



# Minutes of the meeting of the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee held at Civic Centre, Exeter, on Wednesday 24 January 2018

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.10pm and ended at 6.45pm.

**\*13 Public speaking**

The Chairman, Cllr Daniel Gottschalk, welcomed everyone present to the meeting. There were no public present who wished to speak at the meeting.

**\*14 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

**\*15 Audit Report – South West Audit Partnership**

The Executive Committee considered the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager's report which sought to update members of the Executive Committee on the adequacy of East Devon District Council's governance and financial arrangements for the Committee. The report was provided to the partner authorities to demonstrate that they may have confidence in these arrangements.

In response to a question from Cllr Phil Twiss, the Habitat Regulations Manager confirmed that the Audit Report would happen annually.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. that it be noted that the 'Habitat Mitigation 17/18 Audit' report found that no significant issues and issued a 'reasonable' as assurance opinion;**
- 2. that it be noted that the recommendations within the audit report have been incorporated into the reporting structure for current and future meetings of the Committee.**

**\*17 Annual Business Plan**

The Executive Committee considered the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager's report which advised Members of the update on progress made in delivery of the mitigation measures set out in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Annual Business Plans. It was important that progress continued to be made or this would put the delivery of the partner Authorities' Local Plans at risk due to the continued legal duties under the Habitat Regulations.

In response to a question, the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager reported that the purchase of a patrol boat was being actively pursued and it was expected in the next quarter in time for the new season. Suitable people were being trained for operating it on the estuary and he confirmed that Habitat Regulation Officers would operate the boat. Cllr Phil Twiss asked whether these Officers would be responsible for checking on speeding boats in the Estuary. The Delivery Manager reported, that the City of Exeter Harbour Authority was responsible for this and that it was a difficult thing to enforce.

Peter Lacey asked for a better understanding of the costs of items in the Business Plan and explanation of whether there was an over or underspend.

The Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager reported that a financial report would be made every 6 months to show expenditure against the Business Plan. If there was significant overspend then the Committee should be informed.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. that the progress made towards delivering the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Annual Business plans be noted;**
- 2. that changes to the structure, type and volume of information reported, in accordance with recommendations in the 'Habitat Mitigation 17-18 Audit' review (reported separately);**
- 3. that the causes and revised completion dates for mitigation measures subject to delay be noted.**
- 4. that a section of the Business Plan should include variations to planned expenditure and that this should be included also In the Risk Register.**

\*18 Risk Register Report

The Executive Committee considered the Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager's report, which advised Members that a recent audit of the governance and financial arrangements for the South East Devon Habitat Regulations Executive Committee recommended the presentation of a Risk Register.

In response to a question, the Delivery Manager reported that the risk of Habitats Regulations being watered down/abolished following exit from the EU was included in the Risk Register. Amanda Newsome, Natural England, reported that the Government had indicated that there was no change planned to the way Habitat Regulations was dealt with at present.

Members acknowledged the risk of a Housing market crash to the Partnership and the subsequent reduction in money coming in. This could potentially be mitigated by less housing being built and people moving to the area.

A request was made that the way the Risk Register was presented should be changed to allow an easier comparison between risk categorisation and scoring.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. that the identification, categorisation and prioritisation of risks as recorded in the accompanying Risk Register, associated with delivery of the South-East Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy be noted;**
- 2. that the control measures in place to mitigate the risks identified be noted;**
- 3. that in receiving this report, the implementation of the "Habitat Mitigation 17/18 Audit" report recommendation be noted;**
- 4. that an updated Risk Register report be received in 6 months.**

\*19 Any other business

**Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS) – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats – (SWOT) Analysis of Options**

The Committee Chair asked what progress had been made on the appraisal for SANGS capacity.

**RESOLVED:**

**that a report on progress towards an appraisal of future SANGS capacity and likely delivery costs as part of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), be made at a future meeting of the Partnership.**

**Attendance list**

**Committee Members:**

Cllr Daniel Gottschalk, Exeter City Council (Chairman)  
Cllr Kevin Lake, Teignbridge District Council  
Cllr Phil Twiss, East Devon District Council

**Officers**

Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Governance and Licensing (EDDC)  
Neil Harris, Habitat Regulations Delivery Manager – Growth Point Team  
Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director  
Chris Lane, Democratic Services (EDDC)  
Tabitha Whitcombe, Democratic Services, (EDDC)  
Fergus Pate, Principal Growth Point Officer (TDC)  
Peter Hearn, Strategic Infrastructure Planning (ECC)  
Peter Lacey, Green Infrastructure Board  
Amanda Newsome, Natural England  
Naomi Harnett, Principal Projects Manager, (EDDC)

**Apologies:**

Cllr Humphrey Clemens, Teignbridge District Council  
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead – Finance (EDDC)  
Ed Freeman, Strategic Lead Planning Strategy and Development Management (EDDC)

Chairman ..... Date.....