

# Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

## Economy Policy Development Group

Thursday, 16 March 2023 at 5.30 pm  
Phoenix Chambers, Phoenix House, Tiverton

**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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Meeting ID: 813 8016 3717  
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## Membership

Cllr J Buczkowski  
Cllr Mrs C Collis  
Cllr N V Davey  
Cllr R J Dolley  
Cllr J M Downes  
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 12 January 2023.
- 5      **Chairman's Announcements**  
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 6      **Car Parking and Permit Tariffs: Review and Way Forwards** *(Pages 11 - 22)*  
To receive a report from the Environment and Enforcement Manager providing options for the Economy PDG to make recommendations on the pay and display and permit tariff increases for the financial year 2023/2024.
- 7      **Economic Development Team Update** *(Pages 23 - 28)*  
To receive a report from the Director of Place updating Members on activities undertaken by the Economic Development Team during the last quarter.
- 8      **Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/2023** *(Pages 29 - 30)*  
To receive the Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/2023 summarising the work of the Economy Policy Development Group.
- 9      **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:
  - Election of Chairman for 2023/2024
  - Election of Vice Chairman for 2023/2024
  - Start time of meetings

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

**Stephen Walford**  
Chief Executive  
Wednesday, 8 March 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.

Please note that a reasonable amount of hardcopies at the meeting will be available, however this is a limited number. If you are attending the meeting and would like a hardcopy of the agenda we encourage that you notify Member Services in advance of the meeting to ensure that a hardcopy is available. Otherwise, copies of the agenda can be found on our website.

If you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Sarah Lees on: E-Mail: [slees@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:slees@middevon.gov.uk)

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 12 January 2023 at 5.30 pm

### **Present**

#### **Councillors**

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

### **Apology**

#### **Councillor**

J Wright

### **Also Present**

#### **Councillors**

R J Chesterton and D R Coren

### **Also Present**

#### **Officers**

Richard Marsh (Director of Place), Adrian Welsh (Strategic Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery), Paul Deal (Corporate Manager for Finance), Lisa Lewis (Corporate Manager for Business Transformation and Customer Engagement), Zoë Lentell (Economic Development Team Leader), Christie McCombe (Area Planning Officer), Andrew Seaman (Member Services Manager) and Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer)

## 37 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Wright who was substituted by Cllr S Clist.

## 38 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

## 39 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Cllr S Clist declared a personal interest in that he was a member of the National Farmers Union (NFU).

No other interests were declared under this item.

## 40 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

Note: At the previous meeting the Group had requested further information be supplied with regard to gross median salary figures. It was explained that generally rural areas fared worse than urban ones. Officers had sought clarification from

colleagues at Devon County Council and had been informed that the gross median salary figure for Mid Devon had risen to 9.6%. For Devon as a whole this had risen to 8.5% and nationally, 7.1%. These figures were to be viewed within the context of a national inflation rate of nearly 11%.

#### 41 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no announcements to make.

#### 42 **AGRICULTURAL OVERVIEW (00:04:54)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report \* from the Director of Place providing Members with an overview of the key challenges facing the agricultural sector and set current areas of activity within the District Council as requested by this Group.

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

- Agriculture was a key element within the local economy.
- The report set out the challenges facing the sector, for example, labour shortages and animal feed costs.
- The Council's sphere of influence was limited but they had a role to play as the Local Planning Authority, in Public Health and the Climate Change agenda. The Economic Development function of the Council was also able to support the sector through accessing available funds and website promotion of local producers.
- The NFU would be having an informal meeting with the Planning Committee shortly.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The average age of farmers was 60 years and 3 months.
- There were opportunities for the Council in the future to influence policies through the new Local Plan.
- Diversification, where possible, was essential.
- Animal welfare fell under the control of DEFRA but it was noted that the UK had extremely high welfare standards and there were stringent checks on all areas of farming activity.
- Increasing the size of a farm was not always the right answer.

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

#### 43 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE REPORT (00:28:15)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report \* from the Director of Place updating Members on activities undertaken by the Economic Development Team during the last quarter.

An update was provided in relation to the Shared prosperity Fund, unemployment statistics, town centres and destination management work undertaken by the team since the last meeting.

Consideration was given to:

- The HRA had identified a number of possible sites for housing, however, those that were not deemed to be suitable could be considered for the siting of small business units. A Business Plan was needed. It was confirmed that officers had started discussions on such sites and there was a clear intention to support innovation and significant amounts of funding had been allocated.
- There were timetable challenges and projects needed to be assessed as being viable.
- Partnership working and the sharing of knowledge was key.
- The team did provide help and support to businesses and their websites and would be looking to provide more digital support through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

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

#### 44 **TIVERTON TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT AND DELIVERY PLAN (00:41:00)**

The Group had before it a report \* from the Director Place reminding Members that they would be aware that this authority has previously undertaken work with regard to regeneration and investment masterplanning for Tiverton town centre. This report sought 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.

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

- The primary reporting mechanism for masterplanning activity would continue to be the Planning Policy Advisory Group (PPAG), however, there were strong links with the SPF hence bringing a report to this Group.
- A list of initial and future projects were shown to the Group via a presentation.
- Key milestones were also listed for the Groups information.

Discussion took place with regard to:

- Current assets within the district such as Palmerston Woods.
- Attention needing to be paid to the current list of projects such as Market Walk.
- A hope that the masterplanning exercise would be complete by the end of 2023 as stated within the timescale of the presentation.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that:

- (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.

(Proposed by Cllr Cllr B Evans and seconded by Cllr N V Davey)

Reason for decision

As set out within the report.

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

45 **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND & RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND DELIVERY PLAN (01:01:50)**

The Group had before it 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.

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

- The year one delivery plan.
- The need for an overarching SPF and consistency across Devon.
- The need for delegated authority in order to quickly adjust spending budgets should that be needed.

Discussion took place regarding:

- The short timescales imposed by central government being extremely disappointing and a hindrance to the proper administration of the scheme.
- Valuable health checks now being undertaken in the town centres of the district.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that it:

- 1) Approves the UKSPF expenditure & Delivery Plan for Year One (2022/23) as outlined throughout the report.
- 2) Approves delegated authority to the Director of Place, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to finalise the detailed SPF Policy & grant arrangements;
- 3) Approves 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.

(Proposed by Cllr B Evans and seconded by Cllr S Clist)

Reason for decision

As set out within the report.



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

#### 46 **2023/ 24 BUDGET UPDATE REPORT (01:08:15)**

The Group had before it a report \* from the Deputy Chief Executive. 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.

Key highlights within the report were as follows:

- This Group had an income generating budget thereby making the identification of savings difficult.
- The draft budget still had a residual gap with inflation, not grant cuts, being the chief cause.
- Other influencing factors included the rise in energy costs, a rise in pension contributions and slightly lower Council Tax income due to the loss of any surpluses.
- Towns and Parish Council's had been approached to discuss service provision in relation grass cutting and play parks, however, there had not been a great deal of response so far.
- Pay assumptions had been reviewed as had Business Rate income and the Asset Management Programme.
- This Group had an opportunity to assess income generation in the coming year.
- The turnover of staff and vacancy assessment. A robust process was in place to assess each vacant post in terms of income generating opportunities and health and safety risks.
- Some areas of the Council's activity needed to be topped up going forwards such as providing sufficient budget for Planning Appeals.
- The outcome of 3 Rivers Ltd was not yet known.

Discussion took place with regard to the measurement of the SPF and the REPF being evidenced by the successful delivery of these programmes. This was dependent on having the necessary resources in place.

It was therefore:

**RECOMMENDED** to the Cabinet that the Economic Development team be considered a high priority service area which should be protected and recognised as generating income for the Council at a high ratio.

(Proposed by Cllr B Evans and seconded by Cllr N V Davey)

#### Reason for decision

As set out within the report.

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

#### 47 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01:44:00)

The following items were identified by the Group as needing to come to a future meeting:

- A car parking revenue review. An analysis of the charging mechanism and service generally.
- A report in relation to the allocation and monitoring of S106 monies.

(The meeting ended at 7.25 pm)

**CHAIRMAN**

## ECONOMY PDG 16 MARCH 2023

### Car Parking and Permit Tariffs; Review and Way Forwards

**Cabinet Member(s):** Cllr Barry Warren, Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

**Responsible Officer:** Luke Howard, Environment and Enforcement Manager

**Reason for Report:** This report provides options for Economy PDG to determine pay and display and permit tariff increases for the financial year 2023-2024.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. The PDG review the options in this report for both pay and display and permit tariffs
2. Recommend to Cabinet the preferred option for:
  - a) Pay and display tariffs
  - b) Permit tariffs

**Financial Implications:** The report highlights varying impacts on additional financial income determined by each option. Vend predictions are estimated and have the potential to have a higher or lesser effect.

**Budget and Policy Framework:** The Council has an annual legal requirement to set a balanced budget. The options provided assist in the Council being able to achieve this in relation to the Medium Term Financial Plan.

**Legal Implications:** The Authority is required to comply with regulations set out in Section 35C Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. These regulations include guidance from the secretary of state set out in The Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996 (Regulation 25). There are also legal obligations for the Authority to set a balanced budget.

**Risk Assessment:** The options provided make several financial assumptions based on previous data and specialist knowledge on likely impacts of each option.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** There are no equality issues identified in this report.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** In order to set a balanced budget by 11 March 2023 a decision on the options will be forthcoming. Parking provides financial resources, which are made available to deliver the Council's ongoing Corporate Plan priorities.

**Impact on Climate Change:** Decisions surrounding parking can be identified as having an impact on carbon footprint. Identifying car parks specifically used for long stay and short stay help members of the public decide which is more appropriate based on their activity. In turn, this will reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through prevention of reduced journey times and movement.

## **1.0 Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 On the 10 November 2022, Economy PDG recommended a set of charges to be introduced and identified Option 3 (Appendix 1 – Car Parking Pay and Display Options, Economy PDG Nov 22) and Option 1 (Appendix 2 – Car Parking Permits Options, Economy PDG Nov 22) of the attached proposals regarding parking fee and permit rises. These were then reviewed by Cabinet on the 29 November 2022 who decided to implement Option 2 of Appendix 1 and Option 3 of Appendix 2, which had a higher set of tariffs for long-term stays (e.g. 10 hours costing £10 instead of £6). These decisions were published as required.
- 1.2 Following debate at a meeting of full Council on the 22 February 2023, which was attended by various residents and business advocates, a decision was taken to withdraw the notice and reconsider parking charges at a future meeting. The planned increase in fees and charges will therefore not be coming into practice after the notice was due to expire on the 7 March 2023.
- 1.3 The Economy Policy Development Group will now consider how best to adjust parking fees before making recommendations to Cabinet in due course at their meeting on the 16 March 2023.
- 1.4 Due to the legal requirements for advance notice and the impending pre-election period restrictions for elections in May 2023, the service is looking to implement these changes on 1 June 2023.

## **2.0 Findings**

- 2.1 Key findings from the advanced notice of car parking fee rises include; several business owners proposed to cease purchases of permits. The anticipated loss of such permits on the whole is likely to sit around circa £25-£30k for the Council.
- 2.2 Many everyday users utilising the long stay parking for pay and display in Tiverton MSCP, Wellbrook Street and particularly High Street Crediton (St Saviour's Way), expressed disappointment at having to pay an additional £35 per week/£140 a month to park for work.
- 2.3 Given the level of feedback, the previous levels of sales activity, and therefore income is considered to be overstated. Therefore, the 2023/24 budget is proposed to be reduced by £120k to reflect the original PDG recommendations.

