

Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

Economy Policy Development Group

Thursday, 10 September 2020 at 5.30 pm
Remote meeting

Next meeting
Thursday, 5 November 2020 at 5.30 pm

Important - this meeting will be conducted and recorded by Zoom only. Please do not attend Phoenix House. The attached Protocol for Remote Meetings explains how this will work.

To join the Zoom Meeting please use the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98005776469?pwd=UEh0TmhYVHh4VkRlY2svaG5wQWlIQT09>

Meeting ID: 980 0577 6469
Passcode: 108907

One tap mobile

08003582817,,98005776469#,,,,,0#,,108907# United Kingdom Toll-free
08000315717,,98005776469#,,,,,0#,,108907# United Kingdom Toll-free

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0 800 358 2817 United Kingdom Toll-free
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Meeting ID: 980 0577 6469
Passcode: 108907

Membership

Cllr J M Downes
Cllr N V Davey
Cllr R J Dolley
Cllr Mrs S Griggs
Cllr B Holdman
Cllr T G Hughes
Cllr D F Pugsley
Cllr R F Radford
Cllr J Wright

AGENDA

Members are reminded of the need to make declarations of interest prior to any discussion which may take place

- 1 **Apologies and Substitute Members**
To receive any apologies for absence and notice of appointment of substitutes.
- 2 **Protocol for Remote Meetings** *(Pages 5 - 10)*
To note the protocol for remote meetings.
- 3 **Public Question Time**
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.
- 4 **Declaration of Interests under the Code of Conduct**
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.
- 5 **Minutes** *(Pages 11 - 16)*
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 16 July 2020.
- 6 **Chairman's Announcements**
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 7 **Performance and Risk Report** *(Pages 17 - 28)*
To receive a report from the Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security providing Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2020-21 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.
- 8 **Financial Monitoring**
To receive a verbal update from the Group Manager for Finance.
- 9 **Covid 19 Economic Response Update** *(Pages 29 - 38)*
To receive a report from the Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration providing members with update information regarding the Growth, Economy & Delivery team's latest COVID19 emergency economic and community response activities. To also update members on the Devon-wide economic recovery work and seek members' endorsement for the current business support and economic recovery activities.
- 10 **Identification of items for future meetings post Covid 19**
Members are asked to note that the following items are already

identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

- Performance and Risk
- Financial Monitoring
- Covid 19 Economic Response Update

Note: (i) At their meeting on 16 July 2020 the Economy PDG requested their focus be on Covid 19 related issues only for the immediate future and that all future items (other than those which must be reported to them statutorily) be deferred until the pandemic ceases to be a priority.

(ii) This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

Stephen Walford

Chief Executive

Wednesday, 2 September 2020

Covid-19 and meetings

The Council will be holding some meetings in the next few weeks, but these will not be in person at Phoenix House until the Covid-19 crisis eases. Instead, the meetings will be held remotely via Zoom and you will be able to join these meetings via the internet. Please see the instructions on each agenda and read the Protocol on Remote Meetings before you join.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk by **no later than 4pm on the day before the meeting**. This will ensure that your name is on the list to speak and will help us ensure that you are not missed – as you can imagine, it is easier to see and manage public speaking when everyone is physically present in the same room. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

If you require any further information, please contact Sarah Lees on:
slees@middevon.gov.uk

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Mid Devon District Council - Remote Meetings Protocol

1. Introduction

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations permit remote attendance in Local Authority meetings.

Remote attendance is permitted as long as certain conditions are satisfied. These include that the Member is able to hear and be heard by the other Members in attendance. Also, being able to hear and be heard by any members of the public entitled to attend the meeting (in line with the public participation scheme). A visual solution is preferred, but audio is sufficient.

This also relates to members of the public attending the meeting also being heard. The regulations are clear that a meeting is not limited to those present in the same place, but includes electronic, digital or virtual locations (internet locations, web addresses or conference call telephone numbers).

2. Zoom

Zoom is the system the Council will be using for the time-being to host remote / virtual meetings. It has functionality for audio, video, and screen sharing and you do not need to be a member of the Council or have a Zoom account to join a Zoom meeting.

3. Access to documents

Member Services will publish the agenda and reports for committee meetings on the Council's website in line with usual practice. Paper copies of agendas will only be made available to those who have previously requested this and also the Chair of a virtual meeting.

If any other Member wishes to have a paper copy, they must notify the Member Services before the agenda is published, so they can arrange to post directly – it may take longer to organise printing, so as much notice as possible is appreciated. Printed copies will not be available for inspection at the Council's offices and this requirement was removed by the Regulations.

4. Setting up the Meeting

This will be done by Member Services. They will send a meeting request via Outlook which will appear in Members' Outlook calendar. Members will receive a URL link to click on to join the meeting.

5. Public Access

Members of the public will be able to use a weblink and standard internet browser. This will be displayed on the front of the agenda.

6. Joining the Meeting

Councillors must join the meeting early (i.e. at least five minutes before the scheduled start time) in order to avoid disrupting or delaying the meeting. Councillors should remember that they may be visible and heard by others, including the public, during this time.

7. Starting the Meeting

At the start of the meeting, the Member Services Officer will check all required attendees are present (viewing the participant list) and that there is a quorum. If there is no quorum, the meeting will be adjourned. This applies if, during the meeting, it becomes inquorate for whatever reason.

The Chair will remind all Members, Officers and the Public that **all microphones will be automatically muted**, unless and until they are speaking. This prevents background noise, coughing etc. which is intrusive and disruptive during the meeting. The Hosting Officer will enforce this and will be able to turn off participant mics when they are not in use. Members would then need to turn their microphones back on when they wish to speak.

8. Public Participation

Participation by members of the public will continue in line with the Council's current arrangements as far as is practicable. However, to ensure that the meeting runs smoothly and that no member of the public is missed, all those who wish to speak must register **by 4pm on the day before the meeting**. They should email their full name to Committee@middevon.gov.uk. If they wish to circulate their question in advance, that would be helpful.

At public question time, the Chair will invite the public by name to speak at the appropriate time. At that point, all public microphones will be enabled. This means that, to avoid private conversations being overheard, no member of the public should speak until it is their turn and they should then refrain from speaking until the end of public question time, when all microphones will be muted again. In the normal way, the public should state their full name, the agenda item they wish to speak to **before** they proceed with their question.

Unless they have registered, a member of the public will not be called to speak.

If a member of the public wishes to ask a question but cannot attend the meeting for whatever reason, there is nothing to prevent them from emailing members of the Committee with their question, views or concern in advance. However, if they do so, it would be helpful if a copy could be sent to Committee@middevon.gov.uk as well.

9. Declaration of Interests

Councillors should declare their interests in the usual way. A councillor with a disclosable pecuniary interest is required to leave the room. For remote meetings, this means that they will be moved to a break-out room for the duration

of this item and will only be invited back into the meeting when discussion on the relevant item has finished.

10. The Meeting and Debate

The Council will not be using the Chat function.

The Chair will call each member of the Committee to speak - the Chair can choose to do this either by calling (i) each member in turn and continuing in this way until no member has anything more to add, or (ii) only those members who indicate a wish to speak using the 'raise hand' function within Zoom. This choice will be left entirely to the Chair's discretion depending on how they wish to manage the meeting and how comfortable they are using the one or the other approach.

Members are discouraged from physically raising their hand in the video to indicate a wish to speak – it can be distracting and easily missed/misinterpreted. No decision or outcome will be invalidated by a failure of the Chair to call a member to speak – the remote management of meetings is intensive and it is reasonable to expect that some requests will be inadvertently missed from time to time.

When referring to reports or making specific comments, Councillors should refer to the report and page number, so that all Members of the Committee have a clear understanding of what is being discussed at all times.

11. Voting

On a recommendation or motion being put to the vote, the Chair will go round the virtual room and ask each member entitled to vote to say whether they are for or against or whether they abstain. The Member Services Officer will announce the numerical result of the vote.

12. Meeting Etiquette Reminder

- Mute your microphone – you will still be able to hear what is being said.
- Only speak when invited to do so by the Chair.
- Speak clearly and please state your name each time you speak
- If you're referring to a specific page, mention the page number.

13. Part 2 Reports and Debate

There are times when council meetings are not open to the public, when confidential, or "exempt" issues – as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 – are under consideration. It is important to ensure that there are no members of the public at remote locations able to hear or see the proceedings during such meetings.

Any Councillor in remote attendance must ensure that there is no other person present – a failure to do so could be in breach of the Council's Code of Conduct.

If there are members of the public and press listening to the open part of the meeting, then the Member Services Officer will, at the appropriate time, remove them to a break-out room for the duration of that item. They can then be invited back in when the business returns to Part 1.

Please turn off smart speakers such as Amazon Echo (Alexa), Google Home or smart music devices. These could inadvertently record phone or video conversations, which would not be appropriate during the consideration of confidential items.

14. Interpretation of standing orders

Where the Chair is required to interpret the Council's Constitution and procedural rules in light of the requirements of remote participation, they may take advice from the Member Services Officer or Monitoring Officer prior to making a ruling. However, the Chair's decision shall be final.

15. Disorderly Conduct by Members

If a Member behaves in the manner as outlined in the Constitution (persistently ignoring or disobeying the ruling of the Chair or behaving irregularly, improperly or offensively or deliberately obstructs the business of the meeting), any other Member may move 'That the member named be not further heard' which, if seconded, must be put to the vote without discussion.

If the same behaviour persists and a Motion is approved 'that the member named do leave the meeting', then they will be removed as a participant by the Member Services Officer.

16. Disturbance from Members of the Public

If any member of the public interrupts a meeting the Chair will warn them accordingly. If that person continues to interrupt or disrupt proceedings the Chair will ask the Member Services Officer to remove them as a participant from the meeting.

17. After the meeting

Please ensure you leave the meeting promptly by clicking on the red phone button to hang up.

18. Technical issues – meeting management

If the Chair, the Hosting Officer or the Member Services Officer identifies a problem with the systems from the Council's side, the Chair should either declare a recess while the fault is addressed or, if the fault is minor (e.g. unable to bring up a presentation), it may be appropriate to move onto the next item of business in order to progress through the agenda. If it is not possible to address the fault and the meeting becomes inquorate through this fault, the meeting will be adjourned until such time as it can be reconvened.

If the meeting was due to determine an urgent matter or one which is time-limited and it has not been possible to continue because of technical difficulties, the Chief Executive, Leader and relevant Cabinet Member, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, shall explore such other means of taking the decision as may be permitted by the Council's constitution.

For members of the public and press who experience problems during the course of a meeting e.g. through internet connectivity or otherwise, the meeting will not be suspended or adjourned.

19. Technical issues – Individual Responsibility (Members and Officers)

Many members and officers live in places where broadband speeds are poor, but technical issues can arise at any time for a number of reasons. The following guidelines, if followed, should help reduce disruption. Separate guidance will be issued on how to manage connectivity – this paragraph focusses on the procedural steps. Joining early will help identify problems – see paragraph 6.

- Join public Zoom meetings by telephone if there is a problem with the internet. Before all meetings, note down or take a photograph of the front page of the agenda which has the necessary telephone numbers. Annex 1 to this protocol contains a brief step-by-step guide to what to expect
- Consider an alternative location from which to join the meeting, but staying safe and keeping confidential information secure. For officers, this may mean considering whether to come into the office, subject to this being safe and practicable (childcare etc.)
- If hosting a meeting via Zoom (briefings etc.), consider creating an additional host when setting up the meeting. The additional host can step in if the main host has problems – remember that without a host, the meeting cannot close and any information on the screens will remain on view
- Have to hand the telephone number of another member or officer expected in the meeting – and contact them if necessary to explain the problem in connecting
- Officers should have an 'understudy' or deputy briefed and on standby to attend and present as needed (and their telephone numbers to hand)
- For informal meetings and as a last resort, members and officers may be able to call another member or officer in the meeting who can put the 'phone on loudspeaker for all to hear – not ideal, but it ensures some degree of participation and continuity
- Member Services will hold a list of contact details for all senior officers

Phone only access to zoom meetings

(Before you start **make sure you know the Meeting ID and the Meeting Password**) – Both of these are available on the agenda for the meeting

Call the toll free number either on the meeting agenda or on the Outlook appointment (this will start with 0800 --- ----)

(Ensure your phone is on 'speaker' if you can)

A message will sound saying *“Welcome to Zoom, enter your meeting ID followed by the hash button”*

- **Enter Meeting ID followed by #**

Wait for next message which will say *“If you are a participant, please press hash to continue”*

- **Press #**

Wait for next message which will say *“Enter Meeting Password followed by hash”*

- **Enter 6 digit Meeting Password followed by #**

Wait for the following two messages:

“You are currently being held in a waiting room, the Host will release you from 'hold' in a minute”

Wait.....

