

Public Document Pack

Mid Devon District Council

Economy Policy Development Group

Thursday, 17 May 2018 at 5.30 pm
Exe Room, Phoenix House, Tiverton

Next ordinary meeting
Thursday, 12 July 2018 at 5.30 pm

Those attending are advised that this meeting will be recorded

Membership

Cllr Mrs A R Berry
Cllr Mrs C Collis
Cllr J M Downes
Cllr R Evans
Cllr S G Flaws
Cllr T G Hughes
Cllr Mrs B M Hull
Cllr F J Rosamond
Cllr Mrs N Woollatt

A G E N D A

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

- 1 **Election of Chairman**
To elect a Chairman of the PDG for the municipal year 2018/19.
- 2 **Election of Vice Chairman**
To elect a Vice Chairman of the PDG for the municipal year 2018/19.
- 3 **Apologies and Substitute Members**
To receive any apologies for absence and notice of appointment of substitutes.
- 4 **Declaration of Interests under the Code of Conduct**
Councillors are reminded of the requirement to declare any interest, including the type of interest, and reason for that interest, either at this stage of the meeting or as soon as they become aware of that interest.
- 5 **Public Question Time**
To receive any questions relating to items on the Agenda from members of the public and replies thereto.

- 6 **Minutes** (*Pages 5 - 10*)
Members to consider whether to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting held on 8 March 2018.
- 7 **Chairman's Announcements**
To receive any announcements that the Chairman may wish to make.
- 8 **Presentation on Hydro Mills**
To receive a presentation from the Economic Development Officer regarding the Hydro Mills project.
- 9 **Performance and Risk for 2017/18** (*Pages 11 - 18*)
To receive a report from the Director of Growth & Chief Executive providing members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2017/18 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.
- 10 **Economic Development Service Update** (*Pages 19 - 22*)
To receive a report from the Chief Executive and Director for Growth updating Members on progress with key Economic Development Service priorities.
- 11 **Start time of meetings**
To agree the start time of meetings for the remainder of the municipal year.
- 12 **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:
- Performance & Risk
 - Revenue and Capital outturn report for 2017/18
 - Market Rights Policy
 - Projects update
 - Growth, Economy & Delivery Business Plan 2018/19

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

Stephen Walford
Chief Executive
Wednesday, 9 May 2018

Anyone wishing to film part or all of the proceedings may do so unless the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting or there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chairman. Any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chairman or the Member Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

Members of the public may also use other forms of social media to report on proceedings at this meeting.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to discussion. Lift access to the Council Chamber on the first floor of the building is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are also available. There is time set aside at the beginning of the meeting to allow the public to ask questions.

An induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, or if you would like a copy of the Agenda in another format (for example in large print) please contact Sarah Lees on:

Tel: 01884 234310

E-Mail: slees@middevon.gov.uk

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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **ECONOMY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP** held on 8 March 2018 at 5.30 pm

Present

Councillors

Mrs B M Hull (Chairman)
Mrs A R Berry, Mrs C Collis, J M Downes,
R Evans, S G Flaws, F J Rosamond and
Mrs N Woollatt

Apology

Councillor

T G Hughes

Also Present

Councillor

R J Chesterton

Also Present

Officers

Stephen Walford (Chief Executive), Jenny Clifford (Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration), Adrian Welsh (Group Manager for Growth, Economy and Delivery), John Bodley-Scott (Economic Development Team Leader), Chris Shears (Economic Development Officer) and Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer)

64 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received from Cllr T G Hughes.

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

There were no declarations of interest given.

66 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

67 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2018 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

68 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- This would be the last meeting of the Group in this municipal year.
- The next informal workshop would be held on Monday 23rd April at 5.30pm.

69 APPRENTICESHIPS - PETROC PRESENTATION (00:02:49)

Huw Davies, the Assistant Principal Employer Engagement, Innovation and Enterprise from Petroc attended the meeting to provide the Group with information relating to Apprenticeships.

