

# Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

## Economy Policy Development Group

Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 5.30 pm  
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting  
Thursday, 16 March 2023 at 5.30 pm

**Please Note:** this meeting will take place at Phoenix House and members of the Public and Press are able to attend via Zoom. If you are intending to attend in person please contact the committee clerk in advance, in order that numbers of people can be appropriately managed in physical meeting rooms

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## Membership

Cllr J Buczkowski

Cllr Mrs C Collis

Cllr N V Davey

Cllr R J Dolley

Cllr J M Downes (Chairman)

Cllr R Evans

Cllr Mrs S Griggs

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      **Public Question Time**  
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.
- 3      **Declaration of Interests under the Code of Conduct**  
To record any interests on agenda matters.
- 4      **Minutes** (*Pages 5 - 10*)  
To consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- 5      **Chairman's Announcements**  
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 6      **Agricultural Overview** (*Pages 11 - 18*)  
To provide members with an overview of the key challenges facing the agricultural sector and set out current areas of activity within the District Council as requested by this group.
- 7      **Economic Development Team update report** (*Pages 19 - 24*)  
To receive a report from the Director of Place updating members on activities undertaken by the Economic Development Team during the last quarter.
- 8      **Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document and Delivery Plan** (*Pages 25 - 42*)  
To receive a report from the Director of Place. Members will be aware that this authority has previously undertaken work with regard to regeneration and investment master planning for Tiverton town centre. This report seeks to provide an update to Members with recommendations in association with work being undertaken by the Coastal and Market Towns Initiative, Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.
- 9      **UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England Prosperity Fund Delivery Plan** (*Pages 43 - 52*)  
To receive a report from the Director of Place updating members on the proposed delivery plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), approve year 1 spend (2022/23) and approve delegated authority to the Director of Place, in conjunction with Cabinet Members, to approve the detailed SPF Policy and any accompanying guidance materials.

10 **2023/ 24 Budget Update Report** (Pages 53 - 68)

To receive a report from the Deputy Chief Executive (S151). The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on the Council to approve a balanced budget. The first draft of the General Fund budget for 2023/24 indicated a deficit of £960k. This report updates that deficit to the current position of £905k and proposes options to consider to achieve the statutorily required neutrality.

11 **Identification of items for the next meeting**

Members are asked to note that the following items are already identified in the work programme for the next meeting:

- Team Work update
- Chairman's annual Report

Note: This item is limited to 10 minutes. There should be no discussion on the items raised.

**Stephen Walford**

Chief Executive

Wednesday, 4 January 2023

## Meeting Information

From 7 May 2021, the law requires all councils to hold formal meetings in person. The Council will enable all people to continue to participate in meetings via Zoom.

If you want to ask a question or speak, email your full name to [Committee@middevon.gov.uk](mailto: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. Notification in this way will ensure the meeting runs as smoothly as possible.

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Public Wi-Fi is available in all meeting rooms

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## MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of a **MEETING** of the **ECONOMY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on 10 November 2022 at 5.30 pm

### **Present**

#### **Councillors**

J M Downes (Chairman)  
Mrs C Collis, N V Davey, R J Dolley, Mrs S Griggs,  
R F Radford, J Wright, R Evans and A White

### **Apologies**

#### **Councillor(s)**

J Buczkowski

### **Present**

#### **Officer(s):**

Richard Marsh (Director of Place), Adrian Welsh (Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery) and John Bodley-Scott (Economic Development Team Leader)

## 24 **Apologies and Substitute Members**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Buczkowski, who was substituted by Cllr A White.

## 25 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present and none had registered to ask a question in advance.

## 26 **Declaration of Interests under the Code of Conduct**

No interests were declared under this item.

## 27 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## 28 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman thanked officer John Bodley-Scott for their service to Mid Devon District Council and that his experience, knowledge and input had been invaluable.

## 29 **Presentation from Eden**

A presentation was given by a representative of Eden which provided an update on the Eden grounds project. The representative highlighted the following:

- In 2016 the Eden Westwood was created and this became part of Mid Devon District Council's local plan. However, this project was stalled due to the Pandemic.

- Since the last update the site and masterplan had been reviewed, which included the possible outdoor activities, employment opportunities and informal and formal communications with landowners.
- It was considered if the project could be bought forward in a phased approach.
- There was an opportunity for more visitors to be attracted to Mid Devon.
- It was believed that this project would need to generate 180 jobs which would generate circa 200 indirect jobs.
- It was believed that there would be sufficient footfall for this project to be supported.
- The retail element of this project was critical in terms of driving land value.
- Increased costs had a detrimental impact on the project, which had put the project on hold but there was a desire for the project to be continued.

The Chair thanked the Eden representative for their presentation, consideration was given to:

- Pausing the project was a missed opportunity to attract footfall to Mid Devon. The representative noted that though the project had stalled there was still an opportunity for this project, however the current economic crisis had made this a challenge.
- It was asked if the jobs created would be well paid, to which the representative mentioned that these jobs would cover a variety of roles and sectors and that Eden's aspiration was to pay at least the living wage.
- Asked if a lake would need to be created for the wild swimming activity, the Eden representative confirmed that a lake would need to be created.
- The local plan was delayed in 2016 for this project to be included and it was raised where the drive and focus for this project would come from. The Eden representative explained that Eden would work with investors to drive the project.

The Director of Place added that although the local plan was still in place the update provided had not shown how this project could be delivered moving forward. This raised questions over what would happen to the sight in the short term, however Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) continued to liaise with land owners. That the motorway service element could be an early part of that delivery, in addition, a retail, leisure and tourism study was due to take place for Mid Devon. MDDC would continue to identify deliverable opportunities to the benefit of the district.

- That land ownership was a challenge and that a phased delivery seemed logical, but was concerned that the tourist and leisure elements of this project might not be delivered for a long time.
- Shops in towns were already struggling and to regenerate those would prove to be challenging if a shopping centre were to be built, detracting footfall from the shops in those areas.

**RESOLVED:** That the presentation be noted.

### 30 **Local Economy Update**

An officer presented a report which provided the PDG with an update on the local economy.

The officer stated:

- That there were turbulent economic times, combined with a weakened pound which proved difficult for businesses and communities.
- Mid Devon had a low or equal capita per head when compared to Cornwall and Mid Devon deserved the necessary support.
- Productivity was a key metric and that charts had shown the Mid Devon was underperforming when compared to other rural regions.

Members Considered:

- Gross median pay weekly, Mid Devon seems to have benefited recently when compared to other rural regions.

In response to this an officer explained that it was an interesting result this had not occurred with the other indicators.

The Director of Place added that there were large companies within this area, for example there was an uptake in HGV Drivers salaries, but would liaise with Devon County Council to find out more details.

- That with more houses built, an increase in the number of incomes followed.
- It was raised that if more houses were to be built then more people would be brought to Mid Devon.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

### 31 **Economic Recovery - the Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds**

An officer presented a report which provided an update for Members on activities undertaken as part of the Devon Economic Recovery Plan and progress with the Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation Plan, this included the initiatives proposed under the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

The officer stated:

- The allocation received through the shared prosperity fund would be the main funding mechanism for funding local economic interventions. Mid Devon received circa £1 million of funding.
- Funding was expected to be received in October 2022, however, this had been delayed.

- Mid Devon had also received an additional £800k from the Rural England Prosperity Fund. This was a capital grants only programme which meant that there were limits to what this funding could be used for.
- There were two main priorities under the Rural England Prosperity Fund, which included, to support rural businesses and farm diversification and for community infrastructure to be supported.
- Community work hubs were a potential opportunity to support.

Members considered:

- When this funding would be received. An officer explained that it was hoped the projects could be started soon after Christmas 2022.
- Mid Devon District Council had a capacity issue and the delayed funding would make implementation challenging.
- Mid Devon would benefit from this funding, however, what due diligence would be carried out when awarding grants to businesses. An officer reassured that the application process would contain sufficient due diligence.
- How the split between investment priorities was determined. An officer explained that these were indicative figures and that it would be used as flexibly as possible. The percentages indicated was a preference and the number of applications could influence the funding split.

**RESOLVED:** That the PDG recommend to the Cabinet approval of the direction and level of investment proposed for the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Reason for decision: as stated in the report.

## 32 **New Crediton Shopfront Enhancement Scheme**

An officer present a report which informed Members about the new Crediton Shopfront Enhancement Scheme which was due to be launched in December 2022, the report also requested approval for the revised Scheme.

An officer stated:

- That this would be used to improve the shopfronts in Crediton.
- Further funding would be sought after so that this scheme could be extended.

Members considered:

- That this scheme was very much the same as the Tiverton Shopfront scheme.

**RESOLVED:** That Economy PDG recommends that the new Crediton Shopfront Enhancement Scheme be approved by the Cabinet and three Crediton Ward Members are nominated to be part of the Funding Panel for the Scheme.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Reason for decision: As stated in the report.



### 33 Economic Development Team Update Report

An officer presented a report which updated Members on activities undertaken by the Economic Development Team during the last quarter.

An officer stated:

- The Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund had taken up the majority of the team's time over the past few months.
- Job fairs had been supported alongside Job Centre Plus. A couple of job fairs had been carried out one specifically for Ukrainian Refugees and one for those with disabilities.
- There had been a steady increase in the number of shop vacancies over the past year in Cullompton and Tiverton.
- Initiatives were underway within Cullompton under the Heritage Action Zone.
- Support continued to be provided to refugees under the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Members considered:

- Cullompton is in a worrying position regarding shopfront vacancies, it was asked if this had been over a sustained period. An officer explained that it was suspected that the vacancy rate had been quite high for a while.
- Crediton had done well on the shopfront vacancy rate.
- Crediton shops were quite niche and there was concern over their susceptibility.

**RESOLVED:** That report be noted.

### 34 Access to Information - Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chairman indicated that discussion with regard to the next item, may require the Committee to pass the following resolution to exclude the press and public having reflected on Article 12 12.02(d) (a presumption in favour of openness) of the Constitution. This decision may be required because consideration of this matter in public may disclose information falling within one of the descriptions of exempt information in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Committee would need to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption, outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### 35 Medium Term Financial Plan - Options

The Group had before it and **NOTED**, a \*report from the Deputy Chief Executive providing the Medium Term Financial Plan.

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 respectively of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Members then reviewed the options included within the Part 2 appendices and made recommendations to the Cabinet on the options preferred.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

Note: \*report previously circulated and attached to the minutes

The meeting then returned to open session

### 36 **Identification of items for the next meeting**

No further items were identified to be on the agenda for the next meeting other than those already listed. However, officers acknowledged that work was underway regarding items that related to the Agricultural gap Analysis and Stagecoach Buses.

(The meeting ended at 8.07 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**

**ECONOMY PDG**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLACE**

### **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Richard Chesterton

**Responsible Officer:** Richard Marsh, Director of Place

**Reason for Report:** To provide members with an overview of the key challenges facing the agricultural sector and set out current areas of activity within the District Council as requested by this group.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That members note the contents of the report.

**Financial Implications:** The report does not identify any new spend. Current activities undertaken across the authority with regard to the agricultural sector are carried out within existing budgets as part of the Council's regulatory and statutory functions. Some activities with regard to economic development will be supported through the Shared Prosperity and the Rural England Prosperity Funds.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** The report provides a review of the District Council's interaction with the agricultural sector. This has relevance to our local economy, environment and communities. Policy implications relate largely to planning policies within the Local Plan. It also has relevance to both the Corporate Plan and the Economic Strategy.

There are no budgetary implications arising from this report. Relevant work streams are already part of the existing budgets; however additional economic development support is being sought under the Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Funds.

**Legal Implications:** There are no legal implications arising from this information report. It should be noted that the District Council does not have any specific legal requirements with regard to agriculture other than its wider statutory duties such as planning.

**Risk Assessment:** The impacts of economic uncertainty to the agriculture, food and drink sector is significant and extremely wide-reaching. The ongoing work of the Economic Development Team only has a limited ability to mitigate the full impacts of these macro-economic factors on our farming related businesses.

Projects emerging from the Shared Prosperity Investment Plan will need to be taken forward with accompanying risks assessments.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** There are no issues arising directly from this information report.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Given the importance of farming to the district it has relevance to all four priorities of the Corporate Plan: Homes, Environment, Community

and Economy. Under the economy priority the corporate plan includes the following: “Promote the development of the farming economy and local food production. Working in partnership with farmers to develop and grow markets on the principle of reducing carbon emissions and sustainability.” This report makes reference to such activities.

**Impact on Climate Change:** As is described later in this report, the District Council does not have any direct controls on any climate change impacts arising from agriculture. It does however have opportunities through its climate change partnership work and through its economic development function to help promote local produce (thereby reducing food miles) and encourage sustainable farming and landscape initiatives through the Council’s partnership work on its Sustainable Mid Devon webpage.

## 1 BACKGROUND

1.1 This report provides an overview of some of the issues facing the agriculture sector, the current roles which the District Council has with regard to this sector and makes reference to other bodies which currently give support to the farming community.

### Mid Devon Agricultural Sector

1.2 The agricultural sector is a key component of the local economy. Mid Devon is classified as a ‘mainly rural area’ by DEFRA, based on 2011 census output areas.

1.3 Livestock farming is the dominant land use in Mid Devon, with 70% of holdings managed as grassland for dairying, lowland cattle and sheep, with a further 10% under mixed usage. As a predominately rural district, agriculture has played a significant role in shaping and defining the character of the district. Agriculture tends to have relatively low levels of labour productivity, and therefore in pure economic terms its contribution to the Mid Devon economy is significantly less than its impact on the landscape character and social fabric of the district. That said, and although farming has experienced major difficulties in recent years, agriculture still remains an important driver for the local economy – not only through direct employment in farming, but also through food processing and manufacturing. Approximately 8% of the district’s workforce is directly involved in agriculture, and 20.6% of Mid Devon businesses are dependent on agriculture, either as primary producers, processors, manufacturers or retailers. Food processing is a major element of the manufacturing sector.

1.4 Mid Devon’s food and drink producers are made up of farm shops, farmers markets, breweries (beer and cider), vineyards, apple juice producers, baked goods and a number of meat, cheese, preserves, confectionary and more. Mid Devon is home to a number of award winning producers such as Piper’s farm meats and Quicke’s Cheese.

### Challenges in the Agricultural Sector

1.5 In preparing this report officers have held discussions with the National Farmers Union to better understand key challenges within the agricultural sector. These challenges include:

- the need for the UK to **increase its level of food and drink self-sufficiency** post-Brexit;
- **Labour shortages** post brexit;
- **Post Brexit Trade deals** – the recent trade deal with Australia is a particular concern to UK farmers amidst fears of the impact of cheap lamb, dairy and beef

imports – pending trade deals with Canada also look concerning with regard to the UK agricultural sector;

- **Impact of cheaper imports** – there are fears that this will result in reduced quality, animal welfare issues and lower environmental standards. UK currently has a high level of food standards - such as hygiene and animal welfare rules;
- **Energy price increases** – this affects the whole of the farming industry but particularly dairy and poultry producers;
- **A need for on-site renewable energy generation**, such as 50kw small scale wind turbines
- **Avian Influenza** is currently a huge challenge for our poultry farmers;
- **Accommodation for agricultural rural workers**, this may include accommodation for next generation workers (while still allowing parent retirees to reside in existing accommodation on a farm unit);
- Poor **digital connectivity** inhibits modern business operations;
- Uncertainty over **future subsidies** post Common Agricultural Policy;
- **Rising costs** of animal feed – (last year c. £220 per tonne now over c. £400 per ton);
- **Fertilizer costs increases** – (last year c. £250-300 per tonne this year c. £1,000-1,100 per tonne)
- **Red diesel cost increases** - (approx. 70p per litre last year approx. £1.20 per litre this year) with likely future restrictions
- The costs of **greater automation** (particularly challenging for small scale producers);
- **Increase costs of ‘on costs’** – transport and packaging
- **Climate change** – longer drier summers is already proving to be a challenge in some areas;
- **Restrictions on exports** – increases in trading tariffs along with export restrictions;
- **Nutrient neutrality** and related costly and exacting standards; and
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing, food and drink and tourism are typically considered as **low productivity sectors with low wage employment**;
- **A need for silage pits and slurry stores**, in response to requirements of forthcoming legislation affecting farming practices;
- **Biodiversity net gain and offsetting on farm units**, and;
- **On-site water storage**, where climate change may bring hotter, drier summers, and potential drought conditions.

The above list of challenges is far from exhaustive. The following section of this report refers to the district council activities which relate to the agricultural sector; however as is explained below the District Council’s ability to contribute towards addressing the above issues is extremely limited.

## 2 DISTRICT COUNCIL FUNCTIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

- 2.1 It should be noted that the bulk of activities with regard to agriculture, regulatory or otherwise, is the responsibility of other agencies such as the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Environment Agency and the County Council. Whilst not directly involved in agriculture, given the significance of the agricultural sector in Mid Devon it is not surprising that there are a number of District

Council areas of activity which have a bearing on the farming community. These areas of activity include:

- Planning (Development Management & Enforcement)
- Planning Policy
- Public Health
- Economic Development

2.2 In addition there are also cross cutting activities such as the work the Council is undertaking with regard to the Climate Change agenda which also has relevance.

2.3 The following sections takes each of these areas in turn:

### Development Management

By and large, farming remains outside the country's land use planning system. This is since, under Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) "the use of any land for the purposes of agriculture or forestry...and the use for any of those purposes of any building occupied together with land so used" does not involve 'development'. Agriculture is defined as including: horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, the breeding and keeping of livestock (including any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins, or fur, or for the purpose of its use in farming the land), the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the use of land for woodlands where that use is ancillary to the farming of land for other agricultural purposes.

The TCPA 1990 defines 'development' as the "carrying out of building, engineering, mining or other operations in, on, over or under the land, or the making of any material change in the use of any buildings or other land". Therefore, development will have taken place on agricultural or forestry land where; it is proposed to change how land or buildings used for farming are used for something else; new dwellings; or, usually where applying for a grant to fund a project that needs a building or other development. In such instances planning permission will be required. However, certain developments may also be permitted e.g. on farms of 5 hectares or more there is a right to erect, extend or alter a building, carry out certain excavations and engineering operation; temporary uses of land, agricultural buildings below a certain size, forestry buildings, and caravan sites and related buildings in some circumstances.

2.4 As with any other business sector, planning affects the agriculture, food and drink sectors. There are a number of permitted development rights which relate to agricultural practices; however there are still a wide range of activities which would require planning permission.

2.5 As part of the work that informed this report a discussion has taken place with the National Farmers' Union who have offered to meet with planning committee members to talk through emerging issues facing the farming community which are likely to

generate planning applications in the future. For example there are likely to be an increase in applications for slurry storage facilities.

- 2.6 Applications for renewable energies is another area which effects farming communities. Whilst proposals for large scale renewable energy projects are often brought to mind when considering this issue, there is increasingly interest from farmers wishing to install small renewable energy wind or solar installations looking to become more self-sufficient to help address increasing energy costs.
- 2.7 Under the Environment Act 2021 'biodiversity net gain' is soon to be a requirement through the planning process. All planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain. Increasingly off site land is being identified to fulfil this obligation. Whilst this can provide a valuable income to some farmers there are concerns about taking land out of food production and also a lack of regulation which may lead to some landowners being vulnerable to unfavourable settlements or fraud.

### Planning Policy

- 2.8 There are a range of planning policy issues which relate to agriculture including: agricultural rural workers' dwellings, renewable energy, rural employment, farm diversification and tourism, biodiversity net gain and offsetting, and protecting high grade agricultural land. As members will be aware the Local Plan is currently being reviewed and the planning policy team will be developing policies in the coming months in liaison with the agricultural sector.

### Public Health: Food quality and standards

- 2.9 Food Safety Officers whilst working less with the agricultural primary sector they are closely involved with those businesses in food manufacture and sales, as part of the teams' general activities to work to ensure a high standard of food hygiene and safety across Mid Devon. They are responsible for:
- Inspection and Enforcement of food safety legislation in food businesses
  - Registration of food businesses
  - Following up complaints about food sold or manufactured
  - Investigating cases of food poisoning and infectious disease
  - Fish inspection and
  - Food sampling
- 2.10 Food Safety Officers inspect food premises according to the risk they pose. The Food Standards Agency - Food Law Code of Practice determines how often each premises are inspected. Additionally, officers provide a number of services to assist local businesses to include:
- Producing food safety guidance and leaflets on food safety issues
  - Food hygiene training courses
  - Seminars and workshops on food safety issues
  - Food safety award schemes

### Economic Development

- 2.11 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is central to the government's Levelling Up agenda. Mid Devon has received this year's allocation from the fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. The intention of this fund is that it will provide opportunities in lieu of European Union, by investing in local priorities and targeting

funding where it is needed most. The District Council has made submissions to government setting out how it plans to deploy this funding.

- 2.12 One of the District Council's investment priorities for Mid Devon is to "Support a thriving agricultural sector that showcases field-to-fork practices and low food miles to market". Funding will be used to promote local food production and field-to-fork initiatives as well as the adoption of agri-tech solutions and environmental practices. With the aim to increase the number of local producers supplying directly into local markets to build a stronger and more resilient agricultural sector and a stronger and more resilient rural communities.
- 2.13 As well as a Leader style grant programme which will allow businesses and community groups to apply for funding to invest in the agricultural priority and their business, some of the funding will be ring-fenced to support projects such as the Taste Mid Devon campaign to promote Mid Devon's producers and rich food and drink offer e.g. introducing food trails / experiences which support our growers and producers.
- 2.14 The Economic Development team will be supporting this sector to apply for the funds to help establish, grow or innovate businesses. The team will also use the Visit Mid Devon platform to support, promote and bring awareness to the 'shop local' campaign.
- 2.15 Members may also be interested to note that the Economic Development team is currently recruiting for an Economic Development Officer post. This role will have relevance in terms of the District Council's ability to effectively engage with related sectors.

#### Climate change

- 2.16 As members will be aware, the District Council is aiming for net zero carbon emissions by 2030, and is seeking to address the challenge through our own services and by working with the wider community within the district. With regard to agriculture the district's role is limited to its regulatory functions and its influence through partnership working.
- 2.17 As referred to above the Council does have a role with regard to its planning function which is relevant to the growing demand for renewable energy installations.
- 2.18 Through Mid Devon's Climate and Sustainability activities and website the District's farm shops and farmers' markets are promoted as part of the ambition to reduce food miles and support local producers. This initiative is important and works alongside other Council initiatives such as the Taste Mid Devon campaign referred to above. In addition to helping reduce food miles it also provides support for the local economy by explaining the virtues of lower food miles and the importance of high quality produce at a time when cheaper less regulated imports may start to become more readily available.
- 2.19 Food resilience, sustainable farming and landscape consideration are also elements which have been considered as part of the District's wider climate change conversations with partners and promoted through the Climate and Sustainability website. One good example of partnership working with the agricultural sector has been the 'Connecting the Culm' initiative which has previously been reported to this group. This project has been working with nature and local communities, to help make the River Culm and its catchment better for wildlife and people, and more resilient to flood and drought.
- 2.20 Officers will also continue to liaise with other organisations to continue to be informed of other developing schemes such as those supporting permaculture and agroforestry.



### 3 EXTERNAL BODIES WHICH SUPPORT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

3.1 Whilst the District Council's responsibilities and ability to help the farming community may be limited there are other organisations who are better placed to offer specialist assistance and guidance. These include:

- Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Rural Payments Agency (RPA) (e.g. Slurry Infrastructure Grant)
- Devon County Council (County Farms & Devon Agri Tech Accelerator (DATA) scheme)
- Business Information Point (BIP) – Farm visits and business advice
- The National Farmers' Union (NFU)
- Environment Agency (EA)
- The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB)
- Food, Farming and Countryside Commission Devon (FFCC)
- Farming Agents

### 4 CONCLUSION

4.1 It is undoubtedly a challenging time for our agricultural sector. Whilst the District Council's role is limited there are still a number of areas where the authority can make a positive contribution. Key areas include future planning policy formulation and economic development initiatives funded through government programmes such as those which support the 'buy local' message. The continued engagement with the agricultural sector will continue to be important. Future briefings from the National Farmers Union to the Planning Committee and the Economy PDG are proposed for 2023, along with ongoing liaison with the planning policy team. It should also be noted that the District Council also has the ability to lobby government for interventions with regard to specific issues should the Council consider this appropriate.

**Contact for more Information:**

Adrian Welsh, Strategic Manager: Growth,  
Economy & Delivery  
[awelsh@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:awelsh@middevon.gov.uk)

**Circulation of the Report:**

Cllr Richard Chesterton  
Cllr John Downes  
Leadership Team

**List of Background Papers:**

[Home - Mid Devon Climate Sustainability  
\(sustainablemiddevon.org.uk\)](https://www.sustainablemiddevon.org.uk)

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**ECONOMY PDG  
12 JANUARY 2023**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE REPORT**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Richard Chesterton

**Responsible Officer:** Richard Marsh, Director of Place

**Reason for Report:** To update members on activities undertaken by the Economic Development Team during the last quarter.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That members note the contents of the report.

**Financial Implications:** The report is an information report and does not of itself have any financial implications.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** The activities described in the report help to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and the objectives and actions identified in Mid Devon's Economic Strategy. There are no further budget implications that have not been subject of previous reports.

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

**Risk Assessment:** There are no further risks associated with the updates in this report that have not already been reported.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No equality implications have been identified.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The work of the Growth, Economy and Delivery team supports the corporate objectives for the economy:

- Bringing new businesses into the District
- Business development and growth
- Improving and regenerating our town centres
- Growing the tourism sector

**Impact on Climate Change:** The impact of individual projects on climate change has been included in the individual reports that will have already been presented to committee.

### **1.0 Background**

This report provides an update on activities carried out by the Economic Development Team over the last two months, since the last committee meeting.

## 1.1 Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)

Since the last Committee meeting, the Economic Development Team has received confirmation of our successful funding bid for SPF from the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC). Mid Devon District Council has secured £67,748 for capital projects and £61,398 for revenue projects (plus a further £20,000 capacity funding to cover the costs of forming the bid). The funding confirmed is for year 1 (2022/23) only; confirmation of funding of SPF for years 2 and 3 is subject to successfully spending allocated funding in year 1 first. The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) only closed for applications on 30 November, so we do not expect to hear the outcome from this bid until after Christmas. Year 1 funding must be spent (not committed) before the end of March 2023; to that effect, we have prepared a delivery plan for year one projects to ensure swift and meaningful use of the funds given the short timescale.

## 1.2 Unemployment Statistics

The latest unemployment statistics for November 2022, as shown by claimant count, are as follows:

### Total Claimant Count (age 16+)

| Area                   | November 2020 | November 2021 | November 2022 | Oct 22 to Nov 22 | Nov 21 to Nov 22 | Nov 21 to Nov 22 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| lacu:Devon             | 20,095        | 12,670        | 9,480         | 360              | -3,190           | -25%             |
| lacu:Plymouth          | 10,175        | 7,180         | 5,425         | 235              | -1,755           | -24%             |
| lacu:Somerset          | 15,595        | 10,260        | 7,930         | 240              | -2,330           | -23%             |
| lacu:Torbay            | 5,555         | 3,305         | 2,500         | 105              | -805             | -24%             |
| ladu:East Devon        | 3,200         | 2,010         | 1,525         | 80               | -485             | -24%             |
| ladu:Exeter            | 3,545         | 2,305         | 1,725         | 55               | -580             | -25%             |
| ladu:Mid Devon         | 1,830         | 1,260         | 925           | 50               | -335             | -27%             |
| ladu:North Devon       | 2,800         | 1,700         | 1,440         | 75               | -260             | -15%             |
| ladu:South Hams        | 2,100         | 1,290         | 925           | -10              | -365             | -28%             |
| ladu:Teignbridge       | 3,410         | 2,155         | 1,505         | 70               | -650             | -30%             |
| ladu:Torrige           | 1,935         | 1,140         | 840           | 5                | -300             | -26%             |
| ladu:West Devon        | 1,275         | 815           | 595           | 35               | -220             | -27%             |
| country:United Kingdom | 2,604,825     | 1,881,715     | 1,524,395     | 35,055           | -357,320         | -19%             |

- After a long period of falls in Claimant Count since post-Covid re-openings, the count in Devon has begun to rise.
- The overall claimant count rate for working age population (16-64) in Devon was still low at 2%, compared with 3.6% for the UK. In Mid Devon, this is 1.9%.
- Total number of claimants in Mid Devon in November was 925. This is 50 higher than in October.
- Usually in Devon in November, Christmas vacancies often help the claimant count rate – this appears to not have materialised this year.
- The rate for under 25s in Mid Devon rose by 10 people (140 in October and 150 in November). Comparably with the other Districts, there were

rises everywhere except in Torrridge, where it fell by 5 people. The largest changes were a rise of 25 in Teignbridge and 20 each in East Devon and Exeter.

- The rate for over 50s in Mid Devon rose slightly by 5 people with a mixed picture across the County. There were small falls in Exeter, South Hams and Teignbridge and rises elsewhere. The largest rises were in North Devon (+25 claimants) and Torrridge (+20 claimants).
- High economic inactivity rates for the over 50s age group are expected now to beginning to be impacted by the rising cost of living, with a subtle return to the workplace taking place for some people, but also rising claimant counts in some areas.

The Economic Development Team has worked with the DWP on a number of careers fairs. The next events are due to take place in February.

### **1.3 Town Centres Update**

Each quarter, members of the team carry out a shop survey in Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, monitoring shop vacancy rates. The next survey is due to be completed in January 2023 and will reported at the next Economy PDG.

