

## **EXECUTIVE**

Tuesday 7 September 2021

Present:

Councillor Bialyk (Chair)

Councillors Wright, Foale, Ghusain, Harvey, Morse, Sutton, Williams and Wood

In attendance:

Councillor A. Leadbetter (as an opposition group Leader)

Also present:

Chief Executive & Growth Director, Deputy Chief Executive, Director Net Zero Exeter & City Management, City Surveyor, Service Lead - Environmental Health & Community Safety and Democratic Services Officer (MD)

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### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 July 2021 and 8 July 2021, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

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### **RICK LAWRENCE**

The Leader passed on his condolences, and those of Members, to the family and friends of Rick Lawrence, who worked as a Digital Media Officer for the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, who had recently passed away. Members' thoughts were with his family at this difficult time.

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### **COVID 19**

The Leader commented on the Covid Pandemic, highlighting that a friend of his, had recently passed away, having contracted Covid, and urged people to continue to be careful and be mindful that Covid was still an issue.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

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### **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 19**

No questions from members of the public were received.

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### **URGENT MATTER - RESPONSE TO TEIGNBRIDGE LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Executive noted the urgent matter of the response from Exeter City Council to the Teignbridge Local Plan Site Options Consultation, run by Teignbridge District Council between late June and early August 2021. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, it had been discussed with the Council Leader, the Portfolio Holder for City Development and the Chair of the Strategic Scrutiny Committee.

Members were advised that, due to the timings of the consultation and Exeter City Council's meeting dates it was not possible for the Executive to consider a draft response in advance of its submission and that the response to the consultation had been treated as an urgent matter.

The key issues identified related to the need for cross-boundary discussions over strategic matters including employment and infrastructure strategy and a discussion of the city impact for a series of potential residential and employment development site options on the edge of Exeter. Particular issues were raised regarding the Atwell's Farm site option and that there would be further discussions on a range of matters, as the Exeter and Teignbridge Local Plans progress.

The Portfolio Holder for City Development expressed her thanks to good work put in by officers and that the letter reflected the views of Member's opinions. Particular reference was given to the provisions for employments, transport, education, sports and to the specific attention of the development sites on the edge of Exeter.

**RESOLVED** that the urgent matter be noted.

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### **URGENT DECISION - DELEGATED DECISION**

The Executive noted the urgent Delegated Decision taken under the Council's Finance Regulations by the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for City Development, under the Council's Scheme of Delegation, to create a budget for expenditure to be incurred as part of the Government's and Council's work to address rough sleeping, in particular, as a response to the greater risk to people experiencing homelessness as a result of the pandemic.

The Council had bid Homes England Capital for funds of £1.7 Million with a proportionate capital contribution of £1.532 Million from un-ring-fenced S106 funds for affordable housing. The Council had also bid for a complimentary revenue grant bid from Central Government and it was confirmed that the expenditure budget would be from uncommitted Section 106 funds, with no impact on the Council's General Fund Balance.

The Portfolio Holder for Supporting People congratulated the team and the Deputy Chief Executive for the successful bid.

**RESOLVED** that the urgent decision be noted.

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### **AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

The Executive received the report on the statutory Air Quality Annual Status which contained the 2020 monitoring data and a summary of the actions taken in 2020 to improve local air quality. The Council had a statutory duty to monitor and report on air quality and had submitted the report to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), but no response had been received to date.

Particular reference was made to the reported 2020 figures, which showed that during the Pandemic, there had been a behaviour change which had improved the air quality data, particularly to the nitrogen dioxide levels.

The Chair commented on the actions detailed in the report presented at the meeting, which highlighted the work being undertaken to improve air quality and confirmed that the Council would continue to work with its partners to improve the air quality in Exeter.

During the discussion the following points were made: -

- The Council had achieved the required standard of air quality figures for 2020, which reflected the changes to behaviour during the Pandemic;

- Exeter City Council was working closely with the Devon County Council Highways Authority to address the transport related actions listed in the report;
- 30% of the City Council vehicles were now fully electric and there was additional work being undertaken at the Water Lane solar farm, to support improvements to air quality;
- Diesel recycling vehicles would be replaced with electric vehicles;
- Devon County Council would be introducing outside charging points to encourage residents to invest in electric vehicles; and
- Exeter City Council would continue to work with other organisations to progress the improvement of the city's air quality.

**RECOMMENDED** that Council note the statutory annual Air Quality Status report.

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### **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY**

The Executive received the report which provided an update on the review of the Council's Contaminated Land Strategy, which the Council was legally required to review. The report was requesting approval to undertake a consultation with the relevant statutory consultees to cover the 2022 to 2027 period. A report would be brought back to the Executive Committee and Council later in the year.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive note the draft revised Contaminated Land Strategy and approve the consultation commencing on 08 September 2021 until 03 November 2021.

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### **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 during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

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### **BELLE ISLE DEPOT**

The Executive received the report which sought approval for the disposal of the Belle Isle depot site to Exeter City Living (ECL) and provided an outline of the provisionally agreed terms for that disposal. The City Surveyor explained that the disposal would enable the land to be transformed from a brownfield site, into a quality residential scheme in conjunction with ECL.

**RESOLVED** that the disposal of the Belle Isle depot site to Exeter City Living Limited be approved and that the final terms be agreed by the City Surveyor in consultation with the Council Leader.

(The meeting commenced at 5.30 pm and closed at 5.51 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 October 2021.**

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