## **3.0 Way forward**

- 3.1 The current set of charges for car parking and permits have not been changed since 2016 (permits) and 2019 (car parking) respectively. There has been a steady increase in car parking activity since COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed but charges are overdue in terms of being revised as costs have risen sharply during that period. Also, other neighbouring Councils have raised their fees since COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted including North Devon, East Devon and Plymouth.

- 3.2 There are two options for consideration in each of the Car Parking Tariffs (Appendix 3) and Car Parking Permits (Appendix 4). These are a projected inflationary increase on current tariffs compared to the original PDG Economy recommendation put forward by Members on the 10 November 2022.
- 3.3 The expenditure budget covering the period 2016/17 to 2023/24 has been reviewed which has shown an average increase in costs of 6.81% pa. Therefore, a new recommended tariff option has been calculated using this average annual increase covering 2019-2020 to 2023-2024 for pay and display charges (4-years or 30.15%) and covering 2016-2017 to 2023-2024 for permits (7-years or 58.59%). This can be compared to the tariff recommended by the PDG in November.
- 3.4 This calculation excludes significant infrastructure works where it has been necessary to invest in the upkeep of car parks. For example, costs for works on Tiverton MSCP during 2019-2021 totalled £811k with another £122k spent on surfacing works in 2020-2021.
- 3.4 The uplift is further supported by the response to the recent Residents Survey 2022, which asked questions on spending and budget setting. Fifty percent 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.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 A decision is required to recommend to Cabinet either the proposed inflationary increase or the original option put forward by the Economy PDG on 10 November for both pay and display and permit models. Cabinet will then decide what the proposed 2023/24 tariffs should be.
- 4.2 Both decisions will be subject to a prior advanced public notice of 21 days, which will need publicising in all of our pay and display car parks and in the local press. The upcoming pre-election period due to commence on the 17 March 2023 for the local elections held on the 4 May 2023 needs to be factored in to the forthcoming implementation period regarding the decision taken by Members.

#### **Contact for more Information:**

Luke Howard- Environment and Enforcement Manager

[lhoward@middevon.gov.uk](mailto:lhoward@middevon.gov.uk)

#### **Circulation of the Report:**

Cllr Barry Warren, Matthew Page (Corporate Manager HR, Waste and Governance), Darren Beer (Operations Manager Street scene and Open spaces), Leadership Team

#### **List of Background Papers:**

Appendix 1 – Car Parking Pay and Display Options, Economy PDG Nov 22

Appendix 2 – Car Parking Permits Options, Economy PDG Nov 22

Appendix 3 – Car Parking Pay and Display Pricing Proposals 2023-2024

Appendix 4 – Car Parking Permit Pricing Proposals 2023-2024

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Pay & Display Car Park Pricing Proposals 2023/24

Car Park	Duration	Vends	Current Tariff	Option 1	£	Option 2	£	Option 3	£
Market Place	1 Hour	83,702	1.25	-	-	2.00	167,404.00	1.50	125,553.00
	2 Hours	37,349	2.20	3.00	363,153.00	3.00	112,047.00	2.70	100,842.30
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	5,865	1.00	2.00	11,730.00	2.00	11,730.00	2.00	11,730.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	6,919	1.00	2.00	13,838.00	2.00	13,838.00	2.00	13,838.00
<b>Totals</b>					<b>388,721.00</b>		<b>305,019.00</b>		<b>251,963.30</b>
Beck Sq	1 Hour	25,418	1.25	-	-	2.00	50,836.00	1.50	38,127.00
	2 Hours	14,508	2.20	3.00	119,778.00	3.00	43,524.00	2.70	39,171.60
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	3,216	1.00	2.00	6,432.00	2.00	6,432.00	2.00	6,432.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	2,575	1.00	2.00	5,150.00	2.00	5,150.00	2.00	5,150.00
<b>Totals</b>					<b>131,360.00</b>		<b>105,942.00</b>		<b>88,880.60</b>
Phoenix House	15 Mins	16,297	Free	Free	-	Free	-	Free	-
	1 Hour	4,262	1.00	1.00	4,262.00	2.00	8,524.00	1.50	6,393.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	65	1.00	2.00	130.00	10.00	650.00	6.00	390.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	56	1.00	2.00	112.00	2.00	112.00	2.00	112.00
<b>Totals</b>					<b>4,504.00</b>		<b>9,286.00</b>		<b>6,895.00</b>
MSCP	2 Hours	7,570	2.00	3.00	22,710.00	3.00	22,710.00	2.70	20,439.00
	5 Hours	12,475	3.00	5.00	62,375.00	5.00	62,375.00	4.00	49,900.00
	10 Hours	7,034	5.00	10.00	70,340.00	10.00	70,340.00	6.00	42,204.00
	24 Hours	5,896	10.00	15.00	88,440.00	15.00	88,440.00	12.00	70,752.00
	2 Days	814	20.00	30.00	24,420.00	30.00	24,420.00	24.00	19,536.00
	3 Days	222	30.00	45.00	9,990.00	45.00	9,990.00	36.00	7,992.00
	4 Days	116	40.00	60.00	6,960.00	60.00	6,960.00	48.00	5,568.00
	5 Days	48	50.00	75.00	3,600.00	75.00	3,600.00	60.00	2,880.00
7 Days	34	70.00	105.00	3,570.00	105.00	3,570.00	84.00	2,856.00	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>292,405.00</b>		<b>292,405.00</b>		<b>222,127.00</b>
William Street	30 Mins	6,923	0.50	-	-	-	-	1.00	6,923.00
	1 Hour	7,122	1.25	-	-	2.00	28,090.00	1.50	10,683.00
	2 Hours	6,936	2.20	3.00	62,943.00	3.00	20,808.00	2.70	18,727.20
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	2,233	1.00	2.00	4,466.00	2.00	4,466.00	2.00	4,466.00
BH & Sunday Parking	1,415	1.00	2.00	2,830.00	2.00	2,830.00	2.00	2,830.00	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>70,239.00</b>		<b>56,194.00</b>		<b>43,629.20</b>
High Street	2 Hours	14,268	1.80	3.00	42,804.00	3.00	42,804.00	2.70	38,523.60
	5 Hours	8,667	2.50	4.00	34,668.00	4.00	34,668.00	4.00	34,668.00
	10 Hours	9,584	3.00	10.00	95,840.00	10.00	95,840.00	6.00	57,504.00
	24 Hours	735	5.00	15.00	11,025.00	15.00	11,025.00	12.00	8,820.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	1,350	1.00	2.00	2,700.00	2.00	2,700.00	2.00	2,700.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	1,254	1.00	2.00	2,508.00	2.00	2,508.00	2.00	2,508.00
<b>Totals</b>					<b>189,545.00</b>		<b>189,545.00</b>		<b>144,723.60</b>
Station Road	1 Hour	4,785	1.00	-	-	2.00	9,570.00	1.50	7,177.50
	2 Hours	5,522	1.80	3.00	30,921.00	3.00	16,566.00	2.70	14,909.40
	10 Hours	7,931	3.00	10.00	79,310.00	10.00	79,310.00	6.00	47,586.00
	24 Hours	380	5.00	15.00	5,700.00	15.00	5,700.00	12.00	4,560.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	1,290	1.00	2.00	2,580.00	2.00	2,580.00	2.00	2,580.00
BH & Sunday Parking	977	1.00	2.00	1,954.00	2.00	1,954.00	2.00	1,954.00	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>120,465.00</b>		<b>115,680.00</b>		<b>78,766.90</b>
Market Street	1 Hour	9,290	1.25	-	-	2.00	18,580.00	1.50	13,935.00
	2 Hours	13,435	2.20	3.00	68,175.00	3.00	40,305.00	2.70	36,274.50
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	911	1.00	2.00	1,822.00	2.00	1,822.00	2.00	1,822.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	920	1.00	2.00	1,840.00	2.00	1,840.00	2.00	1,840.00
<b>Totals</b>					<b>71,837.00</b>		<b>62,547.00</b>		<b>53,871.50</b>
Westexe South	30 Mins	5,793	0.50	-	-	-	-	1.00	5,793.00
	1 Hour	11,978	1.25	-	-	2.00	35,542.00	1.50	17,967.00
	2 Hours	9,210	2.20	3.00	80,943.00	3.00	27,630.00	2.70	24,867.00
	3 Hours	4,918	2.80	4.00	19,672.00	4.00	19,672.00	4.00	19,672.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	4,671	1.00	2.00	9,342.00	2.00	9,342.00	2.00	9,342.00
BH & Sunday Parking	4,346	1.00	2.00	8,692.00	2.00	8,692.00	2.00	8,692.00	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>118,649.00</b>		<b>100,878.00</b>		<b>86,333.00</b>
Wellbrook Street	1 Hour	1,286	1.25	-	-	2.00	2,572.00	1.50	1,929.00
	2 Hours	1,208	2.20	3.00	7,482.00	3.00	3,624.00	2.70	3,261.60
	3 Hours	725	2.80	4.00	2,900.00	4.00	2,900.00	4.00	2,900.00
	24 Hours	1,663	5.00	15.00	24,945.00	15.00	24,945.00	12.00	19,956.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	Free	-	Free	-	scrap	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	879	1.00	2.00	1,758.00	2.00	1,758.00	2.00	1,758.00
BH & Sunday Parking	550	1.00	2.00	1,100.00	2.00	1,100.00	2.00	1,100.00	
<b>Totals</b>					<b>728,793.10</b>		<b>36,899.00</b>		<b>30,904.60</b>
					<b>1,425,910.00</b>			<b>1,274,395.00</b>	<b>1,008,094.70</b>
					<b>25% Vend reduction - 356,477.50</b>	<b>15% Vend reduction - 191,159.25</b>		<b>10% Vend reduction - 100,809.47</b>	
					<b>1,069,432.50</b>			<b>1,083,235.75</b>	<b>907,285.23</b>
<b>Additional Income</b>					<b>- 340,639.40</b>			<b>- 354,442.65</b>	<b>- 178,492.13</b>

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Permit Pricing 2023/24

Permit Type	Current Price (including VAT)	No of permits	Current Income	Equivalent Daily Charge	Option 1 (including VAT)	£	Equivalent Daily Charge	Option 2 (including VAT)	£	Equivalent Daily Charge	Option 3 (including VAT)	£	Equivalent Daily Charge
Annual Day Permit	310.00	66	20,460.00	0.85	465.00	30,690.00	1.27	542.50	35,805.00	1.49	547.50	36,135.00	1.50
Half Yearly Day Permit	170.50	20	3,410.00	0.93	255.75	5,115.00	1.40	298.50	5,969.90	1.64	300.00	6,000.00	1.64
Quarterly Day Permit	93.00	55	5,115.00	1.02	139.50	7,672.50	1.53	162.75	8,951.25	1.78	175.00	9,625.00	1.92
Annual Day & Night Permit	400.00	37	14,800.00	1.10	600.00	22,200.00	1.64	700.00	25,900.00	1.92	730.00	27,010.00	2.00
Half Yearly Day & Night Permit	220.00	25	5,500.00	1.21	330.00	8,250.00	1.81	385.00	9,625.00	2.11	400.00	10,000.00	2.19
Quarterly Day & Night Permit	120.00	76	9,120.00	1.32	180.00	13,680.00	1.97	210.00	15,960.00	2.30	225.00	17,100.00	2.47
Annual Overnight Permit	100.00	8	800.00	0.27	150.00	1,200.00	0.41	175.00	1,400.00	0.48	182.50	1,460.00	0.50
Quarterly Overnight Permit	54.00	-	-	0.59	81.00	-	0.89	94.50	-	1.04	60.00	-	0.66
Monthly Overnight Permit	10.00	44	440.00	0.33	15.00	660.00	0.49	17.50	770.00	0.58	20.00	880.00	0.66
Allocated Space Permit	425.00	123	52,275.00	1.16	637.50	78,412.50	1.75	743.75	91,481.25	2.04	912.50	112,237.50	2.50
Discounted Day Permits	225.00	56	12,600.00	0.62	337.50	18,900.00	0.92	393.75	22,050.00	1.08	456.25	25,550.00	1.25
Annual Mid Devon Rover Permits	475.00	-	-	1.30	712.50	-	1.95	831.25	-	2.28	1,002.00	-	2.75
Half Yearly Mid Devon Rover Permits	261.25	-	-	1.43	392.00	-	2.15	457.25	-	2.51	547.50	-	3.00
Quarterly Mid Devon Rover Permits	142.50	-	-	1.56	213.75	-	2.34	249.50	-	2.73	290.00	-	3.18
Additional 40 Allocated space permits in the MSCP 23/24	-	40	-	-	637.50	25,500.00	-	743.75	29,750.00	-	912.50	36,500.00	2.50
			<b>124,520.00</b>			<b>212,280.00</b>			<b>247,662.40</b>			<b>282,497.50</b>	
					<b>0% Vend reduction</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>10% Vend reduction</b>	<b>- 24,766.24</b>		<b>25% Vend reduction</b>	<b>- 70,624.38</b>	
						<b>212,280.00</b>			<b>222,896.16</b>			<b>211,873.13</b>	
			<b>Additional Income</b>			<b>- 87,760.00</b>			<b>- 98,376.16</b>			<b>- 87,353.13</b>	

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**Appendix 3 - Pay & Display Car Park Pricing Proposals 2023/24**

\* Note that all charges shown include 20% VAT

Car Park	Duration	Vends	Current Tariff	Option 1 with Inflation increase (4 Years)	£	Option 2 ECON PDG agreed option	£
Market Place, Tiverton	1 Hour	83,702	1.25	1.60	133,923.20	1.50	125,553.00
	2 Hours	37,349	2.20	2.90	108,312.10	2.70	100,842.30
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	5,865	1.00	1.40	8,211.00	2.00	11,730.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	6,919	1.00	1.40	9,686.60	2.00	13,838.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>260,132.90</b>		<b>251,963.30</b>
Beck Sq, Tiverton	1 Hour	25,418	1.25	1.60	40,668.80	1.50	38,127.00
	2 Hours	14,508	2.20	2.90	42,073.20	2.70	39,171.60
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	3,216	1.00	1.40	4,502.40	2.00	6,432.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	2,575	1.00	1.40	3,605.00	2.00	5,150.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>90,849.40</b>		<b>88,880.60</b>
Phoenix House, Tiverton	15 Mins	16,297	Free	Free	-	Free	-
	1 Hour	4,262	1.00	1.40	5,966.80	1.50	6,393.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	65	1.00	1.40	91.00	6.00	390.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	56	1.00	1.40	78.40	2.00	112.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>6,136.20</b>		<b>6,895.00</b>
MSCP, Tiverton	2 Hours	7,570	2.00	2.50	18,925.00	2.70	20,439.00
	5 Hours	12,475	3.00	3.80	47,405.00	4.00	49,900.00
	10 Hours	7,034	5.00	6.50	45,721.00	6.00	42,204.00
	24 Hours	5,896	10.00	13.00	76,648.00	12.00	70,752.00
	2 Days	814	20.00	26.20	21,326.80	24.00	19,536.00
	3 Days	222	30.00	39.00	8,658.00	36.00	7,992.00
	4 Days	116	40.00	52.00	6,032.00	48.00	5,568.00
	5 Days	48	50.00	65.00	3,120.00	60.00	2,880.00
	7 Days	34	70.00	91.10	3,097.40	84.00	2,856.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>230,933.20</b>		<b>222,127.00</b>
William Street, Tiverton	30 Mins	6,923	0.50	0.60	4,153.80	1.00	6,923.00
	1 Hour	7,122	1.25	1.60	11,395.20	1.50	10,683.00
	2 Hours	6,936	2.20	2.90	20,114.40	2.70	18,727.20
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	2,233	1.00	1.40	3,126.20	2.00	4,466.00
BH & Sunday Parking	1,415	1.00	1.40	1,981.00	2.00	2,830.00	
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>40,770.60</b>		<b>43,629.20</b>
High Street (St Saviour's Way), Crediton	2 Hours	14,268	1.80	2.20	31,389.60	2.70	38,523.60
	5 Hours	8,667	2.50	3.30	28,601.10	4.00	34,668.00
	10 Hours	9,584	3.00	3.80	36,419.20	6.00	57,504.00
	24 Hours	735	5.00	6.50	4,777.50	12.00	8,820.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	1,350	1.00	1.40	1,890.00	2.00	2,700.00	
BH & Sunday Parking	1,254	1.00	1.40	1,755.60	2.00	2,508.00	
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>104,833.00</b>		<b>144,723.60</b>
Station Road, Cullompton	1 Hour	4,785	1.00	1.40	6,699.00	1.50	7,177.50
	2 Hours	5,522	1.80	2.20	12,148.40	2.70	14,909.40
	10 Hours	7,931	3.00	3.80	30,137.80	6.00	47,586.00
	24 Hours	380	5.00	6.50	2,470.00	12.00	4,560.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	1,290	1.00	1.40	1,806.00	2.00	2,580.00	
BH & Sunday Parking	977	1.00	1.40	1,367.80	2.00	1,954.00	
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>54,629.00</b>		<b>78,766.90</b>
Market Street, Crediton	1 Hour	9,290	1.25	1.60	14,864.00	1.50	13,935.00
	2 Hours	13,435	2.20	2.90	38,961.50	2.70	36,274.50
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	911	1.00	1.40	1,275.40	2.00	1,822.00
	BH & Sunday Parking	920	1.00	1.40	1,288.00	2.00	1,840.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>56,388.90</b>		<b>53,871.50</b>
Westexe South, Tiverton	30 Mins	5,793	0.50	0.60	5,793.60	1.00	5,793.00
	1 Hour	11,978	1.25	1.60	19,164.80	1.50	17,967.00
	2 Hours	9,210	2.20	2.90	26,709.00	2.70	24,867.00
	3 Hours	4,918	2.80	3.60	17,704.80	4.00	19,672.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	4,671	1.00	1.40	6,539.40	2.00	9,342.00	
BH & Sunday Parking	4,346	1.00	1.40	6,084.40	2.00	8,692.00	
<b>Totals</b>				<b>-</b>	<b>81,996.00</b>		<b>86,333.00</b>
Wellbrook Street, Tiverton	1 Hour	1,286	1.25	1.60	2,057.60	1.50	1,929.00
	2 Hours	1,208	2.20	2.90	3,503.20	2.70	3,261.60
	3 Hours	725	2.80	3.60	2,610.00	4.00	2,900.00
	24 Hours	1,663	5.00	6.50	10,809.50	12.00	19,956.00
	Overnight 18:00 - 08:00 30 mins	-	Free	-	-	-	-
Overnight 18:00 - 08:00	879	1.00	1.40	1,230.60	2.00	1,758.00	
BH & Sunday Parking	550	1.00	1.40	770.00	2.00	1,100.00	
<b>Total Current P&amp;D Income based on the number of vends</b>			<b>728,793.10</b>		<b>20,980.90</b>		<b>30,904.60</b>

