable interest were made.

47

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER

20

In accordance with Standing Order 20, Councillor Thompson submitted questions on the Private Development Company and Planning Applications.

A copy of the questions had been issued to Members and these together with the appropriate responses from Councillor Edwards, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Growth and Development are appended to the minutes.

48

PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE - SUPPORT SERVICES

Councillor Pearson presented an update on the priorities of the Portfolio Holder for Support Services for 2017/18 as follows:-

- the digital customer platform (Firm step) would provide an end to end digital service for any public wishing to contact the City Council in that way. He was pleased to announce that the latest service added was garden waste.

- the introduction of the place based brand Exeter Live Better, set up to recognise the city's strengths and foster civic pride included in kind support and adoption to get behind the branding for the city.
- the prioritisation of the Council's IT requirements to ensure effective and efficient delivery by Strata Solutions will ensure the right focus to take the long term decisions forward.
- the city centre policing hub, currently being established at the Civic Centre will open shortly.
- the introduction of new procurement arrangements had been completed with the appointment of a new dedicated team in line with the original business case. A more innovative way had been employed to tender for the forthcoming cleaning contract at the Civic Centre, and other Council buildings with a recent invitation to tender for the bid in its entirety or in divided lots had drawn great interest from a range of organisations, as well as the knowledge that their employees would enjoy some of the benefits of Exeter's local authority employees such as the Exeter Living Wage.

In response to a Member's question, the Portfolio Holder welcomed the digital customer platform and integration of the Council's services and anticipated the launch of the council tax and rent accounts on line service very soon. The platform would provide a focus on the integrity and offer a tie line point of access for customers in one place, and from a back office point of view, there were many benefits to having a single view of the customer where it was appropriate do so.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report of the Portfolio Holder Support Services.

49

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT

The Director presented the report providing an annual update on the Scrutiny work achieved during the Municipal Year 2017/18. The report provided the Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to:-

- a) track the progress of the Scrutiny function and process at Exeter City Council;
- b) comment upon the progress and direction of Scrutiny over the past year and into the future;
- c) ensure that the Scrutiny Committees were kept fully up to date in relation to the Task and Finish Groups and what they had achieved, and
- d) to illustrate how effective Scrutiny could contribute towards an accountable, transparent and democratic process.

The Director outlined the great breadth of work and the various Task and Finish Group priority topics identified during the Scrutiny Work Programme meetings that were held between November 2017 and July 2018. These had included both Members, other local authorities with contributions from a range of external organisations and speakers. The Director addressed the issue that the Scrutiny Programme Officer had now taken up another post within the Council and the decision had been made not to fill the vacant post. She indicated that Members of the other Scrutiny Committees had voiced some concern and referred to the financial challenges which were facing the Council, and whilst it was appreciated that this result was far from ideal, the action was appropriate in the context of the savings that needed to be found. She added that where possible the work of the task and finish groups would be continued by the Democratic Services team, with service leads having to take a more involved role in the groups, where this was possible with other service priorities. Members would have the opportunity

to raise this as an issue during the forthcoming budget setting process. The Director wished to reassure Members that scrutiny was still seen as an important element of the Council's democratic process, and this had recently been reaffirmed with the Council's decision to retain the existing three scrutiny committee structure.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted and approved the Annual Scrutiny report.

50

BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Chief Finance Officer presented the quarterly financial update report which advised Members of any material differences, by management unit, between the 2018/19 approved budget and the current outturn forecast in respect of Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee. Exeter City Council, had a statutory duty to set and monitor budgets throughout the year, taking necessary actions where required for potential overspending or potential shortfalls in income.

The current forecast showed that against the revised budget, the net expenditure for the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee would decrease from the revised budget by a total of £24,500 after transfers to and from reserves, representing a favourable variation of 0.31% from the revised budget, including a supplementary budget of £587,590 that had been previously agreed.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

51

OVERVIEW OF REVENUE BUDGET

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report that advised Members of the overall projected financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) & General Fund Revenue Budgets for the 2018/19 financial year after six months. He also sought approval for a supplementary budget, and explained that because the Council had been awarded a grant of £481,600 for the Rough Sleeping Initiative by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) the supplementary budget totalling £481,600 would be recommended for approval by Council, as this budget would be cost neutral.

