

Report to: Asset Management Forum



Date of Meeting 21 June 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release n/a

Place & Prosperity Team Update

Report summary:

The report provides a summary of the various projects that the Place and Prosperity Team is currently involved in.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That the Asset Management Forum note the report.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that members of the Asset Management Forum are informed about project progress.

Officer: Alison Hayward ahayward@eastdevon.gov.uk 01404 571738

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

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Medium Risk; Projects which involve considering the future uses of council owned assets involves a level of risk be it financial or reputational. These would be reported to cabinet at the relevant time when recommendations are being made to take a project forward for delivery.

Links to background information n/a

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. RHSSF & WELCOME BACK FUND

1.1 An excellent result for the council in relation to these government funding programmes which have been Programme Managed by the Place & Prosperity Team. Of the allocation received of around £361,000, we have successfully spent and now claimed approximately £342,000 on various projects related to improving the offer on our High Streets and attracting more visitors. This was a very resource intensive programme involving a number of teams across the council and the diligence and persistent approach of the Programme Manager ensured that we were fully compliant with the claim requirements.

2. HAYNE LANE, HONITON:

2.1 The consultants are making progress with the masterplan and a 1st iteration of the scheme design will be provided to the Portfolio Holder in July / August and thereafter a further update to the Steering Committee later in the Summer before consultation commences. It is expected that a first draft will be ready late summer with a report to Cabinet in the early autumn.

3. BEER PILOT PROJECT

3.1 Work continues on Heads of Terms for a transfer of assets to Beer Parish Council. A cabinet report will be forthcoming in the autumn once Legal Services have concluded their review of the documentation.

4. SEATON JURASSIC

4.1 Marketing has so far failed to secure a short term café operator or a longer term interpretation centre operator. Marketing periods have been extended. A report to Cabinet is planned for September 2022 setting out details of offers received and works required to remedy building defects.

5. JACOBS LADDER BEACH HUTS, SIDMOUTH

5.1 Work continues on reviewing the viability of replacement of the beach huts at Jacobs Ladder in Sidmouth. The current projected timeline would see the huts being proposed for replacement in 2023. A market testing exercise is now underway to assess the delivery options which will inform the recommendations regarding the delivery of new huts.

6. DRILL HALL, SIDMOUTH

6.1 Rockfish have agreed to enter into the deed of covenant that would effectively pass on future liabilities to them that currently exist between the council and the former owners of the site, Wessex cadets. The council is now seeking consent from the cadets to enter into the lease with Rockfish. Rockfish are keen to proceed with entering into the lease. We are hopeful of further progress during June.

7. AXE VALLEY LEVELLING UP FUNDING BID.

7.1 Following completion of the Axe Valley Stage 1 report, the findings were presented to cabinet on 4 May. A decision was taken to progress with the preparation of a funding bid for Levelling Up Funding. A second stakeholder event has taken place in May to discuss the outcome of the Stage 1 study with local stakeholders in both Axminster and Seaton. The consultants are now preparing the bid with assistance from the team. A further report will be presented to cabinet for approval prior to submission of the bid.

8. SEATON MORIDUNUM

8.1 A report was taken to cabinet in May and the decision was taken to withdraw from working with the neighbouring landowner, Fosseyway Court on the redevelopment of the Moridunum site. The council will continue to work with the owners of Fosseyway Court to support them in delivering their own development which has significant regeneration benefits in its own right. The council is now in the process of securing external advice prior to marketing the Moridunum site. A report will be forthcoming to cabinet prior to the commencement of marketing. The site will be included within the forthcoming bid for Levelling Up Funding.

9. WEBSTERS GARAGE SITE, AXMINSTER

9.1 This site, was considered as part of the Axe Valley phase 1 study. An attractive mixed use scheme was proposed within the Axe Valley phase 1 report. However, due to deliverability issues around land ownership and the lack of resolution on phosphate mitigation the council has elected not to include this within the Levelling Up Funding bid. The council continues to discuss the future of the site with the site owners.

10. DEVON PLACE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

10.1 At the stakeholder events for the Axe Valley Levelling Up project on 12 May, consultants Hardisty Jones, appointed by DCC, presented an overview of the project objectives. A key objective is to establish project groups for both Seaton and Axminster. A second report was presented to cabinet on 8 June with details of the proposed Terms of Reference and suggested membership profile for the groups. Meetings will be arranged for these groups shortly. The other objectives for this project will see a quick win project delivered this year, the preparation of outline regeneration strategies and an outline business case being developed for one project.

Financial implications:

This is an update report to be noted and hence there are no recommendations with financial implications.

Legal implications:

'The report does not raise any legal implications requiring comment.'