

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel held on 1 December 2020

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.39 pm

7 Notes from previous meeting held on 16 September 2020

The notes from the previous meeting held on the 16 September 2020 were agreed as a true record.

8 Declarations of interest

Councillor Rowland – personal interest minute 9 – Ward Member of Seaton

Councillor Ledger – personal interest minute 9 – Ward Member of Seaton; Scaffold provider in area.

Councillor Pook – personal interest minute 9 – Ward Member of Beer and Branscombe.

Councillor Rixson – personal interest minute 9 – Ward Member of Sidmouth Sidford

9 Capital Programme Financing and New Bids 2021/22

The Panel considered the Capital Programme financing statement. 23 bids were put forward for the Panel to debate and recommend forward to Cabinet for inclusion in the programme.

General comments on the Capital Programme and the bids presented to the Party considered included:

- The Play Strategy was anticipated to be back before Cabinet in May/June 2021, whereby debate could take place on how play area maintenance and replacement was funded across the District, as it was felt that there was some disparity between some parishes adding to their precept for play areas, and paying again for play areas in other parts of the district. There was also the need to plan ahead for Cranbrook;
- Bids presented to the Party were considered by officers to fall under the category of essential work, although some had cost options for enhanced work. Members were asked to consider implications of future work if bids relating to play areas were pushed to future years to undertake, because of the lead-in time required to implement;
- Scoring did take into account an element for both carbon impact in the immediate term and the length of benefit of the project. Further discussion could be held between officers to ensure that all aspects impacting this factor are taken into account, as this was the first year that the carbon scoring “grid” had been used, and can be refined for future bids.

Specific discussion on Budleigh Greenway Bridge included a request for evidence of use, and consideration of other options to cross the railway cutting in preparation of the current bridge reaching a point of requiring replacement.

Specific discussion on Budleigh Lime Kiln Car Park covered concern about works to the area coming up in the next 2 – 3 years for other projects, including the Lower Otter restoration project. Members were assured that the resurfacing works could not wait

until those projects were completed; and that access agreements and repair clauses would be in place for those projects to help protect the immediate maintenance work if approved.

Options for Lace Walk Car Park Honiton were discussed, and with concurrent advice from the local Ward Member, the Panel agreed to recommend partial resurfacing would suffice, as the remainder of the car park was in good condition.

Specific discussions on Seaton Wetlands Car Park centred on the success of the wetlands, and to examine conditional elements of the grant from Natural England to see if other means of gaining revenue from the car park were possible. Members acknowledged the voluntary contributions and did not want to adversely impact on use by introducing a pay and display element, but wished to examine some options for helping to finance the ongoing maintenance of the site.

The Panel heard from two Exmouth Ward Members in relation to the bid for the replacement of Phear Park Shelter. The bid had a total of four options, ranging from a basic structure to an elevated bandstand. The options, progressing in cost, were drawn up to improve the offer to the public and help design out anti-social behaviour. On balance the Panel felt that the current structure could remain, and the use of anti-graffiti paint was a suitable and cost effective option. The recommendation to Cabinet was to therefore refuse the bid.

Brixington Open Space enhancement bid and Exmouth Phear Park Skate bid also have s106 bids in the Exmouth Sports voting, which could grant up to the whole project cost if successful. The capital programme bids were presented as a backup.

Recommended to Cabinet:

1. That the following items be added to the Capital Programme for 2020/21:
 - a) Bridge repair works across East Devon £65,000;
 - b) Budleigh Greenway Bridge **repaint** £66,000
 - c) Honiton Willow Walk Bridge **refurbishment** £20,000
 - d) Beer Cliff Top Car Park access road improvements £95,000
 - e) Budleigh Lime Kilm Car Park **total resurfacing** £175,000
 - f) Honiton Lace Walk Car Park **partial resurfacing** £20,000
 - g) Sidmouth Mill Street Car Park resurfacing and relining £25,000
 - h) Seaton Wetlands Car Park enhancements £25,000
 - i) Jacob's Ladder, Sidmouth Void plus seawall £175,000
 - j) Sidmouth Capping Wall £45,000
 - k) Sidmouth East Beach access steps £27,000
 - l) Exmouth Groyne concrete repair £85,000
 - m) Seaton Hole revetment repairs £100,000
 - n) Brixington Open Space enhancement £150,000 (less £23,000 s106 funding if granted)
 - o) Cliff works (Beer, Seaton and Sidmouth) £25,000
 - p) Footpath resurfacing of public open spaces (Phear Park, Gunfield Gardens, Madeira Walk and The Plantation) £50,000
 - q) Budleigh Lime Kiln Play Area £80,000
 - r) Exmouth Liverton Copse Play Area £80,000
 - s) Honiton Jerrard Close Play Area £60,000
 - t) Honiton Pale Gate Play Area £80,000
 - u) Exmouth Phear Park Skatepark £240,000
 - v) Sidmouth Baker Close Play Area £60,000

2. That, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, evidence is sought on level of use of Greenway Lane Footbridge, and an alternative solution to the existing bridge be researched;
3. That the Brixington Open Space Enhancement amends the location of outdoor gym equipment to a cluster arrangement;
4. That the Exmouth Phear Park shelter bid of £25,000 **be rejected**; and instruct officers to explore the use of anti-graffiti paint on the current structure.

10 **Key project monitoring report**

The Panel considered the monitoring report for the current projects financed from the Capital Programme, which included comments on reasons for any variations on the projects.

The Strategic Lead Finance outlined the purpose of the report, to help Members track the budget spend, milestones reached and risks of each project. Future meetings would also include detailed reports on the variations.

Cllr Rixson congratulated the Portfolio Holder Coast, Country and Environment and officers on the progress on the Sidmouth and East Beach Beach Management Plan.

Cllr Hookway reported that work continued on obtaining attractions for Queens Drive, through the Exmouth Queens Drive Delivery Group.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

J Rowland (Chair)
P Arnott
J Bailey
D Barrow
K Blakey
P Hayward
S Jackson
G Jung
D Ledger
A Moulding
G Pook
M Rixson

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Faithfull
P Millar
S Gazzard
E Wragg
N Hookway

Officers in attendance:

John Symes, Finance Manager

John Hudson, Accountant
John Golding, Strategic Lead Housing, Health and Environment
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead Governance and Licensing
Andrew Hancock, Service Lead StreetScene
Charles Plowden, Service Lead Countryside and Leisure
Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor apologies:

F King

Chair

Date: