

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council virtual meeting held on Monday 22 February 2021

Present:

Councillors:

S Gazzard (Chairman)	
A Bailey	B Bailey
E Beech	F Caygill
M Chapman	F Cullis
O Davey	B De Saram
T Dumper	L Elson
C Nicholas	M Rosser
A Sadiq	P Stott
A Toye	B Toye
J Whibley	J Whipps
T Woodward	

Devon County Councillors: None
East Devon District Councillor: P Millar

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk

Apologies:

Councillors: D Poor

Councillor B Bailey took the Chair in his capacity as Vice Chairman due to the fact that Councillor S Gazzard was initially unable to attend the meeting due to technical difficulties.

The Vice Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, as well as Tim Dafforn, East Devon District Council (EDDC) Countryside Team Leader and Wild Exmouth Coordinator, who was attending the meeting to provide a presentation on the Wild Exmouth project.

The Vice Chairman sought, and it was agreed, that item seven of the agenda be considered before item six to enable the presentation to be given before the other council items.

Public Forum: Councillor P Millar was given permission to speak on a matter relating to item six and the notes of the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party.

Councillor P Millar expressed concern that the many members of the local community who would like to contribute to the Town Council's discussions on the climate emergency do not have the opportunity to get involved. Councillor Millar hoped that the Town Council would provide greater openness and transparency to the meetings of the working party to enable greater community engagement.

The Vice Chairman confirmed that Councillor Millar's points had been noted.

C21/012. Council meeting minutes

Councillor A Bailey proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 11 January 2021 be approved.

The minutes of the meeting (previously circulated) were received and signed as a true record.

C21/013. Matters arising from the previous minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

C21/014. Declarations of pecuniary interest and dispensations

Item	TRUST FUND WP NOTES
Councillor	Councillor L Elson
Pecuniary or personal	Pecuniary
Reason	Trustee of Abbeyfield Exmouth Society

C21/015. Exclusion of the Press and public

There was one item on the agenda that would be discussed in Part II of the meeting that involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillors M Chapman, S Gazzard and J Whibley joined the meeting.

C21/016. Presentation from Tim Dafforn (EDDC Countryside Team Leader and Wild Exmouth Coordinator) regarding the Wild Exmouth project.

Tim Dafforn started by thanking the Town Council for the opportunity to provide an update on the project's achievements over the past year and ongoing plans for expanding the project in future.

He outlined the 4 main themes of the project and their associated activities to date, namely:

- Wellbeing and Volunteering: new trees have been planted and orchards created; and volunteers have helped with seed packing, planting and acting as orchard guardians.
- Outdoor Activities: the team has delivered Covid-safe outdoor events, giving opportunities for the community to get outdoors and learn about nature.
- Access and Biodiversity: the new Wild Exmouth Map highlighting local green spaces has been created to improve community access to these areas.
- Nature Campaigns: *My Patch for Nature* has been popular, with 675 households to date signed up to create a wild patch in their own gardens using seeds provided, creating a community nature reserve.

Looking ahead, the Wild Exmouth Map will launch in late March, and will be delivered to 16,000 households in Exmouth, along with interpretation boards. The team is hoping to extend the Wild Exmouth project deadline until summer 2022 (to

make up for the hiatus due to Covid). Importantly, the team is then looking at how to expand what this project has started, for example with a joint initiative with the National Trust to include Lower Halsdon Farm and Orcombe Point areas.

A short question time followed, and the following points were made:

- Members were very supportive of the project and the progress to date, as well as with plans to expand beyond the initial 3-year timescale of the project.
- In response to a suggestion about expanding the range of the Wild Exmouth Map distribution, Tim Dafforn agreed to explore creating an interpretative map board at the Devon Cliffs holiday park.

The Chairman, who took over the Chair on his arrival during this item, thanked Tim Dafforn for attending and for the team's work on the project, and invited him to provide a further update in due course.

C21/017. Reports and minutes from Committees, Working Parties, other local bodies, the Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk, District and County Councillors as appropriate (Standing Order 6.2)

Planning Committee

Councillor L Elson proposed, seconded by Councillor B Bailey, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meetings held on 4 January 2021, 18 January 2021 and 1 February 2021 and any recommendations therein.

Finance Committee

Councillor A Sadiq proposed, seconded by Councillor O Davey, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021.

In respect of the process for, and cost of, engaging a contractor to remove the Magnolia Centre clock, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council had sought and received several quotes and that the work would be completed in accordance with health and safety and Highways requirements.

Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk's report, which had been previously circulated, was noted.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Chairman had already proposed the postponement of the Annual Town Meeting (which is held at his discretion) due to Covid-19 restrictions, and that a press release would be announced shortly (subject to the latest government announcement).

Deputy Clerk's Report

The Deputy Clerk's report, which had been previously circulated, was noted.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Deputy Town Clerk would be exploring the purchase of a second weed-ripping machine through the Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF. She also confirmed that the two current town maintenance vehicles, when not

in use, are parked at a secure compound in Phear Park, at no charge to the Town Council. The provision of maintenance vehicle parking was agreed as part of the Town Council's negotiations with EDDC on return to the Town Hall following renovations. The Deputy Town Clerk will also be exploring the provision of a new depot for vehicles and storage through the Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF.

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 9 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

There was some discussion regarding the comments raised in the Public Forum about greater public involvement in this meeting. Councillor T Dumper commented that the working party already includes public involvement in the form of expert speakers and Transition Exmouth, the Town Council's partner on this issue, who represent community views and had previously held an open meeting to encourage public contributions to this issue. The Town Clerk clarified that the Town Council's working parties are not open to the public, unlike its Committees, in accordance with current standing orders. Current lack of meeting space for working party meetings and administrative capacity constraints would preclude additional attendees, however if current legislation which allows virtual meetings continues then this might be possible. Members were supportive of openness and greater public involvement in working parties, which could be reviewed once Covid restrictions are lifted.

Community Organisations Liaison Panel

The notes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor P Stott provided a brief update on the beach wheelchair storage project. The planning application was validated on 9 February so should shortly be received as part of the formal planning process.

Community Resilience Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor T Woodward provided a brief update on some of the points from the last meeting. There was a positive meeting with the Environment Agency and Morton Crescent residents on 28 January, which it is hoped will lead to the setting up of a Flood Gate Volunteer Group. The Covid vaccination centre volunteer group at the LED Tennis and Fitness Centre has now increased to 73 volunteers helping to marshal visitors to the car park. The issue of liabilities has now been resolved, with the NHS confirming its responsibility for the health and safety of volunteers in the car park. Councillor Woodward was thanked for his work in setting up the volunteer group. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Exmouth Community Emergency Plan, which includes details of the Incident Control Points where emergency boxes will be held, is available on the Town Council's website.

Festival and Events Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor J Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor F Caygill, and it was **RESOLVED** that, in light of the current national pandemic, Exmouth Festival 2021 should be cancelled, with a view to holding a series of smaller music events in the Strand in late Summer 2021 instead.

Flooding and Land Drainage Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 26 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Gorfin Hall Management Committee

The notes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor F Cullis provided a brief update on progress towards finding a new energy supplier contract for Gorfin Hall. The management committee, supported by the Finance Committee, has agreed a new green energy deal from September which, although slightly more expensive, will support the Town Council's climate emergency aims and will include installation of a smart meter to provide a benefit from the solar panels.

S106 and CIL Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor F Caygill proposed, seconded by Councillor P Stott, and it was **RESOLVED** that Exmouth Town Council accepts the results from the recent EDDC S106 sports vote and ratifies that the funding is allocated to the two most popular projects and then as further Section 106 money is collected (if any is collected), work down the list of projects as far as possible and appropriate over the next three years.

Town Maintenance Contracts TAFF

The notes of the meetings held on 14 January 2021 and 11 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor J Whipps proposed, seconded by Councillor O Davey, and it was **RESOLVED** that the TAFF become a Working Party known as Town Maintenance Overview.

Town Team

The notes of the meeting held on 27 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Trust Fund

The notes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor L Elson provided a brief update on recent correspondence from Thomas Westcott regarding the provision of professional advice in respect of managing investments in the WA Westwood Trust and the associated costs, which will be considered by Finance Committee.

Waterfront Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor P Stott proposed, seconded by Councillor M Chapman, and it was **RESOLVED** that Exmouth Town Council writes to East Devon District Council to expedite the work to review the Beach Management Plan and implement the actions; and in the meantime take emergency remedial action to prevent further damage and erosion to the beach.

The Town Clerk clarified that the Campervan TAFF, which had last convened in January 2020 to review EDDC and DCC motorhome parking schemes, was not due to meet at present but would be ready to convene in 2021 as necessary.

Tree TAFF Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 4 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Public Rights of Way Working Party

The notes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Outside Bodies

Queen's Drive Delivery Group

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

Councillor A Bailey briefly summarised that planning is underway to ensure that the Queen's Drive Space is ready for summer 2021, with the play park, food stalls and recyclable picnic tables in place. Discussions also continue regarding the use of the temporary car park, which is now to be considered as part of the main leisure space. Current thinking is focused on grassing the area and installing fitness equipment. Councillor Bailey clarified that EDDC's Tim Child is lead officer responsible for developing the area and that any suggestions for its future use should be forwarded to him directly (or through her) for consideration by the group.

DALC

The notes of the meetings held on 12 November 2020 and 11 February 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted.

WEB Community Health and Wellbeing Board

The notes of the meeting held on 7 January 2021, which had been previously circulated, were noted. Additional reports from the WEB Board, which were also circulated in advance of the meeting, are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

District Councillors' Reports

The Chairman thanked Councillor B De Saram, Councillor O Davey and Councillor J Whibley for their written reports, which were circulated in advance of the meeting and were noted. The reports have been attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Councillor J Whibley summarised that he believes the Magnolia Centre clock should be replaced as soon as possible and that the process should be fully consultative to take the views of the local community into account. He hopes to develop a motion for the Town Council to consider at the next meeting.

Councillor M Chapman explained that she has put in a request to Scrutiny Committee regarding the approval of the Goodmores Farm site development.

Councillor F Caygill explained that EDDC has confirmed that Keir will be replacing the gate which leads to the Exe Estuary path and the bird hide to enable access for wheelchair users. He also stated that the CCTV working group will be meeting shortly to discuss the new CCTV specification.

Councillor P Millar confirmed that he will fully support Councillor Chapman at the forthcoming Scrutiny Committee regarding the Goodmores Farm development. He also supported the approach received from Exmouth Beach Volleyball regarding converting the former car park at Queen's Drive Space to a volleyball/sport pitch, and stated that he views the proposed £300,000 to be spent on redeveloping that area of the seafront as an investment. Finally, he stated that he was proposing a 3-month delay to EDDC plans to increase car park charges to 8 Exmouth car parks on 1 April 2021. He urged Members to write to EDDC to support this amendment.

County Councillors' Reports

None received.

Members of the public and Press left the meeting.

PART B of the meeting.

C21/018. To receive a recommendation from the HR Group to recruit a Community Projects Officer

Members had received a confidential report relating to staffing capacity issues and a recommendation that the Council proceeds with the recruitment of a dedicated community projects officer to help deliver priority projects on behalf of the Council. The appointment would initially be on a fixed term contract basis for 12 months.

Councillor S Gazzard proposed, and Councillor B Bailey seconded, that the recommendation should be ratified.

The recommendation received widespread support but Members discussed the need for more than one officer and the potential ambiguity of the proposed job title as well as the historical context of a staffing needs appraisal conducted by SW Councils in 2013 and the Council's more recent job evaluation process.

Councillor F Caygill proposed an amendment that the HR Group should be given delegated authority to determine the need and selection criteria/job descriptions for two new officer posts and authority to proceed with the associated recruitment process (with a view to any associated appointments being ratified at the April meeting of Full

Council). Councillor B De Saram seconded the amendment and it was put to the vote. The substantive motion was then approved by a majority of Members present.

RESOLVED that the HR Group is given delegated authority to determine the need and selection criteria/job descriptions for two new officer posts and authority to proceed with the associated recruitment process, with a view to any associated appointments being ratified at the April meeting of Full Council.

C21/019. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 19 April 2021 at 6.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 21.34pm.

Signed..... Date.....
(Chairman)

Appendix – WEB Board Reports

Developing a Local Care Partnership across Eastern Devon

The Shadow Integrated Care System (ICS) Board has requested that there is a plan presented from each of the agreed 5 localities setting out the how they will start to develop a Local Care Partnership.

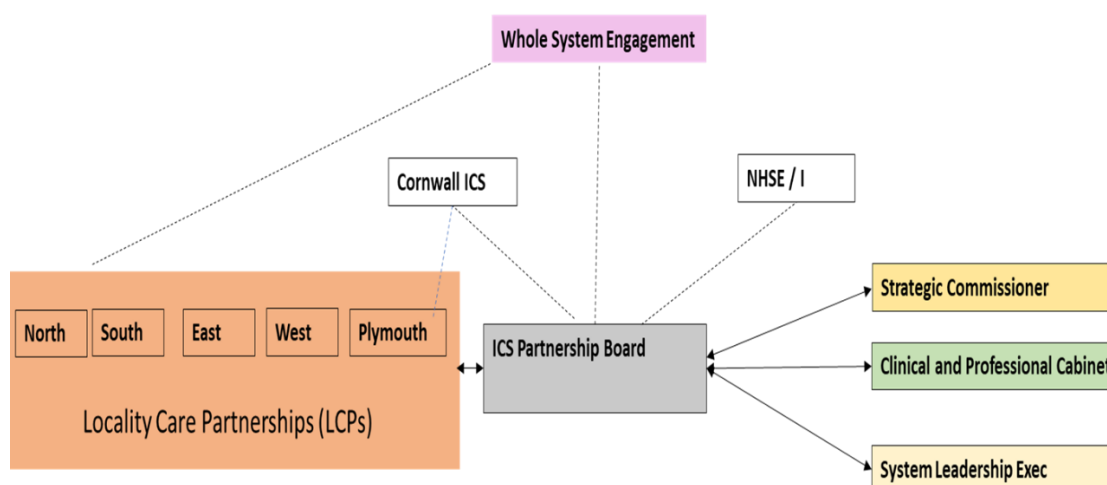
1. Context

1.1 The NHS Long-Term Plan set the ambition that every part of the country should be an integrated care system (ICS) by 2021. It encourages all organisations in each health and care system to join forces, so they are better able to improve the health of their populations and offer well-coordinated efficient services to those who need them.

1.2 NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) set out a consistent approach to how systems are designed highlighting three levels at which decisions are made and described the broad functions to be undertaken at each level:

Neighbourhoods (pop circ. 30,000 to 50,000)	Served by groups of GP practices working with NHS community services, social care and other providers to deliver more coordinated and proactive services through primary care networks (PCNs).
Places (pop circ. 250,000 to 500,000)	Served by a set of health and care providers in a town or district, connecting PCNs to broader services including those provided by local councils, community hospitals or voluntary organisations.
Systems (pop circa 1 million to 3 million)	In which the whole area's health and care partners in different sectors come together to set strategic direction and to develop economies of scale. An ICS is not a legal entity and has no authority and powers other than those afforded it by its constituent sovereign organisations that are the NHS and Local Authority (LA) organisations in the area

1.3 Since early September shadow ICS arrangements have been in place and the following governance and accountability structures are in place.



- 1.4 There is a clear commitment across the county that place arrangements need to be suited to the circumstances and priorities of each place and there will be no centrally imposed governance structure. However, it is important that each place is able to demonstrate that it has the capacity and capability to deliver on its objectives before it's accountability and budgetary responsibility can be increased. Each LCP has a Development Lead who is co-ordinating and supporting this work.

2 Learning from COVID-19

- 2.1 The Devon system response to COVID-19 has been collegiate; partnership working as been a necessity and been done well, individuals, teams and organisations have had a collective and single purpose for 6 months.
- 2.2 Relationships have grown across the system and we have demonstrated that collectively we can move at pace together to changes to the delivery health and care services.
- 2.3 The delivery of [Phase 3 of response to COVID-19](#) as set out by NHSE/I requires the system to build further on this collaboration and partnership working within the auspices of ICS.

3 Place leading the development of place

- 3.1 LCPs will lead the delivery and development of services at place level. Their constituent organisations will take responsibility for a range of functions, previously assigned to providers and commissioners to ensure that services meet the needs of the local population and population health is improved.
- 3.2 The LCP is an arrangement for joint leadership of multifunctional teams, integrated by a shared plan and objectives, common processes and deployment of joint resources.
- 3.3 The King's Fund has recently set out the emerging functions and purpose of place:
- 3.3.1 Developing an in-depth understanding of local communities and neighbourhoods
 - 3.3.2 Working in partnership across multiply agencies to coordinate service delivery
 - 3.3.3 Driving service transformation particularly for community-based services
 - 3.3.4 Mobilising the local community and building community leadership capacity
 - 3.3.5 Making use of local assets
 - 3.3.6 Enabling local organisations to use all of their resources to support health, social and economic development
- 3.4 It is recognised that the success of LCPs will be dependent on a wide network of relationships within a local area. Culture and the approach to working together will be as important as the formal structures. Therefore, the membership of the LCP leadership team will be based on local circumstances but should include at a minimum:
- Local Provider Organisations (Health and Care);
 - PCN Clinical Directors;

- Local Authorities (officers and elected members) to include social care provision, housing, employment and communities;
- Public Health leadership;
- Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise Sector;
- Independent Sector.

3.5 LCPs should also be able to demonstrate clearly how they will work with Health and Wellbeing Boards and Scrutiny Committees.

4 Existing arrangement at place across Devon

4.1 The development of informal structures for working at place is at early stage with different approaches and levels of progress in each of the 5 LCP areas. [One Northern Devon](#) is perhaps the most developed with partnerships established and delivering collectively on local priorities and connected into the community. The following has supported this:

- 4.2 OND has grown organically from existing forums with existing assets at the fore
- 4.3 Partners have coalesced around a jointly produced plan – starting at a place that was good enough for the present and then evolved
- 4.4 The partnership has evolved collectively and established a Northern Devon identity whilst retaining individual partner identity
- 4.5 Established a dedicated resource as an engine room to support progress

4.6 OND is likely to be a central and driving element of the LCP in Northern Devon

4.7 Across Eastern Devon the Eastern Locality Forum has been the group bringing together strategic system leaders from across health, care and wellbeing. Work has taken place previously to identify priorities across the Eastern locality alongside Public Health and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and more latterly a focus on population health management and the development of town profiles. Conversations have also taken place to look at areas in common across organisational strategies.

4.8 Despite this, action between meetings has been limited and no overarching plan setting out how the collective purpose is to be delivered or what levers it might need in order to deliver. The group has also not benefitted from a dedicated resource to drive developments and act as an ‘engine room’ to facilitate delivery, the recently developed Eastern Locality Delivery Group is well set to play this role.

4.9 Given the current membership of the Eastern Locality Forum, its work on the health and wellbeing and population health management agenda, it feels like this forum should play a central role in the development and delivery of an Eastern LCP now that shadow system arrangements have been established this September.

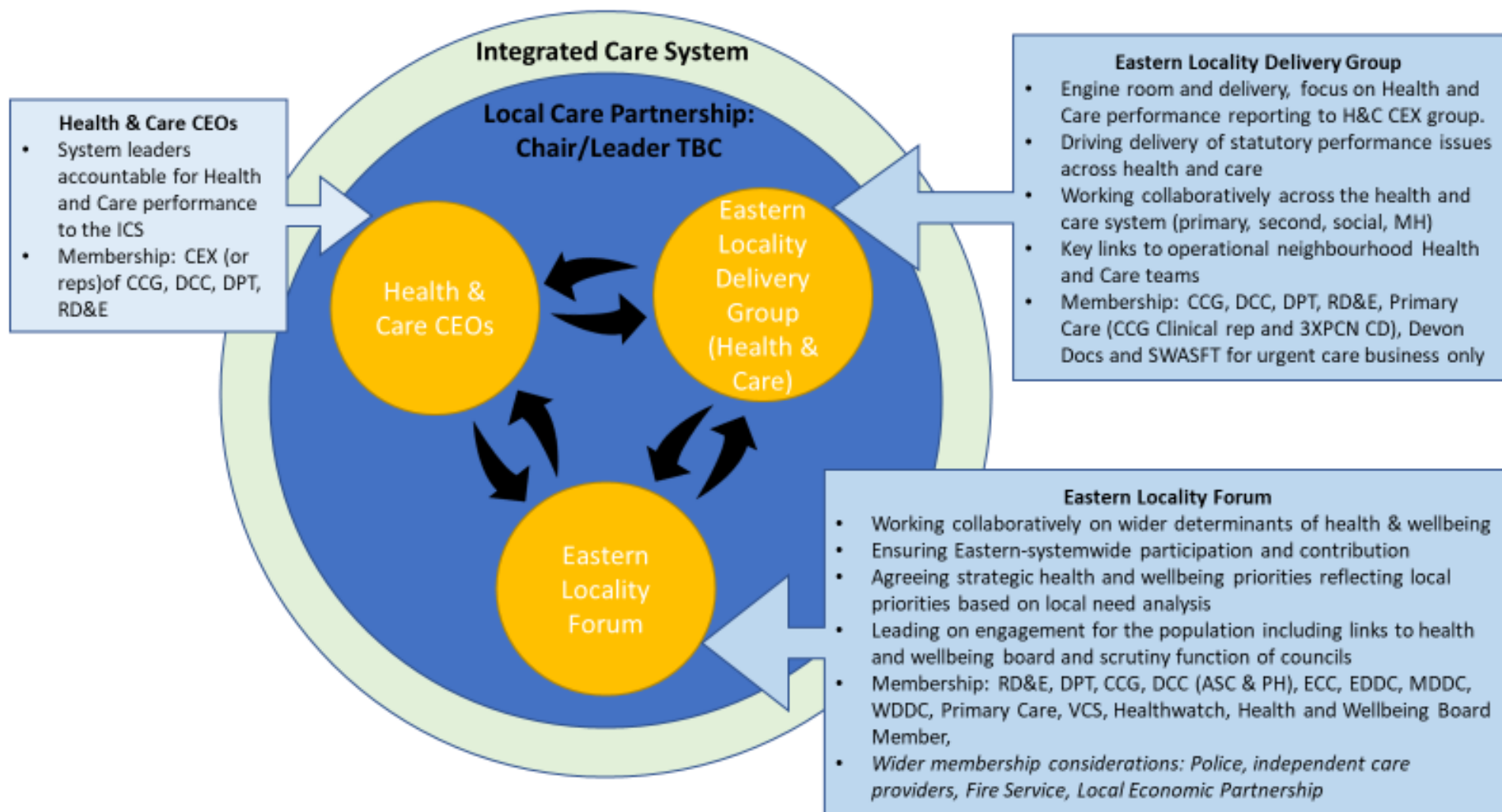
5 Consideration for ELF

5.1 To consider what architecture needs to be put in place in the first instance (that will no doubt evolve) that enables the functions and delivery of that set out in Section 3, and what role ELF

could play and with what membership to ensure senior decision makers from across Eastern Devon are present but it remains nimble. Other considerations include:

- 5.1.1 What other existing infrastructure is appropriate and already established to support commissioning and delivery e.g. local place boards?
 - 5.1.2 A 'place' must resonate both with the public and across public service agencies
 - 5.1.3 What place architecture alongside ELF support buy-in and support delivery?
 - 5.1.4 What is the required future membership of ELF?
 - 5.1.5 What are the transformational priorities across Eastern Devon?
 - 5.1.6 What are [health and wellbeing priorities](#) across Eastern Devon?
 - 5.1.7 What is the scope of the LCPs in addressing the wider determinants of health? COVID-19 has had a comparatively mild impact across Devon, but an impact nonetheless that will be felt for a long period; the livelihoods and wellbeing of many are at risk and the challenges and inequalities seen prior to COVID-19 are now magnified.
 - 5.1.8 Would a dedicated and collective resource be required acting as support function/secretariat for Eastern Devon LCP – form and function?
 - 5.1.9 An Eastern Devon Local Care Partnership Annual Conference to bring together and engage key organisations and individuals and communities.
- 5.2 The ask from the Shadow ICS Board is that there is a plan presented from each of the 5 localities setting out the how they will start to develop a Local Care Partnership.

