

COUNCIL

Tuesday 15 December 2020

Present:-

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor Councillor Peter Holland
Councillor Mrs Yolonda Henson (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillors Atkinson, Begley, Bialyk, Branston, Buswell, Foale, Foggin, Ghusain, Hannaford, Harvey, Henson, D, Leadbetter, Lyons, Mitchell, K, Mitchell, M, Moore, D, Moore, J, Morse, Owen, Packham, Pearson, Martin, A, Quance, Sheldon, Sills, Sparkes, Sutton, Vizard, Wardle, Warwick, Williams, Wood and Wright

60

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Newby and Oliver.

61

MINUTES

The minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 20 October 2020 were moved by the Leader, seconded by the Deputy Leader Councillor Sutton, taken as read and approved for signing as correct at the earliest possible convenience.

62

COUNCILLOR RACHEL LYONS

The Lord Mayor welcomed Councillor Lyons to the meeting after her recent period of ill health including a spell in hospital and wished her a continued and speedy recovery.

63

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor reported the following:-

- the absence of John Street, Corporate Manager, Democratic and Civic Support, from the meeting because of the recent loss of his mother. The LM extended his and Members' condolences and support to John;
- a virtual Remembrance Service on 8 November 2020 at Exeter Cathedral and a live streaming of a Remembrance Service held on 11 November 2020 which had included the laying of wreaths by the City and County Councils and the Battalion of the 6th Rifles;
- his participation in an unique virtual civic reception for the Exeter Chiefs on 12 November 2020, held in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the 2019/20 rugby season, being crowned as the Heineken European Champions and the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Championships, therefore achieving a coveted double. They now enjoy local, national and international renown and are fine ambassadors for the City of Exeter;
- the raising of the Polish Flag on 15 November 2020 above the Guildhall, an event marked every year, but this being the 80th Anniversary commemoration of the 307 Polish Squadron, in honour of their service to the city during the Second World War and the passing of Walter (*Wladyslaw*) Swirski, a former pilot of the 307 squadron at his home in Canada. He had been a member of the Polish Air Force and one of the last remaining veterans of the Squadron;

- as part of the preparations for Christmas, the city was holding a Virtual Christmas Market to showcase the online shops of Exeter retailers and many independent shops;
- a video with a Christmas Message from the Lord Mayor, the Leader and the Dean of Exeter Cathedral had been posted on the City Council web site; and
- a letter he had sent to the Commanding Officer of HMS Defender and copied to Brigadier Jock Frasier, Naval Regional Commander Wales and Western England, expressing his congratulations to HMS Defender for winning multiple successes in the Surface Flotilla Excellence Awards and which he had reiterated in a conference call with Brigadier Frasier.

64

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Lord Mayor reported that no public questions had been received.

65

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 12 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 12 October 2020 were presented by the Deputy Chair, Councillor Williams, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 12 October 2020 be received.

66

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 26 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 26 October 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Morse, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 26 October 2020 be received.

67

PLANNING COMMITTEE - 16 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee of 16 November 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Morse, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 16 November 2020 be received.

68

LICENSING COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 2020

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 27 October 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Owen and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 27 October 2020 be received.

69

LICENSING COMMITTEE - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Licensing Committee of 30 November 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Owen and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 19 (Amendment to Street Trading Policy and Terms of Reference for the Licensing Sub-Committee)**, the Chair moved and the Deputy Chair seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 30 November 2020 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

70

STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 19 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee of 19 November 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Sills and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee held on 19 November 2020 be received.

71

CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 3 DECEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee of 3 December 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Vizard and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee held on 3 December 2020 be received.

72

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 25 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee of 25 November 2020 were presented by the Chair, Councillor Wardle, and taken as read.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 25 November 2020 be received.

73

EXECUTIVE - 3 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Executive of 3 November 2020 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No. 113 (Building Exeter Back Better – Exeter Covid-19 Recovery Plan)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and it was carried.

In respect of **Minute No.114 (Local Air Quality Management)**, the Leader, in response to queries from Members,

- requested that any detailed questions in respect of the report should be forwarded to the Director Net Zero Exeter and City Management for a response; and
- advised that the Scrutiny Programme Board was responsible for setting the work programme for the Scrutiny Committees and, accordingly, would determine whether a report on the monitoring of the Air Quality Management Plan would go forward to Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No.115 (Review of Policy for Dealing with Unacceptable Customer Behaviour)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive held on 3 November 2020 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

74

EXECUTIVE - 1 DECEMBER 2020

The minutes of the Executive of 1 December 2020 were presented by the Leader, Councillor Bialyk, and taken as read.

In respect of **Minute No.121 (Members' Allowances 2021/22)**, Councillor Leadbetter, speaking as the Leader of the main opposition group, supported the recommendations.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 122 (Freedom of the City)**, the Leader advised that this matter was the subject of the Extraordinary Meeting of Council which would follow on from this meeting.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 123 (Overview of General Fund Revenue Budget 2020/21 - Quarter 2)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 124 (2020/21 General Fund Capital Monitoring Statement – Quarter 2)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 125 (2020/21 HRA Budget Monitoring Report – Quarter 2)** the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 126 (Treasury Management 2020/21 Half Year Update)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 127 (Local Council Tax Support Scheme)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 128 (Future Strategic Planning with East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge District Councils and Devon County Council)**, the Leader reported the following:-

- his regret that it was the proposal for the Council to withdraw from the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan following the decision of neighbouring authorities to no longer participate in the Plan;
- reassured Members that it was now this Council's intention to work with East Devon, Mid Devon and Teignbridge Councils in partnership with Devon County Council to develop a non-statutory plan for the area;
- work had commenced on the preparation of Exeter's Local Plan, with one of the key elements being the provision of additional housing of 12,000 on nine identified strategic sites in the city as part of Liveable Exeter; and
- in response to a Member's question, the likely timescale for bringing forward the Plan was 18 months to two years and would include the review of the Statement of Community Involvement. All Members of the Council would be fully involved in the development of the Plan.

The Portfolio Holder for City Development supported the recommendations and reassured Members that the production of the Plan would involve consultation with local stakeholders and the public as required by legislation and that a report on the scope and timetable for the Plan would be brought to a meeting of the Executive.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendations and following a vote, the recommendations were carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 129 (Environmental Health and Community Safety Enforcement Policy)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation it was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 130 (Amendment to the Street Trading Policy and Terms of Reference for the Licensing Sub-Committee)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 131 (Draft Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon and Torbay)** the Leader, in response to a question from a Member in respect of making representations to Devon County Council on the targets within the document for reducing waste and its net zero carbon ambitions, advised that a written answer would be provided on the detail requested.

The Portfolio Holder for City Management reported that the draft strategy was subject to consultation at which point there would be an opportunity to propose changes to the targets.

The Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 132 (Review of Safeguarding Policy)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

In respect of **Minute No. 133 (Review of Equality and Diversity Policy)**, the Leader moved and the Deputy Leader seconded the recommendation and following a vote, the recommendation was carried.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Executive held on 1 December 2020 be received and, where appropriate, adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 19.12 and re-convened at 19.23.

75

NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR OLIVER UNDER STANDING ORDER NUMBER 6.

Councillor Williams, seconded by Councillor Ghusain, moved a Notice of Motion in the following terms as submitted by Councillor Oliver:-

This Council notes that:

The Covid-19 emergency has exposed major inequalities across the country, with children and families suffering disproportionately. Between March and August 2020 there has been a 115% increase in Universal Credit claimants nationally, and in Devon an even greater increase: 165% for all claimants and 173% for 16-24 years old. Trussell Trust research shows three million children in the UK are at risk of hunger during the school holidays.

Foodbank use has dramatically increased. The Independent Food Aid Network recorded a 59% increase in demand for emergency food support between February

and March 2020. The [Exeter Foodbank states](#) that figures from Citizens Advice show a 78% rise in enquiries about food banks in the past six months.

The UK Government has committed to UN Sustainable Development Goals, which have an international and domestic commitment to ending hunger by 2030.

The UK Government has asked businessman and cookery writer Henry Dimbleby to lead on producing a [National Food Strategy](#).

This Council believes that:

- No one in Exeter should go hungry, and children least of all.
- Food justice is about taking action on the causes of hunger such as affordability and availability of good quality nutritious food.
- The current Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown imposed on the majority of the City's economic activities have revealed and exacerbated existing inequalities, leading to further unemployment and income insecurity, and more food poverty as a result.
- Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, schools, faith and voluntary groups have played a key role in supporting those suffering food poverty during the Covid-19 pandemic, and that should be recognised.

The Council resolves:

1. That the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Culture supported by the Member Champion for Equality and Diversity take responsibility to:
 - a) develop a city-wide food action plan.
 - b) set up a working group to research and map the extent of food poverty in the city;
2. To commit to setting up a food partnership with Devon County Council, city-based partners and stakeholders to develop and implement the Exeter Food Action Plan;
3. To campaign, in association with Exeter MPs, for Government to:
 - a) legislate the existing commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to end hunger by 2030;
 - b) commit funding in the next spending review to increase access to nutritious food, whilst awaiting development of the National Food Strategy;
 - c) support local food production and suppliers, so that food supplies are sustained throughout the pandemic and as a result of exiting the EU, to protect workers' jobs, and to contribute to Exeter's commitment to Net Carbon Zero 2030; and
 - d) increase Universal Credit to help people suffering food poverty, with an equivalent uplift to those on legacy benefits.

During the debate the following points were made:-

- the Government had made attempts to combat food poverty during the Covid-19 pandemic but the problem had existed before the pandemic and would continue after;
- the research on food poverty as specific and unique to Exeter would be done in partnership with others;
- that the working group should be on a cross-party basis;
- as part of examining food poverty and identifying its root cause it would also be the intention to look at local food supplies;
- hunger impacts adversely on a child's life and education;
- the inclusion of Food Technology/Domestic Science within the school curriculum was also an important element; and
- Devon County Council was distributing £15 vouchers per child per week over the Christmas period.

Councillors Leadbetter and K. Mitchell, as Leaders of both opposition groups, supported the recommendations

Councillor Ghusain, in seconding the Motion, made the following points:-

- to map the nature and extent of food poverty in the city, the working group would involve community groups and associations, food charities and faith groups; and
- the food action plan would need to be developed with other stakeholders and city based partners including Devon County Council and those already involved in providing food aid in the city.

Councillor Williams, as the mover of the Motion, made the following points:-

- thanked all Members for their support;
- referred to a number of organisations she had witnessed when volunteering at the Food Bank and the Hot Food project including Palace Gate, Belmont Church, St. Katherine's Priory and the Beacon Community Centre, the latter running the Hot Food project during the summer, half term and over Christmas;
- the inability to afford to heat food was also an element of food poverty;
- the need to extend the scheme beyond the six supermarkets currently involved;
- thanked those volunteering throughout the city; and
- stressed the importance of an audit process to identify gaps where people are not being supported.

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

76

**NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR D. MOORE UNDER STANDING ORDER
NUMBER 6**

Councillor D. Moore, seconded by Councillor M. Mitchell, moved a Notice of Motion in the following terms:-

Council notes:

- *The interest shown by developers to bring forward planning applications for co-living developments in Exeter;*

- *Currently Co-living is not defined in the National Planning Policy Framework or Exeter Planning Policy; and*
- *Planning authorities in London and Manchester have sought to develop planning policies to set out the requirements for Co-living so that planning decisions may be clearly determined.*

Council resolves:

- *To develop planning policy to set out the requirements for Co-living either by amending existing local supplementary planning policy or by developing new supplementary planning policy.*
- *To set up a cross party working group of Members to consider the matter and inform the drafting of planning guidance for consideration by this Council; and*
- *To progress this matter the working group is requested to prepare a report for presentation to Council in April 2021.*

In presenting her Motion, Councillor D. Moore made the following points:-

- invite Members to support this uncontentious proposal to develop local planning policy on co-living as there is no national planning policy framework;
- such a policy will provide a framework for determining planning applications and will provide guidance for local developers, clarity for communities and can be referenced in the emerging revised community infrastructure levy policy. It will also help to delineate between purpose built student accommodation and co- living;
- local authorities in London and Manchester are bringing forward local policies on co-living in their Local Plan; and
- the practical approaches suggested are to develop the policy by amending Supplementary Planning Policy (SPD) or create new supplementary guidance drawing on aspects of already adopted policy that include relevant features of co-living.

Councillor Morse, the Portfolio Holder for City Management, made the following points:-

- Co-living housing represented a new, emerging housing sector in the UK and developers were showing a growing interest in bringing forward co-living housing in Exeter. Co-living housing was not currently defined in either national or local planning policy;
- work on a new Local Plan for Exeter had commenced and a report setting out the scope and timetable for the Plan would be brought to Executive and Council early in 2021;
- a formal co-living policy would need to come forward through the Local Plan, subject to the outcomes of the Government's recent Planning White Paper. The Local Plan would be subject to statutory public consultation and Member involvement at all stages. Member Governance arrangements were still to be determined, but could involve working groups focussing on specific issues such as co-living housing. As it progressed through statutory stages, the Local Plan would gain increasing weight in the determination of planning applications; and

- it would not be possible to adopt a SPD on co-living housing until the Local Plan was in place, as SPD's could only amplify adopted policy.

