

Date of Meeting 9 September 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/a

Revised Exmouth Placemaking Plan

Report summary:

At the last PETS meeting held in March 2025, an update for the review of the Draft Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront Placemaking Plan (EPP) was presented to members. The update covered progress with the appointment of WSP in February 2025, to carry out the review, and an anticipated work programme to deliver the review.

Following the PETS meeting in March, WSP carried out an officer workshop held in April 2025, and a PETS/Cabinet Members and Exmouth Town Council (ETC) workshop was held in July 2025, where members were asked to review the proposed projects and carry out a prioritisation exercise.

With the review of the EPP now complete, and a final draft is being presented to PETS.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

That members note the revisions made to the Exmouth Placemaking Plan and receive a further report with the plan for public consultation and adoption.

Reason for recommendation:

This report outlines the progress made to date in reviewing the Exmouth Placemaking Plan and the proposed next steps to support consultation and adoption of this plan.

Officer: Naomi Harnett, Corporate Lead – Major Projects and Programmes
naomi.harnett@eastdevon.gov.uk / Marie Ainsworth, Place & Prosperity Officer
marie.ainsworth@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☒ Assets and Economy
- ☒ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☒ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☐ Environment - Operational
- ☐ Finance
- ☒ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning

☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

Equalities impact Low Impact

If choosing High or Medium level outline the equality considerations here, which should include any particular adverse impact on people with protected characteristics and actions to mitigate these. Link to an equalities impact assessment form using the [equalities form template](#).

Climate change Low Impact

The Exmouth Placemaking Plan seeks to identify changes that contribute to the future climate resilience of Exmouth. Any measures identified in the final document will be reviewed in detail as the measures are implemented.

Risk: Low Risk; The risk has been reviewed for the emerging Exmouth Placemaking Plan (EPP). This is low risk as it is a strategy document. In depth reviews will be undertaken for specific projects emerging from the EPP.

Links to background information [Placemaking in Exmouth Town and Seafront Group March 2025](#)

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
-

Background:

The PETS group met in January 2024 to receive a presentation from WSP on a final draft of the Exmouth Town Centre and Seafront Placemaking Plan (EPP) and the associated Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC), whilst members welcomed the draft plan, they were keen to ensure the public had one final opportunity to be consulted and recommended that a public consultation exercise be carried out as soon as possible.

A public consultation was held online, for two weeks, at the beginning of March 2024, and the results of the consultation was presented to the PETS members in July 2024.

Public comments received were a mixture of both positive and negative, therefore members recommended that; *'(The Exmouth Placemaking Plan – Current Position & Next Steps) allows for refinement of the Placemaking Plan and will enable these latest consultation responses to help inform alongside other factors'*.

WSP were engaged to carry out the review of the draft EPP and SOBC in February 2025, key actions of the associated brief included:

- Conduct meetings as required to deliver a EPP and SOBC fit for adoption
- Conduct 4 in-person workshops
- Conduct 1 consultation session with local residents
- Review and amend the EPP report
- Review and amend the Strategic Outline Business Case
- Reflect the public consultation results (ref [PETS agenda and minutes 31 July 2024](#))

Review of Exmouth Placemaking Plan:

WSP began the review in March, which led to workshop sessions being held with officers from EDDC and DDC in April 2025. The second workshop was held on in July 2025 with Members of PETS, Cabinet, Exmouth Town Council, and Devon County Council. Members took part in an interactive session to review all projects listed in the current Draft EPP. Some additional projects were listed, and some projects were suggested for deletion, in line with public consultation results or land ownership issues. Members were asked to review the inclusion or removal of a projects, to ensure that the EPP contains projects that are deliverable in the short term, within budget constraints.

The results from these workshops alongside the public consultation exercise held in March 2024 have formed the basis for the revised EPP and SOBC.

A final draft of the EPP has been prepared for review. Feedback received during the initial review will be used to finalise the EPP and SOBC.

Public Engagement:

Once members have endorsed a final version of the EPP, a final public engagement exercise will be held in Autumn 2025 for six weeks. In addition to the online engagement via Commonplace, there will be an opportunity for the public to attend an in-person engagement at Exmouth Town Hall (precise dates to be confirmed).

The public will be able to view the final draft EPP and SOBC, there will be a summary of the changes made in line with the previous public consultation exercise and the workshops. Participants will be asked to review projects within each theme and will be invited to agree or disagree with each project, there will also be an opportunity to leave comments regarding priorities if they wish. The adopted version of the EPP will reflect feedback received.

Next Steps:

A PowerPoint and verbal presentation will be delivered by WSP and EDDC officers. PETS members will receive a further report on the EPP and SOBC with details plans for a public engagement exercise to take place in Autumn 2025.

The final draft EPP & SOBC will be shared at members briefings for both Exmouth Town Council and Devon County Council to ensure they both endorse the final draft, this will ensure a joined-up approach moving forwards and will be subject to any changes suggested through comments received during the public engagement.

Financial implications:

The Plan sets a direction, and a range of actions linked to the Plan's objectives. The actions range in cost and complexity as detailed in the report and act as guide to future activities, to be used as a lever to gain external funding or utilising existing Council budgets/resources to most effect. There is no direct request for additional funding at this stage but the Plan can be used to formulate future proposals, which are likely to have financial implications ranging in size that can be considered when presented to Cabinet and Council in light of budget constraints and other priorities, but with the advantage for members to understand where these proposals sit within the overall delivery plan. This will also be true for any successor authority.

Legal implications:

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