

EXETER BOARD

(A Joint Committee of Devon County and Exeter City Councils)

28 April 2014

Devon County Council

Councillors Foggin, Hannaford, Hannan, Hill, Leadbetter, Morse, Owen, Prowse and Westlake

*(Councillor Prowse left the meeting before the vote on minute * 43)*

Exeter City Council

Councillors Sutton (Chairman), Branston, Henson and Mrs Robson

Associate Member

Mr Pringle (University of Exeter)

Apologies

Councillor Ruffle (Exeter City Council)

Mr Bowkett (Exeter CVS)

***39**

Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27 January 2014 be signed as a correct record.

***40**

Open Forum: Youth Service Review

Ms Wonnacott attended and spoke to the Board under the Open Forum arrangements and referred to the activities at the West Side Youth Centre, St Thomas, Exeter to support young people and the contribution the young people and the Centre made to the wider community with a range of activities, the positive relations with the professional and supportive youth workers, cost of recent refurbishment work at the Centre and the impact of the proposed changes on local communities and young people in St Thomas and across the City.

Members expressed their support for the valued work carried out by the Service and concerns about appropriateness and capacity issues for the voluntary sector in making up possible shortfalls in provision. The Cabinet Member, Economy, Growth & Liaison for Exeter reported that the proposals represented effective use of limited resources through a targeted approach and support for the voluntary sector and that all views submitted as part of the extensive consultation exercise would be carefully considered by the Cabinet and proposals would be brought forward in due course.

The Chairman thanked Ms Wonnacott for her eloquent presentation and expressed her hope for a positive response to the consultation exercise and referred to the long term potential risks for communities in not providing good support for young people.

***41**

Trussell Trust: Food Bank at Mint Methodist Church

Mrs Joy Dunne and Ms Laura McIver gave a presentation on the work of the Trust's Food Bank in Exeter namely:

- the Food Bank was opened in Exeter in April 2008 under the auspices of the Trussell Trust a Christian Foundation of Church Groups with over 110 local volunteers and operating from the Mint Church in Fore Street, Exeter
- the increasing number (3981 and 755 were children) people who received three days' emergency non-perishable food from Exeter Food Bank in 2013-14, compared to 2886 in 2012-13
- that people could only receive food who were referred from authorised agencies such as GPs, Social Services, CAB, Police, University, Age UK and many others
- families, pensioners, students – people in employment and those trying to find employment were being referred
- donations from supermarkets across the city and from Churches and Schools (especially at 'harvest' time)
- a local farmer had donated a dry, secure barn to store food and the Trust was also renting additional storage
- volunteers would sort the food before it was delivered each week to the distribution centre, where more volunteers pack it and give it to the people with a Food bank voucher.

In response to Members' questions the Trust confirmed that

- their work was different to that of the Devon and Cornwall Food Association which dealt with perishable foods direct from supermarkets/caterers to groups such as voluntary projects including hostels and soup kitchens
- the element of fraud within the process was minimal
- the Trust was currently receiving good financial support from Exeter University Students (Rag Week) but was still in need of larger discrete premises from where it could issue food and larger secure storage facilities and some minimal fridge space and a Micro wave for example
- the Trust would welcome any visits from Members to their operations at the Mint.

The Chairman suggested that the Trust contact Exeter City Council about premises at the Civic Centre from where food could be issued and about warehouse facilities on Marsh Barton for example. The Trust was also invited to submit an application to the Board's Funding Group for support.

The Chairman thanked the Trust for their interesting presentation and for the valuable work they were doing for vulnerable people in the City.

***42 Exeter College: Role in the City**

The Board received a presentation by the Vice Principal, John Laramy and the Assistant Principal, Rob Bosworth on the strategic role of the College in the City indicating that:

- Ofsted had rated the College as the first outstanding college in Devon and Cornwall and only one of six nationally and other national awards reflecting excellence and achievement
- the wide catchment area covering the whole of Devon
- strands of operation covering sixth form provision, adult education and English as a second language teaching, NEET engagement work, Higher Education, 14-16 vocational school provision and specialist academies – Michael Caines, Flybe, Reach, Enterprise, Journalism, Music, Sport
- the significant impact on the local economy
- the value and importance of partnership collaborative working with key agents such as the County and City Councils, University of Exeter and Exeter Schools and other partnerships such as the Exwick Sports Hub and Barnfield Theatre and the regional Centre of Excellence for Science Technology and Mathematics.

In response to Members' questions the College representatives indicated that within the difficult financial climate partnership work was especially important in achieving common objectives and despite their continued success the College was not complacent but looked to build on its achievements.

Members referred to the central role of the College for young people in the City and opportunities it provided for them for vocational and more practical activities especially for the less academic.

Mr Pringle also referred to the work of the University of Exeter in the City through collaboration with schools, the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital and through its Guild of Students for example and that he would be happy to make a presentation to a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked the College for their informative and interesting presentation.

***43** **Weed Treatment in Exeter**

The Board considered the report of the Head of Highways, Capital Development & Waste (HCW/14/43) on the Weed Spraying Programme for 2014/15 in Exeter and the outcome of the Payback Community trial in 2013/14

For 2014/15 there was a budget allocation of £343,916, for Weed Treatment County Wide and of that £160,000 would be committed to treatment of Harmful & Invasive Weeds (including Japanese Knotweed and Ragwort), 21,000 to the Community Payback Scheme and the remainder allocated to targeted weed spraying.

