

Date of Meeting 10 December 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/a

Exmouth Placemaking Plan Update

Report summary:

The Draft Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront was considered at the PETS meeting of July 31st 2024. The work to conclude the Placemaking Plan prior to Summer 2025 is underway and Stakeholder Mapping is being undertaken to allow Stakeholder Workshops to be undertaken in early 2025 to inform the revisions to the Placemaking Plan. A programme has been prepared which shows the timescales and activities associated with concluding and adopting the Placemaking Plan.

In parallel with the Placemaking Plan, work is progressing in regard to Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens on Exmouth seafront, however, the scope of the works has been amended to ensure a robust piece of concept design work which can be advanced into detailed design, should funding become available.

This report seeks to update Members in regard to the work on the Placemaking Plan and the strategy to adoption along with an overview of the current status in regard to the Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

PETS Group to note this progress report.

Reason for recommendation:

This report outlines the progress made to date in developing the strategy and approach for the Exmouth Placemaking Plan.

The report also provides an update regarding the works for Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens.

Officer: Naomi Harnett – Corporate Lead – Major Projects and Programmes / Rachel Papworth – Interim 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

All work undertaken is assessed in accordance with organisations Equality and Diversity Plans, Policy or Values Statements.

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk; All work has been instructed to incorporate low carbon, low maintenance and sustainable design options. Considerations around quality green and open space are also encouraged together with opportunities to incorporate Biodiversity.

Links to background information Draft Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Presentation 23 January, 2024

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

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

1. Exmouth Placemaking Plan

- 1.1. The Draft Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront was considered at the PETS meeting of 31st July 2024. At this meeting it was identified that the Placemaking Plan required refinement, with consultation responses along with other factors used to shape this process.
- 1.2. Following this meeting Officers have reviewed the Placemaking Plan and considered an approach to refining the plan and considering how this process could support the future delivery. This included workshop sessions with EDDC and ETC Officers to undertake an initial review of projects. This work has informed the development of a programme to review the Placemaking Plan, with a clear brief for consultants WSP.
- 1.3. A programme has now been developed to set out the approach and process to revising the Placemaking Plan for adoption in Summer 2025. The programme for adoption involves a thorough review of projects proposed by the Placemaking Plan, with a series of workshops planned to support this process.
- 1.4. As part of this work to support the Placemaking Plan, a Stakeholder Mapping exercise will be undertaken to ensure that all key stakeholders have been engaged in the development of the Placemaking Plan, including proposed amendments. The identified stakeholders will be invited to the planned workshops, with progress updates provided to PETS meetings.

- 1.5. The Stakeholder Mapping exercise will also support the identification of the group that will support the implementation of the various projects within the Placemaking Plan post adoption.
- 1.6. A revised programme for the adoption of the Placemaking Plan has been prepared (See Appendix A).

2. UKSPF Feasibility Studies

- 2.1. In order to demonstrate momentum and progress, the PETS meeting on 9 September 2024 recommended that:
“Agree that the currently approved UKSPF budget be used to develop feasibility options for Queens Drive and Beach Gardens – the total budget being ~£45k (initial design briefs are shown at Appendix A). This is already provided within the approved budget.”
- 2.2. Work has advanced to deliver this recommendation and realise the opportunity presented through the UKSPF Funding. UKSPF have offered support to prepare a feasibility study on the Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens as defined in the Draft Placemaking Plan. The funding enables continued momentum and demonstrates progress in the practical delivery of the Plan.
- 2.3. Whilst a brief for this work was previously prepared, this has now been reconsidered to ensure that the output offers a deliverable feasibility study. The scope of the study now includes a thorough review of the Planning Policy setting together with surveys and constraints analysis to inform a number of options which will be developed into one concept design solution. This will ensure that the output of the feasibility study will be coordinated with the wider Exmouth Placemaking Plan.
- 2.4. The procurement exercise for the UKSPF funded project that commenced in August 2024 has been aborted with all bidders notified of this outcome during w/b 25 November 2024. The revised brief for this work will be issued w/b 2 December 2024 through a procurement framework to provide greater certainty on timescale and cost of the work.
- 2.5. The timeline for the completion of this work is 31st March 2025.

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.