This PDG has previously requested wider town centre health reports. In addition, to shop vacancy rates, these look at other indicators alongside each other to give us a more complete picture as to how a town is performing such as: crime statistics, parking vends, bus ticket sales (where this data is shared with us). The Forward Planning team has commissioned a Retail, Tourism and Leisure Study, which they are in the process of awarding a contract for. Amongst other things, this study will compile full town centre health checks for Crediton, Cullompton and Tiverton. Therefore, we propose sharing this information with the PDG when it's been published (projected for summer 2023) and then continuing with regular reviews for each town, reporting on an individual town at a time.

The Tiverton and Crediton Shopfront Enhancement Schemes, which recently received approved by Economy PDG and Cabinet, launched in December 2022. Information about the schemes have been shared with the towns via the local business groups and through direct emails to businesses. In its first week, the team received five enquiries. These schemes complement the Heritage Action Zone Shopfront Improvement Scheme running in Cullompton, which is also open for applications.

Tiverton's Public Realm Enhancement Project is progressing with the new pedestrian fingerposts scheduled for installation early in the New Year.

Work continues on the Crediton Masterplan; a tender exercise recently completed and we're progressing the appointment of consultants.

The team welcomed a new Heritage Action Zone Project Officer in November 2022 who is progressing the grant schemes in Cullompton. Public consultation for the public realm improvement works in the Higher Bull Ring is in the final stages, looking at specifics such as locations for benches and electrical sockets.

## 1.4 Visitor Economy

The Visit Mid Devon project continues to support our leisure, tourism and hospitality businesses in partnership with Tiverton Museum (TIC service). To date the website and social media platforms have been a useful tool to support our businesses and town centres. We continue to offer a free business listing to Mid Devon's leisure, tourism and hospitality businesses in order to support them through this difficult time. The project allows us to build good relations with the sector and identify how we can help them going forward. We strive to increase the number of hits to the website through creating interesting and engaging blogs (supporting the shop local campaign etc) and promoting the project through a range of channels such as Visit Devon's guide and Facebook ads.

As a recap for the 2022/23 year, in addition to the above:

- The [Visit Mid Devon website](#) has received 55,000 views with 47,000 unique visitors this year, which is nearly a 30% increase from last year. We have published 237 listings to date, which promote our businesses and key towns and villages.
- We held a successful networking event in May, which aimed to support our leisure and tourism businesses following the pandemic. 84 businesses registered to attend. Guest speakers such as Kate Doodson from Cosmic and Alistair from SW Tourism Alliance were well received, including business support stands and we had great feedback from those who attended. We learnt about the value of social media and other innovative technology for business success and the areas of growth for Tourism
- We produced the [Farm Shop and Market Trail](#) as part of our [Taste Mid Devon](#) campaign, which we presented at the Mid Devon Show in July. We concentrated on promoting Taste Mid Devon this year in order to support our local producers. We also created the [fishing and fisheries guide](#) and are looking to do more information leaflets next year. We know from the networking event that accommodation businesses would welcome leaflets promoting dog-friendly places to visit (eateries/attractions).
- We ran several paid promotional campaigns during April to July across Facebook and Instagram promoting our local attractions and producers as well as things to do during school holidays. These campaigns resulted in an increased following and we now have 3,000 followers on Facebook and 1,600 followers on Instagram and from their success, we are running similar boosted campaigns at least quarterly. The Autumn campaigns focused on half-term activities and pumpkin picking.

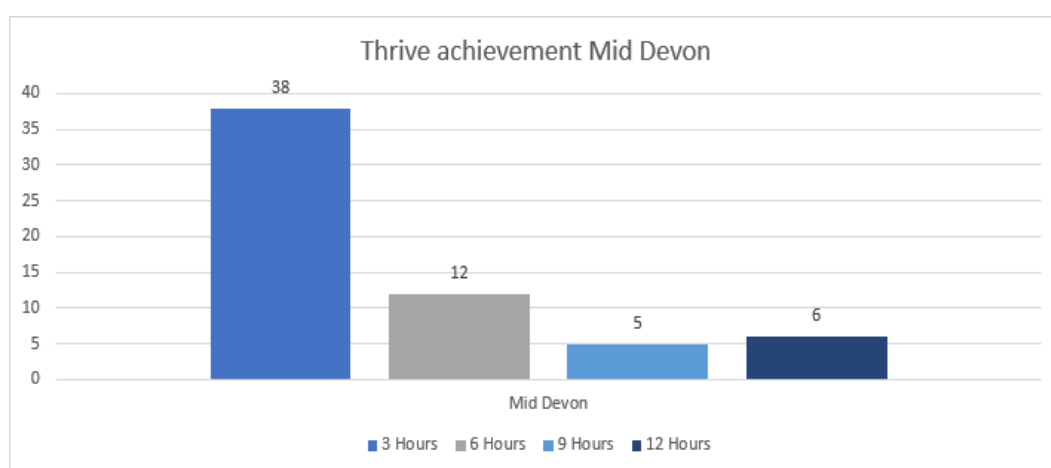
Looking ahead, we hope that there will be opportunities through the Shared Prosperity Fund to support new projects, diversifications and business growth for Mid Devon's Visitor Economy.

## 1.5 Business Support

Mid Devon Officers are looking into options regarding need and provision for flexible workspace in Mid Devon.

There are a number of free training and support programmes that our businesses can access at present, including:

- The [Digital Boost Devon programme](#), which offers targeted advice and specialist digital support for businesses across Devon. The programme aims to develop knowledge, strategy and insights for SMEs to gain competitive advantage through their digital offer, operations and business models.
- The [Thrive Programme](#) launched in 2022 continues until the end of March 2023. Businesses can access a tailored support service with 1:1 sessions and access to training and webinars on specific business topics, up to four 3-hour modules of free support. There is also a specialist branch of Thrive focusing on agricultural business support. The graph below shows take-up in Mid Devon to date. We are working with Devon County Council with a view to extending this provision through the Shared Prosperity Fund.



**Contact for more Information:**

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**Circulation of the Report:**

Cllr Richard Chesterton  
Cllr John Downes  
Leadership Team

**List of Background Papers:**

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**ECONOMY PDG**  
**12th January 2023**

## **TIVERTON TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DELIVERY PLAN**

**Cabinet Member**                      **Cllr R Chesterton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration.**  
**Responsible Officer**                **Mr R Marsh, Director of Place.**

**Reason for the Report:** Members will be aware that this authority has previously undertaken work with regard to regeneration and investment masterplanning for Tiverton town centre. This report seeks to provide an update to Members with recommendations in association with work being undertaken by the Coastal and Market Towns Initiative, Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **That the report is noted;**
2. **That Members recommend to Cabinet:**
  - i) **A budget of up to £60k is set aside from the Brown Field Register Fund (up to £35k) and Custom and Self Build Burdens Fund (up to £25k) for the completion of the Draft Masterplan SPD and accompanying Delivery Plan;**
  - ii) **That Officer's commence the process to engage consultants to complete the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan process including commissioning assessments as required; and that**
  - iii) **The timetable for the adoption of the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan and Delivery Plan be agreed.**

**Financial Implications:** On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015, Cabinet resolved to approve the appointment of consultants to complete a Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan and Investment Programme, with a suggested budget of £40,000.

The Draft Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan (Draft Masterplan SPD) was accordingly progressed with completion of a Stage 1 Public Consultation.

In April 2022 the Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) to reduce inequalities and support economic development and community cohesion. Mid Devon was allocated £1,064,159 of funding over a three year period. In September 2022 the Government launched the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to build on and complement the SPF. Mid Devon was allocated £817,672 through the REPF to support capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure over a two year period. (April 2023 – Mar 2025). The definition of 'rural' in the REPF allows funding to be applied across the whole district; including within the town centre of Tiverton.

In the Autumn of 2021, Tiverton was identified as a town that would benefit from support in its future growth through the Coastal and Market Towns Initiative (The Urban Renewal Programme). This Urban Renewal Programme is able to provide funds towards strategic and 'quick-win' projects. The Draft Masterplan SPD cannot be funded through the Urban Renewal Programme but a strategic &/or small number of quick-win projects can be.

Any amends required to the Draft Masterplan SPD, arising as a result of the SPF, the REPF, the Urban Renewal Programme or other inputs, will need to be managed and financed through the existing budget allocated for the completion of the Draft Masterplan SPD. Amends to the Draft Masterplan SPD are expected to include any strategic and quick win

projects, associated text, graphical and formatting updates. These have been informed by assessments commissioned as a result of the projects emerging through the Draft Masterplan SPD (e.g transport, viability).

The financial implications in the delivery of the regeneration projects identified within the Draft Masterplan SPD will need further consideration in light of service budget and whether they can be managed and delivered in house or will require further work to be commissioned externally. Once particular projects are developed these will be subject to financial costings and to Cabinet consideration and approval. Funding for these projects is likely to involve a range of public and private sector investment.

No other financial implications are anticipated at this time.

**Budget and Policy Framework:**

The purpose of the Draft Masterplan SPD is to have schemes identified to support the regeneration and future development of Tiverton town centre. With the support of a Delivery Plan that will sit alongside the masterplan and, in time, a business case for each of the Masterplan schemes, this will ensure each scheme will be in a state of readiness for future external funding opportunities as and when they occur. However, this report relates to strategy formulation which is currently budgeted for. No other budgetary implications are anticipated at this time.

The Policy Framework consists of both statutory documents that have to be adopted or approved by the Council, as well as locally determined policies and strategies that form an integral part of the decision making process. Once adopted, the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan and Delivery Plan would have Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) status and be a material consideration for planning decision making purposes. No direct impacts on the policy framework are anticipated at this time.

**Legal Implications:** The process for preparing and adopting the Draft Masterplan SPD will need to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. Whilst the Draft Masterplan SPD will not form part of the Development Plan, it will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications relating to the town centre.

The Delivery Plan will include a target set of key milestones / completion dates. These will be kept under review and will be reported back to Members [as appropriate, dependent upon the project](#).

There are no legal implications arising from this information report.

**Risk Assessment:** Failure to support the regeneration of Tiverton town centre would in itself lead to deterioration in commercial activity, a less vibrant centre, less coordinated development and uncertainty over essential infrastructure; this being recognised by the SPF, the REPF and the Urban Renewal Programme. The Draft Masterplan SPD will be focused on mitigating risk to aid regeneration.

Previous work commissioned by Devon County Council (DCC) and undertaken by Hardisty Jones Associates has previously identified Tiverton as the 8<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable town (on a combined vulnerability matrix) within the County. Intervention to support the continued economic prosperity of the town is therefore necessary.

As projects arising from the Draft Masterplan SPD are developed an assessment of risk will be undertaken as part of project development.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** Equality issues continue to be considered as part of the ongoing preparation of the Draft Masterplan SPD. An equality impact assessment will be made available at the time of consultation.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The Draft Masterplan SPD will provide guidance on the planning and delivery of development within Tiverton town centre. It will contribute towards the delivery of the 4 key priorities that relate directly to the Corporate Plan 2020-24 including housing delivery, caring for the environment, supporting a thriving economy and local communities.

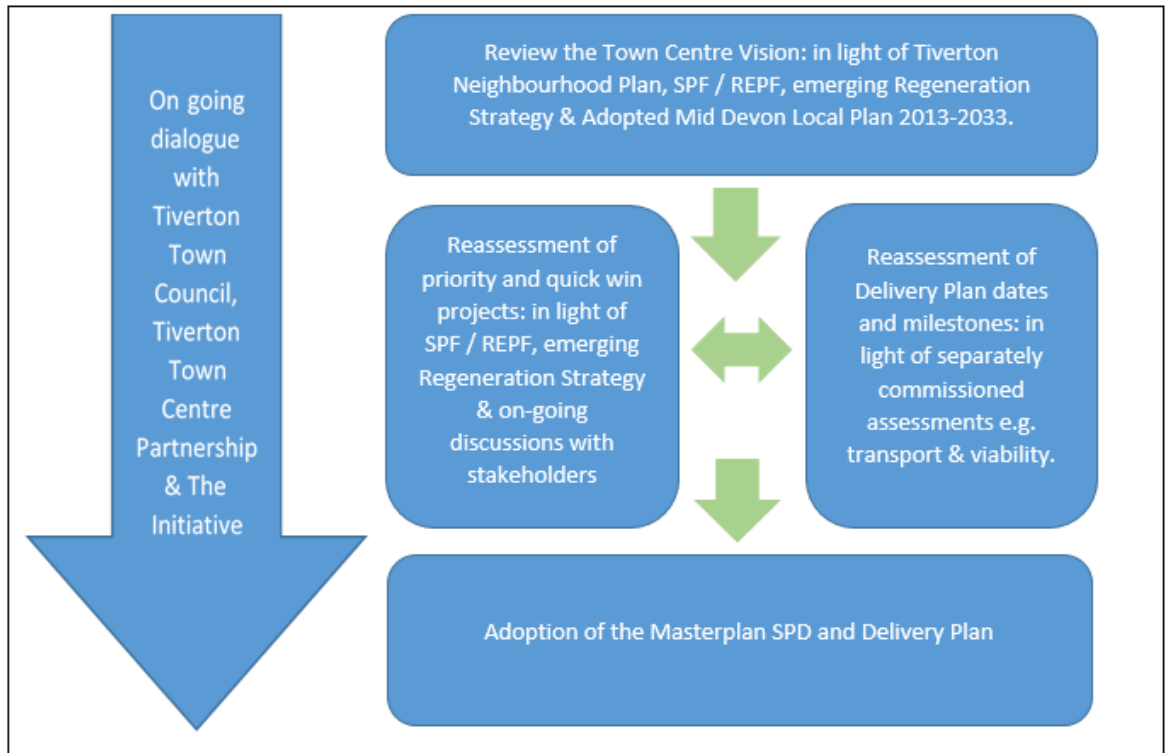
**Impact on Climate Change:** The Draft Masterplan SPD and projects therein will provide a valuable opportunity to put the Council's commitment to the Climate Change declaration at the heart of recovery and investment plans. Opportunities exist to encourage sustainable travel options, exploration of low carbon construction and tree planting. On a more fundamental level revitalising Tiverton town centre and encouraging local residents to 'buy local' and undertake trips by more sustainable means including walking and cycling will assist in reducing the area's carbon emissions.

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Work on the Draft Masterplan SPD commenced in 2017. The intention of the masterplan was to set a basis for enhancing the economic prospects of the town including the look and environment of the town centre. Its scope was broader than a purely spatial plan; to include wider issues such as the role and function of the town centre, Tiverton's identity and its unique selling points.
- 1.2 Initial public consultation on the Draft Masterplan SPD was carried out between 30<sup>th</sup> April and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018. Its purpose was to inform the scope of the contents of the masterplan and shape the draft document for future consultation. The material included a number of suggestions for key town wide initiatives and options for development. A summary of consultation feedback was presented to Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018 including the emerging themes from the public consultation.
- 1.3 The results of the initial public consultation then proceeded to inform the developing Draft Masterplan SPD and quick-win proposals including the Pannier Market / Fore Street proposal which was paused following concerns raised by Tiverton Town Council in recognition that the opportunities in this location could receive further consideration through the wider masterplanning process.
- 1.4 An update report was presented to Cabinet on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 setting out the process to develop a long term town centre plan which would include a range of outputs including prioritisation of strategic interventions and also, crucially, short term interventions that could make a meaningful and lasting contribution towards town centre regeneration. This was followed by a presentation to Members at Informal Cabinet on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2020 with a broad description and outline of key intervention sites (that had an emphasis towards Mid Devon District Council assets) including a prioritised action and delivery plan for each site. The same list of projects was then presented at a Ward Member Briefing on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, a Town Council Briefing on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and a Tiverton Town Centre Partnership meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The summary of key findings (Table 1) and summary update of key projects for inclusion in the Draft Masterplan SPD (including some new and amended projects, Table 2) was presented at Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Since the masterplanning work commenced there have been a number of changes on the ground including the construction and opening of the Premier Inn, the refurbishment of the multi storey car park, an overhaul of the pedestrian signage (soon to be installed), as well as strategic commitments through the Adopted Mid Devon Local Plan 2013-2030 and climate change declaration that will put climate issues at the heart of the town centre's role, function and regeneration. Furthermore Tiverton, as with all towns, has been affected by the pandemic and there is a need to be mindful of this in the development of future plans.
- 2.2 Town centre regeneration has arguably never had more significance. In response to this a number of funding opportunities have been made available through various funding programmes.
- 2.3 Mid Devon has been awarded £1,064,159 over a three year period under the SPF. This is to support economic development and community cohesion, subject to the approval of a locally agreed Investment Plan. The SPF will be the main funding mechanism for local economic interventions over the next three years, with the SPF Investment Plan identifying project priorities. In addition to this Mid Devon has been allocated £817,672 through the REPF to support small business and community infrastructure capital projects over a two year period (April 2023 – Mar 2025). Together they will form the strategic framework for local investment (See Economy PDG Report, 10 November 2022).
- 2.4 In addition to the SPF and REPF is the Urban Renewal Programme; a programme of funding secured by Devon County Council and introduced previously at Economy PDG. Tiverton has been identified as a town that would benefit from its support. The Urban Renewal Programme recognises that good practice in town centre regeneration is driven by a strong local governance structure made up of local stakeholders (local businesses, education providers, the District and County Authorities) to deliver change through a locally formulated and widely owned vision for the town.
- 2.5 An advisory group (including 2 MDDC Councillors) relating to Tiverton was established in 2022 in order to consider matters relating to the town – including how to support the continued economic prosperity and growth of the town whilst also addressing existing structural economic challenges. From the work, potential 'quick win' opportunities were identified which would allow the Town Council the opportunity to deliver initiatives to support the town centre in the short term, whilst medium and long term issues were identified which are to be logically considered and progressed through the masterplanning work which is the subject of this report.
- 2.6 The Masterplan SPD will build upon the issues identified in the Coastal and Market towns work by identifying a wider range of strategic and quick-win projects that will be developed into a state of readiness within the Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan, so that future funding opportunities can be seized, as and when they arise. In so doing, the Masterplan SPD will also be required to build upon the SPF and REPF Investment Plan and inform and support the specific projects which are to be progressed and delivered.
- 2.7 A brief summary of the actions to update the Draft Masterplan SPD are set out below:



### 3 Draft Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan.

3.1 The Officer report to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020 provides detail about the role of the Draft Masterplan SPD, the form that it should take and work required. The details in that report continue to remain relevant including:

- the suite documents required:
  - a) Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration Masterplan SPD;
  - b) Tiverton Town Centre Regeneration Delivery plan (including priority actions);
  - c) Public Realm Strategy and Facilities Plan;
  - d) Concept plans for proposed development sites;
  - e) High level viability for each proposed development site;
  - f) Regeneration and Vitality Strategy;
  - g) Branding and Marketing; &
  - h) Tiverton Town multimodal and movement study.
- A review of the town centre vision to ensure climate change and other regeneration aspects are adequately reflected;
- The emerging key themes and any updates or additions as required;
- The geographical area; &
- Prioritisation and identification of quick win projects.

3.2 Future reporting of this work will formally be through the Planning Policy Advisory Group and Cabinet with regular updates being provided to the Economy Policy Development Group throughout the coming months.

3.3 Below is an indication of work required for the completion of the Draft Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan comprising a list of projects, including those arising through the SPF, REPF and the Urban Renewal Programme. Also, critically, an indication of key milestones for its adoption.

### Review of the Town Centre Vision

- 3.4 Visioning took place as part of the first stage of the masterplanning work. The Adopted Neighbourhood Plan has since set out a comprehensive vision and set of objectives for the town. The objectives are strongly focused towards physical issues (characteristic of a Neighbourhood Plan) with less emphasis on learning and skills, business incubation, innovation and growth or the visitor economy. A review of the Draft Masterplan SPD vision is required to reflect the Neighbourhood Plan, SPF, Urban Renewal Regeneration Strategy and more general economic events and updates.

### Project Updates and Additions

- 3.5 The Cabinet Report of 2020 set out the emerging themes for inclusion in the Draft Masterplan SPD. Projects arising from those themes will form the structure of the Delivery Plan. The priority projects are those that will directly contribute to meeting the objectives of the SPF / REPF and Urban Renewal Regeneration Strategy and in supporting the Neighbourhood plan. They will lead directly to strategic economic benefits including the regeneration of land and buildings for the delivery of new and safeguarded economic activity, jobs and public realm. Quick win projects are not those that are strategically important across the wider area; they will be unique to Tiverton to support its vitality. Both however, will align with the principles of the Draft Masterplan SPD.
- 3.6 The geographic area for the town centre masterplan has been given full consideration previously and there is no intention to make changes at this point in time. Prioritisation of projects within that geographic area will be informed by a number of issues including the extent of Council land ownership, third party land owner willingness to deliver development and / or land assembly. Quick win projects need to consider the longevity of their benefits.
- 3.7 All priority and quick win projects will be developed closely between Officers, Cabinet and Ward Members, with input from the Town Council, the Tiverton Town Centre Partnership Group and other stakeholders. This will involve both informal discussions with partner organisations as well as formal opportunities to respond as part of the consultation on the Draft Masterplan SPD.
- 3.8 A summary update of key projects for inclusion in the Draft Masterplan SPD, including projects identified through the SPF / REPF and the Urban Renewal Programme are set out in **Appendix 1**.

### Engagement of Consultants

- 3.9 Amends will be required to the Draft Masterplan SPD and Delivery Plan to reflect the SPF, the REPF, the Urban Renewal programme or other inputs. It is expected that this will result in text, graphical and formatting updates. Importantly, it is expected that the projects arising through the Draft Masterplan SPD will need to be informed by independently commissioned assessments. These will include, for example, transport and viability assessments. It will ensure that projects arising are in a state of readiness to seize funding opportunities as they arise.

### Delivery Plan

- 3.10 The Delivery Plan will sit alongside the Draft Masterplan SPD as an addendum. It will list the priority and quick win projects with a set of key milestones and completion dates. These will be kept under review and will be reported back to Members on an annual basis.

- 3.11 In appraising the Delivery Plan ongoing engagement with private land owners to better understand the extent of their ambitions will also be undertaken; this with the aim to achieve a comprehensive and meaningful regeneration of Tiverton town centre.
- 3.12 A provisional timetable for the next stages in the production of the masterplan is set out as follows:

| Action   | Date                  |
|--|-----------------------|
| Landowner meetings (private sites)                           | On-going              |
| Review of MDDC assets inc consultation with Informal Cabinet | Feb 2023 / March 2023 |
| Engage Consultants   | March / April 2023    |
| Finalisation of draft masterplan inc assessment as required  | June / July 2023      |
| Committee Approval (for Stage 2 consultation)                | Summer 2023           |
| Stage 2 Public Consultation                                  | Autumn 2023           |
| Adoption   | Winter 2023           |

#### 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 It is envisaged that the Draft Masterplan SPD will be available for consideration at the Cabinet's meeting in June / July 2023. This will be following the engagement of consultants, a full and detailed review of the Draft Masterplan SPD including specialist assessments as required to ensure that the projects identified within it are worked up into a state of readiness should funding opportunities become available. The Draft Masterplan SPD will progress through a Stage 2 public consultation for adoption towards the end of 2023. In parallel with this work stream, Officers seek authority to identify and undertake informal discussions with private landowners to understand their aspirations and willingness to identify sites, not in Council ownership, within the Draft Masterplan SPD. Future reporting of this work will formally be through the Planning Policy Advisory Group and Cabinet with regular updates being provided to the Economy Policy Development Group throughout the coming months.

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Contact for more information</b> | Christie McCombe, Area Planning Officer<br><a href="mailto:cmccombe@middevon.gov.uk">cmccombe@middevon.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>Background Papers</b>            | Cabinet: 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2015; 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2017, 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2018, 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2018; 6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020; 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2021.<br><br>Economy PDG: 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2022; 12 Jan 2023. |
| <b>Circulation of the Report</b>    | Councillor Richard Chesterton<br>Cabinet Member for Planning & Regeneration; Leadership Team  |

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## Appendix 1: Summary Update of Key Projects for Inclusion in the Draft Masterplan SPD.

### Town Centre Environment and Vitality

Timescale: S/T: 0- 12 months; M/T: 1-3 years; L/T: 3+ years

| Project Description  | Lead Stakeholder(s)          | Potential benefit  | Strategic (S) or Quick Win (QW) Project? | Potential Source of Funding        | Timescale |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Phoenix Lane<br>Redevelopment<br>Inc Link to Pannier<br>Market, Memorial Garden<br>/ Bus Station / Becks<br>Square / Multi Storey Car<br>Park. | MDDC<br>DCC<br>Land owner(s) | Redevelopment & regeneration of under-used land & buildings to include delivery of town centre living accommodation.<br>Enhanced sense of arrival to the town.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.<br>Encourage better use & footfall in the town centre reducing the need to travel.<br>Creation of outdoor events space.<br>Enhanced public realm.<br>Enhanced visibility / connectivity with the Pannier Market.<br>Opportunity for phased delivery. | S  | Public<br>(funding bid)<br>Private | M/T       |
| Cinema   | Land owner(s)<br>MDDC        | Regeneration for enhanced economic activity  | S  | Private<br>Public<br>(funding bid) | M/T       |

|  |                    |  |    |                         |     |
|--|--------------------|--|----|-------------------------|-----|
|  |                    | Enhanced vitality & viability in the town centre.<br>Encourage better use & footfall in the town centre reducing the need to travel.   |    |                         |     |
| West Exe South Car Park  | MDDC<br>TTC        | Regeneration for enhanced economic activity &/or enhanced vitality & viability.<br>Regeneration of under-used land & buildings.<br>Enhanced streetscape.<br>Enhanced frontage on the riverside.<br>Opportunity for phased delivery   | S  | Public<br>(funding bid) | S/T |
| Riverside Circular Route<br>(West Exe – Palmerstone<br>Park Woods - West Exe<br>South Car Park | MDDC<br>Landowners | Extended Tiverton town trail.<br>Enhanced pedestrian links.<br>Visitor attraction.<br>Enhancement of the flood defences.<br>Opportunity for improved lighting.<br>Health & wellbeing benefits.<br>Opportunity for phased delivery.   | QW | Public<br>(funding bid) | M/T |
| Market Walk  | MDDC               | Redevelopment & regeneration of under-used land & buildings.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.<br>Encourage better use & footfall in the town centre reducing the need to travel.<br>Supports Neighbourhood Plan for a dementia friendly town centre.<br>Enhanced public realm. | S  | Public<br>(funding bid) | M/T |

|                                    |  |  |    |  |           |
|------------------------------------|--|--|----|--|-----------|
|                                    |  | Opportunity for phased delivery.   |    |  |           |
| Pannier Market                     | MDDC                                       | Regeneration of under-used buildings (inc Pig Pens & units).<br>Enhanced economic activity benefitting vitality & footfall reducing the need to travel.<br>Integration of uses in the wider Pannier Market / Market Walk area. | QW | Public (funding bid)                         | S/T – M/T |
| Town centre signage                | MDDC<br>DCC                                | Enhanced public realm.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced legibility.<br>Supports the visitor economy.  | QW | S106 contributions.                          | S/T       |
| Town centre seating                | TTC<br>MDDC<br>DCC                         | Enhanced public realm.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced legibility.<br>Supports the visitor economy.  | QW | S106 contributions.                          | S/T       |
| Town centre pocket park / greening | TTC<br>MDDC<br>DCC                         | Enhanced public realm.<br>Supports declaration on climate crisis.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced legibility.<br>Enhanced town centre biodiversity.  | QW | Public (funding bid).<br>S106 contributions. | S/T – M/T |
| River Exe Hydro Project            | MDDC<br>Landowner(s)<br>Environment Agency | Renewable energy generation.<br>Reduced carbon emissions.<br>Supports ambitions to be carbon neutral by 2025.<br>Potential for enhanced use & activity on the River frontage.  | S  | Public (funding bid)                         | M/T       |

|   |  |   |    |  |              |
|---|--|---|----|--|--------------|
| Pop up tenants & events in empty commercial units | TTC<br>Town Centre Manager                           | Brings empty units into use.<br>Improves vitality and footfall in the town centre reducing the need to travel.<br>Supports new starter businesses.  | QW | Coastal and Market Towns Initiative.   | ST           |
| Town Centre Tourist trail                         | TTC<br>Town Centre Manager                           | Potential for enhanced use & activity in lesser visited areas.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced public realm.<br>Supports the visitor economy.<br>Enhanced economic activity.<br>Supports active travel.         | QW | Coastal and Market Towns Initiative if economic benefits can be confirmed.<br>Public (funding bid) S106 contributions. | ST           |
| Shop front Enhancement scheme                     | MDDC   | Improves public realm.<br>Enhances vitality and footfall in the town centre reducing the need to travel.<br>Supports a conservation area at risk.<br>Supports the visitor economy.<br>Supports a town centre USP            | QW | Public.<br>SPF – Love your town centre.  | S/T on-going |
| Town Centre events                                | Town centre Manager<br>Market Manager<br>MDDC<br>TTC | Engages with local residents to use the town centre.<br>Enhances sense of pride in place.<br>Supports the visitor economy.<br>Enhanced economic activity.<br>Potential for enhanced use & activity in lesser visited areas. | S  | Public (funding bid)   | S/T on-going |

## Employment, Education and Training

| Project Description  | Lead Stakeholder(s)                         | Potential benefit  | Strategic (S) or Quick Win (QW) Project? | Potential Source of Funding        | Timescale |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Tiverton High School & TCAT  | DCC<br>Tiverton High School<br>TCAT<br>MDDC | Enhancing the educational experience to support life-long learning.<br>Civic pride & focal point to the local community.<br>Redevelopment &/or regeneration of under-used buildings.   | S  | Public S106 contributions          | M/T       |
| Innovation centre (Facilitated support provided on-site e.g training, mentoring: developing ideas and concepts of business models & products, access to advanced technologies e.g printers). * | Petroc / MDDC<br>Landowner(s)<br>TTC        | Greater knowledge sharing between individuals & local businesses.<br>Raised awareness within the local employment market of local employment opportunities.<br>Redevelopment &/or regeneration of under-used buildings.<br>Increased employment opportunities in the town centre reducing the need to travel.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability. | S  | Community Renewal Funding.<br>SPF. | M/T       |
| Incubator or Co-operative Work Space (Flexible work space for the juvenile businesses – providing a level of   | Petroc / MDDC<br>TTC                        | Greater knowledge sharing.<br>Raised awareness of local employment opportunities.<br>Redevelopment &/or regeneration of under-used buildings.  | S  | SPF.                               | M/T       |

|  |   |  |    |      |     |
|--|---|--|----|------|-----|
| support for those businesses between start-up & becoming established). * |   | Increased employment opportunities reducing the need to travel.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.   |    |      |     |
| Work Hub (flexible work space in town centre)*                           | MDDC<br>Town centre manager<br>Petroc<br>Landowner(s)<br>Local businesses | Greater knowledge sharing between individuals & local businesses.<br>Raised awareness within the local employment market of local employment opportunities.<br>Redevelopment &/or regeneration of under-used buildings.<br>Increased employment opportunities in the town centre.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability. | S  | SPF. | M/T |
| Promotion of local adult learning including amongst local residents      | Petroc<br>Local business sector?  | Increased skills to support access to local jobs opportunities.<br>Supports retention of local businesses.<br>Skilled workforce = enhanced spending opportunities = enhanced economic activity in the town centre.   | S  | SPF. | M/T |
| Adult learning pop-up events   | Town centre manager<br>Petroc<br>Landowner(s)<br>Local businesses<br>TTC  | Increased skills to support access to local jobs opportunities.<br>Supports retention of local businesses.<br>Skilled workforce = enhanced spending opportunities = enhanced   | QW | SPF. | M/T |

|  |  |                                       |  |  |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  |  | economic activity in the town centre. |  |  |  |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|

\*Note. 3 projects identified yet each intertwined. Each is seeking to support and nurture business development from infancy (Innovation centre) to adolescence (incubator / co-operative work space) to maturity (work hub).

## Travel, Accessibility and Transport

| Project Description  | Lead Stakeholder(s)                       | Potential benefit  | Strategic (S) or Quick Win (QW) Project? | Potential Source of Funding                                    | Timescale |
|--|---|--|--|--|-----------|
| Phoenix Lane Mobility Hub<br>inc car clubs, e.bike and e.scooter hire, electric shuttle buses. | MDDC<br>DCC<br>TTC<br>Town centre manager | Reduced carbon emissions.<br>Supports ambitions to be carbon neutral by 2025.<br>Enhanced active travel.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced connectivity inc between TIV PW Station & town centre.<br>Supports the visitor economy. | S  | ?  | S/T – L/T |
| Pedestrian / cycle route(s) & facilities.<br>inc new & improved routes, lock ups & e-charging. | MDDC<br>DCC<br>TTC<br>Land owner(s)       | Supports declaration on climate crisis.<br>Supports health & wellbeing.<br>Enhanced public realm.<br>Supports the visitor economy.<br>Enhanced economic activity benefitting vitality & reducing the need to travel by car.                  | QW                                       | Public (funding bid) S106 contributions                        | S/T-M/T   |
| Pedestrianisation of Fore Street during specific periods of the day                            | MDDC<br>DCC                               | Enhanced public realm.<br>Enhanced economic activity benefitting vitality & reducing the need to travel by car.<br>Supports the visitor economy.<br>Supports declaration on climate crisis.  | S  | Public (funding bid) S106 contributions. C&MT Initiative. SPF? | M/T       |



**Housing and Accommodation**

| Project Description                      | Lead Stakeholder(s)  | Potential benefit  | Strategic (S) or Quick Win (QW) Project? | Potential Source of Funding           | Timescale |
|--|----------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Use of upper floors for residential use. | MDDC<br>Landowner(s) | Redevelopment & regeneration of under-used land & buildings.<br>Supports a conservation area at risk.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.<br>Increased supply of housing reducing the need for green field sites. | S  | Public (funding bid).<br>Landowner(s) | M/T       |

## Communication

| Project Description  | Lead Stakeholder(s)                | Potential benefit   | Strategic (S) or Quick Win (QW) Project? | Potential Source of Funding                       | Timescale |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|-----------|
| Town centre app.     | TTC<br>Town Centre Manager         | Improved knowledge of local events, history, community, sense of pride in place.<br>Supports local businesses & visitor attractions.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability. | QW                                       | Public (funding bid).<br>C&MT initiative.<br>SPF. | S/T       |
| Town Centre brand    | TTC<br>Town Centre Manager<br>MDDC | Opportunity to promote Tiverton with a USP.<br>Supports local businesses & visitor attractions.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.                                      | QW                                       | Public (funding bid).<br>C&MT initiative.<br>SPF. | M/T       |
| Town Centre Web Site | Town Centre Manager<br>MDDC        | Opportunity to promote Tiverton with a USP.<br>Supports local businesses & visitor attractions.<br>Enhanced economic activity, vitality & viability.                                      | QW                                       | Public (funding bid).<br>C&MT initiative.         | M/T       |

## **CABINET 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

### **UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Delivery Plan**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Richard Chesterton

**Responsible Officer:** Richard Marsh, Director of Place

**Reason for Report:** To update members on the proposed delivery plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF), approve year 1 spend (2022/23) and approve delegated authority to the Director of Place, in conjunction with Cabinet Members, to approve the detailed SPF Policy and any accompanying guidance materials.

#### **RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet:**

- 1) approve the UKSPF expenditure & Delivery Plan for Year One (2022/23) as outlined throughout the report.**
- 2) approve delegated authority to the Director of Place, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to finalise the detailed SPF Policy & grant arrangements;**
- 3) approve delegated authority to the Director of Place, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration, to approve variations to the Delivery Plan, Investment Plan and/or grant scheme criteria; and**

**Financial Implications:** The Council's funding bid for year one of the SPF is confirmed as successful; funding for years two and three is dependent on successfully completing year one targets.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** The activities described in the report help to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan and the objectives and actions identified in Mid Devon's Economic Strategy.

The UKSPF Investment Plan was developed in conjunction with key stakeholders and was subject to engagement with Members prior to submission to Government. The Investment Plan is therefore informed & supported by recent engagement and an up to date understanding of the socio-economic context of the District.

**Legal Implications:** MDDC's UKSPF policy/grant conditions will reflect criteria set by the Government regarding eligibility for receipt of Government funds. These will also cover matters including Procurement and Subsidy Control requirements and will ensure that MDDC, and grant recipients, are acting in accordance with Government requirements and the law.

**Risk Assessment:** There is a risk where failure to deliver Year One projects on time occurs, this may impede our ability to access funding for Years Two and Three. This risk has increased owing to the delayed approval of the UKSPF investment plans submitted to Government by Local Authorities for approval. However, the Economic Development team is seeking to mitigate this risk and has been proactively progressing our Investment Plan workstreams in order to minimise the risk of non-delivery.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** The Shared Prosperity Fund aims to help address inequalities in our society. However, there is a risk due to the expediency needed to deliver actions within year one, that business communities more difficult to reach due to any current disconnect with existing networking channels, contact lists or due to technological/digital disadvantage may not benefit from funding in year one. Therefore, we have prioritised our approach to delivery in year one with the aim of establishing schemes so that years two and three focus on more direct support projects with businesses, which will have full communication plans aimed at target sectors.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** The work of the Growth, Economy and Delivery team supports the corporate objectives for the economy:

- Bringing new businesses into the District
- Business development and growth
- Improving and regenerating our town centres
- Growing the tourism sector

The successful deployment of the UKSPF programme, and in due course the REPF, will support the Economic Development team in achieving these corporate objectives.

**Impact on Climate Change:** No direct impacts have been identified, although several of the projects may have a positive environmental impact (eg through supporting low food miles in year one or through green technology grants later in the plan). The programme is therefore expected to have a positive impact on climate change in a general sense.

## 1.0 Background

The Economic Development Team received confirmation on 5th December 2022 from the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) that the MDDC UKSPF Investment Plan has been approved.

Mid Devon District Council has secured £67,748 for capital projects and £61,398 for revenue projects (plus a further £20,000 capacity funding to cover the costs of forming the bid). However, at this time, the funding confirmed is for year 1 (2022/23) only; confirmation of funding of SPF for years 2 and 3 is subject to successfully spending allocated funding in year 1 first, which must be spent (not committed) before the end of March 2023.

It is important to note that we had expected to hear the outcome of the assessment of our UKSPF Investment Plan by the beginning of October and yet with the two month delay on approval of it, the spend deadline has not been extended. We are therefore still bound to spend (not simply commit) the year 1 funding by the end of March 2023 and, as set out above, subsequent years funding is dependent upon our performance in year 1.

This report details the proposed delivery plan for year one in order to ensure swift and meaningful use of the funds given the short timescale. All of the proposals are within the original scope of the Investment Plan bid, which received prior approval from the Economy PDG and Cabinet.

The report also outlines the framework for the SPF Policy along with a timescale for delivery of actions within years 2 and 3. This includes projects within the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), although as this element of the SPF only closed for applications on 30 November, we do not expect to hear the outcome from this bid until sometime in January.

## **2.0 Year One Delivery Plan**

The Delivery Plan includes the following areas of intervention which will be delivered directly by the Economic Development Team:

- Love Your Town Centre
- Field to Fork
- Visitor Economy
- Work Hubs

In addition, the following areas of intervention will be delivered by external partners:

- Business Innovation Centre
- Business Innovation Outreach
- Business Support Programme

For the purposes of this report, we are focusing on the areas that we are directly responsible for; the team have been engaging with delivery partners for the remaining elements to ensure spend within the timeframe.

### **2.1 Love Your Town Centre**

This area of intervention includes aspects of funding programmes delivered within the Council's existing budget and workplan (such as vibrant town centres grant scheme and shopfront enhancement schemes) as well as new elements introduced through SPF (business growth scheme).

Key Outputs required from this area of intervention are:

- Improvements to town centres & high streets: Number of commercial buildings developed or improved
- Improvements to town centres & high streets: Reduced vacancy rates (%)
- Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities: Number of organisations receiving grants
- Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities: Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support
- Open markets and town centre retail and service sector: Number of businesses receiving grants
- Open markets and town centre retail and service sector: Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready
- Open markets and town centre retail and service sector: Number of new businesses created

## Proposal for Year one:

| LOVE YOUR TOWN CENTRE        |     | SPF |          | REPF |   | Other |           |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|------|---|-------|-----------|
| Business Growth Scheme       | cap | £   | 7,748.00 | £    | - | £     | -         |
| Vibrant Town Centres         | rev | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | 37,000.00 |
| Shopfront Enhancement Scheme | cap | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | -         |
| > Crediton                   |     | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | 15,000.00 |
| > Cullompton                 |     | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | 10,000.00 |
| > Tiverton                   |     | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | 15,000.00 |
| Digital High Street          | rev | £   | -        | £    | - | £     | -         |

There is £7,748 of capital funding through SPF for a Business Growth Scheme. We will launch this scheme for expressions of interest in January, accept applications in February and award grants in March.

The Business Growth Scheme is intended to complement the existing Shopfront Enhancement Schemes by offering fit-out grants of up to £2,500 (with match-funding required at 50%). The original idea was to incentivise occupancy of vacant units by targeting those moving into properties that had been empty for more than 3 months. While this is still a primary goal, in order to meet the reduced timeframe available to deliver funding within, we can expand the eligibility criteria to include other capital improvement works not covered by the existing enhancement schemes and still meet the key outputs.

The Vibrant Town Centres Scheme is the existing Love Your Town Centre scheme renamed. It will continue to support applications from businesses and community groups, including town councils and town teams, working in partnership to deliver projects that revitalise the town centres. The next round of Vibrant Town Centres will open for applications in January, with funding awarded in March.

It is intended to launch the Digital High Streets Scheme in Year Two, for which further information will be provided in future reports.

**Recommendation:** That the eligibility criteria for Business Growth Scheme be expanded to allow applications for capital improvement projects in town centre units not covered by the existing shopfront schemes and that these are assessed in accordance with the SPF Policy by the same Funding Panel as the existing Vibrant Town Centres Scheme.

## 2.2 Field to Fork

This area of intervention focuses on supporting local producers in Mid Devon and encouraging their business growth either through transition from producing, to supplying and retailing or expansion into food tourism such as food tours and experiences or farm shops.

Key outputs required from this area of intervention are:

- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of businesses receiving non-financial support

- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of people reached
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of local events or activities supported
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Increased visitor numbers (%)
- Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems: Number of businesses receiving non-financial support
- Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems: Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready

### Proposal for Year One:

| FIELD TO FORK                                    |     |   | SPF      | REPF | Other |   |   |
|--|-----|---|----------|------|-------|---|---|
| Food Tourism                                     |     |   |          |      |       |   |   |
| > Farmers' Markets Initiative                    | rev | £ | 4,500.00 | £    | -     | £ | - |
| Support Local Producers (Taste Mid Devon)        |     |   |          |      |       |   |   |
| > Promote local producers                        | rev | £ | -        | £    | -     | £ | - |
| > Food and drink trails/events                   | rev | £ | -        | £    | -     | £ | - |
| > Local Food Initiatives (Capital Grants Scheme) | cap | £ | -        | £    | -     | £ | - |

There is £4,500 of revenue funding available for Field to Fork projects in year one. In order to encourage more local producers into direct retail, we intend to approach the three main Farmers' Markets in Mid Devon (on the basis that they operate within the main town centres and occur at least monthly throughout the year) with an incentive scheme. The Farmers' Market Initiative will offer an upfront grant of £1,500 to the market operator to cover tolls and promotion costs for each new Mid Devon producer that attends. As part of the agreement, the markets will need to supply us with data for reporting against the key outcomes. The funding will be a one-off arrangement that must be spent within the three-year period of the SPF timeframe.

Looking ahead to years two and three, we intend to run a series of featured "meet the producer" promotions with Taste Mid Devon (on the Visit Mid Devon channels), highlighting local producers including video and photography, interviews, recipes etc. The revenue elements of the SPF will support the purchasing of media and sponsored posts, to continue monthly throughout the two years. In year three, we hope to have the REPF to run a capital grants scheme for producers to enhance their offer (such as brewing equipment, demo kitchens, new equipment to allow food box deliveries).

**Recommendation:** That the SPF for Field to Fork is offered to the three main town's Farmers' Markets to run an incentive scheme to attract new Mid Devon producers.

## 2.3 Visitor Economy

This area of intervention focuses on raising awareness of Mid Devon as a visitor destination and increasing visitor footfall.

Key outputs required from this area of intervention are:

- Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area: Increased number (%) of web searches for a place
- Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area: Number of people reached
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of businesses receiving non-financial support
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of people reached
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Number of local events or activities supported
- Development and promotion of visitor economy: Increased visitor numbers (%)

### Proposal for Year One:

| VISITOR ECONOMY                               |     | SPF        | REPF | Other |             |
|---|-----|------------|------|-------|-------------|
| Sustainable Tourism                           |     |            |      |       |             |
| > Promoting Mid Devon                         | rev | £ 6,388.45 | £ -  | £ -   | £ 15,000.00 |
| > Showcasing Equipment                        | cap | £ -        | £ -  | £ -   | £ -         |
| > Willow Trail                                | cap | £ -        | £ -  | £ -   | £ -         |
| > Sustainable Tourism (Capital Grants Scheme) | cap | £ -        | £ -  | £ -   | £ -         |
| Visitor Signage                               |     |            |      |       |             |
| > Town Visitor Boards                         |     | £ -        | £ -  | £ -   | £ 10,000.00 |
| > Gateway Signs (eg J27)                      |     | £ -        | £ -  | £ -   | £ -         |

There is £6,388.45 of revenue funding through the SPF for year one to support tourism in Mid Devon. For expediency, year one spend will be focused on the outputs relating to reach and improving number of online searches for Mid Devon places. By increasing awareness of Mid Devon in Year One, it is hoped that the follow-on projects will have a better start point to launch from. Therefore, we are looking to invest in enhanced Search Engine Optimisation with improvements to the website and Google Ads campaigns. We are also looking into extending the reach of the Visit Mid Devon guide to attract visitors from locations close to Mid Devon's rail networks (such as Plymouth, Bristol, Taunton, North Devon, London). This element of the project will be complemented by additional promotional features using existing budget.

For years two and three, the main project will see the development and piloting of a two-week Mid Devon walking festival to encourage more people to explore the local area and increase visitor numbers, particularly at the close of the main holiday season. The Love Your Town Centre area of intervention will sit alongside this area, with the Vibrant Town Centres funding scheme able to support activities and events in Mid Devon's towns to coincide with the walking festival.

Years two and three will be complemented with a number of capital projects through the REPF developing a Willow Trail (to support the walking festival) and improved visitor signage at the main entry points into Mid Devon. There will also be a Capital Grants Scheme delivered through the REPF to support



tourism businesses seeking to diversify or grow in order to enhance their visitor offer.

**Recommendation:** that the SPF for Year One is focused on the reach and web searches outputs with activities that deliver against these.

## 2.4 Work Hubs

This area of intervention focuses on supporting provision of flexible workspace in Mid Devon with the wider aim of supporting the start-up and growing micro businesses that use that space.

Key outputs required from this area of intervention are:

- Community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects: Number of organisations receiving grants
- Community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects: Number of facilities supported/created
- Community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects: Increased users of facilities/amenities
- Enterprise infrastructure and employment / innovation sites: Number of businesses receiving grants
- Enterprise infrastructure and employment / innovation sites: Number and m<sup>2</sup> of commercial buildings developed or improved
- Enterprise infrastructure and employment / innovation sites: Increased amount of investment
- Enterprise infrastructure and employment / innovation sites: Number of premises with improved digital connectivity

| WORK HUB & INCUBATOR SPACE DEVELOPMENT    |     | SPF         | REPF | Other       |
|---|-----|-------------|------|-------------|
| Work Hub Study                            |     | £ -         | £ -  | £ 22,000.00 |
| Flexible Workspace (Capital Grant Scheme) | cap | £ 30,000.00 | £ -  | £ 5,000.00  |

This project will deliver a Capital Grant Scheme to support incubator space and work hub development in Mid Devon with the aim of creating small flexible office and workshop space. This will both support the growth and expansion of existing work hubs as well as the development of new locations and facilities across the District. It is anticipated that there will be an element of supporting provision with the town centres as well as rural areas, with the rural element focusing on developing existing community facilities to create a network of community work and learning hubs.

There is a need to determine and understand Mid Devon's need and existing offer across the District as well as identify the right opportunities for investment with this scheme. There is £22,000 of earmarked reserves set aside for a work hub study to provide this base information. However, it will not be possible to undertake the study ahead of all financial spend within the timeframe required. Therefore, for Year One, we propose launching the Grants Scheme for existing work hubs only to enhance their offer. Alongside this, we will progress the Work

Hub Study. Then, in Years 2 and 3, we will run the Grants Scheme to deliver new provision as directed by the Study.

**Recommendation:** That the year one allocation for the Flexible Workspace Capital Grants Scheme is prioritised for existing work hubs in Mid Devon with aspirations for growth. Secondly, that a study be commissioned to understand the demand for flexible workspace in Mid Devon's town centres and rural areas is commissioned using the allocated earmarked reserves.

## 2.5 External Delivery Projects

Within Year One, we have three areas of intervention to commence but will be led by external partners:

- **Business Innovation Centre:** Petroc College are delivering on this project. There is £30,000 of capital funding to spend in Year One, for which they are seeking quotes for phase one of delivering the new Business Innovation Centre.
- **Business Innovation Outreach:** There is £16,750 of revenue funding to deliver business workshops and facilitated support to encourage start-ups, growth and innovation. It was originally intended that this would run alongside the Business Innovation Centre project to be delivered by Petroc College. However, we have the option to use Year One's funding with a separate provider in order to deliver the funding on time if Phase One of Petroc's BIC project cannot incorporate this.
- **Business Support Programme:** There is £7,812.55 of revenue funding for Year One to invest in a continued business support programme with Devon County Council.

## 3.0 Years Two and Three Delivery Plans

The SPF is an annualised grant and funding for the next year is not confirmed until the current year spend is achieved and it is demonstrated that MDDC has successfully delivered against forecast outcomes. Therefore, it is challenging to commit funding plans for year two ahead of this confirmation. However, we have identified an overview of plans for years two and three within the areas of intervention above and propose bringing a more detailed plan to a future PDG & Cabinet meeting.

## 4.0 SPF Policy

Mid Devon requires a Shared Prosperity Fund Policy outlining how the use of the Shared Prosperity Funding (including Rural England Prosperity Funding) will be allocated in line with Government requirements. The Purpose of the Policy is to ensure a consistent and transparent approach to awarding grants within the remit of the funding and to ensure that the required level of due diligence regarding SPF spend is followed.

Similar to the previous Additional Restrictions Grants policies, it identifies business eligibility criteria for the Capital Grants Schemes and required

compliance checks. Although, formation of the grant schemes is discretionary, these will align with our agreed areas of intervention as outlined within the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and all business recipients must meet the Government-set criteria (such as subsidy thresholds and solvency status).

The Policy will focus on financial control and outline the general requirements for all use of the funding. This will be appended by more specific grant scheme criteria for the individual capital grant scheme elements. For instance the Shopfront Enhancement Schemes have different scheme-specific criteria to the Vibrant Town Centres Scheme.

It is important, due to the timescales, that Mid Devon can approve an overarching Policy swiftly and any variations in response to Government requirements. With previous business grant schemes, delegated authority was awarded to the Cabinet Member for Finance along with a senior officer/officers of the Council to approve the policies relating to financial controls.

Individual scheme criteria are agreed at service level. Due to the annualised arrangement for Mid Devon to access further funding, it is important that each scheme is flexible and can be adapted to ensure swift delivery of the funding and that projects funded meet a) local needs and b) the key outputs. Similarly, it is important to note that within the Policy, due to the need to specifically allocate revenue or capital funding, some projects while meeting the criteria, may not be eligible and as a result, weaker scoring projects for the right funding type towards the end of the scheme may instead be successful.

**Recommendation:** We recommend that, similar to previous business grant policies, delegated authority is awarded to the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Director of Place to approve the SPF Policy. Clearly, given the relationship to finance matters, the Council's S151 officer will also be fully consulted in the formulation and finalisation of such policies with agreement secured to the policies, as required.

On the basis of the risks outlined above with regards to capital and revenue funding levels, we also recommend that delegated authority is given to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration along with the Director of Place to jointly approve any required variations to the delivery plan and/or scheme guidance. That they also have joint delegated authority to approve variations to the SPF (and REPF) Investment Plan to reallocate funds from one area of intervention to another as required to support appropriate and timely spend of the funds. Any major variations to the Investment Plan must also have approval from the DLUHC.

We also recommend that for the duration of this scheme, the Economic Development Team Programme Update reports to Economy PDG, be updated to provide programme delivery updates for the SPF/REPF to allow transparency and enable member engagement and oversight.

**Contact for more Information:**

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**Circulation of the Report:**

Cllr Richard Chesterton  
Cllr John Downes  
Economy PDG  
Cabinet  
Leadership Team

**List of Background Papers:**

## Economy Policy Development Group 12 JANUARY 2023

### 2023/24 Budget Update

**Cabinet Member** Cllr Bob Deed, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance  
**Responsible Officer** Andrew Jarrett – Deputy Chief Executive (S151)

**Reason for Report:** The Local Government Finance Act 1992 places a legal requirement on the Council to approve a balanced budget. The first draft of the General Fund budget for 2023/24 indicated a deficit of £960k. This report updates that deficit to the current position of £905k and proposes options to consider to achieve the statutorily required neutrality.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That PDG Members review the options included within the Appendices and recommend to Cabinet the way forwards, noting that if the committee doesn't support any options, alternative suggestions should be made.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** To deliver the Council's ongoing Corporate Plan priorities within financial resources.

**Financial Implications:** The current budget for the General Fund shows a deficit of £905k. This highlights the need to take steps to plan for further reductions to our ongoing expenditure levels.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** The Council has an annual legal requirement to set a balanced budget.

**Legal Implications:** None directly arising from this report, although there is a legal obligation to balance the budget. There are legal implications arising from any future consequential decisions to change service provision, but these would be assessed at the time.

**Risk Assessment:** In order to comply with the requirement to set a balanced budget, management must ensure that the proposed savings are robust and achievable. We must also ensure that the assumptions we have used are realistic and prudent. Failure to set a robust deliverable budget puts the Council at risk of not being able to meet its commitments and casts doubt on its "going concern" and VFM status.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No implications arising from this report.

**Climate Change Assessment:** The allocation of resources will impact upon the Council's ability to implement/fund new activities linked to climate change. Some provision has already been included in the Capital Programme and General Fund base budget in order to work towards the Council's Carbon Reduction Pledge.

## 1 Background and Introduction

- 1.1 Update reports have previously been taken through Cabinet on 1 November and 29 November 2022. The latest update report is scheduled for 3 January 2023 showing the current shortfall position. Members are asked to refer to those reports for the background.
- 1.2 This report provides an updated position across the General Fund and Capital Programme following a detailed budgetary review. However, the budget position is a moving feast as more information becomes available. One such aspect is the outcome of the “Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement: England, 2023 to 2024” published (19 December 2022). A summary document will be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting.
- 1.3 A summary of the results of the budget section within the Residents Survey recently undertaken will also be shared with the Committee prior to the meeting. Members should consider this feedback when reviewing the movements in the budget and when reviewing and identifying new budget options to propose to Cabinet. All of the other feedback from the survey will be reviewed (including any associated action plans) in a Cabinet report in February 2023.

## 2 2023/24 Budget Update – Revised Position

- 2.1 Following identification of the proposed options shown in the last Cabinet update report, and updates to reflect known changes and assumptions, the draft budget deficit for 2023/24 is £905k. **Appendix 1** shows the movement at a granular service level relevant to this committee.
- 2.2 The main reasons for the movement from the previously reported £960k shortfall are:
  - Significantly higher than expected rise in Energy costs covering the period October 2022 to March 2024;
  - Likely increase in Business Rates income following the national revaluation – this is subject to further guidance and clarification from Government, part of which forms part of the Local Government Funding Settlement which will be published on 21 December 2022 (an update paper will be provided prior to the meeting);
  - Likely increase in the treasury returns – subject to finalisation of the Capital Programme and borrowing/lending levels and approval of the 3 Rivers Developments Ltd Business Plan;
  - Increased staffing FTE to combat the need for expensive short term agency cover;
  - Updated recharges to and from the HRA based upon updated Salary Estimates; and
  - Updates to the assumed savings and pressures previously included.

- 2.3 There is still a way to go to balance the 2023/24 budget. **Appendix 2** shows further budget options for the Cabinet and the January Policy Development Groups to consider.
- 2.4 Following consideration of the updated forecast position, and the feedback from the Residents Survey, the committee is asked the following question in respect of the services it is responsible for:
- **Which services do you most want to protect from any budget or service provision reductions, and which do you accept could be reduced?**
- 2.5 Officers have considered further savings options (collectively included within Row C with Appendix 2). This can be used as a guide to where officers believe further savings could be identified with least impact – note this does not mean they have no impact, but could be considered the “least-worst” options. The relevant service areas are:

| <b>Responsible Committee</b> | <b>Service Area</b> |   |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Environment                  | SPS09               | Property Services Staff Unit  |
| Environment                  | SGM01               | Grounds Maintenance   |
| Economy                      | SPR06               | Economic Development  |
| Community                    | SES16               | ES Staff Units/Recharges  |
| Community                    | SRS01               | Recreation And Sport  |
| Community                    | SPR03               | Development Control   |
| Community                    | SCS22               | Customer First  |
| Cabinet                      | SFP01               | Accountancy Services  |
| Cabinet                      | SFP04 / 05          | Purchase / Sales Ledger   |
| Cabinet                      | SRB03 /04 / 06      | Housing Benefit Admin & Fraud<br>Housing Benefit Subsidy<br>Debt Recovery |
| Cabinet                      | SIT03               | IT Information Technology   |
| Cabinet                      | SCM02               | Corporate Functions   |
| Cabinet                      | SHR01               | Human Resources   |

- 2.6 The request for you to indicate the areas that you wish to be most protected and those where you feel a reduction could be achieved will be used to inform the Vacancy Freeze: not filling vacancies arising in these services areas will be considered as the first port of call against a targeted saving.
- 2.7 The committee is reminded that there is a budget shortfall and savings need to be made somewhere. If none of these options are considered palatable, the committee is asked to identify alternative options to the same value.
- 2.8 Both Cabinet and the PDG’s are also asked to identify any additional or alternative savings options.

### 3 Capital Programme

- 3.1 The revised Capital Programme is included in **Appendix 3**. The overall Capital Programme for 2023/24 is forecast at £98,375k, with the deliverable budget for the year of £30,034k. The level of borrowing required in 2023/24 stands at £20,304k, split £12,695k for the General Fund and £7,609k for the HRA. It continues to include assumptions of significant 1-4-1 receipts and grant funding to support the ambitious Housing Development programme within the HRA.
- 3.2 This includes the financial implications of the 3 Rivers Developments Ltd Business Plan considered by the recent Scrutiny and Audit Committees. Once the final Business Plan is approved, this will be updated as necessary.
- 3.3 The delivery of housing development will continue to be refined following further work and the latest survey assessments, as will all projects.
- 3.4 The committee is encouraged to review the detailed investment proposals and provide any comments / suggestions for Cabinet to consider.

### 4 Conclusion

- 4.1 Like all councils, Mid Devon is facing an ongoing and very challenging financial future. The PDGs will continue to play a pro-active role in both reducing ongoing service costs and exploring new possibilities to raise additional income. The committee's recommendations will be taken forward for consideration by Cabinet in setting the 2023/24 budget in February 2023.

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**Circulation of the Report:** Cabinet, Leadership Team



### Appendix 1 - Detailed Budget Movements by Service - Round 1

| Service Unit             | Direct Costs Detail                        | 2022/23 Annual Budget<br>£ | MTFP Adjustment<br>£ | Round 1 Detailed Update<br>£ | Provisional 2023/24 Budget<br>£ | Increase / (Decrease)<br>£ | Increase / (Decrease)<br>% | Explanation of Round 1 Key Movements  |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| SCD02                    | <b>Economy PDG</b><br>Economic Development | 70,320                     | 12,135               | (5,494)                      | <b>76,961</b>                   | 6,641                      | 9.4%                       | £36k energy, £13k collection costs, £105k maintenance projects<br>£210k Cullompton HAZ, Increased Staffing funding by EMR<br>£100k maintenance projects |
| SCP01                    | Parking Services                           | (489,680)                  | (105,475)            | (70,355)                     | <b>(665,510)</b>                | (175,830)                  | 35.9%                      |   |
| SPR06                    | Economic Development                       | 706,700                    | (150,495)            | 286,392                      | <b>842,597</b>                  | 135,897                    | 19.2%                      |   |
| SPS12                    | Gf Properties Shops/Flats                  | (306,890)                  | 2,178                | 112,762                      | <b>(191,950)</b>                | 114,940                    | (37.5%)                    |   |
| <b>TOTAL ECONOMY PDG</b> |  | <b>(19,550)</b>            | <b>(241,657)</b>     | <b>323,305</b>               | <b>62,098</b>                   | <b>81,648</b>              | <b>(417.6%)</b>            |   |

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| Description                                      | 2023/24<br>£   |
|--|----------------|
| Annual Budget Shortfall - 3 January 2023 Cabinet | <b>904,945</b> |

**Options to reduce the remaining Budget Shortfall**

| Description  | PDG committee | 2023/24<br>£     | Notes   |
|--|---------------|------------------|---|
| a Apply a Vacancy Factor across Services   | Cabinet       | (300,000)        | This will be notionally split £150k Leisure, and £150k across all other services.   |
| b Finance Settlement - increased grant funding   | Cabinet       | (50,000)         | Based on the Government's recent Policy Statement, this could be between £50k - £300k.  |
| c Further Service Savings  | Cabinet       | (600,000)        | Each member of CMT has identified a further c.£100k of savings options.   |
| d Review of Earmarked Reserves   | Cabinet       | (100,000)        | Working assumption - a full review of options / priorities is underway.   |
| e Unachievable Assumptions – Town/Parish Councils Contributions<br>- assumed £150k of savings will be made instead | Cabinet       | 150,000          | Originally £210k was assumed, this is currently reduced to £150k. If no additional funding, or devolvement is achieved, reductions in service provision may be required |
| <b>Service Budget Options Sub-total</b>  |               | <b>(900,000)</b> |   |
| <b>Potential Cumulative MTFP Position</b>  |               | <b>4,945</b>     |   |

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| Area                          | Sub Area                                | Project Title   | Total Project Costs for Approval |               |               |               |              | Spend Profile |               |               |               |               |              |          |               |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
|                               |   |   | 2023/24                          | 2024/25       | 2025/26       | 2026/27       | 2027/28      | Total         | 2023/24       | 2024/25       | 2025/26       | 2026/27       | 2027/28      | Beyond   | Total         |
|                               |   |   | £000's                           | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's       | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's       | £000's   | £000's        |
| <b>General Fund</b>           |   |   |                                  |               |               |               |              |               |               |               |               |               |              |          |               |
| Leisure                       | Exe Valley Leisure Centre               | Spin bikes  | 32                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 32            | 32            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 32            |
| Leisure                       | Exe Valley Leisure Centre               | Leisure - Improved Disabled Toilet facilities   | 51                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 51            | 51            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 51            |
| Leisure                       | Lords Meadow Leisure Centre             | Fitness Studio renewal of equipment   | 125                              | -             | -             | -             | -            | 125           | 125           | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 125           |
| Leisure                       | Lords Meadow Leisure Centre             | Reception infrastructure  | 40                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 40            | 40            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 40            |
| Leisure                       | Lords Meadow Leisure Centre             | Spin bikes including environment improvements   | 32                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 32            | 32            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 32            |
| Leisure                       | Lords Meadow Leisure Centre             | Leisure - Improved Disabled Toilet facilities   | 46                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 46            | 46            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 46            |
| Leisure                       | Culm Valley Sports Centre               | Spin Bikes  | 40                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 40            | 40            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 40            |
| Leisure                       | Culm Valley Sports Centre               | Leisure - Improved Disabled Toilet facilities   | 56                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 56            | 56            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 56            |
| Leisure                       | Leisure - Other                         | All leisure sites replacement management/site access system (Hardware Element)            | 200                              | -             | -             | -             | -            | 200           | 200           | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 200           |
| Leisure                       | Leisure - Climate Change/Net Zero       | CVSC -Phase 3B Salix funding energy saving  | 396                              | -             | -             | -             | -            | 396           | 396           | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 396           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Phoenix House                           | Etarmis - Security Swipe - (linked to security project)                                   | 30                               | -             | -             | -             | -            | 30            | 30            | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 30            |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Phoenix House                           | Building Mgmt System for Heating Control  | 103                              | -             | -             | -             | -            | 103           | 103           | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 103           |
| HIF                           | HIF Schemes                             | CA719 Cullompton Town Centre Relief Road (HIF)  | 18,030                           | -             | -             | -             | -            | 18,030        | 1,489         | 15,041        | 1,500         | -             | -            | -        | 18,030        |
| Private Sector Housing        | Private Sector Housing                  | DFG and other private sector grants   | 525                              | 550           | 575           | 600           | 625          | 2,875         | 525           | 550           | 575           | 600           | 625          | -        | 2,875         |
| Other                         | ICT Projects                            | Server hardware/software Citrix Replacement   | 50                               | -             | -             | -             | 60           | 110           | 50            | -             | -             | -             | 60           | -        | 110           |
| Other                         | ICT Projects                            | VM/Storage Area Network   | 120                              | -             | -             | -             | 140          | 260           | 120           | -             | -             | -             | 140          | -        | 260           |
| Other                         | ICT Projects                            | UPS Replacements  | 20                               | -             | 25            | -             | 30           | 75            | 20            | -             | 25            | -             | 30           | -        | 75            |
| Other                         | ICT Projects                            | Laptop/Desktop Refresh  | 150                              | 150           | 160           | 160           | 170          | 790           | 150           | 150           | 160           | 160           | 170          | -        | 790           |
| Other                         | ICT Projects                            | Audio/Video replacement for Phoenix House   | 120                              | -             | -             | -             | 140          | 260           | 120           | -             | -             | -             | 140          | -        | 260           |
| Other GF Development Projects | Other General Fund Development Projects | 3 Rivers Scheme - Future Projects   | 250                              | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250          | 1,250         | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250          | -        | 1,250         |
| Other GF Development Projects | Other General Fund Development Projects | 3 Rivers Scheme - Park Road Cullompton  | 100                              | -             | -             | -             | -            | 100           | 100           | -             | -             | -             | -            | -        | 100           |
| Other GF Development Projects | Other General Fund Development Projects | 3 Rivers - New Start & schemes TBC  | 11,846                           | 10,912        | 13,888        | 9,054         | 7,703        | 53,403        | 11,846        | 10,912        | 13,888        | 9,054         | 7,703        | -        | 53,403        |
| Leisure                       | Exe Valley Leisure Centre               | ATP replacement (50% share with DCC)  | -                                | 220           | -             | -             | -            | 220           | -             | 220           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 220           |
| Leisure                       | Exe Valley Leisure Centre               | CHP -Replacement future energy saving project   | -                                | 30            | -             | -             | -            | 30            | -             | 30            | -             | -             | -            | -        | 30            |
| Leisure                       | Culm Valley Sports Centre               | ATP replacement (50% share with DCC)  | -                                | 210           | -             | -             | -            | 210           | -             | 210           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 210           |
| Leisure                       | Culm Valley Sports Centre               | Fitness Studio renewal of equipment   | -                                | 150           | -             | -             | -            | 150           | -             | 150           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 150           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Other - Climate Change/Net Zero         | All Fleet - Vehicle live monitoring for CO2 emissions                                     | -                                | 115           | -             | -             | -            | 115           | -             | 115           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 115           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Other - Climate Change/Net Zero         | Phoenix House - Air Source Heat pumps & ducting   | -                                | 450           | -             | -             | -            | 450           | -             | 450           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 450           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Other - Climate Change/Net Zero         | MSCP -Solar carport and additional security   | -                                | 170           | -             | -             | -            | 170           | -             | 170           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 170           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Other - Climate Change/Net Zero         | MSCP Additional electric car charging points  | -                                | 80            | -             | -             | -            | 80            | -             | 80            | -             | -             | -            | -        | 80            |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | MDDC Depots                             | Depot Build - Waste & Recycling   | -                                | 3,500         | -             | -             | -            | 3,500         | -             | 3,500         | -             | -             | -            | -        | 3,500         |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Public Conveniences                     | Phoenix Lane Toilets - new construction in fresh position - funding options to be pursued | -                                | 125           | -             | -             | -            | 125           | -             | 50            | 75            | -             | -            | -        | 125           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Public Conveniences                     | Westexce Rec Toilets - Replacement  | -                                | 160           | -             | -             | -            | 160           | -             | 50            | 110           | -             | -            | -        | 160           |
| Other                         | Other Projects                          | Tiverton Market Paving - Permanent Solution   | -                                | 200           | -             | -             | -            | 200           | -             | 200           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 200           |
| Other                         | Other Projects                          | Baler   | -                                | 480           | -             | -             | -            | 480           | -             | 480           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 480           |
| Other                         | Other Projects                          | PDA's for cabs  | -                                | 150           | -             | -             | -            | 150           | -             | 150           | -             | -             | -            | -        | 150           |
| Leisure                       | Leisure - Climate Change/Net Zero       | EVLC - Building Fabric - Insulation improvements  | -                                | -             | 260           | -             | -            | 260           | -             | -             | 260           | -             | -            | -        | 260           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Phoenix House                           | Cooling options Air Handling Unit   | -                                | -             | 150           | -             | -            | 150           | -             | -             | 150           | -             | -            | -        | 150           |
| Leisure                       | Lords Meadow Leisure Centre             | ATP replacement (no dual use)   | -                                | -             | -             | 200           | -            | 200           | -             | -             | -             | 200           | -            | -        | 200           |
| Leisure                       | Leisure - Climate Change/Net Zero       | LMLC -Building Fabric -Insulation improvements  | -                                | -             | -             | 200           | -            | 200           | -             | -             | -             | 200           | -            | -        | 200           |
| Leisure                       | Leisure - Climate Change/Net Zero       | CVSC-Building Fabric -Insulation improvements   | -                                | -             | -             | 200           | -            | 200           | -             | -             | -             | 200           | -            | -        | 200           |
| Other MDDC Buildings          | Other - Climate Change/Net Zero         | MDDC commercial property building fabric  | -                                | -             | -             | 240           | -            | 240           | -             | -             | -             | 240           | -            | -        | 240           |
| <b>General Fund Subtotals</b> |   |   | <b>32,362</b>                    | <b>17,902</b> | <b>15,308</b> | <b>10,904</b> | <b>9,118</b> | <b>85,594</b> | <b>15,821</b> | <b>32,758</b> | <b>16,993</b> | <b>10,904</b> | <b>9,118</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>85,594</b> |

| Area                 | Sub Area                         | Project Title       | Total Project Costs for Approval |               |               |               |               |                | Spend Profile |               |               |               |               |                |                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|                      |                                  |                     | 2023/24                          | 2024/25       | 2025/26       | 2026/27       | 2027/28       | Total          | 2023/24       | 2024/25       | 2025/26       | 2026/27       | 2027/28       | Beyond 2028/29 | Total          |
|                      |                                  |                     | £000's                           | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's         | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's        | £000's         | £000's         |
| <b>HRA</b>           |                                  |                     |                                  |               |               |               |               |                |               |               |               |               |               |                |                |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Garage Mods         | 150                              | 150           | 150           | 150           | -             | 600            | 150           | 150           | 150           | 150           | -             | -              | 600            |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Roofing             | 600                              | 600           | 600           | 600           | 600           | 3,000          | 600           | 600           | 600           | 600           | 600           | -              | 3,000          |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Decent Homes        | 860                              | 905           | 730           | 755           | 780           | 4,030          | 860           | 905           | 730           | 755           | 780           | -              | 4,030          |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Fire Safety         | 50                               | 40            | 30            | 20            | 20            | 160            | 50            | 40            | 30            | 20            | 20            | -              | 160            |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Window/Doors        | 400                              | 400           | 400           | 400           | 400           | 2,000          | 400           | 400           | 400           | 400           | 400           | -              | 2,000          |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Heating             | 375                              | 380           | 385           | 390           | 395           | 1,925          | 375           | 380           | 385           | 390           | 395           | -              | 1,925          |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Renewables          | 250                              | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250           | 1,250          | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250           | 250           | -              | 1,250          |
| HRA Projects         | Existing Housing Stock           | Adaptations         | 305                              | 310           | 315           | 320           | 325           | 1,575          | 305           | 310           | 315           | 320           | 325           | -              | 1,575          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 4           | 189                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 189            | 189           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 189            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 1           | 10                               | -             | -             | -             | -             | 10             | 10            | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 10             |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 3           | 1,387                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,387          | 1,387         | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,387          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 7           | 220                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 220            | 220           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 220            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 41          | 140                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 140            | 140           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 140            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 29          | 950                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 950            | -             | 950           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 950            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 28          | 1,100                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,100          | 110           | 990           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 51          | 400                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 400            | 40            | 360           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 400            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 52          | 220                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 220            | 22            | 198           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 220            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 53          | 230                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 230            | 23            | 207           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 230            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 5           | 220                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 220            | 22            | 198           | -             | -             | -             | -              | 220            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 15          | 4,210                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 4,210          | 4,210         | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 4,210          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 18          | 200                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 200            | 200           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 10          | 1,505                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,505          | 1,505         | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,505          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 14          | 200                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 200            | 200           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 9           | 1,105                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,105          | 1,105         | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,105          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 11          | 400                              | -             | -             | -             | -             | 400            | 400           | -             | -             | -             | -             | -              | 400            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 25          | 2,600                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 2,600          | 260           | 2,340         | -             | -             | -             | -              | 2,600          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 8           | 2,240                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 2,240          | -             | 2,240         | -             | -             | -             | -              | 2,240          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 37          | 1,800                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,800          | 180           | 1,620         | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,800          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 33          | 1,300                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,300          | 130           | 1,170         | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,300          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 36          | 1,700                            | -             | -             | -             | -             | 1,700          | 170           | 1,530         | -             | -             | -             | -              | 1,700          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 20          | 24,940                           | -             | -             | -             | -             | 24,940         | 700           | 8,080         | 8,080         | 8,080         | -             | -              | 24,940         |
| HRA Projects         | Other HRA Projects               | Post Hill, Tiverton | 15,757                           | -             | -             | -             | -             | 15,757         | -             | 6,802         | 8,955         | -             | -             | -              | 15,757         |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 27          | -                                | 1,700         | -             | -             | -             | 1,700          | -             | 170           | 1,530         | -             | -             | -              | 1,700          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 26          | -                                | 1,200         | -             | -             | -             | 1,200          | -             | 120           | 1,080         | -             | -             | -              | 1,200          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 22          | -                                | 2,800         | -             | -             | -             | 2,800          | -             | 280           | 2,520         | -             | -             | -              | 2,800          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 54          | -                                | 200           | -             | -             | -             | 200            | -             | 20            | 180           | -             | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 55          | -                                | 200           | -             | -             | -             | 200            | -             | 20            | 180           | -             | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 16          | -                                | -             | 1,000         | -             | -             | 1,000          | -             | -             | 100           | 900           | -             | -              | 1,000          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 56          | -                                | -             | 200           | -             | -             | 200            | -             | -             | 20            | 180           | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 57          | -                                | -             | 200           | -             | -             | 200            | -             | -             | 20            | 180           | -             | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 30          | -                                | -             | 1,100         | -             | -             | 1,100          | -             | -             | 110           | 990           | -             | -              | 1,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 23          | -                                | -             | 4,100         | -             | -             | 4,100          | -             | -             | 410           | 3,690         | -             | -              | 4,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 24          | -                                | -             | 1,100         | -             | -             | 1,100          | -             | -             | 110           | 990           | -             | -              | 1,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 12          | -                                | -             | 1,600         | -             | -             | 1,600          | -             | -             | 160           | 1,440         | -             | -              | 1,600          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 35          | -                                | -             | 1,700         | -             | -             | 1,700          | -             | -             | 170           | 1,530         | -             | -              | 1,700          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 31          | -                                | -             | 1,100         | -             | -             | 1,100          | -             | -             | 110           | 990           | -             | -              | 1,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Development Schemes (HE) | Project 13          | -                                | -             | 1,100         | -             | -             | 1,100          | -             | -             | 110           | 990           | -             | -              | 1,100          |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 58          | -                                | -             | -             | 200           | -             | 200            | -             | -             | -             | 20            | 180           | -              | 200            |
| HRA Projects         | Housing Schemes (1:4:1 Projects) | Project 59          | -                                | -             | -             | 200           | -             | 200            | -             | -             | -             | 20            | 180           | -              | 200            |
| <b>HRA Subtotals</b> |                                  |                     | <b>66,013</b>                    | <b>9,135</b>  | <b>16,060</b> | <b>3,285</b>  | <b>2,770</b>  | <b>97,263</b>  | <b>14,213</b> | <b>30,330</b> | <b>26,705</b> | <b>22,885</b> | <b>3,130</b>  | <b>-</b>       | <b>97,263</b>  |
| <b>Grand Totals</b>  |                                  |                     | <b>98,375</b>                    | <b>27,037</b> | <b>31,368</b> | <b>14,189</b> | <b>11,888</b> | <b>182,857</b> | <b>30,034</b> | <b>63,088</b> | <b>43,698</b> | <b>33,789</b> | <b>12,248</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>182,857</b> |

