



Exeter Vision Partnership

DRAFT MINUTES

12th February 2014
Civic Centre

	Action
<p>Present Peter Lacey, Exeter Business Forum (Chair) Karime Hassan, Exeter City Council Cllr Rachel Sutton, Exeter City Council Bob Challacombe, Telecoms Consultant Ian Tearle, Public Health, DCC Derek Phillips, Chamber of Commerce Simon Bowkett, Exeter Council for Voluntary Service Norman Shiel, Exeter Senior Council Richard Ball, Exeter City Council Dave Underwood, Met Office</p> <p>In attendance Gill Wheelwright (ECC - minutes) George Arnison, Environment Agency Sarah Ward, ECC Catherine White, ECC</p> <p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Richard Atkins, Jonathan Draper, Rob Varley, Sean Fielding, Dom Jinks, Andrew Leadbetter, Susan Warran and Chris Eastwood.</p> <p>2. Minutes of Meeting 7th November and Matters Arising</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2013 were agreed.</p> <p>3. Exeter Flood Defence Scheme</p> <p>George Arnison updated partners on the scheme. It was estimated the preferred scheme would raise the standard of protection for the city from a 1 in 40 year annual risk up to 1 in 100 year risk. Costs have increased slightly, but the value of benefits has also increased. The schedule to meet requirements for spend is still very challenging.</p> <p>Stage 1 will deliver some benefits in its own right and as works can be carried out under permitted development will start on site in late spring/early summer. Detailed design for stage 2 began in December and a planning application is being prepared for autumn. Construction will start in spring 2015 and the scheme should be complete by 2017.</p> <p>The scheme has been designed to deal with the largest possible flow capacity. The biggest physical constraint to the flow is the capacity of the bridges, which could not be</p>	

addressed within the current budget. This leaves a residual risk of flooding so Community Flood plans still need developing, and development control must still be applied in risk areas. If climate change proceeds as predicted, the 1 in 100 year level of protection will degrade over time, and the EA is planning a short climate change study to look at what the next generation of strategic planning might require.

The Network Rail and Cowley Bridge end of the scheme was on hold while Network Rail worked up design studies, once these were finalised the EA would liaise with them on a joined-up solution.

The scheme at Exeter Quay was discussed. The initial proposal included flood banks and a flood wall, with pop-up barriers on the quayside. However, reductions in the EA's revenue budget mean they are unable to manage new active defences, and ECC is also unable to take on maintenance. Alternative solutions such as a flood wall with gates, or a set-back line of defence and additional IPP will be explored, and another option is to ask the community to look after these defences, but this issue has to be resolved within the next month in order for the scheme to remain on target.

Discussion

It was agreed to liaise with the Exeter Canal and Quay Trust on potential solutions at the quay. BC and DP offered to raise this with their respective organisations and discuss with the ECQT as appropriate. The EVP would come back to the EA with a view on how the issue could be resolved.

**BC and
DP**

4. Rugby World Cup Legacy

Cath White presented an overview of the Rugby World Cup (RWC) background and legacy. Exeter is hosting three matches at Sandy Park in 2015, bringing a range of tourism benefits, offering volunteering opportunities (similar to the 2012 Gamesmakers) and leaving a legacy for the city to build on. The city will be vibrant for the World Cup, and the legacy will look at how we can reap long-term benefits across the city.

A RWC steering group and sub-groups have been established. Cath chairs the legacy sub-group, and has worked with the College, University, neighbouring LA's, DCC and the Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board to develop the outline legacy: "To maximise short and long-term benefits across a range of economic, social and community factors involving businesses, residents and tourists from far and wide."

Five key legacy themes have been established:

T1 - Increasing participation in rugby for all

T2 - More opportunities for women/girls to play rugby

T3 - Increasing involvement in a wide range of sports and physical activities

T4 - Maximising economic benefits

T5 - Promoting stronger and supportive communities

The RWC legacy ties in with the Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board aim of Exeter becoming the being the most active city in the SW by 2018. Ian Tearle explained the legacy has to move forward against a difficult background context of changes in public sector resourcing and service delivery, economic challenges in the private sector, and an emphasis on people taking more responsibility for their communities.

We need to consider how we can support the quality of life for young and old, and encourage people to think about their health and life opportunities against a hierarchy of needs. Education and employment are the two biggest factors in deprivation and there is an opportunity to utilise the social return on the investment in the RWC, encouraging volunteers and participants from the business sector to invest in the community and ensure that where possible the benefits are sustainable.

It will be a real challenge to achieve long-term sustainable benefits, and the EVP was asked to consider what they a fitting legacy for the city might be.

Discussion

A range of ideas are already being developed around the first three legacy themes, including looking at training and activities for NEETS, developing a pool of volunteers, engaging with clubs and increasing opportunities in schools. Themes T4 and T5 has fewer tangible ideas and this is where the EVP could help to shape the legacy, advising on how to derive economic benefits and develop community benefits.

In spite of continued economic growth there are still communities who have not benefited, and the EVP could look at how we engage with these communities. Some areas have had experience of repeated short-term projects and a longer-term strategy was needed, with the RWC providing a potentially different route of engagement.

Bob and Derek offered to meet with Cath to look at T4 and T5 and consider where resources are going, how the EVP can add value, and how to measure success.

CW, DP,
BC

5. Any Other Business

Business Improvement District (BID)

John Harvey informed partners on progress with development the City Centre Strategy and the BID. The Strategy had been delayed slightly while the City Centre Partnership Board was re-constituted, however, activity listed in the draft action plan was being implemented through the Night Time Economy group, and the Chamber was leading on development of the BID, which is a key objective in the draft Strategy.

Compared to many, the city is doing well at a retail level, but some of the recovery is a little fragile, and businesses could make a real difference to the city by engaging and investing in collaborative schemes such as the BID.

There was currently no real recognition that ECC and public agencies may have to cut back on the level of support and activity provided within the city and this was a difficult message to communicate.

Bus Station Site

Karime Hassan gave a brief overview of progress. Land Securities have now developed a viable, comprehensive scheme which will offer a major modern leisure and fitness development to complement what we already have in the city.

The retail element has been pared back, with more space for cafes and restaurants, and more public space, including an amphitheatre area. Land Securities will be undertaking a public consultation later in the year, and once approved, the scheme will take four years to complete.

Broadband

Upgrades to fibre at the Exminster exchange would be starting in March, and all of Exeter's exchanges would be upgraded over the coming year. The Science Park provision was also moving ahead. There was still a need to push for business upgrades, but it was agreed that overall progress was positive.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- **5 November 2014 at 5.00pm**