

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel held at online via zoom on 5 December 2022

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 3.25 pm

30 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed Councillors and officers to the meeting, and set out the purpose of the meeting to the Panel.

31 Notes from the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2022 were agreed.

32 Declarations of interest

Minutes x; Councillor Paul Hayward Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Employed by Axminster Town Council.

Minute x; Councillor Paul Millar; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Membership of LED Leisure as a service user.

33 Capital Financing

The Strategic Lead Finance set out the Capital Programme financing, covering both the existing commitments and the proposed bids before the Panel for discussion. This included the element already agreed for inclusion for the Recycling and Refuse Bridging Solution Phase 2 for vehicles of £320K; and the provisional sum for the Sidmouth & East Beach Management Plan implementation works at £1.7m.

In response to questions, the general fund balance was confirmed to be within the adopted range. The Panel were asked to bear in mind the predicted gap that would need to be financed if all the proposed bids were adopted.

Many of the bids had arisen from routine, proactive inspection and condition surveys.

34 Scoring matrix for Capital bids proposed

The Panel were reminded of the criteria that bids had to follow. The proposed bids were presented with a ranking of priority and highlighted any health and safety requirement for completion.

35 Proposed bids

The Panel worked through the 31 bids presented, with questions answered by relevant officers.

In respect of bids that were deferred, discussion covered:

- Budleigh Steamer and beach steps bid needed further work to bring forward a cheaper alternative option for consideration;
- Work to Mona Island railings was rejected because the Panel felt that the site as a whole needed careful consideration for best use, and therefore remedial works in 2023/24 may be an unnecessary cost;
- Lady Bryon and The Maer play areas were not felt to be essential work and therefore were deferred to be considered at a later date;
- Withycombe Pitches Parking be considered by the relevant Portfolio Holders for Finance, and Economy & Assets respectively to consider appropriate rental rates and funding opportunities to finance improvements to the parking provision. The Panel agreed that improved parking on this site would be welcomed in principle, but needed further work to offset the considerable cost;
- Phear Park access works were similarly supported in principle, but the Panel felt that further work was needed to find an alternative solution to the access issues. They asked that the proposal be put to the relevant Portfolio Holders for Finance, and Economy & Assets respectively, working with other stakeholders and relevant officers, to work towards an alternative solution, including consideration of charging for parking;
- Budleigh gabion basket repair was rejected on the grounds that the beach level grading could be considered, and there may be changes to the levels once the Lower Otter Restoration Project has been completed; therefore it was premature to replace the gabion basket before then;
- The Panel wished to wait for further development of the Exmouth Pavillion offer and usage before agreeing to any projects relating to that building.

The Panel also discussed raising awareness of the impact on costs for the repair of assets following vandalism.

RECOMMEND to Cabinet:

1. that the following bids be included in the Capital Programme:
 - a. Vehicle Trespassing Prevention measures for £35,000 in 2023/24
 - b. Connaught Pergola, Sidmouth replacement for £50,000 in 2023/24
 - c. The Beacon railings restoration for £65,000 in 2023/24
 - d. Footpath resurfacing works of public spaces for £40,000 in 2023/24
 - e. Seawall works across the District for £50,000 in 2023/24
 - f. Ottery St Mary Sluice Replacement for £50,000 in 2023/24
 - g. Sidmouth Connaught Cliff Works for £60,000 in 2023/24
 - h. Seaton, Beer and Sid Cliff works for £30,000 in 2023/24
 - i. Play equipment repairs/works for £50,000 in 2023/24
 - j. Jubilee Play Area, Beer for £100,000 in 2023/24
 - k. North Street Allotment Play Area, Axminster for £60,000 in 2023/24
 - l. Land of Canaan Play Area, Ottery St Mary for £130,000 in 2023/24
 - m. Camperdown Depot resurfacing for £21,000 in 2023/24
 - n. Manor Gardens Seating Area improvements for £20,000 in 2023/24
 - o. The Glen steps and handrails replacement for £60,000 in 2023/24
 - p. Recycling and Refuse Solution Phase 2 Collection Vehicles Electric option for £453,000 and Retrofit of vehicles for £300,000 in 2023/24
 - q. Recycling and Refuse Depot Plant and Food Waste Bay works for £412,000 in 2023/24
 - r. Exmouth Foxhole Chalets roofing works for £8,745 in 2023/24 and £125,755 for 2024/25
 - s. Exmouth Tennis Centre Resurfacing courts 1 – 4 for £194,500 in 2023/24
 - t. Exmouth Tennis Centre roofing works for £39,150 in 2023/24 and £558,350 in 2024/25
 - u. Honiton Leisure Centre drainage works for £25,500 in 2023/24
 - v. Sidmouth Jacobs Ladder beach huts replacement for £240,000 in 2023/24
 - w. Sidmouth Manor Pavillion Fire Escape steps for £32,000 in 2023/24

- x. Sidmouth Manstone Workshops carpark resurface for £73,000 in 2023/24
1. that the following bids be deferred:
 - a. Budleigh Steamer & Beach access steps for £250,000 in 2023/24
 - b. Mona Island, Exmouth railings restoration for £20,000 in 2023/24
 - c. Withycombe pitches parking for £125,000 in 2023/24; with referral to the relevant Portfolio Holders for assessment;
 - d. Phear Park access works for £120,000 in 2023/24, with referral to the relevant Portfolio Holders for assessment;
 - e. Lady Bryon Play Area, Exmouth for £100,000 in 2023/24
 - f. The Maer Play Area, Exmouth for £100,000 in 2023/24
 - g. Budleigh Gabion basket repair for £75,000 in 2023/24
 - h. Exmouth Pavillion rooking works for £25,410 in 2023/24 and £365,090 in 2024/25
 2. That the inclusion of £320,000 in 2023/24 for the Recycling and Refuse Bridging Solution Phase 2 collection vehicles in the Capital Programme had been previously approved, be noted;
 3. That a provisional inclusion of £1,700,000 for 2024/25 for the implementation of the Sidmouth Beach Management Plan works has been made, subject to a report to Cabinet for agreement, be noted.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

J Rowland (Chair)

P Arnott

P Hayward

G Jung

J Loudoun

G Pook

M Rixson

N Hookway

E Wragg

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

P Faithfull

T McCollum

P Millar

Officers in attendance:

Tom Buxton-Smith, Engineering Projects Manager

Tim Child, Service Lead - Place, Assets & Commercialisation

Simon Davey, Strategic Lead Finance

Andrew Hancock, Service Lead StreetScene

John Hudson, Accountant

Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer

Jorge Pineda-Langford, Principal Building Surveyor, Property & FM

John Symes, Finance Manager

Anita Williams, Principal Solicitor (and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Councillor apologies:

D Bickley

K Blakey

E Rylance

Chairman

Date: