

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Budget Setting and Capital Allocations Panel held at online via Teams on 11 November 2024

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 9.30 am and ended at 3.32 pm

1 Notes from the previous meeting held on 7 December 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 December 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

2 Welcome from the Chair

The Chair outlined the role of the Panel in considering the bids proposed for inclusion in the Capital Programme. Each bid had already been considered by ELT and their recommendation was included.

3 Declarations

Minute 6: Listing of Capital Bids proposed.

Councillor Hawkins; Affects NRI as member of Cranbrook Town Council
Councillor Bloxham; Affects NRI as member of Cranbrook Town Council
Councillor Barlow; Affects NRI as member of Sidmouth Town Council
Councillor Health; Affects NRI as member of Beer Parish Council
Councillor Hookway; Affects NRI as member of Exmouth Town Council
Councillor Loudoun; Affects NRI as member of Sidmouth Town Council
Councillor Hayward; Affects NRI family members reside in Cranbrook

4 Capital Financing

The Panel were reminded of the current capital programme, which set out the schemes already approved through Council. The programme had been updated to include the new bids that were before the Panel to debate.

The Director for Finance explained Revenue impact of £607k in 2025/26 of borrowing to fund the proposed bids, and the basis behind the minimum revenue provision for managing the repayment and interest, over a 25 year period. He also outlined the overall financial position.

5 Capital Programme as at Month 6 2024/25 to 2028/29

The capital programme running through to 2028/29 was set out for the Panel. The detail set out covered the individual schemes as at month 6 of 2024/25.

The Panel were also informed of a pending capital bid that was not ready for consideration at this meeting, but would go forward to Cabinet for consideration. This was a bid for the third phase of the Toilet Review for £2m.

6 Listing of Capital bids proposed

The Panel considered the 28 bids presented, with questions answered by relevant officers.

The Chair directed the Panel to consider the bids in order of rank, so that the bids attracting the highest scoring in meeting the criteria for inclusion were considered first.

Areas for further development included:

- Additional detail on each bid that built up a picture of how the bid was assessed against the criteria would be beneficial to include for future bid consideration;
- A further review of the bid process to be undertaken by officers to look at elements for inclusion, such as if other sources of funding had been explored.

Detailed discussion took place on each bid, including taking account of any recommendation by ELT.

The bid relating to Cranbrook flagship play provision attracted considerable debate on the policy contradictions for the provision. The bid for £150k was the same level of funding that would be sought for a flagship play provision; the play strategy also refers to the two-step stewardship approach, whereby a mechanism exists for town councils and other communities to apply for 25% capital funding project where they provide 75% of the funding. ELT had not recommended the bid for 100% of the project to go forward. Following the debate, a proposal to include the bid at 100% was made, related to the Play Strategy which states EDDC would provide a flagship play site in each of its towns. This was seconded and was carried on voting for inclusion to recommend forward to Cabinet.

RECOMMEND to Cabinet:

1. that the following bids be included in the Capital Programme:
 - a. Exmouth SANG for £1,580k in 2025/26 as forward funding in advance of securing funding from CIL and proportionate funding from Teignbridge District Council and Exeter City Council through the Habitat Regulations Executive Committee;
 - b. Lighting upgrade for parks and gardens across the District for £75k;
 - c. HRA Higher Brook Meadow replacement of play provision for £120k subject to transfer to General Fund;
 - d. Phear Park play area for £200k for 2025/26;
 - e. Events Team electrical outlets upgrade for £30k for 2025/26;
 - f. Recycling and Refuse Fleet requirements for £290k for 2025/26;
 - g. Fluvial works for £320k for 2025/26;
 - h. Exmouth BMP Phase 2 risk budget for £300k for 2025/26;
 - i. Seawall investigations for £30k for 2025/26;
 - j. Beer beach huts decking replacement for £75k for 2025/26;
 - k. Cliff works for £150k for 2025/26;
 - l. Bin replacement in Exmouth (Maer) for £20k for 2025/26;
 - m. Recycling and Refuse Depot and Plant for £78k for 2025/26;
 - n. Exmouth Pavilion electrical works for £34,500 for 2025/26;
 - o. Ocean Building terrace floor works for £55,500 for 2025/26 subject to being liable for works with delegated authority to the PH Finance, Director of Finance and Assistant Director Place, Assets and Commercialisation to agree to action if required;
 - p. Flooring works OSM and Honiton Leisure Centres for £72,500 for 2025/26 subject to confirmation on dual-site contribution;
 - q. Play equipment replacement for £50k for 2025/26;
 - r. Internal decorations and repairs for various LED buildings for £33,500 for 2025/26 and £33,500 for 2026/27 subject to confirmation on dual-site contribution;
 - s. Manor Gardens drainage for £75k for 2025/26;

- t. Home Safeguard alarms for £465,810 for 2025/26;
 - u. UV Filtering for Exmouth, Honiton and Sidmouth pools for £88,500 for 2025/26;
 - a. Manor Pavilion roofing works for £15k for 2025/26 and £161,500 for 2026/27;
 - b. Swim pool underwater works for Exmouth, Honiton & Sidmouth for £60k for 2025/26;
 - c. External decorations and repairs for various corporate buildings for £153,500 for 2025/26; £153,500 for 2026/27; and £153,500 for 2027/28;
 - d. Cranbrook flagship play provision for £150k for 2025/26.
2. That the following bids put forward for inclusion are **not** supported at this time:
- a. Normal Lockyer structural repairs for £157,500 for 2025/26 and £7,500 for 2026/27. This was deferred to permit further discussions between the Council and the Norman Lockyer Observatory Society;
 - b. Exmouth Pavilion toilet works for £61,900 for 2025/26 and £67,600 for 2026/27. This was deferred for later consideration as part of the wider consideration of the Leisure Strategy;
 - c. Glen Goyle footpath for £30k for 2025/26. This was deferred with a request made for officers to explore discussion with local stakeholders on funding.

Attendance List

Councillors present:

P Arnott
I Barlow
M Goodman
S Hawkins (Chair)
P Hayward
J Heath
N Hookway
S Jackson
G Jung
D Ledger
J Loudoun
T Olive
M Rixson

Councillors also present (for some or all the meeting)

K Bloxham
C Brown
J Brown
R Collins
P Faithfull

Officers in attendance:

Tom Buxton-Smith, Engineering Projects Manager
Tim Child, Assistant Director Place, Assets & Commercialisation
Caitlin Davey, Events Officer
Simon Davey, Director of Finance
Andrew Hancock, Assistant Director StreetScene
Naomi Harnett, Corporate Lead (Interim) – Major Projects & Programmes
Tracy Hendren, Chief Executive
Lou Hodges, Recycling & Waste - Service Manager
John Hudson, Accountant
Paul Osborne, Green Infrastructure Project Officer

Jorge Pineda-Langford, Principal Building Surveyor, Property & FM
Catrin Stark, Director of Housing and Health
John Symes, Finance Manager
Melanie Wellman, Director of Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Andrew Wood, Director of Place

Councillor apologies:

M Hall

Chair

Date: