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Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Exmouth Placemaking – Progress Report on The Draft Options for Queen’s Drive Space and Beach Gardens, Exmouth

Report summary:

The Draft Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront was considered at the PETS meeting of July 31 2024. Members have been keen to keep up momentum and demonstrate progress in practical delivery of the plan and have concluded that EDDC should commission draft design and feasibility options for both Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens on Exmouth seafront.

A recommendation from 31st July PETS to Cabinet includes for:

Agree that the currently approved UKSPF budget be used to develop feasibility options for Queen’s Drive and Beach Gardens – the total budget being ~£45k (initial design briefs are shown at Appendix A.) This is already provided for within an approved budget.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is in its third and final year of funding in the current programme. Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens have received approval for £40k of feasibility funding for Exmouth under the UKSPF programme. This report seeks to update PETS members on the progress made to date and the forward plan of the associated feasibility commission.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. PETS Group to note this progress report.

Reason for recommendation:

This report outlines the progress made to date on The Draft Options for Queen’s Drive Space and Beach Gardens, Exmouth

Officer: Marie Ainsworth – Place and Prosperity Officer/ Gerry Mills Project Manager Place and Prosperity.

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

Climate Action and Emergency Response

Coast, Country and Environment

Council and Corporate Co-ordination

- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Tender applicants are being asked to provide details of company equality and diversity plan, policy or values statement.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; Tenders will need to incorporate low carbon, low maintenance and sustainable design options. Considerations around quality green / open space for Beach Gardens area are critical and StreetScene Parks & Engineers Teams should be consulted through design process so we can ensure suitability of planting elements and play, understand phasing for QDS play replacement (and location) and confirm team resource for maintenance of future space.

Links to background information [Draft Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Presentation 23 January, 2024](#)

Appendix A EPP Design Briefs

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities

- A supported and engaged community
- Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- Resilient economy that supports local business
- Financially secure and improving quality of services

Report in full

Update on Draft Placemaking Plan and associated projects for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront:

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Agree that the currently approved UKSPF budget be used to develop feasibility options for Queen's Drive and Beach Gardens – the total budget being ~£45k (initial design briefs are shown at Appendix A.) This is already provided for within an approved budget.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) opportunity:

An opportunity has arisen to utilise some previously approved UKSPF funding to support a feasibility study on The Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens sites contained in the draft Placemaking Plan. This funding would enable some continued momentum and demonstrate

progress in practical delivery of the plan. UKSPF is in its third and final year of the current programme, with no indication of either the continuation or provision of similar funding coming forward in 2025/26. The availability of this funding presents an opportunity not to be missed, the Place and Prosperity team have managed to secure £40k from the UKSPF fund, with the caveat that the funding needs to be spent by the end of the financial year.

Due to the very tight deadlines associated with the UKSPF funding for year 3, the Place and Prosperity Team have been working hard on engaging with internal officers to create a comprehensive specification and tender package, to enable to swift delivery of this feasibility study for both Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens on Exmouth seafront.

The commission requires three design options for both Beach Gardens and Queens Drive Space. The three options will range from a light refurbishment to a more comprehensive renewal, this will provide flexibility of choice going forwards, to fit with a range of future funding opportunities as and when funding opportunities become available. The commission will allow for a workshop to help guide the overall concept designs. It is also a requirement of the commission that bidders incorporate sustainable, low carbon and easy maintenance design choices. The concept designs will not include the level of detail required to seek quotations for physical delivery, this would come at a later stage, therefore, each design could be subject to further refinement if required.

Funding available for this commission includes a small amount of match funding from an EDDC budget:

- £40,000 UKSPF
- £5,000 EDDC

The Council's Investment Plan for UKSPF has approval to deliver Town Centre feasibility studies under intervention E31, see footnote ¹.

The associated timelines for this commission are as follows:

Date and time	Stage
1 st August	Procurement Documents available online
Noon 3 rd September	Deadline for return of quotations
13 th September	Evaluation process commences
17 th September	Completion of Authorities approval and award processes
7 th October	Service delivery commences

The Place and Prosperity Team will be working closely with the UKSPF fund managers to identify future funding opportunities via UKSPF or equivalent, to take the preferred option/s to the detailed design stages, in preparation for seeking funding opportunities to physically deliver the preferred design.

¹ **Intervention:** E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Example Projects: None provided

Objectives: Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities

Financial implications:

There are no new financial implications raised by the report recommendation.

Legal implications:

As this is an update report only, there are no legal implications directly arising.