

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel held online via zoom on 7 December 2023

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 2.46 pm

11 Welcome from the Chair

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

12 Notes of previous meeting held on 18 September 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18 September 2023 were agreed.

13 Declarations

Minute 15;

Councillor Matt Hall; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Member of Exmouth Town Council

Councillor Nick Hookway; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Member of Exmouth Town Council

Councillor Cherry Nicholas; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Member of Exmouth Town Council

Councillor John Loudoun; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Member of Sidmouth Town Council

Councillor Ian Barlow; Affects Non-Registerable Interest, Member of Sidmouth Town Council

14 Capital Financing

The Finance Director & Interim Chief Executive set out the Capital Programme financing, covering both the existing commitments in the current programme, and the proposed bids before the Panel for debate.

In response to questions, the general fund balance was confirmed to be within the adopted range. Many of the proposed bids had arisen from routine, proactive inspection and condition surveys of assets.

The Panel were asked to bear in mind the implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan for any additional works put into the Capital Programme, explained with the example that for every £100k included, the impact of costs in the MTFP was £10K for 40 years.

In response to a question on increasing the Council Tax base to the maximum £5, this would deliver an additional annual funding of £441,011.

15 **Listing of Capital Bids proposed**

The panel worked through the 30 bids presented, with questions answered by relevant officers.

The Chair directed the Panel to consider those bids submitted with health and safety aspects to start, in order to establish works that had to take place. The Panel then progressed through the remaining bids to recommended forward to Cabinet what should be included in the Capital Programme.

Following discussion on a number of projects, areas for further discussion and development were identified. This included:

- Providing a report to the Asset Management Forum (and the wider Council membership) on the requirements for tendering work, and the processes undertaken for obtaining costs and solution options for projects, using examples taken from this round of bidding proposals;
- Some project bids relating to assets that held LED operations should also be considered by the LED Monitoring Forum for their view, in light of their specialist knowledge of the Service Level Agreement and the operations of LED; this could include looking at other ways of attracting funding that LED could be eligible to apply for, but the local authority could not;
- Action plan detail that would come from the new Asset Management Plan would help steer what repair or refurbishment projects came forward in future years for the Panel to consider;
- Wider awareness and promotion to the public of the discretionary services provided by the Council, and the cost implications of continuing to provide those;
- Wider awareness of project work that delivered efficiencies and savings.

The prudent measure of an allocation of funds for the repair of vandalised play equipment was agreed for inclusion, and the Panel felt that this approach should be considered for future years. This gave a fund for swift repair or replacement, keeping closure times shorter while repair took place, and prolonging the useful life of play areas.

Three bids were agreed in principle to go into the Capital Programme, subject to further discussion by the LED Monitoring Forum, as reflected in the recommendations below.

Two bids were not put forward:

- Cheriswood Avenue Play Area, which was currently an open space area, had not had play equipment on site for approximately ten years. There was also no requirement to have play equipment on site, and it is located a short distance away from Brixington park which does have play facilities. The Panel therefore felt that it was not appropriate to incur funds on the installation of a new play area and its subsequent maintenance addition to the revenue account;
- Norman Lockyer Observatory repairs and conservation works, whilst having the requirement under the terms of the lease for undertaking before the end of the lease in several years time, needed further discussion on the wider implications of the asset. The Panel felt that this needed further discussion by the Asset Management Plan working group, and that the appropriate officers should begin dialogue with the tenant at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMEND to Cabinet:

1. that the following bids be included in the Capital Programme:
 - a. Car Park relining across the District for £20,000 in 2024/25

- b. Land of Canaan Car Park resurfacing for £60,000 in 2024/25
 - c. Beer Cliff Top Car Park drainage works for £40,000 in 2024/25
 - d. Phear Park anti-traveller measures for £30,000 in 2024/25
 - e. Wall repairs across the District for £50,000 in 2024/25
 - f. Public Open Space maintenance across the District for £150,000 in 2024/25
 - g. Footpath Resurfacing works at Gunfield, Manor, Phear and Brixington for £170,000 in 2024/25
 - h. Phear Park Parking extension for £70,000 for 2024/25
 - i. Cemeteries maintenance across the District for £150,000 in 2024/25
 - j. Carter Avenue Play Area for £150,000 in 2024/25
 - k. Byron Way Play Area for £130,000 in 2024/25
 - l. Allhallows Play Area for £150,000 in 2024/25
 - m. Slewton Crescent Play Area for £100,000 in 2024/25
 - n. Cheriswood Avenue Play Area for £75,000 in 2024/25
 - o. Vandalism Play Equipment for £50,000 in 2024/25
 - p. Feniton FAS Risk Budget for £250,000 in 2024/25
 - q. Budleigh Salterton Beach Management Plan for £20,000 in 2024/25
 - r. Recycling and Waste Vehicle Refurbishment Programme for £705,000 in 2024/25
 - s. Recycling and Waste Drive Train Failure contingency fund for £50,000 in 2024/25
 - t. Recycling and Waste MRF and Baler refurbishment site compliance for £145,000 in 2024/25
 - u. Manor Pavilion Internal decorations and refurbishment for £5,000 in 2024/25 and £261,000 in 2025/26
 - v. Thelma Hulbert internal decoration and refurbishment for £2,600 in 2024/25 and £65,400 in 2025/26
 - w. Exmouth LC – Cold Water Storage Tank works for £36,500
 - x. Various EDDC Swim Pools water quality monitoring for £26,000 in 2024/25
 - y. Withycombe changing rooms decarbonisation works for £10,000 in 2024/25 and £99,200 in 2025/26 and £4,300 in 2026/27
 - z. Seaton Seafields and Festival Garden depot site improvements for £56,500 for 2024/25
2. That the following bids be supported in principle, and be referred to the LED Monitoring Forum for further consideration before recommending for inclusion in the Capital Programme:
- a. Exmouth Pavilion Flytower and Auditorium works for £335,100 in 2024/25 and £444,900 in 2025/26
 - b. Exmouth Pavilion Roof Works for £5,000 in 2024/25 and £504,000 in 2025/26
 - c. East Devon Tennis Centre Roof works for £791,095 in 2024/25 and £21,405 in 2025/26
3. That the following bids put forward for inclusion are **not** supported at this time:
- a. Cheriswood Avenue Play Area for £75,000 in 2024/25 for reason of a play area at Brixington Park being close by;
 - b. Norman Lockyer Observatory repairs and conservation works for £147,400 in 2024/25 and £5,500 in 2025/26 for reason of further exploration as set out in recommendation 4
4. That the bid for Norman Lockyer Observatory repairs and conservation work be referred to the Asset Management Plan working group tasked with work on the new Asset Management Plan; and delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director for Place, Assets & Commercialisation to enter into discussion with the tenants, working with the Finance Director (CFO/s151) & Interim Chief Executive and the Portfolio Holder for Finance.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Hayward (Chair)

P Arnott

M Hall

N Hookway
G Jung
C Nicholas
M Rixson
J Loudoun
T Olive

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

I Barlow
S Gazzard

Officers in attendance:

Gareth Bourton, Recycling and Waste Contract Manager
Tom Buxton-Smith, Engineering Projects Manager
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Commercialisation
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Andrew Hancock, Assistant Director StreetScene
John Hudson, Accountant
Debbie Meakin, Democratic Services Officer
Jorge Pineda-Langford, Principal Building Surveyor, Property & FM
John Symes, Finance Manager

Councillor apologies:

O Davey
C Fitzgerald

Chairman

Date: