

## Responses to Questions Raised at Executive Committee - Tuesday 3 October 2023

Item	Asked by	Question	Response
Public Question	Mr Conibere	What enquiries had been made by Devon County Council or its agents in respect of the adequacy of the air quality monitoring equipment for the Heavitree and Whipton Active Street trial both before and after implementation and on what dates?	Officers from Environmental Health are in regular contact with Devon County Council's Highways teams as part of their normal duties. These conversations have included discussion of air quality monitoring, but the dates of such conversations have not been recorded. The City Council is confident that the existing monitoring network will continue to allow us to fulfil our statutory duties. Appraisal of the impact of the Active Street trial is a matter for Devon County Council. The City Council's officers will continue to provide technical support to them as they undertake this process.
General Fund Capital Monitoring Statement – Q1	Cllr Moore	Guildhall roof replacement – enquiry about the completion of work for the roof section which was still leaking and whether the Council now had the funding for the work for Trews Weir taking place in 2025/26.	<p>The contract for the Jury Room and Robing Room re-roofing has been completed.</p> <p>The detailed study to inform the business case to the Environment Agency will shortly go out to tender. Once complete the results will inform the business case and our grant funding bid will be considered by the EA major projects board. The partnership funding element (our contribution) will also then be known.</p>
Net Zero Exeter Update	Cllr M Mitchell	Requested an outline of the residual asset liabilities of the organisation in relation to financial and physical assets and any ownership of any intellectual property.	The Council does not have the knowledge of the detail in relation to the physical assets or intellectual property.
Review of Exeter City Living	Cllr Moore	Could confirmation be provided on whether plans to establish a build to rent company would now no longer proceed?	No, they will not proceed.

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Review of Exeter City Living	Cllr Moore	Having a criteria for protecting the land for community benefit for any disposal strategy for Clifton Hill was needed to ensure it was not used for any other purpose.	We will be reviewing the Clifton Hill site as part of our assessment of options for bringing forward development. The Public Open Space and recreational land will form part of that review.
Review of Exeter City Living	Cllr M Mitchell	The accumulated loses in 2023/24 were £6,026 million and rising to £8,934 million for 2025/25. Has the liability amount been established, if ECL was liquidated and what would be the liability to the Council?	If the Company was liquidated, the Company's liability to the Council would remain the same. The problem would be that administration is expensive and would remove assets from ECL in order to cover the costs of the administrators. ECC would then be a creditor along with any others identified and would receive what was left after costs were deducted. This would inevitably lead to a higher write off of the loan.
Consultation On Liveable Water Lane: Development Framework and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document	Cllr Moore	How would the SPD impact on planning applications before the document was approved and what was the approach to resolving risks for the environment, canal health and transport in the area.	Until the Liveable Water Lane: Development Framework and Design Code has been consulted on and subsequently adopted by the City Council as a Supplementary Planning Document, it would carry minimal weight in decision making. Further work will be undertaken during the consultation stage and thereafter to address a range of delivery issues and risks.
Food Law and Health and Safety Enforcement Service Plan 2023 - 2024	Cllr Parkhouse	What were the previous year's food hygiene compliance rating?	The compliance rate for the previous year was 98%.

## Responses to Questions emailed prior to Executive Committee - Tuesday 3 October 2023

Net Zero Exeter Update	Cllr Moore	Please can you confirm the amounts the Council has awarded to Exeter City Futures and those spent on the council support and promotion of ECF (e.g. as identified by internal cost codes).	The amounts set out in the accounts (specified below) are an accurate representation of the costs of support and promotion. They do not however include amounts paid for specific services from ECF.
Net Zero Exeter Update	Cllr Moore	<p>The Council's support for ECF since 2016 appears to be in the region of over £.5m, so given:</p> <p>a) In 2016 a sum of "£50,000 be allocated as a working budget to facilitate the start-up and promotion of the Exeter City Futures Programme." The decision record notes no further allocation of funds to ECF.</p> <p>b) In 2019 Council approved the funding of the ECF Programme Director - City Transformation post for a further period of 2 years; and "approve the setting aside of the sum of £99,364 for each year from the business rate windfall to pay for the Program Director- City Transformation post for a further two year period commencing from April 2019."</p> <p>c) So a total of £198,728 over 2 years. I understand this was spent on a director who was seconded to ECF, rather than paying ECF directly and doesn't feature in for example the 2020 ECF accounts.</p> <p>d) The Council's accounts show that between 2016-2021, the authority incurred expenditure of a total of £354,632 for the 'promotion and delivery' of ECF.</p>	<p>There are two reasons for this:</p> <p>Further expenditure has been incurred since 2021. Services who have approved budgets as part of the normal budget process were free to engage ECF as part of their delivery of Services – no additional approval is required from Members. An example of this is engaging ECF directly to undertake some of the Exeter Development Fund work paid for by Central Government grant.</p> <p>ECF also took on one or more apprentices as part of the Governments Kickstart campaign to support young people during Covid. The Council made the payments on the Government's behalf and were paid the money. As an agency payment, no specific approval is required of Members, although it will show on our payments over £250.</p>

		<p>e) An analysis of the Council's published payments above £250, accounts and those of ECF show a confusing picture not consistent with the Council's accounts (assuming all the expenditure listed in the accounts was transferred to ECF CIC directly). The total amount awarded to Exeter City Futures CIC or under an Exeter City Futures cost code published by the Council appears to be £438,283.28 since March 2016 to date.</p> <p>When were the approvals made?</p> <p>Why are these amounts well above the approved amounts and different from the accounts?</p>	
Net Zero Exeter Update	Cllr Moore	<p>As ECF has been wound up what has the Council asked of the CIC, both as a member and a funder of:</p> <p>a) what assets were identified - such as project outputs and projects such as the Exeter Data Mill, Net Zero plan 2030, and</p> <p>b) what will or has happened to them?</p>	<p>The Exeter Data Mill ceased existence in December 2022 when the council terminated its contract with the provider, Data Press.</p> <p>The Net Zero Plan would be delivered through each partners existing corporate plans or strategies.</p>