“You have now entered the meeting”

Important notes for participating in meetings

Press ***6** to toggle between **'mute' and 'unmute'** (you should always ensure you are muted until you are called upon to speak)

If you wish to speak you can **'raise your hand'** by pressing ***9**. Wait for the Chairman to call you to speak. The Host will lower your hand after you have spoken. Make sure you mute yourself afterwards.

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ECONOMY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on 16 July 2020 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors

J M Downes (Chairman)
N V Davey, R J Dolley, Mrs S Griggs,
D F Pugsley, R F Radford and A Wyer

Apology

Councillor

T G Hughes

Also Present

Councillors

A White and B G J Warren

Also Present

Officers

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Jenny Clifford (Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration), Adrian Welsh (Group Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery), John Bodley-Scott (Economic Development Team Leader), Catherine Yandle (Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security), Rob Fish (Principal Accountant), Dean Emery (Group Manager for Revenues and Benefits) and Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer)

12 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Cllr T G Hughes had sent his apologies for the meeting.

13 **PROTOCOL FOR REMOTE MEETINGS**

The protocol for remote meetings was noted.

14 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

15 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no interests declared under this item.

16 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2020 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

17 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (00:02:53)**

The Chairman stated that 12 chairs had recently been placed in Crediton Town Square and these had made an enormous difference in both providing a place to sit

for the public and helping to create a convivial atmosphere. He hoped the same sort of initiative could be undertaken in the other towns.

18 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT (00:03:36)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from the Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security providing it with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2020/2021 as well as providing an update on key business risks.

The contents of the report were outlined with particular reference to the following:

- This was the first set of data measured against the new Corporate Plan.
- Some measures had been affected by the impact of the pandemic and the Council having to reallocate resources. One of these measures was in relation to empty shops and the vacancy count. This had not been done in April but it was hoped a full shop survey would be undertaken by the end of July 2020. However, data had been added about the town centre units owned by the Council.
- The new Corporate Plan aims in relation to this Group were referred to.
- Several risks falling under the umbrella of this Group had increased in severity as a result of the pandemic. These included:
 - Economic Development Service
 - Economic Strategy
 - Infrastructure Delivery

It would be important for this Group to monitor these increased risks and the mitigating actions at each meeting going forwards and to also think about how data in relation to these risks is presented. It was recognised that the full implications of the pandemic in relation to these risks would not be known for some time.

- This report reflected the current position but there was still a lot of uncertainty. The situation regarding the current economic position in both Mid Devon and Devon as a whole was constantly changing. It was not possible to see at the current time the impact of positive interventions.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed minutes.

19 **REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUTTURN 2019/20 (00:15:00)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from Deputy Chief Executive (S151) presenting the revenue and capital outturn figures for the financial year 2019/20. This report had been discussed by the Cabinet on 9th July 2020 and the recommendations within it approved.

The contents of the report were outlined in addition to a brief update on the financial position as a result of Covid 19:

- The Council had suffered significant losses in terms of income since the start of the pandemic and lockdown particularly in the areas of leisure and car parking.
- The various tranches of funding compensation from the Government were explained which included an income protection scheme.

- The authority had ended the year with a £232k deficit which had been funded from the General Fund Reserve. The areas that related to the Economy PDG amounted to £133k and there were three main areas that had contributed to this variance from budget. These included the Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration Project, units in relation to Fore Street, Tiverton and Market Walk, Tiverton. There had been a loss of rental income from the Londis and Tony Pryce units. However, negotiations were underway to secure a new tenant at one unit and options for remodelling another unit were being considered.
- The Group requested that more information be provided to it in relation to the Fore Street units and the flats above as well as the old 'Curiosity' shop and whether anything could be done to improve its visual appearance.
- The effect of out of town supermarkets on town centres. It was explained when any such development proposals came forward a retail impact assessment was undertaken and the impact on town centres was assessed within the planning system.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed minutes.

20 COVID 19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE UPDATE (00:29:33)

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from the Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration providing it with updated information regarding the Growth, Economy & Delivery team's COVID 19 emergency economic and community response activities. It also informed Members of the Devon wide economic recovery work and sought Members endorsement for the current business support and economic recovery activities.

The contents of the report were outlined with particular reference to the following:

- The situation in terms of the effects and response to the pandemic was constantly changing and there had been a number of developments since the report for the meeting had been published.
- Covid 19 had affected different businesses in different ways. The easing of lockdown restrictions had been welcome news for the tourism industry in Devon and Cornwall but it was important not to become complacent.
- The number of businesses assisted and the amounts provided, as outlined in the report, was reiterated.
- Community support had continued with vulnerable people required to shield being supported with food parcels. This would be scaled down at the end of July once these people were no longer required to shield. However, efforts would be made to ensure that vulnerable people had alternative arrangements in place to support their needs after 1 August.
- The Council had worked closely with CHAT who had received 5 times more enquiries for help with food than normal.
- Emergency community hardship grants, funded by Devon County Council, had also been issued although the sums of money involved had been small. It was expected that people would need considerable financial help in the coming months as the full effect of the pandemic and loss of income impacted residents of Mid Devon.
- An action plan in relation to the re-opening of town centres had been considered by the Cabinet on 9th July. The plan included informational and

directional signage as well as providing key information to the public as they move through town centres. The Council would be updating its messaging as a result of having to wear face coverings in all shops as from 24th July.

- The re-opening of café's, restaurants and pubs on the 4th July had presented challenges to business owners but the town councils had been very helpful in providing essential support and information at very short notice. Specific thanks were extended to the Clerk at Tiverton Town Council who had been very helpful in organising a webinar for local traders. This had been very well received. Similar support and assistance had also been provided by Crediton and Cullompton Town Councils in conjunction with the Clerk of Tiverton Town Council.
- 'Love your Town Centre' funds had been distributed. Crediton Town Council had used this to provide the seating referred to by the Chairman earlier in the meeting.
- Planning for recovery was taking place on a number of different levels. The Group were referred to the 'Team Devon Covid 19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus'. This was a lobbying document setting out how the region could benefit from funding opportunities. It focussed on 4 key areas which were, businesses, places, people and opportunities. A number of action points were listed which the partnership were working hard to implement. The document provided a good basis for the recovery plan and had achieved effective collaborative discussion in its production. It also had support from local MP's. The Group considered that what was contained within the document was very promising but also hoped its aspirations were realistic and forthcoming.
- The context of the Discretionary Grant Scheme was explained. The Council had been able to use 5% of the total grant allocated to it under the national scheme to help businesses under this scheme. The Council was doing all it could to access any unspent monies in the national scheme to further support local businesses in Mid Devon.