The following background information was provided:

- The reform of Apprenticeships was announced 6/7 years ago by the Government with the intention of having 3 million Apprentices by 2020. This was in response to such issues as productivity. A further reform was due to come into effect from 1 May 2018, however, full details were not yet available and it was a changing situation.
- The initial reform had had a significant impact on the role of employers, the majority of whom had been large employers such as Rolls Royce.
- A Levy (tax) had been introduced for any business with a pay bill of over £3m and 0.5% had to be paid towards the levy. The example was given of a local hospital having to spend £650k on Apprenticeships.
- If a business had less than 50 employees and wanted to take on 16/17 year old this would be free.
- 20% of an Apprentices time must be given to learning and sometimes this was a challenge for employers, however, this did not have to be classroom based but could be 'mentoring' for example.
- There was a move away from traditional 'frameworks' and more of a move towards 'standards' and formal qualifications were not always a mandatory part of this.
- Anyone could become an Apprentice, there were no age restrictions.
- The vast majority of growth was in white collar work.
- There were various levels of Apprenticeship, Level 2 was akin to GCSE level, Level 3 was akin to A levels, Level 4 was equivalent to a Higher National Certificate and Level 5 was equivalent to a degree.
- Petroc had taken on 80 Apprentices and there was significant interest within the younger generation to take up an Apprenticeship if it meant they could get a degree whilst also being paid to do a job.
- Universities had become very active in promoting Apprenticeships.
- An Apprenticeship, at whatever level, had to be taken on for a minimum of a year and one week.
- The Government were pushing for more engineering and construction placements. Project Management was also encouraged.
- The Council had met all of its targets in relation to Apprenticeships last year and was working towards it for the current year. It was sometimes a challenge to create a post that created value to the business but also to the Apprentice.
- The Apprenticeship scheme was heavily audited and monitored by OFSTED.
- Finance based Apprenticeships were rapidly growing especially those resulting in a qualification.
- It was important for schools to emphasise that GCSE's and A levels were not the only option, Apprenticeships provided a worthwhile alternative.

It was requested that information be passed to the Committee Clerk in relation to a list of the different types of Apprenticeships offered by Petroc and the numbers of Apprenticeship posts in each area.

70 **PERFORMANCE AND RISK FOR 2017/18 (00:39:23)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED** a report * from the Chief Executive and Director of Growth providing it with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for 2017/18 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

Brief discussion took place regarding:

- Whether there was still a problem with the amount of commercial land supply. It was explained that an Employment Land Review had been undertaken to inform the emerging Local Plan and Forward Planning are currently re-evaluating this work to ensure it is still fit for purpose. It was also noted that once the Local Plan is adopted that will release further sites. Similarly the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan will also be identifying additional sites for commercial development through its processes. There was increasing demand for space which was seen as positive.
- There was also recognition that commercial development can occur in a range of locations, not just on those sites allocated in development plans, provided that they are consistent with policies.
- A lot of the work that the Economic Development Officer undertook was to try and find spaces that worked for businesses.

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

71 **MEETING MANAGEMENT**

The Chairman informed the Group that she would be taking the EHOD item and the Broadband item together since they were closely linked.

72 **UPDATE ON THE EXETER AND HEART OF DEVON (EHOD) SHARED ECONOMIC STRATEGY (00:43:00)**

The Group had before it, and **NOTED**, a report * from the Chief Executive and Director of Growth updating Members on progress with regard to the first year actions of the Exeter and Heart of Devon (EHOD) Shared Economic Strategy.

The Group were informed that the EHOD partnership was working well with each local authority still leading on various themes. Mid Devon was leading on the business transformation agenda although there were opportunities to work collaboratively across the whole EHOD area.

The Council had supported the development of a bid for £2.4m to deliver gigabit broadband vouchers to the business community. The outcome of this would not be known until mid to late spring but it aimed to make it affordable for business communities to significantly improve the quality of their broadband speeds.

The EHOD Strategy had recently won a national award from the Institute of Economic Development, as the 'Most Innovative Strategy in the UK'. The Group felt that this ought to be commended.

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

73 **DESTINATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MID DEVON (00:50:43)**

The Group had before it a report * from the Chief Executive and Director of Growth presenting it with the finalised Destination Management Strategy.

