

REPORT TO: Place Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 13 September 2018
Report of: Exeter City Futures
Title: Overview of Exeter City Futures

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of Exeter City Futures Community Interest Company and its current operational structure and activities.

2. Recommendations:

- 2.1 It is recommended that Place Scrutiny Committee support the direction of Exeter City Futures and the Goals as a way to deliver against the Council's strategic objective of reducing congestion in the City.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

- 3.1 Financial constraints restrict what can be done by the City Council alone to mitigate the impact of continuing economic growth. As Exeter continues to grow and we build the housing numbers required to support this growth, it is critical that we form strong collaborative partnerships across the city including with Devon Country Council and our neighbouring authorities via the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) to ensure that we can meet our vision of a connected city that is a great place to live, work, study, visit and socialise in.
- 3.2 Being part of Exeter City Futures enables the City Council to formally partner with other leading organisations from across the city to harness individual effort, create shared responsibility for delivering a better Exeter and bring coordination and focus to the challenges we face.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

- 4.1 A The role of Exeter City Futures Programme Director has been created within the City Council, in order to oversee the mobilisation and delivery of Exeter City Futures CIC. The role has been filled via a secondment from Global City Futures. This secondment started April 2018 and will continue for 12 months, at a cost of £99,459. This has been met from an underspend within existing budgets, as a result of vacant posts not being filled within the City Council.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

- 5.1 There are no requests for additional finances contained within this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

- 6.1 Community Interest Companies (CIC) were introduced by the Companies (Audit, Investigations and Community Enterprise) Act 2004 to permit social enterprises, wishing to use their assets and profits for the public good, to be set up without the complications and restrictions of a registered charity.
- 6.2 Their primary social objectives are to reinvest their profits for the benefit of the community and it is believed that CICs have their part in helping to create and sustain a strong and socially inclusive society.
- 6.3 To that end they are registered as limited companies at Companies House and are regulated under the provisions of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005. Being granted CIC status ensures that such companies do work for the benefit of the community whilst providing them with much greater flexibility than companies registered with Charitable status.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

- 7.1 It is important that Exeter City Futures (ECF) retains its CIC status throughout its collaborative partnership with the Council and to that end ECF should be required to provide the Council with a copy of each annual Company Interest Report (as it is required to produce under Part 7 of the provisions of the Community Interest Company Regulations 2005) to ensure it continues to satisfy the 'community interest test' for the benefit of the Council's strategic objectives.

8. Exeter City Futures

- 8.1 Exeter City Futures (ECF) is an independent Community Interest Company that is working to help Exeter solve its urbanisation challenges in a way that reduces social inequality and contributes to economic growth.
- 8.2 Its vision is to help Exeter live better by bringing together local government, private sector and communities to jointly solve the big transport and energy challenges facing our city. By coordinating a range of innovation and data programmes, ECF is co-creating solutions that meet the needs of the city and inspiring action that contributes towards sustainable change. ECF has set out a bold mission to make Exeter energy independent and congestion free by 2025.
- 8.3 Current members of the Community Interest Company are Exeter City Council and Global City Futures. Further Members are in the process of joining, these include: University of Exeter, Exeter College, Devon County Council and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust. These Members can each appoint a Director to the Board of the Community Interest Company.
- 8.4 The ECF Community Interest Company (CIC) Board will ensure that ECF operates within the rules of a CIC and delivers impact in the region to meet our goals and to support investment, jobs and growth. Decision making is by the Board on a majority basis with no one member having control.
- 8.5 The operational activities of the ECF Community Interest Company will be delivered by a lightweight project team. This team will be provided by the Member organisations on a secondment basis.

8.6 The bold mission of ECF has also inspired organisations and individuals across the city to sign up to the ECF Partner Network and to consider how they can support transformation in Exeter. Currently there are 61 local business and organisations signed up to the Network, as listed in Appendix 1.

8.7 Through consultation with Member organisations and engagement with the residents and business of Exeter, ECF have set out 12 transformational goals that define the mission of “congestion free and energy independent”. The Goals are owned by the ECF Community Interest Company Board and their delivery will require the input of all Member organisations and the Partner Network.

8.8 The 12 (draft) transformational goals for Exeter are as follows. These are to be approved by the Board of the Community Interest Company.

1. All residents will have access to locally generated renewable sources of energy
2. The overall energy consumption of residents and businesses in Exeter will be reduced by [to be defined]%
3. New building developments in Exeter will generate more energy than they consume; waste energy will be captured for reuse
4. Residents and businesses will have access to the right tools to measure their energy use in order to reduce consumption and increase energy efficiency
5. All residents will be able to live in an affordable home which is energy efficient and healthy; fuel poverty will be reduced
6. The private car will no longer dominate the city centre making more space for people; there will be networks of priority routes for active transport and cleaner, more efficient, public transport vehicles
7. Waste will be seen as a resource and recycled wherever possible; waste collection and deliveries will be made via operationally and energy efficient means
8. The number of residents living and working inside Exeter who choose to use active transportation over vehicles will be raised to 50%
9. Journeys in Exeter will be reliable and the transport network will be resilient to major incidents
10. Exeter will have clean air through the reduction of pollutants from private cars and fossil fuels
11. Exeter will have the finance and capability to develop the Greater Exeter region in a way that delivers affordable homes to everyone, reduces relative congestion and embraces the energy independence values of the city.
12. Exeter will be an engaged data-aware and entrepreneurial city which has the skills to analyse and address the challenges that it faces

8.9 The role of ECF is to act as a whole City Programme Office to coordinate bids for funding and manage the provision of resource from Member organisations (and other entities) to deploy activities in pursuit of the Goals of ECF.