She stated that her Group would not support the preparation of interim planning guidance on co-living housing as it would carry very limited weight in the determination of planning applications as, unlike a Local Plan and SPD, it would not be subject to public consultation and/or Examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Its preparation would also divert resources away from preparing the Local Plan.

Councillor Leadbetter as Leader of the Opposition Group advised that his Group would not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor M. Mitchell, in seconding the Motion, made the following points:-

- support the Motion and the sentiments expressed by Councillor D. Moore as there is a need for cross party policy in regard to co-living;
- applications had already been received and further applications can be expected before a future Local Plan is agreed and there will also be implications arising from anticipated new planning legislation; and
- it would not be appropriate to continue on a case by case basis and clear planning standards are necessary for those who wish to live in co-living accommodation.

Councillor D. Moore in responding, stated the following:-

- it was disappointing there was not a consensus of looking to develop a policy; and
- it should be possible to develop planning policy now to provide a framework for future decisions by the Planning Committee. By 2024 a number of co-living development applications could be anticipated and, without a policy, it would be difficult for informed decisions to be made

The Notice of Motion was put to the vote and LOST.

77

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING ORDER NUMBER 8.

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

1. ***Bearing in mind that the new Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 aims to raise awareness and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on victims, survivors, and their families, with a clear focus on the voice of the child, and seeks to further improve the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice, and strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies, can I please ask the Leader of the Council, how will Exeter City Council implement the areas in the Bill that specifically relate to District Councils, including the new "duty to comply"?***

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2020 places a duty on tier one local authorities to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children within refuges and other safe accommodation. The Bill also requires tier two councils (districts) to co-operate with the lead local authority, so far as is reasonably practicable.

Whilst the Council's principal engagement with the planning and implementation of the new Bill is through the Safer Devon Partnership and the review of the Devon wide Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse (DVSA) Strategy, the Council's statutory duties in respect of housing are currently being met within our adherence to the Devon Homechoice Allocations policy (which has significant preferential measures in respect of DVSA need) and our application to statutory homelessness applications under part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.

In addition, the Housing Needs and Homelessness Service has been working with the Devon County Council Domestic Abuse Service Commissioner on two development agendas as part of the homelessness strategy. The first being a working group with the Devon Districts developing additional places of safety for emergency housing need for DVSA victims (and also perpetrators). The current focus is on a registered social landlord providing accommodation options in districts to add capacity to what districts currently use which is primarily temporary accommodation and/or limited refuge spaces. The second piece of work is an Exeter-focused group of statutory and voluntary agencies assessing need and delivery options for housing and support for women in acute need, for example female rough sleepers with complex needs.

2. *How will Exeter City Council apply and monitor the areas in the Bill that specifically relate to social housing tenants?*

The Housing Tenancy Service has a Housing Anti-social Behaviour Policy; a Domestic Abuse Policy and a Safeguarding Policy and will ensure that they are all compliant with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Bill. The current review of the Housing Tenancy Strategy and Tenancy Policy will also ensure that these documents are compliant. In particular, where the Council grants a new tenancy to someone for reasons connected with domestic abuse, if they previously had a secure lifetime tenancy, we will grant a new secure lifetime tenancy on the same terms.

All housing policies and procedures are updated on a regular basis and all housing staff have received training in domestic abuse awareness.

3. *How will Exeter City Council work with all key stakeholders, service partners, agencies and charities to raise awareness, campaign and give help, advice and support?*

The Exeter, East and Mid Devon Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum which is a sub-group of both the Exeter Community Safety Partnership and the East and Mid Devon Community Safety Partnership, comprises representation from children's services, police and specialist service providers among others. It holds regular events for professionals and shares information on current issues. The Policy Officer - Community Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity co-chairs the forum and also meets regularly with housing colleagues, the Safer Devon Partnership and other forum chairs from across Devon. These groups work together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support available and to co-commission additional projects and specialist services where needed

The Housing Tenancy Service has pledged to be part of the Chartered Institute of Housing's "Make a Stand" campaign and this will be widely advertised and promoted both online and via the residents' newsletter "Insight".

4. How will Exeter City Council interact with the Domestic Abuse Partnership (Board)?

The Policy Officer – Community Safety, Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity will represent the Council on the Partnership Board.

5. Can we please have further reports and updates on these specific matters through the scrutiny process?

This request should be referred to the Scrutiny Programme Board.

6. Can we please consider an annual report on domestic and sexual violence and abuse on an Exeter specific basis?

Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence and Abuse is a priority for the Exeter Community Safety Partnership (CSP) currently and for 2021/22. As such regular updates are provided to the CSP Executive. These updates can form the basis of a formal report to Council on an annual basis.

