

Agenda for Asset Management Forum

Thursday 11 February 2016, 9.30am



Venue: Committee Room, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL

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- 1 [Public speaking](#)
- 2 Minutes for 14 January 2016 (pages 3-5)
- 3 Apologies
- 4 [Declarations of interest](#)
- 5 [Matters of urgency](#) – none identified
- 6 To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including press) have been excluded. There are no items that officers recommend should be dealt with in this way.

Part A Matters for Decision

- 7 **EDDC Workspace Provision** – Presentation by Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor
- 8 **Data** – Verbal update by Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor

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[Decision making and equalities](#)

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EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of a Meeting of the Asset Management Forum held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Thursday, 14 January 2016

Present: Councillors:
Geoff Pook
Philip Skinner
Andrew Moulding

Officers:
Donna Best
Charlie Plowden
Steve Edmonds
Chris Lane
Laurelie Gifford

Also present: Geoff Jung
Rob Longhurst

Apologies: Richard Cohen
Matthew Booth
Paul Diviani
Simon Davey
David Chapman
Ian Thomas
Tom Wright
Christopher Pepper

The meeting started at 9.40am and finished at 11.35am.

1 Notes

Members noted the report of the meeting held on 7 December 2015.

2

Exeter & East Devon Growth Point Enterprise Zone
Naomi Harnett, Principal Projects Manager, East of Exeter Growth Point team, reported on progress on the Exeter & East Devon Growth Point Enterprise Zone. This had been awarded Enterprise Zone status in the Government's autumn statement. This meant that the area which included, the Exeter Science Park, Skypark Business Park, Cranbrook employment site and Exeter Airport Business Park, would benefit from a 100% business rate discount, simplified planning through Local Development Orders and Government support to ensure that superfast broadband was rolled out throughout the zone.

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;
- give a strong geographical, sectorial and thematic focus.

It was anticipated that the Enterprise Zone status would start in April 2017 and that it was only businesses starting in the zone after this time who would not be required to pay business rates.

3 Holyford Woods - acquisition Proposal

Members received a presentation from Steve Edmonds from the Countryside Team to accept a land transfer of Top Pool (or Lamb's Pool) Holyford Woods, and to incorporate it into the management parcel of Holyford Woods Local Nature Reserve. It was considered that any possible flooding issues would be overcome by the nature of the ground up stream and also the capacity of a dam downstream to hold considerable amounts of water.

Members noted that the purchase of the Top Pool would:

- 1) significantly enhance a public asset;
- 2) help generate more income from the site by the sale of fire wood;
- 3) funding behind the proposal was already secured from the Holyford Woodlands Trust.

Members were satisfied the previous reasons for refusal had been overcome and were happy to recommend approval of the transfer of the Top Pool to EDDC ownership.

RECOMMENDED that the proposed transfer of Top Pool, Holyford Woods to EDDC be agreed as funding for the project work had been found and concerns over potential liability from funding had been answered

4 Capital Strategy Allocation Group

Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor reported on two recommendations from the Capital Strategy Allocation Group regarding Allhallows changing rooms and also the clock at Magnolia Centre. Members noted that Allhallows playing field would be discussed by the Playing Field Strategy Group shortly and it was considered appropriate that consideration of the Allhallows changing rooms be considered at this meeting.

It was also considered appropriate that no money should be spent at present on the Magnolia Centre clock and this should be included with the other assets that would be considered appropriate to transfer to town/parish councils.

5 Data Management – Update on Strata project

The Forum received a list of assets maintained by EDDC for Beer and Lympstone. Laurelie Gifford reported that Finance were in the process of starting a project to provide a full listing of cost and income over that last 5 years, summarised by account codes. This was to be used in conversation with town and parish councils, to ensure sensible apportionment and gathering of data.

Members considered that progress was slowly being achieved on the issue of data management.

6 Tenanted Non Residential Property Review – Sports & Activity Clubs

Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor, gave an update on progress with the introduction of the rent support scheme for sports & activity clubs in East Devon.

There had been an initial meeting between the Community Fund Panel and a CIPFA Property representative on 12 January to give training on this issue which had gone well.

The Forum recognised the importance of informing all Council Members of the position and noted that EDDC Comms were still considering the covering letter to be sent to all sports & activity clubs in East Devon renting EDDC facilities.

Donna Best, Principal Estates Surveyor, reported that a meeting had been set up regarding the transfer of beach huts to interested town and parish councils.

- 7 Transfer of council Assets to Town and Parish Councils
Councillor Geoff Pook, Chairman of the Asset Management Forum introduced a report he had prepared regarding the cost to the Council of discretionary services and a proposal to transfer or lease some of these assets to appropriate town and parish councils.

RESOLVED that a Joint Think Tank with the Economy and Strategic Development and Partnerships Portfolios be established to consider this issue and be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum to agree the principal of the transfer of assets to the most appropriate body.

- 8 Date of next meeting
The next meeting of the Asset Management Forum would be held on **Thursday 11 February 2016** at 9.30am in the Committee Room, Knowle, Sidmouth.