The Chief Finance Officer referred to an improvement in the financial position following efforts by the Strategic Management Board and Service Leads having worked to reduce expenditure, which had brought the projected balance to £3.015 million at the year end, and just over the minimum reserves level. He reiterated the need to retain the discipline and be mindful of the ongoing financial position. The second quarter for the Housing Revenue Account also showed a significant reduction in the amount taken from the working balance, projection of £3,868,032 to leave the working balance at £6,344,212. He commented on the key variances as detailed in the report. He also referred to the appearance of a significant overspend in planning which included funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy that was shown elsewhere in the report and offset the additional expenditure. A change in the way this was reflected would be made available for future reports.

Following a request from a Member at the September meeting of Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee, the Chief Finance Officer provided details of spending on agency and consultancies. In the case of agency staff, it could include cover for planned leave for an area where the service had to continue, such as in the case of refuse collection crews. There had been a concerted effort to reduce such spend, and a project had been undertaken to bring together the spend under one contract

to achieve a more advantageous cost. There were occasions where consultants were used, particularly when the expertise was not available at the City Council, and it was reviewed on a case by case basis. He also responded to a Member's request for a comparison of the expenditure by other district councils across the country. The Chief Finance Officer acknowledged a Member's suggestion that a comparison of size of the District Council should be taken into account.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive to note the report, and Council to note and approve the following:-

- (1) The General Fund forecast financial position for the 2018/19 financial year;
- (2) The HRA forecast financial position for 2018/19 financial year;
- (3) The additional supplementary budget set out in 8.3.7;
- (4) The outstanding Sundry Debt position as at November 2018; and
- (5) The creditors' payments performance.

52

CAPITAL MONITORING

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report which advised Members of the current position of the Council's revised annual Capital Programme and the anticipated level of deferred expenditure into future years. Local authorities were required to estimate the total Capital Expenditure that it planned to incur during the financial year, which was a significant source of risk and uncertainty, depending on cost variances, delays and changing specifications of large and complex capital projects. The Capital Programme was updated every three months to reflect any cost variations, slippage or acceleration of projects to manage the associated risks and Members' approval to reflect the reported variations was required.

The revised capital programme for the current financial year was £31.803 million, and during the first six months of the year the Council spent £4.164 million of the programme, compared with £4.134 million being spent in the first six months of 2017/18. He referred to his comment as the Section 151 Officer and reiterated the importance of Members being satisfied with the deferral of any scheme, with a reminder that they were always entitled to ask for further explanation of the individual Project Manager. He highlighted two projects of note which included the completion of the refurbishment of Cowick Barton tennis courts and the fire alarms at the Guildhall, which were now back at full capacity.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee supported the report and requested Executive and Council approve the revision of the annual capital programme to reflect the reported variations detailed in paragraphs 8.1, 8.4 and 8.5 of the circulated report.

53

TREASURY MANAGEMENT

The Chief Finance Officer presented the report on the current Treasury Management performance for the 2018/19 financial year and the position regarding investments and borrowings at 30 September 2018. The strategy for In-House investments included approval to invest in Property Funds. The City Council has made two investments in the Church Charities and Local Authorities – Local Authorities Mutual Investment Trust (CCLA – LAMIT) Property Fund (in April and November 2016). The yield from the Property Fund has been in the region of 4.5% in this financial year, which was significantly higher than the returns on other investment options available. Every effort was made to continue to explore the possibility of widening the investment options available to the Council, and any

viable opportunities would be included in the Treasury Management Strategy which will be presented to committee for approval in February 2019.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the Treasury Management report in respect of the first six months of the 2018/19 financial year and recommended approval by Executive and Council.

54

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Policy Officer presented the report which sought approval for the City Council's revised Safeguarding Policy, which had been updated to reflect changes in governance arrangements for safeguarding within the Council. There had been an existing Policy in place since 2006, and the Policy was subject to an annual review in order to respond to changes in legislation and best practice.

The significant changes included the governance framework and responsibilities of officers and Members in respect of safeguarding, and also two additional sections to clarify responsibilities around events and land hire and grant applications.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee supported the report and requested Executive and Council approve the adoption of the revised Safeguarding Policy.

55

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

The Benefits & Welfare Lead presented the report which sought Member's views on the local Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) for working age residents for 2019/20. The scheme, which commenced in April 2013, required Member's agreement of the rules of the Scheme on an annual basis.

The Benefits & Welfare Lead explained that the rollout of Universal Credit began in September 2018 and the full impact of that on the CTS scheme was not yet known. He advised Members that reductions to the level of support given to households would impact on collection rates, but noted that savings were not being requested from the scheme costs. He further commented that the Council would not need to align the local scheme with national changes, following little change in welfare reform from Central Government in the past 12 months. He confirmed that the adoption of the Council Tax Support Scheme each year, should be no later than 11 March 2019 and not as stated in the report.

A Member referred to the Council Tax Protocol from the Citizens Advice Bureau and enquired what efforts were made by the City Council to support those who found themselves in council tax arrears. The Benefits & Welfare Lead advised that the City Council was aware of the Protocol and made every effort to work with customers within the District Councils' billing authorities and major preceptors. The Director referred to the different approaches by officers when individuals were not being able to pay rather than choosing not to pay and in the case of the latter, every effort was made to ensure a speedy recovery. However, it was also important to work with the individual and see how they could be supported to reach a manageable and sustainable way to ensure a quality of life and pay their council tax, working towards the ethos of CAB with regular conversations to understand the issues.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee noted the report and requested Executive and Council to support the scheme for 2019/20 to continue without substantive changes from the current year's scheme.

COUNCIL TAX LONG TERM EMPTY PREMIUM 2019/20

The Local Taxation Lead presented the report on the Government proposal to allow Local Authorities to increase the Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium from a maximum of 50% to a maximum of 100% from 1 April 2019. on the assumption that the primary legislation was in place. This would affect properties that had been empty for two or more years. He explained that the Council was committed to reducing the number of empty homes and that the 100% premium would be an important tool to support this aim. Although there would be some financial reward for the Council through the New Homes Bonus scheme introduced in 2011, and in the region of £5,000, the focus of this initiative was to encourage owners of empty homes to bring their properties back into use.

In responses to questions from the Members, the Local Taxation Lead explained:-

- they were working with the Environmental Health Section to offer greater incentives for the owners of long term empty properties. It could be more difficult to engage with owners who may not be in the locality or who would rather pay the additional council tax levy rather than sell, particularly if there was an emotional attachment to the property.
- the advice given by the Government in 2013 was that if it could be shown that a property was actively being marketed for rent or for sale, then the premium would not apply. This information was set out on the council tax bill and the Council's web site.
- he was not aware of any changes due to the setting up of the Council's new development company. The Director added that Environmental Health were now a part of the Housing Development team and as such were more aware of the private sector property in the city. The Director (JY) would identify the issues and review as much as possible before bringing into use.
- the report was presented on a yearly basis to Government and the council tax evaluation information was only available in the reported format, but he would send by year statistics on the number of Long Term Empty Premium cases going back to April 2013.
- there were just over 50 Band H properties, of which two are long term empty premises cases. If the policy was adopted then the owners of those properties would have to pay up to £7,000 which was likely to prove a greater incentive to bring a property back into use.

Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee supported the report and requested Executive and Council approve the adoption of the increase in the Council Tax Long-Term Empty Premium from 50% to 100% from the 1 April 2019 assuming the relevant primary legislation is in place.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 6.20 pm)

Chair

MEMBER QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER at Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee – 22 November 2018 - From Councillor Thompson

The responses were made by Councillor Edwards, (Leader and Portfolio Holder for City Development)

QUESTION 1

If monies are borrowed via the Public Loans at concessionary rates for the private development company to build property for sale on the open market, does this require within the regulations the support of the Section 151 Officer, bearing in mind, this appears to be a commercial operation with significant risk factors?

RESPONSE 1

All borrowing requires the approval of the Section 151 Officer regardless of the source or the purpose. The level of risk has been assessed and is built into the premium that the Development Company is paying on the loan.