Councillor Hannaford commented on the responses, stating that he hoped that pressures in other areas such as special needs would not impact on the ability to address Domestic Abuse issues.

The Leader confirmed that the issues raised would be considered by the Scrutiny Programme Board.

In accordance with Standing Order No. 8, the following questions were put by Councillor D. Moore to the respective Portfolio Holders.

Air Quality to the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Environment

1. How much (total amount) of Exeter City Council's budget is being directed to delivering the Air Quality Action Plan both this year (2020-2021) and last year (2019-2020);

- 2019/20 - £25,365.79; and
- 2020/21 - £26,329.85

2. What grants has the Council applied for to help deliver the Air Quality Action Plan either this year or last?

Exeter City Council supported Devon County Council's bids for the All Electric Bus Town grant (*unsuccessful*) and the E-cargo Bikes grant (*successful*)

Councillor D. Moore put a supplementary question asking what applications would be submitted for the next financial year.

The Leader undertook for a written answer to be provided.

Homelessness to the Portfolio Holder for Supporting People

The Council submitted a bid to Government for £3 million to the Next Steps programme:-

1. What was the outcome of that bid?

Exeter City Council was successful with both short-term revenue funding and with the long-term capital programme.

2. What was the amount of the award?

- **£440,799** – Short-term revenue – this is to pay for continuation of the accommodation provided by the Great Western Hotel, food support, support for laundry costs, repairs, resident support;
- **£1,377,448** – Capital funding to purchase 20 units of accommodation;
- **£432,249** – Capital revenue funding to pay for tenancy related support until 2024;
- **£1,202,003** – Exeter City Council contribution through uncommitted Section 106 funds. We have recently been successful for a further bid under the Move-on Fund to purchase an additional nine units;
- **£502,000** – Capital Funding to purchase an additional nine 9 units;
- **£410,000** – Exeter City Council Contribution through uncommitted Section 106 funds. We have also been successful with a bid towards the Cold Weather Fund; and
- **£50,000** – Extended winter provision offer for rough sleepers. Accommodating 15 rough sleepers from December until the end of March.

3. How many schemes and units does this funding represent?

In total there will be 29 units of accommodation made up of the following:

- 5 Self Contained Flats;
- 11 Bed Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) with a self-contained property (10 rooms with ensuite facilities and shared kitchens);
- 1x Self Contained property and 3 Bed HMO with shared facilities; and
- 6 Bed HMO with Shared Facilities and a 3 Bed HMO.

4. Will these be delivered by the end of March 2021?

All efforts will be made to bring the properties online by the end of March 2021.

Consultations to the Portfolio Holder for Council Housing Development and Services

1. What public consultations or engagement processes will Exeter City Council be undertaking itself or promoting in partnership with other bodies or authorities between January and April 2021?

On the subject of public consultation and engagement between January and April 2021, the Housing Service will commence our STAR (Survey of Tenants and Residents) project.

We also intend to undertake a resident survey related to our new-build programme before the end of the financial year as well as engagement work around our plans for the Retrofit of council housing; these will be carried out in-house.

2. For each of the Housing Needs Survey and the Tenant Involvement Survey:

Part 1 Housing Needs Survey consultation:-

a. How many responses were received?

2,315 responses were received from the 16,000 paper surveys that were sent out.

b. Will the Council publish feedback to participants and/or communities of the key findings?

There were no plans to provide feedback.

c. Will the Council set out how respondents' views and experiences will or have been taken into account in decision making?

Whilst some residents received the survey and completed it, we did not commit to or plan to share the results as it is intended for internal use only.

d. What was the cost of undertaking each survey?

The total cost of producing the Housing Needs Report was £29,950 + VAT, this was paid for by commuted sum (Section 106 developers' contributions) and not by the HRA. It is not possible to say exactly what the cost of the actual survey was but it would have been a substantial part of the overall cost of the exercise.

Part 2: Resident Involvement Survey:-

- a. 555 Residents and leaseholders responded to the Resident Involvement Survey;
- b. The results of the Resident Involvement Survey will be included in a report being prepared for Executive which outlines the process for developing a new Resident Involvement Strategy; and
- c. The cost of sending the Resident Involvement Survey to all our tenants and leaseholders was £3,405.13 +VAT.

Part 2: Resident Involvement Strategy Consultation: -

- a. There were 25 responses to this online consultation;
- b. The feedback has been used to refine the Resident Involvement Strategy which will be brought to Executive Committee in the New Year; and
- c. No costs incurred as the project was carried out in-house.

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)

Chair