

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