<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>947,650.10</b>	<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>1,008,094.70</b>
<b>5% Vend reduction</b>	<b>- 47,382.51</b>	<b>10% Vend reduction</b>	<b>- 100,809.47</b>
<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>900,267.60</b>	<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>907,285.23</b>

<b>Total Current Vend income</b>	<b>728,793.10</b>	<b>Total Current Vend income</b>	<b>728,793.10</b>
<b>Income from Above proposal</b>	<b>900,267.60</b>	<b>Income from Above proposal</b>	<b>907,285.23</b>
<b>Additional P&amp;D Income</b>	<b>171,474.50</b>	<b>Additional P&amp;D Income</b>	<b>178,492.13</b>

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### Appendix 4 - Car Park Permit Pricing Proposals 2023/24

\* Note that all charges shown include 20% VAT

Permit Type	Current Price	No of permits	Current Income	Equivalent Daily Charge	Option 1	£	Equivalent Daily Charge	Option 2 with Inflation increase (7 Years)	£	Equivalent Daily Charge
Annual Day Permit	310.00	66	20,460.00	0.85	465.00	30,690.00	1.27	490.00	32,340.00	1.34
Half Yearly Day Permit	170.50	20	3,410.00	0.93	255.75	5,115.00	1.40	270.00	5,400.00	1.48
Quarterly Day Permit	93.00	55	5,115.00	1.02	139.50	7,672.50	1.53	150.00	8,250.00	1.64
Annual Day & Night Permit	400.00	37	14,800.00	1.10	600.00	22,200.00	1.64	635.00	23,495.00	1.74
Half Yearly Day & Night Permit	220.00	25	5,500.00	1.21	330.00	8,250.00	1.81	350.00	8,750.00	1.92
Quarterly Day & Night Permit	120.00	76	9,120.00	1.32	180.00	13,680.00	1.97	190.00	14,440.00	2.08
Annual Overnight Permit	100.00	8	800.00	0.27	150.00	1,200.00	0.41	285.00	2,280.00	0.78
Quarterly Overnight Permit	54.00	-	-	0.59	81.00	-	0.89	85.00	-	0.93
Monthly Overnight Permit	10.00	44	440.00	0.33	15.00	660.00	0.49	15.00	660.00	0.49
Allocated Space Permit	425.00	123	52,275.00	1.16	637.50	78,412.50	1.75	675.00	83,025.00	1.85
Discounted Day Permits	225.00	56	12,600.00	0.62	337.50	18,900.00	0.92	355.00	19,880.00	0.97
Annual Mid Devon Rover Permits	475.00	-	-	1.30	712.50	-	1.95	750.00	-	2.05
Half Yearly Mid Devon Rover Permits	261.25	-	-	1.43	392.00	-	2.15	415.00	-	2.27
Quarterly Mid Devon Rover Permits	142.50	-	-	1.56	213.75	-	2.34	225.00	-	2.47
Additional 40 Allocated space permits in the MSCP 23/24	-	40	-	-	637.50	25,500.00	1.75	675.00	27,000.00	1.85
<b>Total Permit Income based on above permit number</b>			<b>124,520.00</b>		<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>212,280.00</b>		<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>225,520.00</b>	
					<b>Loss Assumptions 0 %</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>Loss Assumptions 5%</b>	<b>- 11,276.00</b>	
					<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>212,280.00</b>		<b>Total Gross Income</b>	<b>214,244.00</b>	
					<b>Total Current Permit Income</b>	<b>124,520.00</b>		<b>Total Current Permit Income</b>	<b>124,520.00</b>	
					<b>Income from Above proposal</b>	<b>212,280.00</b>		<b>Income from Above proposal</b>	<b>214,244.00</b>	
					<b>Additional Permit Income</b>	<b>87,760.00</b>		<b>Additional Permit Income</b>	<b>89,724.00</b>	

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**ECONOMY PDG**  
**16 MARCH 2023**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM UPDATE REPORT**

**Cabinet Member(s):** Councillor Graeme Barnell  
**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**

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

### **2.0 Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)**

2.1 We received the funding for year one (2022/23) on 31 January 2023 and have commenced a programme of delivery for this project as outlined later in the report.