It was explained that ultimately the Strategy would have an Action Plan but this would also need to take into consideration the Economic Strategy therefore it would be premature to present it at this stage.

Brief discussion took place regarding:

- A finding from the 2016 visitor survey which stated that the lowest satisfaction rates were for nightlife/evening entertainment and availability of public toilets. Officers would be coming back to Members with ideas as to how change in this area could be realised.
- The Visit Devon website did not have anything relating to shopping in the major towns of Mid Devon and this was seen as not being reflective of a the quality shops on offer.
- Gold Street had recently been voted the 'trendiest' street in Devon.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that the Destination Management Strategy be recommended to Council for approval.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

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

74 **MARKET SCHEDULE OF TOLLS (00:55:55)**

The Market Manager provided a verbal update to the Group on the Market Schedule of Tolls which included the following:

- The new format of tolls would commence on 1 April 2018. Traders had had a chance to comment but generally the new format had been well received.
- It was difficult to predict whether all traders would keep up their payments.
- A lot of traders were taking up standing orders as they received a 10% discount.
- Direct debit was the preferred option but this was currently not possible although it was being looked into.
- Some new traders were moving away from traditional market options and more towards stalls offering crafts and artisan foods.
- The Cabinet had earlier that day approved the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan which included some initial considerations about what could be done with the market. The Masterplan would shortly be going out for consultation.
- It was reported that several coach loads of people had visited Tiverton and its market recently and that this was an increasing trend, parking was a challenge however.

It was requested that the Committee Clerk find out why it was not possible for traders to pay by direct debit, what was being done about it and report back to the Group.

75 BROADBAND UPDATE

Discussion relating to Broadband had taken place under the EHOD item.

76 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017/18 (01:09:05)

The Group had before it and **NOTED** a draft report * by the Chairman on the work of the Group since May 2017, a final copy of this report would be submitted to Council on 25 April 2018.

The Group wished to pass on its thanks to the Economic Development Team for their hard work in submitting a large number of bids throughout the course of the year.

Note: - Report previously circulated and attached to Minutes.

77 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (01:10:25)

No further items were identified for the next meeting other than those already listed in the work programme.

(The meeting ended at 6.40 pm)

CHAIRMAN

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ECONOMY PDG 17 MAY 2018

PERFORMANCE AND RISK FOR 2017/18

Cabinet Member Cllr Richard Chesterton
Responsible Officer Director of Growth & CEO, Stephen Walford

Reason for Report: To provide Members with an update on performance against the corporate plan and local service targets for 2017/18 as well as providing an update on the key business risks.

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

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

Financial Implications: None identified

Legal Implications: None

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

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

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides Members with details of performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for the 2017/18 financial year.
- 1.2 Appendix 2 shows the section of the Corporate Risk Register which relates to the Economy Portfolio. See 3.0 below.
- 1.3 Appendix 3 shows the profile of all risks for the Economy Portfolio for this quarter.
- 1.4 All appendices are produced from the corporate Service Performance And Risk management system (SPAR).

2.0 Performance

- 2.1 The Economic Development Service Update which covers specific projects is a separate item on this agenda.
- 2.2 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Attract new businesses to the District:** A planning application from Lidl is expected shortly, a new industrial

development is being started in Cullompton – Venn Place. Delivery of employment land allocations in the Local Plan is being actively pursued.

- 2.3 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Focus on business retention and growth of existing businesses:** we record **Businesses assisted** which is on target at 261 against an annual target of 250; they have to be assisted for a minimum of an hour to be included in this figure.
- 2.4 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Improve and regenerate our town centres with the aim of increasing footfall, dwell-time and spend in our town centres:** for **Empty Shops**, counting takes place at the start of the quarter so the final position for 2017/18 compared to 2016/17 is; 7 more empty shops for Tiverton, 1 more in Crediton and 1 more in Cullompton.
- 2.5 Regarding the Corporate Plan Aim: **Grow the tourism sector:** the Mid Devon Destination Management Plan for Tourism; this PDG recommended to Cabinet that the strategy be recommended to Council for approval. Subject to the inclusion of additional material with regard to country sports and mention of the shrine at the Roman Catholic Boniface Church the Destination Management Plan was duly approved by Full Council on 25 April.
- 2.6 Mid Devon had a slightly lower than average income deprivation indice in 2015 at 0.103 compared to the average of 0.109 (all comparisons are for England only); only Westex, Lowman and Cranmore are higher than average. The rate of unemployment for 2015/16 was low; 0.8% compared to an average of 1.8%.
- 2.7 Educationally we do well too, with a higher than average number of children attaining 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE (including English and Maths), at 62.2% compared to an average of 56.6%. For housing, according to the 2011 census, Mid Devon has half the average number of overcrowded houses but over double the number without central heating.

3.0 Risk

- 3.1 The Corporate risk register has been reviewed by Group Managers' Team (GMT) and updated. Risk reports to committees include risks with a total score of 10 or more. (See Appendix 2)
- 3.2 Appendix 3 shows the risk matrix for MDDC for this quarter. If risks are not scored they are included in the matrix at their inherent score which will be higher than their current score would be.

4.0 Conclusion and Recommendation

- 4.1 That the PDG reviews the performance indicators and risks for 2017/18 that are outlined in this report and feeds back any areas of concern to the Cabinet.

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

Circulation of the Report: Management Team and Cabinet Member

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy

Monthly report for 2017-2018
 Arranged by Aims
 Filtered by Aim: Priorities Economy
 For MDDC - Services

Key to Performance Status:

Performance Indicators:

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

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy

Priorities: Economy

Aims: Attract new businesses to the District

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Actual to Date	Group to Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Number of business rate accounts</u>	2,930	2,930	3,000	2,933	2,936	2,942	2,951	2,951	2,963	2,963	2,987	3,004	3,004	3,021	3,028	3,028	John Chumbley, Andrew Jarrett	(March) Can only increase if there are actual new properties brought into the Valuation List as a result of a new business being built, converted from CTAX to NDR or another NDR property is split into several other properties. (CY)

Aims: Focus on business retention and growth of existing businesses

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Actual to Date	Group to Manager	Officer Notes	
<u>Businesses assisted</u>	n/a	n/a		250	20	38	53	92	112	137	159	195	207	227	249	261	261	None	

Aims: Improve and regenerate our town centres

Performance Indicators

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Actual to Date	Group to Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Increase in Car Parking Vends</u>	55,241	55,241		48,051	53,937	54,086	54,730	54,417	54,734	53,420	51,810	51,051	48,993	45,345	47,790	47,790	Andrew Jarrett	
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (TIVERTON)</u>	16	16	18	n/a	n/a	19	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	n/a	23	n/a	n/a	21	21	Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 4) Vacancies as of 30th January 2018 = 21 representing 9.1% of total units (JB)
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (CREDITON)</u>	7	7	8	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a	8	n/a	n/a	11	11	Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 4) Vacancy Rates as of 30th January 2018 is 11, representing 9.4% (JB)
<u>The Number of Empty Shops (CULLOMPTON)</u>	8	8	8	n/a	n/a	11	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a	9	n/a	n/a	8	8	Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 4) Vacancy Rates as of 30th January 2018 is 8 vacant units representing 9.4% of retail units. (JB)

Corporate Plan PI Report Economy**Priorities: Economy****Aims: Other****Performance Indicators**

Title	Prev Year (Period)	Prev Year End	Annual Target	Apr Act	May Act	Jun Act	Jul Act	Aug Act	Sep Act	Oct Act	Nov Act	Dec Act	Jan Act	Feb Act	Mar Act	Actual to Date	Group Manager	Officer Notes
<u>Funding awarded to support economic projects</u>	£61,842	£61,842		n/a	n/a	£0	n/a	n/a	£25,459	n/a	n/a	£35,899	n/a	n/a	£35,899	£35,899	Adrian Welsh	(Quarter 4) NO further grants awarded in Q4 (JB)

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Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Report for 2017-2018

For Economy - Cllr Richard Chesterton Portfolio

Filtered by Flag:Include: * CRR 5+ / 15+

For MDDC - Services

Filtered by Performance Status: Exclude Risk Status: Low

Not Including Risk Child Projects records or Mitigating Action records

Key to Performance Status:

Risks: No Data (0+) High (15+) Medium (6+) Low (1+)

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Commercial Land supply Failure to identify commercial land supply will stunt economic growth

Effects (Impact/Severity):

Causes (Likelihood):

Service: Planning

Current Status: High (15)

Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very High

Current Risk Likelihood: 3 - Medium

Service Manager: Jenny Clifford

Review Note:

Risk: Decline in National economics A decline in national economics could result in level of influence by local government being limited and having little or no impact on local economic activity

Effects (Impact/Severity): High - Inability to meet Council objectives, customer requirements or financial commitments

Causes (Likelihood): High - no control over macro-economics but Council objectives and action plan currently in process to increase local economic activity

Service: Community Development

Current Status: Medium (12)

Current Risk Severity: 4 - High

Current Risk Likelihood: 3 - Medium

Service Manager: John Bodley-Scott

Review Note:

Economy PDG Risk Management Report - Appendix 2

Risk: Economic Development Service Failure to promote economic activity within the District will suppress the potential for new jobs and increased prosperity for residents

A continuing economic recession could jeopardise our ability to achieve corporate objective of 'A Thriving Economy'

Effects (Impact/Severity): - Inability to meet Council objectives

- A lack of inward investment

- Uncertain economic recovery, impact on employment and infrastructure development

Causes (Likelihood): - Decline in national macro-economics

Service: Community Development

Current Status:
Medium (12)

Current Risk Severity: 4 - High

Current Risk Likelihood: 3 - Medium

Service Manager: Adrian Welsh

Review Note: Economic Strategy currently being prepared which will focus the District Council's intervention in a more focused way and will also enable improved monitoring for this risk.

Risk: Local Plan Whether the Inspector will find the Plan unsound

Effects (Impact/Severity):

Causes (Likelihood):

Service: Planning

Current Status:
Medium (10)

Current Risk Severity: 5 - Very High

Current Risk Likelihood: 2 - Low

Service Manager: Jenny Clifford

Review Note: Steps taken to mitigate risks by commissioning additional work to strengthen evidence base.

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Risk Matrix Economy Appendix 3

Report
 For Economy - Cllr Richard Chesterton Portfolio
 For MDDC - Services
 Current settings

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

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Print Date: 24 April 2018
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ECONOMY PDG 17TH MAY 2018

Economic Development Service Update

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Richard Chesterton
Responsible Officer: Stephen Walford, Director for Growth

Reason for Report: To update members on progress with key Economic Development Service Priorities

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted

Relationship to Corporate Plan: It supports the corporate objectives for the economy.

Financial Implications: There are no additional financial implications arising from the report

Legal Implications: None

Risk Assessment: None

Equality Impact Assessment: None anticipated

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides an update on the progress of key projects and initiatives developed or supported by the Growth, Economy and Delivery team (GED team).

2.0 Devon Hydro and Smart Grid Project ('Mills Project')

2.1 The mills project is being presented to the Economy PDG at this meeting, and this will cover the following areas:

- Study and reporting undertaken by the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus (CUC) Masters Students
- Commissioning of works towards necessary statutory permissions required for scheme delivery
- Funding opportunities, next steps and timescales.

3.0 Rural Broadband

3.1 An application to the gigabit voucher scheme was submitted to DCMS in partnership with other EHOD authorities in January 2018. This bid was unsuccessful, but only for the reason that the government has decided to put a national voucher scheme into place. This means that businesses will be able to apply for vouchers valued at up to £3000 per business to improve their broadband connections. A positive element of the scheme is the ability to aggregate vouchers, so a group of businesses could work together to improve broadband connection to a whole business park, for instance.

This is something that the Economic Development team will be promoting with business communities across the district.

- 3.2 There is still the opportunity to develop a bid to the Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) fund, but this is complicated due to the changing landscape at Connecting Devon & Somerset (CDS). The programme's latest mapping shows that they have expanded their proposed fibre network to include several areas within the district to the west of Tiverton. This creates potential duplication with the initial project proposal put forward to members towards the end of 2017, and Mid Devon District Council would find it difficult to override the official body for delivering broadband in the HotSW area. We therefore need to focus on working with CDS to ensure that delivery of services proceeds and that the same outcomes are met.

4.0 Enquiries & Investments

- 4.1 The GED team are now in conversation with every employment land owner with an allocation in the local plan. The purpose of establishing this dialogue is to get a better understanding of when sites might come forward, the barriers preventing them from coming forward and what role the Council may need to play in helping them to come forward for development.
- 4.2 There is significant demand in the district for B1, B2 and B8 classification employment space. With the district at almost full employment, we are able to focus on supporting inward investment and indigenous business growth in areas that will hopefully achieve skills progression and higher paid jobs.
- 4.3 Work is well underway at Hitchcocks' Business Park at Willand, with the demolition of some of their older buildings and their replacement with a modern, 31,000 sqft unit which has already received significant interest. Further to this, Hitchcocks Business Park has been shortlisted for a South West award with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, for the best commercial development in the region.
- 4.4 Since our last meeting Goonvean have commenced works on the land at Venn Farm near junction 28. This textile and aggregates business is building out 128,000 sqft of B1 and B2 space which is expected to be completed in 2019.

5.0 Cullompton Townscape Heritage Scheme

- 5.1 The Heritage Lottery Board will be meeting on the 21st May to make decisions about applications to this, the last round of the Townscape Heritage Initiative Programme. Mid Devon District Council's application for Cullompton is the only application going forward from the south-west, so we have high hopes that it will be successful this time round, but it is expected to receive strong competition from other regions of England. We will hear the outcome soon after the 21st May, and this will be relayed to members as soon as we are able.

6.0 Masterplanning

- 6.1 As members will be aware, the public consultation on the Tiverton Masterplan is currently underway, and will finish on June 10th 2018. Once this feedback has been collated and considered the Economy PDG will be updated and it is suggested that the group may wish to receive a presentation on the findings.
- 6.2 The Culm Garden Village masterplanning exercise has begun, and there have been a number of stakeholder events take place across the town. The need to deliver a

Cullompton Masterplan in parallel with the Culm Garden Village Masterplan has been agreed, and work is being undertaken by officers to commission the piece of work. It is likely that the masterplanning exercise will begin at the end of the summer.

- 6.3 A masterplanning exercise for Crediton has been agreed in principle to be taken forward in the next financial year.

7.0 Tiverton Shopfront Scheme

- 7.1 The Tiverton Shopfront Scheme continues to receive a steady stream of applications. There is now £2,673 left uncommitted in the scheme, with a couple of enquiries still outstanding. This is a valuable scheme for encouraging and supporting town centre businesses to maintain and update their shopfronts and keep the main shopping areas in a tidy condition. The original funding for the scheme came from government through the High Street Innovation Fund. Once the scheme is fully committed, it may be something that members may want to continue to invest in in the future.

8.0 Tiverton Night Market

- 8.1 Tiverton's Night Market Events (Electric Nights) are scheduled throughout the spring and summer, with the first event having taken place on the 5th of May, themed around a masquerade. These events are a significant success for the district, and have won a national and county award. They continue to pull thousands of visitors and residents into the area. A verbal update on the 5th of May event will be provided at this PDG.

9.0 EHOD Economic Strategy

- 9.1 The Policy Development Group received an update on progress with the Exeter and Heart of Devon Shared Economic Strategy at its last meeting in March 2018. The EHOD Economic Strategy identifies areas of joint working where we can add value to economic initiatives by working together with our colleagues in the Greater Exeter area. The Strategy is now 18 months old and at the last officers meeting it was agreed to refresh the Economic Strategy to reflect the new economic landscape, including the development of the LEP productivity plan, and the proposed LEP industrial strategy. One area of joint working we are pursuing is on the Skills and Employment agenda, where as a single Council we may not be able to influence sufficiently. The EHOD officers group is actively looking at a project to support Skills development in the construction sector, which will be particularly important given the proposals for future development.

Contact for more Information: John Bodley Scott, 01884 234363
jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk

Circulation of the Report: Cllr Richard Chesterton
Stephen Walford, CE & Director for Growth

List of Background Papers: None

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