QUESTION 2

When sites are transferred from Exeter City Council to the Private Development Company owned by the City Council :-

- a) What is the basis of the valuation?**
- b) Who undertakes the valuation?**
- c) Does the City Council always obtain a Planning Consent for residential development prior to the date when the land is valued and the date when the land is transferred?**

RESPONSE 2

- a) Market Value was as defined by the RICS Red Book.**
- b) In this case JLL, the commercial real estate company were engaged to provide the valuation advice.**
- c) No.**

QUESTION 3

Following conversations with external professionals concerned with Planning, Architecture, Design and Planning Applications, I understand it is perceived our City Council Planning Service is 'broken', so could the Portfolio Holder give information if the guidelines and regulations as in the attachments below are met in a timely manner and if this service can be improved bearing in mind extensions to Planning Applications have apparently increased significantly?

RESPONSE 3

Councillor Edwards categorically refuted the suggestion that the planning service was broken. Whilst there have been delays in planning application processing times in recent months due to staffing issues these were now largely behind us and applications were being registered within a few days of receipt. In the most recent published data on application processing times Exeter sits in joint 6th position out of 16 south west local authorities in terms of processing minor applications and in 10th position in terms of major decisions. This was not a bad place to be. In terms of undetermined householder planning applications the number of undetermined cases has dropped from in excess of 130 at the end of August to the mid-90s now.

QUESTION 4

Why has there been a large increase of Time Extension Agreements from March 2017 to April 2018?

RESPONSE 4

Planning officers have been reminded to use the extension of time facility to enable applications to be negotiated to an acceptable outcome.

QUESTION 5

How are planning Applications dealt with in terms of order as received?

RESPONSE 5

Applications which have not been subject to a pre-application discussions are allocated in date order. In cases where there has been pre-application discussions the applications are allocated to the officer who dealt with the discussions immediately on receipt.

QUESTION 6

Are Time Extension Agreements available for viewing by the public?

RESPONSE 6

Yes, the agreements are in writing – usually as an exchange of emails – and are available on the public file.

QUESTION 7

What reasons are given for Time Extension Agreements?

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/making-an-application#validation-of-an-application>

https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200126/applications/58/the_decision-making_process/3

RESPONSE 7

There were many and Councillor Edwards referred to a number of examples

- to allow applications to be considered by Planning Committee or Delegation Briefing meeting;
- to allow time for schemes to be amended to address concerns instead of refusing them;
- to agree the wording of conditions with applicants; to allow the comments of consultees and/or neighbours to be properly considered and addressed; and
- to allow the submission of further information by the applicant to support the proposal.

Councillor Mrs Thompson added that she had asked the questions because she was concerned about examples of an increase in the time extension agreement which could be putting some individuals in a difficult position.

Councillor Edwards reiterated that Exeter City Council had an excellent record in the south west and he invited individuals with any concern to write directly to him.

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EXECUTIVE

Tuesday 13 November 2018

Present:

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

Apologies:

Councillors Denham and Leadbetter

Also present:

Director (BA), Director (JY), City Solicitor & Head of HR, City Development Manager, Environmental Health and Licensing Manager, Skills Officer and Democratic Services Manager

110

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as correct.

111

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made.

112

NOTICE OF MOTION -COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

The City Development Manager presented the report on the implications of a motion put forward by Councillor Musgrave on Community Land Trusts (CLT). Members were advised that, whilst the provision of housing through CLTs were in principle a good idea, there were significant resource implications in supporting such ventures. CLT's worked well in rural areas with the support of Parish Councils although they were more difficult in urban areas due to availability of affordable land.

In response to a Member, the City Development Manager stated that there were some individuals in the city who had expressed an interest in a CLT but there was nothing active at this present time.

RESOLVED that no proactive action in respect of supporting Community Land Trusts is taken at present but that the appetite amongst communities for such initiatives should continue to be monitored and should a viable proposition present itself the Council would seek to support it in an appropriate way.