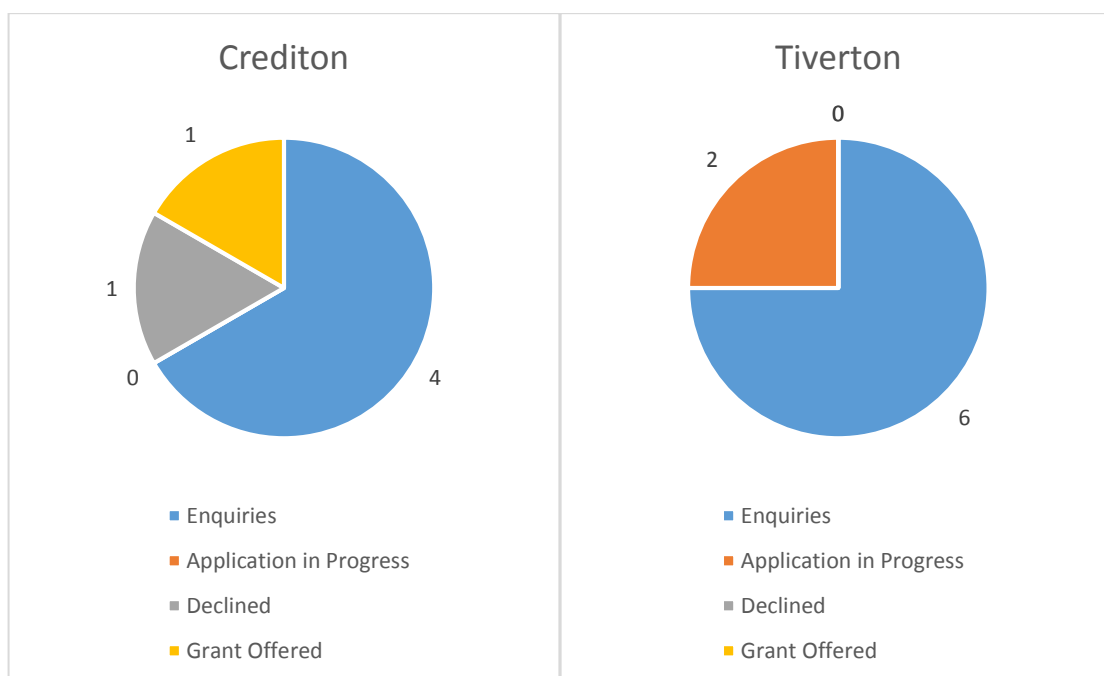
2.2 We are still awaiting the outcome of our bid to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), with funding notifications delayed until the end of February. However, in expectation of positive news, we are making plans outlining a framework of delivery for 2023/24.

### 3.0 Love Your Town Centre

#### 3.1 Town Centre Grant Schemes

3.1.1 The Vibrant Town Centres grant scheme is open for applications, with a closing date of 5 March. This scheme supports applications from businesses and community groups, including town councils and town teams, working in partnership to deliver projects that revitalise the town centres. Funding awards will be made by the end of March. Similarly, the first round of applications for Business Growth grants (fit-out grants for businesses taking on empty town centre units and shopfront grants for businesses outside the town centres) will be assessed in March with funding awards by the end of the month.

3.1.2 The Shopfront Enhancement Schemes in Tiverton and Crediton have seen a good level of initial interest, but a low level of applications to date:

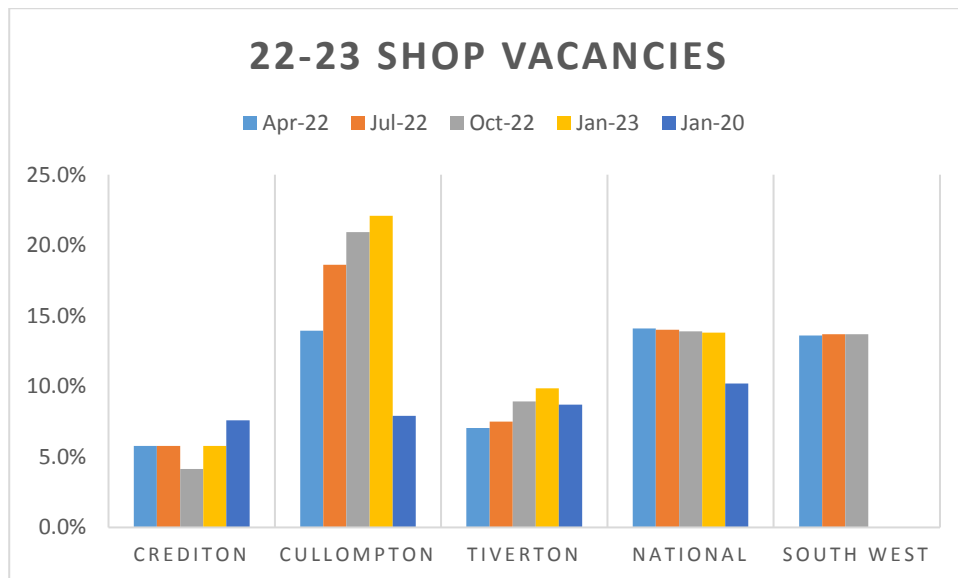


3.1.3 These schemes complement the Heritage Action Zone Shopfront Improvement Scheme running in Cullompton, which is also open for applications. We continue to promote the schemes to encourage take-up.

#### 3.2 Town Centre Health

3.2.1 Each quarter, members of the team carry out a shop survey in Tiverton, Cullompton and Crediton, monitoring shop vacancy rates.





3.2.2 All three towns have slightly more vacancies in quarter 4 compared to quarter 3 (an increase of two each in Crediton and Tiverton – although both towns are still lower than the national and regional averages - and one new vacancy in Cullompton). We are aware of new occupants taking on properties in February (not shown in the above) or moving into some units soon. The fifth column (January 2020) shows pre-pandemic levels for comparison.

3.2.3 The next survey is due to be completed in April 2023. We propose amending vacancy monitoring reports to include turnover as well. This will identify how well new businesses are performing in the town. We will also report on any long-term empty units separately to the rest so that Members can see how quickly lettable units are being occupied.