Note: * Report previously circulated; copy attached to the signed minutes.

21 **HYDRO MILLS PROJECT - TIVERTON WEIR (01:03:00)**

The Group received a verbal update from the Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration regarding the Tiverton Weir Hydro Mills Project. This included the following information:

- Extensive discussion had taken place with the Environment Agency in order to progress this project.
- A report would be presented to the Cabinet on 6th August seeking not only support for the project but also an agreement to proceed with a planning application. Cabinet approval to fund the project as part of the capital programme would also be sought.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- How this project aligned with the Council's commitment to climate change targets and the eventual aspiration to become carbon neutral.
- Other mill projects within the district and how they could be progressed. The Group requested to be kept updated.

22 **START TIME OF MEETINGS (01:11:00)**

The Group **AGREED** to continue to meet at 5.30pm on Thursday evenings.

23 **IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01:16:00)**

The Group requested that its attention be focussed on Covid 19 economic issues only, for the immediate future, but also felt that it was important not to lose sight of other important issues. Therefore it was suggested that the wording of this agenda item be amended for the time being to state 'future items for discussion *post* Covid 19'.

(The meeting ended at 6.50 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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ECONOMY PDG 10 SEPTEMBER 2020

PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

Cabinet Member Cllr Richard Chesterton
Responsible Officer Catherine Yandle, Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security

Reason for Report: To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2020-21 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the PDG reviews the Performance Indicators and Risks that are outlined in this report and feeds back any areas of concern to the Cabinet.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Corporate Plan priorities and targets are effectively maintained through the use of appropriate performance indicators and regular monitoring.

Financial Implications: None identified

Legal Implications: None identified

Risk Assessment: If performance is not monitored we may fail to meet our corporate and local service plan targets or to take appropriate corrective action where necessary. If key business risks are not identified and monitored they cannot be mitigated effectively.

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality issues identified for this report.

Impact on Climate Change: No impacts identified for this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides Members with details of performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for the 2020-21 financial year. **The PDG is invited to suggest measures they would like to see included in the future for consideration.**
- 1.2 Appendix 2 shows the section of the Corporate Risk Register which relates to the Economy Portfolio. See 3.0 below.
- 1.3 Appendix 3 shows the profile of all risks for the Economy at present.
- 1.4 All appendices are produced from the corporate Service Performance And Risk management system (SPAR).

2.0 Performance

- 2.1 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Identify strategic and tactical interventions to create economic and community confidence and pride in the places we live. This includes a continued focus on Town Centre Regeneration: Empty shops**; it should be noted that the vacancy count is done at the start of each quarter but it was not done in April due to Covid 19. We are looking at changing the information to reflect all empty commercial properties rather than just shops. Your comments on this would be welcomed.
- 2.2 Data on units owned by MDDC has now been added to Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Work with local stakeholders to initiate delivery of the new garden village at Culm**: Engagement with the various stakeholder groups has been re-started including 3 Stakeholder Forum events on the subjects of Building with Nature, held on 11 August, Connecting the Culm project (9 September) and Transport and Future Mobility (October/ November).
- 2.4 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Work with developers and DCC to deliver strategic cycle routes between settlements and key destinations**: Walking and cycling provision needs to be prioritised as set out in the Culm garden village vision and objectives.

3.0 Risk

- 3.1 Risk reports to committees include strategic risks with a current score of 10 or more in accordance with the Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy. (See Appendix 2)
- 3.2 Operational risk assessments are job specific and flow through to safe systems of work. These risks go to the Health and Safety Committee biannually with escalation to committees where serious concerns are raised.
- 3.3 The Corporate risk register is regularly reviewed by Group Managers and Leadership Team (LT) and updated as required.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 4.1 That the PDG reviews the performance indicators and risks for 2020-21 that are outlined in this report and feeds back any areas of concern to the Cabinet.

Contact for more Information: Catherine Yandle, Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security ext 4975

Circulation of the Report: Leadership Team and Cabinet Member

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy

Monthly report for 2020-2021
 Arranged by Aims
 Filtered by Aim: Priorities Economy
 For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:

No Data	Well below target	Below target	On target	Above target	Well above target
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* indicates that an entity is linked to the Aim by its parent Service

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy																
Priorities: Economy																
Aims: Improve and regenerate our town centres																
Performance Indicators																
Title	Prev Year (Period)	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Group Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak, Adrian Welsh	
<u>Cullompton Town Centre Masterplan</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak, Adrian Welsh	
<u>West Exe North and South</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	12	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Andrew Busby	(Quarter 1) 92% 1 vacant unit (CY)
<u>Fore St Tiverton</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	2	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Andrew Busby	(Quarter 1) 67% 1 unit vacant (CY)
<u>Market Walk Tiverton</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	13	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Andrew Busby	(Quarter 1) 87% 2 vacant, 1 under offer (CY)
<u>Tiverton Other</u>	n/a		n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Andrew Busby	(Quarter 1) 100% (CY)
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (TIVERTON)</u>	(1/4)	18	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 1) Count not done in

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy																
Priorities: Economy																
Aims: Improve and regenerate our town centres																
Performance Indicators																
Title	Prev Year (Period)	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Group Manager	Officer Notes
																Q1 due to covid 19 (CY)
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (CREDITON)</u>	(1/4)	8	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (CULLOMPTON)</u>	(1/4)	8	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		Adrian Welsh	

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Report for 2020-2021

For Economy - Cllr Graeme Barnell Portfolio

Filtered by Flag: Include: * Corporate Risk Register

For MDDC - Services

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Risk Status: Low

Not Including Risk Child Projects records, Including Mitigating Action records

Key to Performance Status:

Mitigating Action:	Milestone Missed	Behind schedule	In progress	Completed and evaluated	No Data available
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Risks:	No Data (0+)	High (15+)	Medium (6+)	Low (1+)
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Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Commercial Land supply Insufficient diversity in commercial land provided to meet changing business needs

Service: Planning

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
In progress	Business and landowner engagement	Continued brokering of sites and identification of creative opportunities to meet business demands can be very effective in addressing this risk	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	19/08/2020	Positive(2)
Behind schedule	Incubator/Flexible workspace project	This project should help identify opportunities to help the delivery of new flexible workspace	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	19/08/2020	Poor - action required(3)
In progress	Plan for recovery	Develop a recovery plan/ strategy in conjunction with partners	Jenny Clifford	12/05/2020	19/08/2020	Positive(2)
Current Status: Medium (10)		Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very High		Current Risk Likelihood: 2 - Low		

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Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Service Manager: Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak

Risk: Economic Development Service The macro economic position might necessitate a reactive response, impacting on the Council's resourcing and reducing its ability to deploy resources as planned.

Service: Growth, Economy and Development

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
Completed and evaluated	Distribution and processing of Gov business support funding.	To assist businesses through these difficult initial stages.	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	19/08/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Hardship funding	To support individuals/households but also crucial for self employed and furloughed staff	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	19/08/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Recovery plans	Work underway to develop recovery plans to assist positive impacts on local economy.	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	19/08/2020	Positive(2)
Current Status: High (25)		Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very High		Current Risk Likelihood: 5 - Very High		
Service Manager: Adrian Welsh						

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Economic Strategy Failure to deliver projects/outcomes in Economic Strategy

Service: Growth, Economy and Development

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
In progress	Continue to seek out existing and new funding opportunities	To assist in ensuring adequate funding for delivery.	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	partnership working	Continue to work closely with delivery partners to gain advance warning of difficulties so as to seek to mitigate	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Project Management	Continue rigorous project management, monitoring and reporting	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Recovery Plans	Recovery Plans will be put in place to aid recovery.	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	12/05/2020	Positive (2)
In progress	Review and re-prioritisation	Part of review of projects for Year 2 actions. This will consider maximising investment and prioritising officer time.	Adrian Welsh	31/01/2020	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
Current Status: High (20)		Current Risk Severity: 4 - High		Current Risk Likelihood: 5 - Very High		
Service Manager: Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak						

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Funding Insufficient resources (including funding) to deliver growth aspirations of Corporate Plan.

Service: Growth, Economy and Development

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
In progress	Lobbying	Officers will continue to review funding opportunities and seek opportunities to work closely with local partners and the HotSWLEP to seek additional funding support for key infrastructure.	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	12/05/2020	Positive (2)
In progress	Officers have reprioritised work programmes to explore new funding opportunities	End of European funding sources	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)

Current Status: High (16) Current Risk Severity: 4 - High Current Risk Likelihood: 4 - High
Service Manager: Adrian Welsh

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Infrastructure delivery Inability to deliver, or delay in delivering, key transport infrastructure to unlock planned growth

Service: Growth, Economy and Development

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
In progress	Partnership working	Close working with delivery partners to attempt to mitigate risks.	Adrian Welsh	12/05/2020	12/05/2020	Positive (2)
In progress	Partnership working with infrastructure providers and statutory bodies	Reduce risk of delays and communication.	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	target funding opportunities	To seek to bring forward delivery	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
Current Status: High (16) Current Risk Severity: 4 - High Current Risk Likelihood: 4 - High						
Service Manager: Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak						

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Tiverton Pannier Market Failure to maximise the economic potential of Tiverton Pannier Market

Service: Growth, Economy and Development

Mitigating Action records

Mitigation Status	Mitigating Action	Info	Responsible Person	Date Identified	Last Review Date	Current Effectiveness of Actions
In progress	Continue to retain and prioritise market budget	To ensure most efficient use of resources	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	continue to work with traders on promotion	To increase footfall.	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Implement and review market strategy	Implementation of strategy will increase market's financial success and help fulfill its function as a key driver for the town.	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Positive(2)
In progress	Masterplan Implementation	To realise benefits from the Masterplan to increase visibility of market and increase footfall.	Adrian Welsh	10/06/2019	12/05/2020	Poor - action required(3)

Current Status: High (16) Current Risk Severity: 4 - High Current Risk Likelihood: 4 - High

Service Manager: Jenny Clifford, Tristan Peak

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Risk Matrix Economy Appendix 3

Report
 For Economy - Cllr Graeme Barnell Portfolio
 For MDDC - Services
 Current settings

Risk Likelihood	5 - Very High	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	1 Risk	1 Risk
	4 - High	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	3 Risks	No Risks
	3 - Medium	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	2 Risks	No Risks
	2 - Low	No Risks	No Risks	1 Risk	No Risks	1 Risk
	1 - Very Low	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks	No Risks
		1 - Very Low	2 - Low	3 - Medium	4 - High	5 - Very High
		Risk Severity				

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**ECONOMY PDG
10TH SEPTEMBER 2020**

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

COVID 19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE UPDATE

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Richard Chesterton

Responsible Officer: Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration

Reason for Report: To continue to provide members with update information regarding the Growth, Economy & Delivery team's latest COVID19 emergency economic and community response activities, to update members on the Devon-wide economic recovery work and seek members' endorsement for the current business support and economic recovery activities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted and that members endorse the current support and economic recovery activities set out in this report.

Financial Implications: It is clear that there have been extreme impacts on the local economy, individual businesses, and the wider community as a result of the pandemic and the resulting lockdown. Devon County Council modelling evidence suggests that the Mid Devon economy will retract by around 10% (roughly 3% more than the rest of the UK) and it anticipates a 5-year recovery journey. These problems could be exacerbated by potentially leaving the EU without a deal.

The Government's emergency financial response has been to make grant funding available to help support businesses. Many of these grants have been administered by the District Council. At the time of writing this report approximately £21 million has been distributed to local businesses. This includes over £1 million which has also been made available in the form of the Discretionary grant scheme. In addition £73,686 has been granted by the Government to this Council through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to implement a range of measures that will allow for the safe reopening of high streets and to also provide business advice and support in terms of the same. These are explained in more detail later in the report.

Budget and Policy Framework: The focus of this report is on the wider economic impacts rather than on how the Council's own budget and income have been affected. These latter issues will be addressed within financial reports to Cabinet as part of a mid-year budget update.

There will be a need to review Economic Strategies as a result of the pandemic. A future report will update members on any suggested changes to policy. The recently published Devon Economic Recovery Prospectus does help in providing a direction of travel for future review; however Officers are currently awaiting the production of the associated implementation plans before undertaking any substantive strategic review of our policies. In the meantime the current economic strategies will inform the focus of some of the recovery plans read in conjunction with the Devon Economic Recovery Prospectus. Importantly there is a high degree of synergy

between the themes in our existing Economic Strategy and those emerging through the Devon-wide recovery work.