Approximately £22,000 of the targeted weed spraying budget was allocated for Exeter and work would be allocated in liaison with Exeter City Council. This would provide for one spray for the financial year. In addition £21,000 had been allocated County wide for Community Payback work which would fund approximately 15-20 days of work to be undertaken in Exeter. The cost of additional two sprays would be approximately another £22,000.

The allocation of a budget to fund Community Payback work followed a successful trial undertaken in Exeter and Newton Abbot areas in 2013/14. The work had proved cost effective in terms of productivity and produced significant social value benefits as detailed in the report to this Board on the 27th January.

In addition to the community payback works Members felt that there was a need for 3 annual sprays and not one as proposed to optimise benefits for the City.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hannaford, **SECONDED** by Councillor Branston and

RESOLVED that in view of the cost and other benefits the Cabinet be requested to finance three annual weed sprays (and not just one) for an additional approximate cost of £22,000 to be funded from surpluses within the City's On Street Parking Account.

***44** **Exeter Community Grant Fund and Locality Budgets**

(Councillor Branston declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a Board Member of Home Start and the Barnfield Theatre)

The Board considered the report of the Member Funding Group meeting held on 11 March 2014 and budget allocations from the City Council's City and Ward Grants (SC/14/18).

Members noted that additional capital funding of £10,000 per County Councillor was available from the Invest in Devon budget and the Community Support Officer undertook to provide further information for County Councillors.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Sutton, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hannaford and

RESOLVED

(a) that the following Community Grants approved and declined by the Sub-Group be noted:

Name of organisation	Brief description of project	Amount requested	Grant awarded/declined
The Hall @ Stepcote Hill	For assistance to bring fire escape up to current regulations	£3,000	Still awaiting visit deferred
The Barnfield Theatre	For Music Festival on 18-22 February 2014	£5,000	declined
Life Education Wessex	To upgrade Mobile Classroom for Exeter Schools for education in Health & Drug prevention	£5,330	Still awaiting response deferred
Exeter Citizens Advice Bureau	To provide additional specialist advice & information services to clients affected by the welfare changes. Relevant for disabled people as they move to the new Personal Independence Payment	£8,000.00	Agreed £5k
St Sidwells Community Centre	To assist with purchase of computers, printers and networking equipment to run internet café used by vulnerable people with no access to internet.	£6,000.00	Agreed £6k
Exeter Library	To engage with as many children & young people in Exeter to encourage them to use the Library. Presentation given @27.1.14 Exeter Board meeting	£5,000.00	Agreed £5k
PCC St David's Church	To purchase gates for the south entrance of St Davids Church	£7,550.00	Declined
Home-Start Exeter & East Devon	For home visits by volunteers for preventative work	£2,500 or less	Declined
Exeter Network Church	To increase our provision at the weekly drop in centre.	£890.00	Declined
Exeter City FC Football in the Community	For social inclusion work with over 50 NEETS for 30 weeks in Exwick & Wonford	£3,500.00	Agreed £3,500
Exeter Eagles BMX Club	For new block of toilets and second hand clubhouse	£2,454.00	Agreed £2,500
Exeter Eagles BMX Club	For compressor as original is unable to repair	£479.00	Declined
Exeter Parks Watch	To progress a 2 year green communities strategy throughout 2014	£1,893.00	Agreed £1,900
Running Deer CIC	To provide leisure and cultural facilities to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in Exeter	£5,000.00	Pending £5k for further information
Refugee Support Devon	For school project to raise awareness about refugee and asylum issues and to celebrate the skills & talents and contributions of refugees in their local	£645.00	Agreed £645

	community		
Devon & Exeter Armed Forces CFC	To help set up a newly created support centre (18 month project) in partnership with SSAFA	£8,600.00	Agreed £8,600.00
Southelp (Friends of Southernhay House Surgery)	To assist with production of a quarterly newsletter to patients	£800.00	Declined

[NB: Information on members' individual County Council locality budgets spending is available on line at <http://new.devon.gov.uk/democracy/councillor/> and information about the City Council Community Grants scheme is available at <http://www.exeter.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=12412>]

***45 Feedback from Member Representatives on Multi Agency Groups:**

(a) Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2014 (CS/14/19).

(b) Community Safety Partnership – Executive Group

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 (CS/14/20).

***46 Dates of Meetings 2014/15 and Business**

(a) Board Meetings

Dates of meetings were confirmed as follows

Thursday, 17 July (Civic Centre);
Thursday, 25 September (County hall);
Tuesday, 25 November (Civic Centre); and
Tuesday 28 April 2015 (County hall)

All at 6 pm.

(b) Funding Group Dates

Dates of meetings of the Funding Group were confirmed as follows:

Tuesday, 1st July 2014 - 2.30pm (County Hall)
2nd September 2014 – 2.30pm (County Hall)

(c) Future Business

The Board noted matters proposed for future meetings:

- (i) Housing Strategy: Exeter (July meeting)
- (ii) Economic Development Strategy (July meeting)
- (iii) Exeter Cultural Strategy (September meeting)
- (iv) University of Exeter: Role in the City
- (v) Mapping exercise on location/use of properties in the City across both Councils

(vi) Transition Town Exeter

(vii) Exeter Respect

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 8. 15 pm.

The Minutes of this Board are published on the County Council's Website at:-
<http://www.devon.gov.uk/dcc/committee/minutes.html>