3.2.4 An opportunity to tender for footfall analytics provision is advertised on our Procurement Portal, with a supplier due to be appointed by the end of March. Going forwards, we will include this data in the town centre performance reports.

### 3.3 Visitor Economy

3.3.1 The Visit Mid Devon project continues to support our leisure, tourism and hospitality businesses in partnership with Tiverton Museum (TIC service). We are currently looking into advertising opportunities with the Railway to encourage more visits to Mid Devon.

3.3.2 Through the Shared Prosperity Fund, the team have contracted a supplier to deliver Search Engine Optimisation improvements to the Visit Mid Devon website, improving the visibility of search results for our main towns, attractions and general destination search terms. This project will run between February and May.

## **4.0 Business Support**

### **4.1 Job Fairs**

4.1.1 The Moving Forward Event took place on 2 February with a successful turnout at the Old Heathcoat School Community Centre. The next Job Fair to be held on 22 March 2023 has a high interest from businesses with 16 booked on with more to come.

4.1.2 The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office in Tiverton has reached out to businesses in and around Cullompton to see if there is an interest for a Job Fair to happen within their locality; so far only a handful of businesses have come forward, therefore a smaller scale job fair event will look to take place in early Summer for Cullompton.

4.1.3 As Crediton businesses are covered by the Exeter DWP, the team has made contact with their office to investigate the opportunities for supporting Crediton businesses with similar events.

### **4.2 Digital Skills**

4.2.1 Recent evidence suggests that Mid Devon businesses/enterprises are digitally weak in terms of IT competency and online presence. A recent study has demonstrated that of 4,200 businesses within Mid Devon, just 626 (14.9%) have a social media presence and, of these, only 52 (1.2%) proactively utilise their social media channels to support and promote their businesses.

4.2.2 Studies show the importance of connecting digital and physical retail, with more customers purchasing products through social media and a high conversion rate from digital footfall to physical footfall. With many people continuing to work from home, it's important to support our retailers with the right skills and knowledge to utilise these digital tools to remain relevant and competitive and continue to attract sales out of working hours. Therefore, following a procurement exercise, the team have appointed a supplier to deliver digital skills training for retailers in our town centres. The training will take place towards the end of March offering four hybrid workshops in each of the towns (either in person or via Teams), covering:

- Google my Business – getting your business to show on Google maps, the benefits of using this feature, reviews, etc
- Connecting Digital and Physical Retail – use of QR codes, intelligent software to connect sales between the two
- Introduction to modern e-commerce: websites and selling products on social media
- Introduction to social media and how to use it for your retail business (to include Facebook and Instagram) and information on hashtags

4.2.3 The team are currently consulting the town teams over dates and encouraging participation.

## **5.0 Work Hubs and Innovation Projects**

- 5.1 We received three expressions of interest for the first round of work hub funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund. This round focused on our existing work hubs with the next round expanding to include proposals for new hubs. Funding decisions will be made in March.
- 5.2 The Business Innovation project in partnership with Petroc College continues to progress. Work has commenced on phase one with a planned pre-opening consultation event with businesses to take place at the end of March.

## **6.0 Crediton Masterplan**

- 6.1 The team has completed the procurement exercise to appoint consultants to progress the Crediton masterplan and we are now in the formal stand-still period. Officers hope to be able to confirm the successful appointee to members at the Economy PDG meeting and will give an indication of the work programme to follow.
- 6.2 It is worth noting that we received several high-quality tenders for the commission from interested parties, which demonstrates the interest in the work from the professional field.

## **7.0 General Updates**

- 7.1 The Economic Development Team have recruited and are pleased to welcome two new members of staff soon: a Project Support Officer to assist with the work of the Shared Prosperity Fund, and an Economic Development Officer who will lead on business engagement.

**Contact for more Information:** Zoë Lentell, Economic Development Team Leader  
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**Circulation of the Report:** Cllr John Downes  
Leadership Team

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## Economy Policy Development Group – 2022/2023

### Chairman's Annual Report

#### Overview

During 2022/23 the Group received updates on a range of initiatives which will contribute towards economic recovery. In summary these included:

- A presentation regarding Urban Renewal in Devon's Coastal and Market Towns
- Covid 19 Economic Recovery Update
- Economic Updates regarding Junction 27 and Junction 28
- A presentation from Eden
- Various UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England Prosperity Fund reports
- Culm Garden Village Employment and Skills Strategy
- A New Tiverton Shopfront Enhancement Scheme
- A New Crediton Shopfront Enhancement Scheme
- Various Budget updates and financial discussions
- Agricultural Overview paper
- Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document and Delivery Plan

In addition throughout the year members have been provided with a number of reports and presentations providing data and analysis regarding the current economic position nationally and locally. Members have also been updated with progress regarding other initiatives such as:

- Tiverton Job Fairs in partnership with Tiverton JobCentre Plus (DWP) at Tiverton Pannier Market for local employers and job-seekers
- Cullompton Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) –public realm enhancements
- Cullompton Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) - distribution of grants
- Asylum Seekers support and Accommodation
- Major Infrastructure updates
- Various grant assistance programmes for households
- Successful Job Fairs for Ukrainian refugees
- Visit Mid Devon – Leisure, Tourism & Hospitality Business
- Love Your Town Centre grants
- Field to fork programme

For the first part of the year the Economic Development Team was fully engaged in managing and delivering the Covid-related Business Grants, with a total of £1.97 million of grants being distributed to struggling businesses in the last round of funding. Since then the Shared Prosperity and the Rural England Prosperity Funds have been the main focus for the team. The Policy Development Group has played an important role in the formulation of Shared Prosperity Investment Plans as part of the District's

submissions to government. The Policy Development Group will continue to play an important role in overseeing the delivery of these plans over the next few years.

**Cllr John Downes**

**Chairman of the Economy Policy Development Group**