

ECONOMY POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
13 JANUARY 2022

URBAN RENEWAL IN DEVON COASTAL AND MARKET TOWNS

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Richard Chesterton, Cabinet member for Planning & Regeneration

Responsible Officer: Richard Marsh, Director of Place

Reason for Report: To receive a report by Hardisty Jones Associates, commissioned by Devon County Council, reviewing the potential for urban renewal in Devon's Coastal and Market Towns.

The report is presented to provide an overview of some of the current challenges and opportunities for Devon's Coastal and Market towns but also as it relates specifically to, and proposes support for, Tiverton.

Recommendation: That the contents of the Hardisty Jones Associates report are noted and along with the proposed next steps to proceed with Tiverton's involvement with the Devon Coastal and Market Town Urban Renewal Initiative.

Financial Implications: The Devon Coastal and Market Town Urban Renewal Initiative is funded mostly through the Devon Post Covid Recovery Funding. However, the participating District Councils are being asked to contribute up to £15,000 in match funding. This contribution will be identified from within Government funding to support recovery or within existing MDDC budgets.

Budget and Policy Framework: The Urban Renewal Initiative is a response to Team Devon's Post Covid Economic and Business Recovery Prospectus Plan, and closely matches the Council's Policies in the Local Plan and Corporate Plan on Town Centre Regeneration

Legal Implications: Consultancy support for the Coastal and Market Town Urban Renewal Project will be procured and managed by Devon County Council through their procurement process. The proposed funding for quick win projects will be governed by terms and conditions yet to be agreed with Devon County Council.

Risk Assessment: The Hardisty Jones Report does not create any new risks of itself. However, there are risks associated with the delivery of a regeneration strategy and quick-win projects as part of the Coastal and Market Town Urban Renewal Initiative. These will be considered further, and appropriate mitigations identified, as the work progresses.

Equality Impact Assessment: The proposed regeneration strategy will need to ensure that the benefits of regeneration are equally available to all residents

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The Initiative will support the Council's corporate priorities for the Economy, and specifically it will meet the Council's intention to "Identify strategic and tactical interventions to create economic and community confidence and pride in the places we live. This includes a continued focus on Town Centre Regeneration."

Impact on Climate Change: The proposed regeneration strategy will need to address the impact on climate change in the projects it identifies.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Team Devon's Post Covid Recovery Plan, Devon County Council commissioned Hardisty Jones Associates to review the potential for urban renewal in Devon's coastal and market towns and to identify and prioritise eight towns, which would receive targeted support under the scheme. The report identifies Tiverton as one of four towns in Group 1, which will receive more extensive support. The reasons for this are set out within the accompanying report.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Devon Coastal and Market Towns Urban Renewal Initiative is to ensure that Devon's market towns can play a full and active role in Devon's economy. It will do this by ensuring each of the eight towns has a robust regeneration strategy with broad consensus across all the key stakeholders, a Regeneration Board to support the delivery of that strategy, and a detailed Business Case for investment so they are in a good position to apply for Government Funding when it becomes available. It will also fund two or three quick-win projects as identified and agreed by the Regeneration Board.
- 1.3 Mid Devon is well placed to benefit from this initiative and can build on the existing work undertaken in developing the Tiverton Town Centre Masterplan, and the Community Renewal Fund bid earlier this year.

2.0 Next Steps

- 2.1 Subject to input from the Economy PDG, next steps are expected to include:
 1. Preliminary discussions with Tiverton Town Council regarding the progression of the work, including the development of a Regeneration Board to oversee the Tiverton element of the Coastal and Market town work, as envisaged through the DCC/Hardisty Jones report; and
 2. Development of a work plan which will see MDDC activity focused on completing the Tiverton Masterplan. This work will contribute to, and benefit from, the coastal and market town project work, but also work to guide future interventions aimed at supporting the continued development and regeneration of Tiverton.

Contact for more Information: John Bodley Scott (jbodleyscott@middevon.gov.uk)

Circulation of the Report: Cllr Richard Chesterton, Leadership Team

List of Background Papers: 'Urban Renewal in Devon's Coastal and Market Towns' – Final Report, Hardisty Jones Associates – Commissioned by Devon County Council.