

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held
at Knowle, Sidmouth on 26 January 2016**

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.35pm.

***24 Chairman's introduction**

The Chairman welcomed the Committee members to the meeting

***25 Public speaking**

There were no public speakers at this point of the meeting.

***26 Minute confirmation**

The minutes of the Overview Committee held on the 17 November 2015, were confirmed as a true record. Councillor Rob Longhurst raised the issue arising from the minutes on local consultation obtained for the Exmouth Beach Management Plan.

***27 Enterprise Zone update**

Members received an update from Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director, updating Committee members on progress on the Enterprise Zone.

There had been an announcement in the Chancellor's autumn statement last November that the proposed Enterprise Zone submission from the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership had been successful. This included four sites in East Devon (Skypark, Science Park, Cranbrook and Airport Business Park extension) alongside a site in Sedgemoor District.

Members noted that the Chancellor's announcement in the autumn budget did not automatically confer operational Enterprise Zone status, rather that considerable further work needed to be undertaken over the course of the next 12 months. This would be to develop a detailed business case and agree specific arrangements, not least future governance arrangements.

It was clear that the Enterprise Zone proposal had the potential to accelerate the achievement of growth objectives and to bring forward new job creation. However, it was noted that there were also potential downsides and risks that would need to be carefully understood. These would need to be considered within the context of forthcoming changes to the way in which business rate revenues relate to Local Government financing.

The Enterprise Zone had the following benefits

- potential to accelerate delivery of the largest growth area in Devon & Somerset;
- accrue benefits across a wide part of the LEP area, including the remainder of East Devon;
- capitalise on the existing initiatives and investments;
- give the ability to respond quickly to occupier demand;
- present a strong geographical, sectoral and thematic focus on a national and international stage

The next steps were a report to Cabinet, followed by development/delivery of a business plan, agreements of governance arrangements, a checkpoint regarding Business Rate

retention and agreement for site areas/incentives sought. Subject to successfully negotiating these stages the Zone could then become operational in April 2017.

During discussions, the following points and questions were raised:

- the employment sites could be marketed more forcefully;
- there were additional benefits to the District that would be brought in from the Enterprise Zone;
- how much was the Enterprise Zone dependent on the Heart of the South West Devolution? Officers advised that it was not dependent on devolution.
- how would the Enterprise Zone help with the development of small businesses in rural areas;
- was there any way of priority funding business rates for achieving a second passing loop on the Exeter/Waterloo rail line?
- how could 'M5 hopping' be reduced? Officers advised that this would be achieved through the 'Gateway' policy at the Science Park but was an area that would need to be considered further;
- have we looked at the potential for the Enterprise Zone to assist with house sales in Cranbrook? Officers advised that these two should be linked in the sense that the a strong labour market would help to underpin house sales;
- would the Enterprise Zone take jobs from the Axminster area? Officers advised that that they could not categorically advise that this wouldn't be the case but that there were measures that could be employed to help bring forward new jobs at Axminster e.g. provision of workspace;
- the local economy was not dependent on one industry and had a good range of sectors and this diversity would help with the district's resilience to any economic downturn;
- contributions from developers could significantly help with the £50m cost of the second passing loop on the South West Main Line;
- the need for a rural economic strategy to help the economy in the rural areas.

Only new buildings constructed after the start of the designation in April 2017 would qualify for the business rate incentive. Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director reported that a report would be brought to the Cabinet meeting on 9 March including further details on the financial issues surrounding the Enterprise Zone.

- RESOLVED
1. that the outcome of the Enterprise Zone application submitted by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership confirmed as part of the Government's Autumn statement, be noted;
 2. that the additional work that will be needed to be undertaken to develop a detailed business case and defined geography before the Zone can become operational, be noted.

***28 South West Trains franchise consultation**

The Committee received a presentation from Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director, on the South West Trains franchise consultation, which was expected to run from June 2017 for 7 years.

The objectives of the franchise were

- Support the economy of the franchise area with high quality services that reflected the specific requirements of the different markets;
- Increase capacity to meet demand and future growth;

- Deliver excellent experience for passengers;
- Secure whole industry efficiencies;
- Support local communities to deliver local transport integration, local regeneration and investment;
- Improve social and environmental sustainability.

Key issues for East Devon included:

- Connectivity to London;
- Travel to work – across the District;
- Travel to Learn;
- West End growth – including 2nd Cranbrook station;
- Service frequency/capacity;
- Stopping patterns;
- Links to the Airport.

Debate on the issue included:

- Importance of establishing a half hourly clock face service from Axminster to Exeter;
- priority should be the establishment of a second passing loop near Whimble and this should be emphasised to the Department for Transport;
- Importance of capacity issues on the line and provision of more modern rolling stock for the line;
- A second Cranbrook station could take even more stopping services from Feniton and Whimble stations;
- 7 years was too short a time frame for the franchise;
- Best long term solution for the line would be double track all the way to Salisbury;
- What steps could be taken to improve the resilience of the service?

Andy Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director was thanked for presentation.

RESOLVED

that the report be noted.

***29 Overview forward plan**

The Committee discussed items for the forward plan, and agreed the following topics to be scoped before further consideration on how to proceed:

RESOLVED

That the forward plan include:

9 February 2016 – additional meeting on the Refuse and Recycling contract award.

22 March 2016 – Sustainability. Update on Flood Risk Management and Shoreline Management Plan, Update on Economic Development and Draft Annual Report.

First meeting after 1 May 2016 – EDDC policy on providing Affordable/Starter Homes

Attendance list

Councillors Present:

Graham Godbeer (Vice Chairman in the Chair)

Mike Allen

Matthew Booth

Peter Faithfull

Maria Hale
Rob Longhurst
Christopher Pepper

Councillors Also Present:

Megan Armstrong
John Dyson
Roger Giles
Geoff Jung
Andrew Moulding
Phil Twiss
Tom Wright

Councillor Paul Bull from Exeter City Council

Officers

Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor
Mark Williams, Chief Executive
Richard Cohen, Deputy Chief Executive
Andrew Wood, East of Exeter Projects Director
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Apologies:

Peter Bowden (Chairman)
Paul Diviani
Jill Elson
Pat Graham
Ian Hall
Ben Ingham,
PaulineStott

Councillor Rosie Denham of Exeter City Council
Councillor Keith Owen of Exeter City Council
Councillor Rachel Sutton of Exeter City Council
Councillor Dennis Smith of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Mike Haines of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Humphrey Clemens of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Stuart Barker of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor John Goodey of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor George Gribble of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Silvia Russell of Teignbridge District Council
Councillor Andrew Leadbetter of Exeter City Council

Chairman Date

