

Report to: Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group

Date of Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release NA

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## **Progress Update on Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront**

### **Report summary:**

This report summarises progress since the Group's previous meeting of the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

### **Recommendation:**

- a) That members of the Group note the progress since our previous meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To keep members advised on progress

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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; The report is just to note an update on progress since our last meeting

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; The report is just to note an update on progress since our last meeting.

## Links to background information

Appendix 1 Exmouth Place Plan

Appendix 2 Exmouth Placemaking Delivery Plan

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

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

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## Report in full

### 1.1 General Update

- The Queen's Drive Events Space has received 2 bookings for the 14th and 25th of July for a Summer School Talent Show. A number of other enquiries have been received and are being processed.
- Additional carpark signage should be installed in September by Devon County Council supported by EDDC Parking colleagues.
- 56 events have been scheduled take place on EDDC land in Exmouth from 1<sup>st</sup> of April 23 until the 31st July, 55 of these events have been held in the Exmouth Town and Seafront area.
- The Big Wheel will be returning. There will also be a carousel placed on site for 28 in August as well.

### 1.2 Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Plan

- We are now in contract with WSP and have begun the Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town and Seafront – below is a reminder of what was agreed previously following the recommendation of the Placemaking Group; The Decision Made by Full Council on the 13th December 2022 was:
  - That members of the Group accept the results of the consultations (noting that not all the suggestions fall within East Devon's District Council's statutory remit and those that do will have to be prioritised in terms of deliverability and budget availability)
  - That the Group recommend to Cabinet that the results of the consultation are accepted and that they be used to appoint a professional team to develop a terms

of reference and a plan for a Placemaking Strategy for Exmouth Town and Seafront.

- That Cabinet request a budget of £160k\* from Full Council to develop the Placemaking Strategy which will include a Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- Officers had our inception meeting with WSP on the 21st of June 2023 followed by a 'walk around' Exmouth to give the team an opportunity to see the many complexities of the Town and Seafront. Arising from this meeting the team have put together 2 short documents for Members so that they can see clearly what is planned and when.
- Please see attached Appendix 1 Exmouth Place Plan presentation from WSP, which sets out in detail their understanding of the brief and the key deliverable stages.
- The presentation clearly sets out the objectives at page 5 followed by the execution plan at page 6 additionally it sets out roles and responsibilities and lines of reporting.
- Appendix 2, the Exmouth Placemaking Delivery Plan, sets out the delivery plan for members to refer to so they can see what has been achieved and what the next key tasks are. We are currently completing the data gathering exercise and so are completing Stage 1 the baseline review and bench marking which will allow us measure where we are now and permit us to evaluate the placemaking actions and their impacts over time.

The key tasks are set out below:

- Stage 1: Baseline Study and Benchmarking Report - the key objective of this is to collect and summarise - baseline information on existing site conditions, opportunities, and constraints to inform the emerging vision.
- Stage 2: Characterisation Study - the key objective of this is to analyse - baseline information on existing site conditions, opportunities and constraints to inform the emerging vision and placemaking opportunities. This will include a half-day workshop, we will meet with the suggested stakeholders to test, validate and refine the emerging opportunities and placemaking requirements. The findings from this workshop will inform the vision-setting exercise.

## **Workshop 1 Details**

Half-day workshop 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 at Ocean Exmouth from 2pm-5pm

Participants

- Invitees will be from multiple stakeholder

Our Objective is:

- Test and validate the Exmouth's key-placemaking challenges, opportunities and vision.

Our Outcome

- Findings will inform the vision setting and placemaking strategy
- Stage 3: Placemaking Strategy - the key objective of this is to interpret the engagement outcomes and the vision and translate them into a placemaking strategy that makes the best use of the land and emphasises on placemaking, infrastructure delivery and economic growth. As part of this stage a second half-day workshop will be held, we will meet with the previously engaged stakeholders and present the refined objectives, design principles, and the emerging placemaking strategy to ensure their buy-in on the priority areas and the potential interventions.

## **Workshop 2 Details**

Half-day workshop 11th of September 2023 at Ocean Exmouth from 2pm-5pm

Participants

- Stakeholders engaged in previous stage.

Objective

- Present the refined vision, and proposed interventions to ensure buy-in on the priority areas and potential interventions.

Outcomes

- Findings will inform the final Placemaking Plan and following development briefs.

From here, Stage 4 onwards will be subject to members supporting the work to date.

### **1.3 Levelling up Fund Bid – Destination Exmouth**

- The bid, led by colleagues in Devon County Council, is now gathering baseline data in preparation for developing the design for the Exmouth Gateway.
- We need to do a public consultation for those proposals and we are keen to try to get that delivered before the summer holidays.

**Financial implications:**

There are no new financial implications identified.

**Legal implications:**

There are no legal implications requiring comment at this time.