113

REVISION OF THE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The Director (JY) presented the report seeking approval for a new Air Quality Action Plan following public consultation. The format of the report and action plan was in a template prescribed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

The draft action plan had been subject to a statutory consultation which had over 3,000 residents completing the online survey and many others responding in written submission and through participation in targeted focus groups. The Final Action Plan set out the impact the consultation had and how the action plan had changed as a result of the consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Economy and Culture stated that it was not in the City Council's gift to implement a workplace parking levy although it would be kept under review with Devon County Council.

Members thanked the officers for their hard work on the revisions to the action plan.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 8 November 2018 and its comments were reported.

RECOMMENDED that:-

- (1) Council adopts the Air Quality Action Plan; and
- (2) the feasibility of a work place parking levy be kept under review and an update be brought back to Place Scrutiny Committee as part of the annual review of the Air Quality Action Plan.

114

SKILLS STRATEGY FOR EXETER

The Skills Officer presented the report covering the development of a skills strategy for Exeter, including; progress made to date, work with partners and stakeholders, key indicators, overview of required actions and timescales. One of the priorities was to ensure that there were opportunities for young people to have a life long career in Exeter.

The Leader highlighted Exeter's higher than average indicators with regards to wages, employment rates and job opportunities.

Place Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 8 November 2018 and its comments were reported.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) the progress made to date in relation to the development of a skills strategy for Exeter be noted;
 - (2) the plan for the next stages of development, leading to the publication of a strategy and associated action plans be approved;
 - (3) the formation of a Skills Advisory Group for Exeter that will support strategy development and provide ongoing support, direction and challenge to the delivery of identified priorities be approved; and
- (3) the priorities identified in section 10 be supported.

REPRESENTATION AT COURT

The City Solicitor & Head of HR advised that in light of the appointment of Anne-Marie Hawley to the position of Litigation Lawyer, Members were asked to approve that she be authorised to represent the Council at the County and magistrates Courts.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 222 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1972, the following officer be authorised to represent the Council at the County and Magistrates Courts:-

Anne-Marie Hawley – Litigation Lawyer

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 5.42 pm)

Chair

The decisions indicated will normally come into force 5 working days after publication of the Statement of Decisions unless called in by a Scrutiny Committee. Where the matter in question is urgent, the decision will come into force immediately. Decisions regarding the policy framework or corporate objectives or otherwise outside the remit of the Executive will be considered by Council on 18 December 2018.

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SEATING IN THE GUILDHALL

Agenda Annex

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| | | Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Lyons (L) | Chief Executive & Growth Director | Lord Mayor Councillor Hannaford (L) | Corporate Manager Democratic/Civic Support | City Solicitor & Head of HR | |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Democratic Services Manager (Committees) | | | | Director | Chief Finance Officer | Director |
|---|--|--|--|----------|-----------------------------|----------|

| Councillors | Councillors | Councillors | | Councillors | Councillors |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| Warwick (L) | Robson (L) | Edwards (L) | | Leadbetter (C) | Mitchell (LD) |
| M Vizard (L) | Foggin (L) | Sutton (L) | | Newby (C) | Musgrave (G) |
| Pattison (L) | Sheldon (L) | Pearson (L) | | Mrs Henson(C) | Pierce (C) |
| Wood (L) | Keen (L) | Denham (L) | TABLE | Thompson (C) | Prowse (C) |
| Lamb (L) | N Vizard (L) | Morse (L) | | | Holland (C) |
| Begley (L) | Owen (L) | Bialyk (L) | | | Henson, D. (C) |
| | Sills (L) | Wright (L) | | | |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Cllr Branston (L) | Cllr Foale (L) | Cllr Harvey (L) | Cllr Packham (L) | Cllr Gottschalk (L) | Cllr Wardle (L) | Cllr Hannan (L) |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|

L: Labour: 29
C: Conservative: 8
LD: Liberal Democrat: 1
G: Green 1

Portfolio Holders

Edwards: Leader, Growth & City Development
 Sutton: Deputy Leader and Economy & Culture
 Bialyk: Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport
 Denham: City Transformation
 Harvey: Place and Commercialisation
 Morse: People
 Wright: Housing Revenue Account
 Pearson: Support Services

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