8.10 ECF promotes an analytical approach to whole city change. At our core, it offers a process for defining problems, building partnerships to find solutions, and managing and measuring progress. The activities of ECF are as follows:

1. Review the current projects being undertaken within the city and facilitate collaborative projects to address gaps between current state and ambition;
2. Curate sources of data, through the Exeter Data Mill, to help analyse and evaluate the city Goals and progress being made
3. Support individual organisations to identify challenges and co-create bespoke solutions that help them contribute to delivering the city Goals; ECF can facilitate access to delivery partners;
4. Through its partnership with Exeter Velocities and other start-up support programmes, stimulate and support the development of new social and commercial enterprises that address city Goals.

8.11 The work programme of the ECF Programme Director, which covers the period April 2018 through to March 2019 includes:

- Management of the delivery activities of the Exeter City Futures Community Interest Company on a day-day basis
- Provision of support to the roll-out of the vision for Exeter through proactive communication of innovation activities to position Exeter as a leading sustainable city
- Work with current City Council Directors and Officers to map current programmes and activities within Exeter City Council to enable review of the current position and identification of gaps between current status and ambition
- Provision of recommendations as to where programmes can be combined, extended or redirected in order to maximise impact on the City vision and the Goals of ECF Community Interest Company.
- Development of a measurement framework to track and assess impact of activities on the delivery of the Goals of ECF Community Interest Company and the strategic priorities of the City Council.
- Assist the Exeter City Council leadership with the management of change including support to investigate opportunities for innovative models of financing and procurement.
- Develop complete operational delivery plan and business case for ECF Community Interest Company - to include identification of opportunities for partnership and investment to support cost of activities

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 The reduction of congestion within Exeter is a priority objective of the City Council's Corporate Plan.

9.2 The Corporate Plan proposes that ECC will work towards our ambition of a city where transport is not a barrier to accessing education, jobs, services or social activities, and where sustainable means of travel are cheaper, quicker and more convenient than private car ownership.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 There is the risk that Members of ECF, partners, the business community and residents of Exeter do not support the work of ECF. This will be mitigated through a comprehensive communication plan, to ensure all are kept up to date with progress, future plans and the impact of work already undertaken.

10.2 There is also the risk that other public sector partners from across the city do not sign up to the Community Interest Company Board. A programme of engagement has commenced to gain support at the highest level within each organisation mentioned in 8.3.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 In delivering the vision of ECF there will be a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the residents of Exeter, community safety, the environment and the economy. In that activity will reduce social inequality, boost economic growth and provide sustainable transport options for residents to travel to work and to socialise – thus improving air quality.

12. Are there any other options?

12.1 There is the option of do nothing and to let other public sector bodies determine the future success and direction of Exeter. This isn't seen as a viable option, as the City Council should take the lead in driving the future growth and development of Exeter.

12.2 We could also wait for central government to offer support to address our city challenges. If this was the case, the city could miss out on potentially significant streams of funding and may not have the same degree of public and business engagement to develop the solutions that work for our City.

**Exeter City Futures Programme Director
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:
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Appendix 1

Exeter City Futures Partner Network

We are Cosmic
Sarah West Recruitment Consultants
McQueenie Mulholland
100% Open
Exeter Cycling Campaign
The Uncorrupted Copywriter
SSE Enterprise
OTB Eveling
GreenRide Sharing
Low Carbon
Task & Time
Like Minds
AWP Partnership
Escargo
Grenadier Estates
Wiseman Productions
Aardvark Environment Matters
Pavey Group
RideOn
Michelmores
Oxygen House
Hawksmoor Investment
SG Modular
Exeter Chiefs
South West Comms
Crowdcube
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS
Goodridge
Lightfoot
City Science
Francis Clark
BiG
Exeter City FC
Grow Exeter
Wifi Spark
JLL
Stephen Scown
Midas
Exeter College
Devon Doctors
Ravenslade Project & Cost Management
V2G
Map your Future
Bunyip Craft
Wilkinson Grant & Co
Optix Solutions
Burrington Estates
Chalk & Ward
Simply Connect
Ashfords

Energy Performance Direct
Mark Cotton Consultancy
Exto Digital Marketing
South West Business Connections
Hamson Barron Smith
Ashwoods
The Bike Shed
The Belt Makers
Liftshare
Fast Track to Growth
Astley Media
Tech South West
Aptus UK
Geotechnics