

Report to: Asset Management Forum



Date of Meeting 13th March 2023

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release NA

Report on Progress in Place making in Exmouth

Report summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with a summary of progress with Placemaking in Exmouth that the Place and Prosperity Team is involved in since the last update on the 4th of November 2022.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

That Members note the content of this report.

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that members are informed on the type of work that the team is undertaking and any work that is relevant to their ward.

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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

Risk: Low Risk; With any asset based projects, particularly where development is taking place, there are risks involved. However as we are still at the formative stage with Placemaking in Exmouth the risks are relatively low – singly the greatest risk would be the position of the

Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group and the Council's positions failing to align in an agreed plan for Exmouth.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; The report is just to note an update on progress since our last meeting.

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

Report in full

1.0 Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group

- 1.1 Following the public consultation on the Themes and Characteristics for Placemaking in Exmouth over the summer months on the 10th of October the Placemaking Group agreed to the recommendation:
 - *That members of the Group accept the results of the consultations (noting that not all the suggestions fall within East Devon's District Council's statutory remit and those that do will have to be prioritised in terms of deliverability and budget availability)*
 - *That the Group recommend to Cabinet that the results of the consultation are accepted and that they be used to appoint a professional team to develop a terms of reference and a plan for a Placemaking Strategy for Exmouth Town and Seafront.*
 - *That Cabinet request a budget of £160k* from Full Council to develop the Placemaking Strategy which will include a Habitat Regulations Assessment.*
- 1.2 This recommendation was supported by Cabinet and Full Council approved a budget of £160,000 to appoint Placemaking Consultants, on the 7th of December 2022.
- 1.3 Following a desktop exercise using the Crown Commercial Framework, supported by colleagues in Devon County Council we are pleased to advise that we plan to appoint WSP to take forward the placemaking plan for Exmouth Town and Seafront (subject to contract and a pre commencement meeting).
- 1.4 The Next Steps are:
 - To provide Approval of Terms of Reference for place making first half of 2023 to include:
 - A prioritisation of the key Themes and Characteristics and opportunity sites
 - Spatial analysis of the opportunities across Exmouth
 - Analysis of what the Council can deliver (ie what is within its remit) in the short, medium and long term
 - Identification of key partners to develop other elements eg Devon County Council
 - Preparation of options for sites
 - High Level Feasibility Design and Costing
 - Draft options to Delivery group Summer 2023

- Preparation of shortlist of options
- Further Consultation on the options (we may want to re-consult sooner)
- Cabinet and Full Council approval to move to detailed design and costing
- Implementation phase begins early 2024 subject to budget constraints.

1.5 The planning application for the Strand's tables and chairs (The current permission expires in September 2023) has been submitted via the planning portal. Legal Services forwarded the leases to the stakeholders on the 30th of January. To date two have been returned, however, unfortunately these were not witnessed and signed correctly so these have had to be returned.

2.0 Queen's Drive Space

- 2.1 Uptake for concessions for this season have been good and the feedback from providers has been positive. We are in the process of issuing leases to the food concession tenants for the 2023 season (all have opted to renew from last year).
- 2.2 The planning consent for the fitness area at Queen's Drive (which expires in July 2023) has now been submitted via the planning portal. Legal are now progressing the lease with LED.
- 2.3 The Events Space was marketed as agreed to see if we could attract a reliable operator either for the whole season or for the summer holidays, we had no interest by the closing date (6th of December 22). Some further marketing has been carried out on social media but again there has been little or no interest (bearing in mind it must be compliant with the planning consent conditions).
- 2.4 The planning application for the Strand's tables and chairs (The current permission expires in September 2023) has been submitted via the planning portal. Legal Services have now been asked to prepare the leases.

3.0 Levelling up Fund Bid

- 3.1 The bid, led by colleagues in Devon County Council, was successful and has secured £15,765,899 for the road at Dinan Way and the Destination Exmouth/Gateway project. We await a letter of offer and will work in support of our colleagues in Devon County Council.
- 3.2 There has been an initial inception meeting with the Dept for Transport DfT, and the first steps are to mobilise project teams – and briefs for this have been issued.
- 3.3 For Dinan Way, DCC are commencing the land assembly in the first instance and have instructed our land agents.
- 3.4 For Exmouth Gateway, the initial task will be to confirm the designs before commencing a public consultation – we will need to review our stakeholder list for this.

Recommendation

That Members note the content of this report.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations in this report.

Legal implications:

There are no legal implications flowing from this report for noting.