

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGNERATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE UPDATE

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Graeme Barnell

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

Reason for Report: To update members on progress with Economic Development Service activities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted

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.

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

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

Risk Assessment: There are no additional risks arising from the report other than those inherent in the projects themselves, and these are detailed in the individual project business cases.

Equality Impact Assessment: None anticipated

Impact on Climate Change: The impact of individual projects on climate change will need to be factored into their business plans.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report provides members with an update on the progress of key projects identified in the Council's Economic Strategy Year 1 Action Plan. Following discussion at the Economy Policy Development Group meeting on the 13th June, it was agreed to present this information in a table format rather than narrative format to help members track the progress of individual projects. Officers would welcome feedback on this new format and whether it meets members' requirements.

2.0 A summary of the current EDR projects is provided below with a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status and the key risks / issues relating to that project.

Further details can be found in the annexed table, entitled Economic Development Update.

Theme	Project	Status	Key Risks / Issues
Employment & Skills	Investment and Growth Packages	AMBER	Further work required to identify available support post Oct '19
Employment & Skills	Business Champions Group	AMBER	Lack of appetite from business representatives may hinder its development
Employment & Skills	Incubation Space	GREEN	This project is dependent on developing the right partnerships and identifying funding to deliver this project
Employment & Skills	Business Awards	AMBER	AT RISK - Unless there are sufficient businesses ready to come forward to nominate themselves or sponsor awards the Business Awards cannot go forward this year.
Place	Cullompton Historic England Bid		COMPLETE - If HSHAZ bid is unsuccessful The Council can enter negotiations with Historic England to create a Partnership in Conservation Area scheme (SEP19)
Place	Future High Streets Fund		COMPLETE - Bid Unsuccessful
Place	Crediton and Cullompton Town Centre Partnerships	AMBER	Dependent on willingness of partners to participate
Place	Tiverton Masterplan	AMBER	Stage II consultation expected Sept 2019
Place	Cullompton Masterplan	GREEN	On Track
Place	Shopfront Schemes	GREEN	Dependent on identifying match funding
Place	Destination Website	GREEN	Initially delayed but now ON TRACK for delivery in Sept
Place	Connecting the Culm	GREEN	ON TRACK
Infrastructure	Town Centre Wi-fi	AMBER	Issue: TCP business enthusiasm for the project
Infrastructure	Broadband - Gigabit Voucher Scheme		COMPLETE
Hi-Tech, Innovation and Green Energy	Hydromills Project Tiverton Weir	AMBER	Risk: Environment Agency permissions have been delayed due to further work required Risk: Decisions yet to be made by MDDC as to how the Council wishes to source funding for the project
Agriculture / Food & Drink	Food and Drink Promotional Campaigns	AMBER	Dependant on delivery of the destination website.
Agriculture / Food & Drink	Food & Drink Forum	AMBER	Targeted for Dec 2020
Agriculture / Food & Drink	Local Food and Drink database	AMBER	Linked to destination website

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Circulation of the Report: Cllr Graeme Barnell
Leadership Team

List of Background Papers: None