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## Exmouth Placemaking Plan Update

### Report summary:

The Draft Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront was considered at the PETS meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024. The work to conclude the Placemaking Plan prior to Summer 2025 is underway and a Governance Strategy which provides Stakeholder Mapping has been undertaken to allow Stakeholder Workshops to be undertaken after the County Elections in May. This Governance Strategy will ensure that the correct parties are engaged and able to inform the revisions to the Placemaking Plan.

A Delivery Strategy has been prepared which shows the timescales and activities associated with concluding and adopting the Placemaking Plan, this shows a slight delay from the last PETS Report due to challenges associated with the engagement of WSP, the Consultant delivering the work.

Work is progressing well in regard to Queens Drive Space and Beach Gardens on Exmouth seafront. On the 29<sup>th</sup> January, the appointed design consultants presented six initial design options at a members workshop. The preferred two options (one each for Beach Gardens and Queens Drive Space) are now being developed in more detail, along with some outline costs. Work on the two designs should be completed by the end of March.

This report seeks to update Members in regard to the work on the Placemaking Plan, the Governance Strategy 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 to allow the next stage of this work to be brought forward.

The report provides an update in regard to the Governance Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement to be delivered as a result of all works associated with the Placemaking Plan.

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

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

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## **1. Exmouth Placemaking Plan**

- 1.1. The Draft Placemaking Plan for Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront was considered at the PETS meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> 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 the July 2024 meeting, Officers reviewed the Placemaking Plan and considered an approach to refining the plan and considering how this report could support the future delivery of projects within Exmouth. This process included workshop sessions with EDDC and ETC Officers to undertake an initial review of projects. This work has informed the development of a revised brief for Consultants WSP to deliver the work.
- 1.3. Prior to the December 2024 PETS meeting, a Delivery Strategy was developed to set out the approach to and process for revising the Placemaking Plan for adoption in Summer 2025. Unfortunately, there have been challenges in engaging with the Consultant, WSP, which has stalled progress over the first quarter of 2025. The Consultant, WSP, have now

entered into dialogue with Officers and it is anticipated that their engagement can commence in earnest, with the Delivery Strategy re-sequenced to ensure that a Placemaking Plan is ready for adoption in Summer 2025. The revised Delivery Strategy for adoption involves a thorough review of projects proposed by the Placemaking Plan, with a series of workshops planned to support this process. The updated Delivery Strategy for the Placemaking Plan is attached to this report (see Appendix A).

- 1.4. It is proposed that workshops are diarised after the County Elections at the beginning of May with the Placemaking Plan ready for adoption in Autumn 2025.

## **2. Governance Strategy**

- 2.1. As part of the work to ensure the successful delivery of the Placemaking Plan, a Governance Strategy has been prepared. The Governance Strategy sets out the existing Governance arrangements and then undertakes Stakeholder Mapping to determine the existing levels of interest and influence, before making recommendations for improvements.
- 2.2. The Governance Strategy is attached to this report and makes a number of recommendations, including but not limited to:
- Reviewing the frequency of PETS meetings.
  - Ensuring the correct attendance from all key Stakeholders at PETS meetings.
  - Ensuring that wider Stakeholder Groups are engaged including EDDC Members and Officers, Exmouth Town Council, DCC Members and Officers and Exmouth Chamber of Commerce.
- 2.3. The Stakeholder Mapping undertaken and included within the Governance Strategy identifies the key Stakeholders to be engaged in the Placemaking Plan Workshops which will take place after the County Elections in May.
- 2.4. The Governance Strategy (incorporating Stakeholder Maps) is attached to this report (See Appendix B).

## **3. UKSPF Feasibility Studies**

- 3.1. 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.*
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. A consultant was appointed in December and is progressing well with the concept design work. A Members workshop was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January, where the appointed consultant presented six outline concept designs (three each for Queens Drive Space and Beach

Gardens). Members were able to comment and contribute their thoughts on the six designs. The workshop ended with Members electing two preferred options with a number of amendments. The preferred designs will be further developed along with a schedule of outline costs.

3.4. The timeline for the completion of this work is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

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**Financial implications:**

To be advised by finance.

**Legal implications:**

To be advised by legal.