## **1.0 Resident's Survey – Budget Results Summary**

1.1 For six weeks during November/December 2022, the Council undertook a Resident's Survey. The feedback from which will be reviewed (including any associated action plans) in a Cabinet report in February 2023.

1.2 The online survey was publicised as widely as possible including local press, social media and through Parish Councils. It received over 1,000 responses, but caution is advised in terms of this being statistically representative.

1.3 Part of that survey included specific consultation on the 2023/24 budget. The budget feedback will be considered at the next round of Cabinet and PDG meetings in January. A summary of the budget related responses is included below along with a comparison, where applicable, to last year's results and those received from the Local Government Association resident satisfaction telephone survey, conducted in June 2022:

- 46% of responses indicated they agreed that the Council's services provide value for money (41% in 2021, 45% LG Inform);
- 42% said the most important priority when making spending decisions was providing basic statutory services (38% in 2021), 16% seeking to support and develop the economy, 15% tackling climate change (21% in 2021), and 14% said providing affordable housing (19% in 2021);
- 50% said when making spending plans the council should protect services even if it means it will need to increase council tax and fees and charges (46% in 2021). 26% said the Council should share services with other organisations (29% in 2021).
- 63% think this should come from planning and building control (49% in 2021).
- Of the discretionary services provided by MDDC there was a fairly even balance about which services should be protected. 52% public toilets (63% in 2021), 51% favoured parks and open spaces (67% in 2021), 46% town centre regeneration (52% in 2021).
- Of our statutory services 92% felt waste and recycling service was most important service (93% in 2021) followed by food and water sampling with 69% (68% in 2021), and homelessness at 56% (60% in 2021).

1.4 The results generally show a desire to protect basic service provision, even if it means it will need to increase council tax and fees and charges. Specific service areas results show a downward trend with many 2022 results being lower than the prior year equivalent.

1.5 The current proposed budget reflects much of this, through:

- Protecting services – no service reductions are currently included, although there clearly remains a significant deficit to offset;
- Significant investment in decarbonisation of our estate and additional housing;
- Income generation has been prioritised with a full review of Fees and Charges and inflationary price increases applied. In some cases, above

inflation increases have been applied to discretionary services to ensure full cost recovery is achieved.

- 1.6 Income from Planning Development is largely controlled by Government as planning fees are set nationally. However, all discretionary fees have been increased to minimise the difference between the cost of operating this service and the income it generates.
- 1.7 It has long been the view that all development service activity, including enforcement, should be funded by the fees paid by those who benefit from development proposals. In light of the residents' survey, we will write again to our MPs to seek support for allowing local authorities the ability to charge a variable rate for planning matters in order that local Council Tax payers don't have to subsidise development activity.
- 1.8 In this year's survey, we asked for what else should be considered a priority when setting the budget. The comments received suggest:
  - Protecting/supporting those who are vulnerable,
  - Climate change,
  - Council value for money/efficiency



## Local Government Finance Settlement

### Introduction

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement: England, 2023 to 2024 was published on Monday 19 December 2022 by the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). This was actually ahead of the previously indicated date.

Disappointingly, it only covers one financial year again, 2023/24; a fifth one-year settlement in a row. Although a number of commitments and statements are made about 2024/25, no detail is included leaving councils continuing to struggle with long term financial planning and financial sustainability.

The announcement launches a short consultation on the published details before being finalised in Late January / early February, although there is rarely any material movement.

### National Headlines

In his covering statement, the Minister declared the settlement “provides a 9% increase in national level Core Spending Power, making available almost £5 billion in additional resources, demonstrating how Government stands behind councils up and down the country.”

The national control totals announced show this:

|                   | <b>Core Spending Power</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022/23           | £54.541bn                  |
| 2023/24           | £59,544bn                  |
| <b>Movement £</b> | <b>£5.003bn</b>            |
| <b>Movement %</b> | <b>9.17%</b>               |

It must be noted however that much of the additional funding is directed towards social care as outlined within the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement. **Therefore, Mid Devon District Council does not see an increase of this scale.**

However, within the overall figures is a commitment that “every council sees at least a 3% increase in Core Spending Power next year before any local decisions on council tax rates.” **Mid Devon District Council will benefit from this commitment although this is well below the current level of inflation.** Instead, local authorities are asked to “consider how they can use their reserves to maintain services in the face of immediate inflationary pressures”.

The previously indicated Council Tax Referendum limits were confirmed for both 2023/24 and 2024/25, as follows:

- Up to 3% for Shire County Councils, Shire Unitary Authorities, Metropolitan Districts and London Boroughs;
- **The greater of 3% or £5 for District Councils;**
- A further 2% allowance for Social Care Authorities;
- Up to £5 for Fire and Rescue Authorities;

- Up to £15 for Police Authorities

Although for Mid Devon District Council this reflects an increase on recent years, District and Fire Authorities continue to have lower allowable increases compared to other categories of Authority. Lobbying continues to increase the allowable increase to be £10 (less than 20p per week).

The settlement also confirmed that the long awaited reforms to funding and the Business Rates system will not be implemented during this parliament.

### Detail

Although the Council is much less reliant upon Government Grant than it previously was, it remains a critical event for Council funding as it also outlines key aspects surrounding Council Tax and Business Rates income including the ability for Devon authorities to continue to pool its Business Rates – which is beneficial for the Council.

The headline announcements centre on the government’s Core Spending Power Index. This is included in the table within Appendix 1, with both national control totals and Mid Devon specific detail.

However, it is important to remember that we have made assumptions about funding levels. Therefore it is more appropriate to compare our assumptions to the settlement to understand whether the council is truly better off. The table below shows the previous assumptions, updated to the settlement announcements where relevant:

| Funding Source                | 2022/23       | 2023/24 Assumption (19 Dec 2022) | Settlement Update 2023/24 | Movement from Assumption |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
|                               | £k            | £k                               | £k                        | £k                       | %            |
| Business Rates                | 3,532         | 3,882                            | 4,182                     | 300                      | 7.2%         |
| Council Tax                   | 6,524         | 6,724                            | 6,724                     | 0                        | 0            |
| New Homes Bonus               | 719           | 719                              | 397                       | (322)                    | -44.8%       |
| Rural Services Delivery Grant | 490           | 490                              | 490                       | 0                        | 0            |
| Lower Tier Services Grant     | 101           | 101                              | 0                         | (101)                    | -100.0%      |
| Services Grant                | 153           | 153                              | 86                        | (67)                     | -77.9%       |
| Grants Rolled In              | 98            | 98                               | 0                         | (98)                     | -100.0%      |
| Funding Guarantee             | N/a           | N/a                              | 469                       | 469                      | -            |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>11,617</b> | <b>12,167</b>                    | <b>12,348</b>             | <b>181</b>               | <b>1.50%</b> |

Therefore, overall it indicates that the Council is £181k better off than expected.

It must be noted, that the above numbers are provisional and are subject to final confirmation. In particular the increase in Business Rates should be viewed with a degree of caution as clarity around the national Revaluation and Reliefs is still being received.

### Further Information

For further information on the content of this briefing please contact:

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Appendix 1 – Core Spending Power

| Core Spending Power  | Notes | National Control Total |         |              |             | Mid Devon District Council |               |              |             |
|--|-------|------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
|  |       | 2022/23                | 2023/24 | Movement     |             | 2022/23                    | 2023/24       | Movement     |             |
|  |       | £m                     | £m      | £m           | %           | £m                         | £m            | £m           | %           |
| Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA)                            | 1     | 14,882                 | 15,671  | 789          | 5.3%        | 2.213                      | 2.394         | 0.181        | 8.2%        |
| Compensation for under-indexing the business rates multiplier  | 2     | 1,275                  | 2,205   | 930          | 72.9%       | 0.226                      | 0.391         | 0.165        | 72.9%       |
| Council Tax Requirement excluding parish precepts <sup>1</sup> | 3     | 31,922                 | 33,838  | 1,916        | 6.0%        | 6.524                      | 6.808         | 0.284        | 4.3%        |
| Improved Better Care Fund                                      | 4     | 2,140                  | 2,140   | -            | 0.0%        | -                          | -             | -            |             |
| New Homes Bonus  | 5     | 556                    | 291     | (265)        | -47.7%      | 0.719                      | 0.395         | (0.324)      | -45.1%      |
| Rural Services Delivery Grant                                  | 6     | 85                     | 85      | -            | 0.0%        | 0.490                      | 0.490         | -            | 0.0%        |
| Social Care Grant <sup>3</sup>                                 | 7     | 2,346                  | 3,852   | 1,506        | 64.2%       | -                          | -             | -            |             |
| ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund <sup>4</sup>    | 8     | -                      | 562     | 562          |             | -                          | -             | -            |             |
| Lower Tier Services Grant                                      | 9     | 111                    | -       | (111)        | -100.0%     | 0.101                      | -             | (0.101)      | -100.0%     |
| ASC Discharge Fund   | 10    | -                      | 300     | 300          |             | -                          | -             | -            |             |
| Services Grant   | 11    | 822                    | 464     | (358)        | -43.5%      | 0.153                      | 0.086         | (0.067)      | -43.7%      |
| Grants rolled in   | 12    | 239                    | -       | (239)        | -100.0%     | 0.098                      | -             | (0.098)      | -100.0%     |
| Funding Guarantee  | 13    | -                      | 136     | 136          |             | -                          | 0.471         | 0.471        |             |
| <b>Total</b>   |       |                        |         | <b>5,003</b> | <b>9.2%</b> | <b>10.524</b>              | <b>11.035</b> | <b>0.511</b> | <b>4.9%</b> |

Notes:

1. This is the Governments assessment of the baseline funding required to deliver services. It is formed from Revenue Support Grant and Business Rates. Mid Devon District Council no longer receive RSG, for us this is purely Business Rates.
2. This is where the Government compensation councils for decisions taken centrally that reduce our funding – i.e. freezing the Business Rates instead of adding inflation. Within this index this is a purely notional figure and does not reflect the locally calculated figure which we receive in S31 Grant.
3. This is the expected Council Tax yield, based upon a National Average Band D charge, not MDDC's actual charge. It assumes that Council's increase to their maximum allowable within the referendum limit. This will place a significant financial burden on households in a year of economic uncertainty and increased costs, including energy costs.
4. This is only for Social Care Authorities.

5. This grant is based upon the number of empty homes brought back into use. It is being phased out, but no clarity will be available about any future replacement grant until 2024/25. The calculation methodology remains the same as before, but this allocation is one-off whereas previously this grant received multi-year legacy payments. Those legacy payments have been “repurposed” to help fund the new 3% funding guarantee (note 13).
6. This grant is to recognise the additional costs of delivering services in rural areas. It is disappointing that it is the only funding stream frozen at prior year levels.
7. This is only for Social Care Authorities.
8. This is only for Social Care Authorities.
9. This grant was originally announced in 2019/20 as one-off to recognise that district council services were important. This has been “repurposed” to help fund the new 3% funding guarantee (note 13).
10. This is only for Social Care Authorities.
11. This grant was originally announced in 2022/23 as one-off to partly recognise that the changes to National Insurance (NI) would affect our paybill and that district council services were important. 2023/24 removed the NI element but also redirects elements of this funding into other funding streams that MDDC do not receive. This is therefore a cut in funding.
12. Every year, the government merge grants into the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA – note 1). For Mid Devon District Council this represented the Family Annexe Council Tax Discount grant (£34k) and Local Council Tax Support Administration Subsidy grant (£64k).
13. A grant to ensure that all councils have an increase of 3 per cent in core spending power before any changes in council tax levels are taken into account. The value of the guarantee will be based on the difference between a 3 per cent increase in their 2022/23 Core Spending Power adjusted for actual council tax requirement in 2022/23, compared to their increase in Core Spending Power (excluding rolled in grants) before any assumed increases to council tax Band D levels in 2023/24.