

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 29 June 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Report on the Levelling Up Fund Bid – Destination Exmouth (Dinan Way Extension and Exmouth Gateway)

Report summary:

A second Round of Levelling up funding was announced in late March of 2022 with a closing date for submissions by the 6th July 2022.

Exmouth was moved from Category 3 status (lowest priority) in the first round to category 2 (middle priority) in the current round.

EDDC have assisted in a resubmission of a bid for Exmouth (Destination Exmouth) led by Devon County Council with the emphasis on the Dinan Way highway scheme but including an exciting 'Gateway' element, aligned more closely with Dinan Way but also evidencing a real improvement in place making / linkages to the natural environment / sustainable transport for the town centre itself.

The MP Simon Jupp has publicly supported the bid.

Destination Exmouth is a package bid which includes the Dinan Way extension and Exmouth Gateway improvements.

Dinan Way currently forms a partial ring road around Exmouth, but it lacks the final connection to the A376. As a result, traffic from Dinan Way has to use unsuitable residential roads to access the A376 main road to Exeter and the M5. Furthermore, goods vehicles accessing the Liverton Business Park, surrounding employment & retail area and the road to Budleigh Salterton are signed to travel through residential areas and past the school on the periphery of the town centre. The Dinan Way extension proposals, which secured planning permission in 2017, will provide an improved pedestrian/cycle connection to the Exe Estuary multi-use trail and has potential for better bus services to Exeter via optimising service routes. It will also enable significantly faster journey times by buses with a more direct link to the A376.

Exmouth Gateway is a key transport hub, comprising the train station, Exe Estuary Multi-Use Trail and the termination of the Major Road Network (A376). In addition, it provides the meeting point to a number of routes to access the main destinations in the town centre, estuary and seafront. The proposals provide the opportunity to rebalance the modes, focusing on the natural interchange that the Gateway provides. A range of sustainable transport improvements are proposed, enhancing the arrival experience into the town for a variety of transport modes. The proposals include measures that create more space, remove conflict, improve travel choices and interchange, reduce vehicle dominance and enhance connections to the estuary, town centre and seafront, including infilling the subway, e-bikes, improved signage and wayfinding and improved crossing points.

The Destination Exmouth package will bring a range of benefits to Exmouth including reduced journey times, improved public transport, increased accessibility for the north and east of

Exmouth, improved wayfinding, increased sustainable journey opportunities and improved crossing opportunities.

All Levelling Up bids require a minimum 10% match funding from the local authorities they impact upon. The Dinan Way extension is identified as a key piece of infrastructure for Exmouth identified in Strategy 22 – Development at Exmouth in the adopted Local Plan and is a priority 1 project identified in the adopted Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The use of a relatively small proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds held to support this project is considered appropriate and would represent excellent value for money for the CIL receipts if the bid were successful. Strategic Planning Committee recommended on 7th June 2022 to make £400K available from CIL money as match funding to support a Levelling Up Round 2 bid. If the bid were to be unsuccessful, the £400K to be deallocated and returned to the main CIL pot. It is understood that the proportion of CIL held locally and identified for this project by Exmouth Town Council would also be used to support the bid.

A formal letter of support for the bid from the District Council needs to be issued to DCC. It is intended that this letter will be issued by the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy & Assets along similar lines to that letter of support issued for the Round 1 bid. It is for this reason that this report is being presented to Cabinet to ensure support exists for this bid. Whilst not the subject of this report, the CIL contribution aspect will also be addressed within that same letter.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That the council provide a formal letter of support for the Round 2 Levelling Up bid in Exmouth.

Reason for recommendation:

This letter of support is needed to assist in the submission of the levelling up bid.

Officer: Gerry Mills Project Manager Place and Prosperity (Exmouth) gmills@eastdevon.gov.uk

Tel 01395 519960

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Climate Action and Emergency Response
- ☐ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☐ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☐ Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- ☒ Economy and Assets
- ☐ Finance
- ☒ Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities
- ☐ Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk

Links to background information

[Strategic Planning Committee Tuesday 7 June 2022](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ Better homes and communities for all
 - ☒ A greener East Devon
 - ☒ A resilient economy
-

Report in full

N/A

Financial implications:

Financial details are contained in the report. The Council has agreed a CIL contribution towards the scheme which is decision of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Legal implications:

The report does not raise any legal implications that require comment.