Legal Implications: There are no legal implications arising from this information report.

Risk Assessment: The impact on the economy has been significant. Ongoing work will be focussed on mitigating risk to aid recovery.

In considering measures to support the safe reopening of the high streets within the District as a result of COVID-19, a risk assessment led approach has purposely been followed. Risk assessments have been carried out for all towns within the district incorporating a series of on-site assessments. Guidance and advice on safety in a post COVID-19 world has been at the core of this risk assessment process and is vital to ensure that risk is reduced and customer and trader confidence restored.

Advice has also been provided on our website to assist businesses in undertaking their own risk assessments before reopening.

Equality Impact Assessment: There have been unequitable impacts of the lockdown with it being felt greatest by many economically vulnerable individuals and households. There have been huge impacts on the medically vulnerable as a result of the need to be shielded from the wider community.

A range of initiatives have been put in place to seek to reduce the impact on the economically and medically vulnerable such as the The Mid Devon Covid 19 Support Fund (Devon County Council funded) and the work of the Shielding Hub.

Recovery impacts need to consider equality issues carefully. Recovery plans and any changes to Economic Strategies will need to be the subject of Equality Impact Assessments.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The work of the Growth, Economy and Delivery team supports the Corporate Plan priority strand: the economy, and specifically:

- Developing and delivering regeneration plans for our town centres
- Economic opportunities
- Economic and community confidence
- Promoting the development of the farming economy and local food production

These objectives have even greater significance following the effects of the COVID19 pandemic.

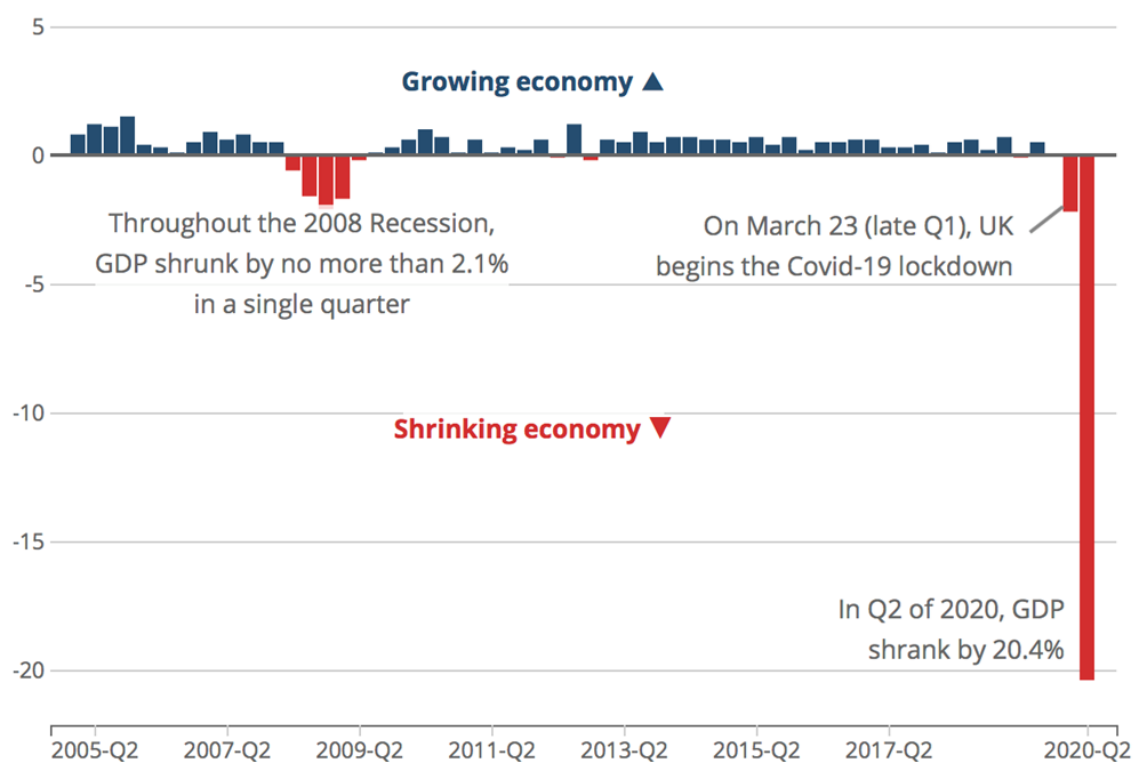
Impact on Climate Change: Putting recovery plans in place to rebuild the local economy will present opportunities to further the climate change agenda, encourage greater use of renewables and support green tech businesses.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the time of writing there were 214 tested cases in Mid Devon and 18 deaths (with a COVID-19 positive test result). There were 1,278 in Devon (excluding Plymouth and Torbay) out of a total population of 802,375. In terms of the national situation, the UK has more than 321,098 confirmed cases and 41,397 deaths (Total deaths within 28 days of a positive test result for COVID-19).

- 1.2 At the time of writing this report data on the Devon County Council website indicates a total of 32 confirmed new cases in Devon in the last 14 days (of which 3 were in Mid Devon), 4 in Torbay, 11 in Plymouth and 16 in Cornwall over the same period.
- 1.3 The effect of the pandemic continues to have an enormous impact on the national economy as the UK has now formally entered a recession, having had two consecutive quarters of economic decline. Between the first and second quarter, the economy has shrunk by 20.4% (as shown in the chart below), the largest decline seen in the UK since quarterly records began.

Figure 1: Quarter on Quarter UK Growth



Source: Office for National Statistics

- 1.4 At the time of writing, the UK is currently predicted to be the 4th worst affected country in the world with a loss of 14% GDP. Whilst it is encouraging that monthly gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 8.7% during June 2020 (on the previous month), it is still 17.2% below February 2020 levels.

Figure 2: Monthly Gross Domestic Product (GDP), seasonally adjusted, UK, Jan 2018 – June 2020



Source: Office for National Statistics – Monthly GDP

- 1.5 At a local level, Devon County Council modelling evidence suggests that the Mid Devon economy will retract by around 10% (roughly 3% more than the rest of the UK) and it anticipates a 5-year recovery journey. The effects of the pandemic continue to have a significant impact on Mid Devon businesses. In terms of resilience, micro and small businesses with premises have had greater protection than some other businesses. This is because many of them have been eligible for Government grants and benefit from the furloughing scheme. These initiatives have enabled many small businesses to cover essential bills during lockdown and keep staff on. However, as these schemes have started to wind down, the effect on the labour market is significant.
- 1.6 The biggest concern for the District is the rise in unemployment. Between March 2020 and July 2020, the claimant count for Mid Devon has risen from 820 claimants to 2,010 claimants. With almost 9,000 Mid Devon employees currently furloughed, there is a significant risk that the number of claimants could substantially increase during September as the scheme comes to a close. To counter this risk, the team is exploring projects with DWP and Devon County Council to provide support to help people get back into work as quickly as possible. We will report to members on the development of any jobs support programmes as they advance.
- 1.7 It is encouraging that at the time of writing, levels of those positively tested in the district remains relatively low; however the risk of a second wave does need to be taken seriously given that globally the death toll is rising and there are still concerns being expressed by the World Health Organisation of a possible acceleration of the pandemic. It is likely that if the District was to suffer from a local outbreak a local lockdown would follow as seen elsewhere in the country. This would likely place a huge responsibility on elements of the District Council to help co-ordinate, administer and implement emergency lockdown measures and associated relief. Emergency Plans (Local Outbreak Management Plan) have been developed should such an eventuality occur. Flexibility needs to be incorporated into our wider economic recovery plans to allow for rapid reprioritisation of tasks should there be such an incident. It is

important to note that the scale of the economic challenges ahead may also be exacerbated should the UK leave the EU without a deal.

2.0 Initial Response

2.1 The following paragraphs summarise elements of the emergency response stage. Throughout this period the Council's website has been continuously updated to reflect the current situation. A link to our webpage can be found below:

<https://www.middevon.gov.uk/residents/coronavirus-support-for-communities-and-businesses/>

Business Assistance

2.2 The Growth, Economy and Delivery team has been working alongside the Revenues and Benefits team in processing Government funded **Business Grants**. To date almost £20 million of business grants have now been issued following more than 1,700 applications. The scheme is due to close on the 28th of August, and the final eligible businesses which have not claimed are being chased to make applications before then.

2.3 The Government Discretionary Grant Scheme has been available to businesses which did not qualify under the previous grants, and which fell within certain criteria, such as operating from shared workspace, or operating within one of the District's priority business sectors. Launched at the end of May, the scheme has now closed and all grant payments have been made. The scheme supported over 220 businesses, providing £1,129,000 in grants and helping to protect over 910 local jobs. The supported businesses fell within the following categories:

Business Type	Grant Awarded	Number of Businesses Supported
Market Traders (25)	£1,000	10
	£2,500	15
B&Bs (and other guest accommodation) (17)	£1,000	1
	£2,500	12
	£5,000	4
Charities (6)	£2,500	3
	£5,000	1
	£10,000	2
Shared Workspace (79)	£1,000	19
	£2,500	33
	£5,000	9
	£10,000	18
Food & Drink Supply Chain (25)	£2,500	11
	£5,000	2
	£10,000	11
	£25,000	1
Tourism (48)	£1,000	4
	£2,500	21
	£5,000	1
	£10,000	19
	£25,000	3

Low Carbon Construction (23)	£2,500	5
	£5,000	4
	£10,000	14

- 2.4 Where businesses have not been eligible for these funds, or made enquiries after all funding had been allocated, the team has been **signposting** them to the Growth Hub.

Community Outbreak Plan

- 2.5 Following the Government's announcement that those who are clinically extremely vulnerable no longer need to shield from 1st August, the District Shielding Hub has been stood down. Officers are currently working with Devon County Council and other partner Districts to put in place a local outbreak plan for vulnerable residents. Lessons have been learnt over the last 5 months, and it is now accepted that the response in the event of a local lockdown should be very different than the initial response in March, with an emphasis on focusing as quickly as possible on those most in need. The support offered is also likely to be very different, as residents have by and large found their own strategies to manage under lockdown conditions. However, there will always be a small group of vulnerable residents who will continue to need more targeted support. Refined plans will be in place soon.
- 2.6 The **Mid Devon COVID-19 Support Fund** is a Devon County Council funded hardship fund administered by CHAT and Navigate Charity on behalf of Mid Devon District Council. The fund allows for emergency payments to those in financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak to pay for essentials such as food, energy costs, essential travel etc. The scheme continues to receive a steady stream of applications. To date we have received 166 applications and distributed £13,241.70 in funding. Demand is likely to increase in the coming months as the full economic impacts of the pandemic start to bite. Officers are working with Devon County Council on how best to use further funding offered by Government to support residents through the anticipated rise in financial hardship and debt post lockdown.

3.0 Reopening our Town Centres

- 3.1 Members may recall that the Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSSF) was launched by Government earlier in the year, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). This initiative is to put in place measures to establish a safe trading environment for businesses and customers, particularly in high streets. Eligible interventions include communications/public information, business facing awareness raising activities and temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.
- 3.2 A three stage Action Plan was approved by Cabinet at its 9 July 2020 meeting. The scope of the Action Plan covers the following towns: Tiverton, Crediton, Cullompton and Bampton. Bradninch, which does not have any significant non-essential retail provision, is not included; however officers have been and continue to be in discussion with Bradninch Town Council to share risk assessment work and provide assistance. Crucial to the project is

a risk assessment that is continuously updated to reflect changing circumstances and lessons learnt.

- 3.3 Work on this project continues in close liaison with the town councils and is working well. The project is now into the second phase which covers the medium term actions (2-3 months) informed by ongoing dialogue with the town councils, business organisations/trader groups and Devon County Council. The final phase will respond to any changes needed over the autumn which could arise from a number of issues including customer/trader perceptions and behaviour, changing government guidance and crucially the extent of the virus at that time.
- 3.4 A forum for discussion with the Town Mayors continues to be very useful. This has led to greater collaborative working and has been instrumental in better understanding any changes sought to the emergency public realm measures and changes continue to be made where possible. At the time of writing preparations are being instigated through liaison with this forum, Devon County Council and the local schools.
- 3.5 The Government announced in August that additional resource is being made available to support school transport and the need for increased capacity owing to the social distancing requirements. Devon County Council has been arranging for extra vehicles to be made available and has been working with the bus and rail companies and schools/colleges to identify where the additional resources will need to put in place. More recently the DfE issued the detailed school transport guidance for the reopening of schools in September:
- 3.6 The County Council is in the process of implementing measures informed by this guidance and has been updating its website, issuing relevant media releases and social media posts. Part of the DfE guidance sets out the need to consider the impact on the highway and also at pick up points where children will be congregating. County Council Officers have pledged that they will work with partners on this wherever possible.
- 3.7 The Communication Strategy continues to guide the approach to publicising the changes to the town centre, reinforce safety messages and provide increased confidence to visitors. To date this has included media campaigns and adverts with press releases centred on each town. At the time of writing a radio campaign is also about to be embarked upon promoting Mid Devon towns, reinforcing safety measures and publicising the free parking opportunities which extend until the end of September. Social media updates have also been used through the campaign and our website is regularly updated.

4.0 Planning for Recovery

National

- 4.1 The situation is changing daily with the Government frequently bringing in new approaches and schemes which local authorities must adapt to and deliver

swiftly. In addition to the government initiatives referred to elsewhere in the report there have been some notable recent developments:

Self-Employment Income Support Scheme

- 4.2 This scheme is another iteration of the previous COVID-19 grant initiative for self-employed individuals, or members of a partnership, whose business has been adversely affected by the Coronavirus. This scheme is closing on 19th October 2020.

Eat Out to Help Out

- 4.3 This scheme runs until the end of August 2020 and is valid Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Businesses can register to be part of the national discount voucher programme. Mid Devon eateries can use the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme to offer a discount to customers and encourage them to dine at their premises. The Government would then reimburse the difference for a 50% discount on food and non-alcoholic drinks to eat or drink in of up to a maximum of £10 per diner.

Business and Planning Act 2020

- 4.4 The Business and Planning Act 2020 was passed into law on 22nd July 2020. The relevant parts of this new legislation (covered in this report) are aimed at supporting businesses and helping them to reopen following the gradual lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions. From a licensing perspective, it introduces a significant new licensing regime for 'pavement licences', which will enable premises serving food and drink to provide seating (and serve) customers on certain highways. It also amends existing provisions within the Licensing Act 2003, providing an automatic extension to the terms of 'ON' sale alcohol licences to allow 'OFF' sales until the end of September 2021.

Regional/ Countywide

- 4.5 Within the report presented to the last Economy PDG information was provided with regard to the 'Team Devon' approach to economic recovery. Team Devon is a public and private sector partnership drawing in expertise from business, education, skills and public sector organisations to prepare a plan for economic recovery in the County. Mid Devon Officers have been active partners in the process. Other contributors to the 'Team Devon' recovery work include business representatives, Devon's County, District and City Councils, the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, Dartmoor National Park and Devon's MP's.
- 4.6 The Devon COVID-19 Economy and Business Recovery Prospectus was launched on 3rd July 2020 by 'Team Devon'. The document sets out Devon's shared vision for economic recovery over the next two years a single economic programme for the County to respond to the crisis and build the Devon economy back stronger and more resilient. It aligns activities to address the hardest hit places, communities and business sectors and capitalise on emerging new opportunities.
- 4.7 The Prospectus focuses upon securing support and delivering relief in four core areas: Our Businesses, Our Places, Our People and Our Opportunities. These were considered at the last Economy PDG meeting.

The document sets out a vision for recovery however the partnership recognises that action will not be possible without appropriate resources. Given the scale of the challenge faced, existing resources alone will not be enough to see Devon return to its pre COVID-19 status. As a result the document forms a basis to lobby Government and others for investment. The immediate priorities are seeking an investment of £56 million into local projects that will assist businesses to re-open, adapt and grow, help young people and those at risk of redundancy find or keep a job, and invest in Devon's hardest hit communities and sectors. This initial package aims to safe-guard and create 6,500 jobs, assist the delivery of 5,000 training places and support 7,500 businesses, stimulating business investment and accelerating economic recovery to pre-COVID levels much sooner.

4.8 Any national business grant scheme underspends are currently due to be recovered by Government. Lobbying is taking place at the local level with all councils across Devon having agreed a proposition to put to our MPs with a view to them supporting the local retention of underspend with Ministers in BEIS and wider government as necessary. The intention being to try and locally retain all the underspend in Devon by demonstrating how this could be deployed alongside existing Devon County Council, LEP and ERDF (European) funding streams to maximise impact and create a £60m investment package (the collective underspend across Devon is circa £37.7m (Mid Devon £2.9m)). The proposition would focus on the below packages with around £15m funding to each:

- SME support
- Green Recovery
- Skills and Employment Support
- Levelling Up Places

Subject to the result of this lobbying, support package opportunities may therefore arise necessitating a rapid and agile response to maximise any benefits for Mid Devon.

4.9 Devon partners believe that they can build Devon back better and help create a more inclusive, sustainable and greener economy. This will include recognition of the importance of environmental technology and clean growth.

4.10 Team Devon, with input from Mid Devon Officers, is currently preparing implementation plans to deliver the Recovery Prospectus aspirations. Officers will update Members once that work has been completed.

Recovery Interventions and Prioritisation

4.11 The projects identified earlier in the report are just some of the initiatives that are currently underway by Officers aimed at supporting businesses and striving towards building the economy back better. Given the potential funding opportunities that are likely to become available at very short notice and the possibility that a second COVID-19 wave may arise that would likely tie up the team's capacity. Accordingly there is a need to look carefully at prioritisation of project delivery and ensure that there is some capacity to allow for Officers to

react quickly and flexibly to changing circumstances. This need to be flexible to respond to changing circumstances could also take on even greater significance given the current uncertainty over whether we will be leaving the European Union without a deal. To these ends the Leader of the Council, the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economy and Regeneration, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and senior officers have initiated a review of projects across the scope of the Growth, Economy and Delivery Team with a view to producing a report to Cabinet considering a refined set of priorities having regard to factors including capacity and availability of funding. As more information emerges the Economy PDG will be updated.

Contact for more Information: Adrian Welsh, Group Manager - Growth, Economy and Delivery
awelsh@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report: Cllr Richard Chesterton
Cllr John Downes

List of Background Papers:

- [transport-to-school-and-other-places-of-education-autumn-term-2020](#)
- [multi-million-pound-funding-package-for-school-transport](#)
- [government-extends-coronavirus-support-for-buses-and-trams-total-funding-tops-700-million](#)