6 Working proposals for an Eastern Devon LCP



The Eastern Locality Forum

Our vision:

- We believe that **community and neighbourhood approaches are preventative** in the first instance, that they generate positive wellbeing, and are relevant to the lives of the people and families in their area.
- We believe that the **existing strengths and assets of individuals and of communities** need to be central to these approaches.
- We will listen to, understand, support and empower **local community leadership**, collectively offering resources where appropriate.
- We will **encourage and support accessible and inclusive communication** with communities and neighbourhoods to identify their aspirations and shape the activity of the local health and care system across Eastern Devon to reflect those.
- Alongside our local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, we will have in-depth and up to date **insight into the assets and challenges** of the unique coastal and market towns and the city.
- We will differentiate our activity to fit where there are specifically **place-based approaches** or where there are common themes that can be pulled together for a shared purpose or focus
- We will work to connect the coastal and markets towns and the city through sharing knowledge, insight, data and approaches to build a mutually supportive network

Our values and behaviours:

- **Co-production** is at the heart of the ELF as individuals from individual organisations working together. We also apply this ethos as a collective across Eastern Devon and the LCP, working with neighbourhoods, communities and organisations to achieve our vision.
- We embrace **a federal approach** with each organisation across the LCP retaining its independence, identity and uniqueness whilst collectively being part of a larger team which collaborates to identify and address shared purposes and aspirations.
- We will be **transparent and honest** between ourselves and in our collective role across the LCP.
- We believe that the most successful and sustainable ways of maintaining wellbeing and staying as healthy as possible for as long as possible are **found in and led by communities**.

- We don't have all the answers or all the questions. We will be **inclusive** to ensure any individual, community or organisation can participate, contribute and shape in a way that is meaningful for them

How we will work:

- We will meet four times a year as ELF and invite community leaders from across the market and coastal towns and Exeter to attend and together we will lead this work.
- These meetings will provide the opportunity to assess progress towards our vision and the determined priorities across Eastern Devon's market and coastal towns and Exeter.
- Meetings will be the opportunity for local communities and leaders to share what works and what doesn't and highlight the things that they are achieving that could work in other communities.
- We will host an annual conference giving a broader opportunity to a wider range of individuals and communities to contribute and shape our work across Eastern Devon.

Appendix – East Devon District Councillors’ Reports

District Councillor’s Report – Councillor Bruce de Saram

On 13th January I attended the Annual Joint Overview and Scrutiny Meeting and as far as I can see there are 3 important issues which came out of it as recorded in the Minutes which all involve the spending and monitoring of Council resources:

1. **Car Park Income** – the budget assumes an additional income of £300k from car park revenue through the increase in parking charges. If Council decides to delay that increase, then that shortfall could be met from Balances or alternative funding for part of or up to a year; if the decision is not to increase charges at all, the risk is a considerable impact on further budget setting and more difficult than the position outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
2. **LED** The agreed subsidy of up to £1.3m is hoped will be partially met by Government funding, as is the case with in-house leisure services. The newly formed LED Monitoring Forum have considered initial indications from LED of their required increase in the Service Level payment, in order to maintain existing services going forward, but the rising cost is something that the Council cannot afford. Further work by the Forum, along with appointment of independent expert advice, will provide recommended outcomes back to Cabinet and Council.
3. New proposals for the **Queens Drive Open Space** to be concluded and costed.

I also attended later that day at 6pm the first **Extraordinary Council Meeting** called to discuss **Local Development Scheme and Statement of Community Involvement**

On 14th January I attended the second of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny meetings and I think that the Planning service has a particularly challenging year ahead as can be seen from the list of works to be done (see below) most of which are relevant to our Town Council in particular the New Local Plan which will impact on our updating of our neighbourhood plan as COLP notes suggest is the case.

Question from COLP notes “When will the review of the Exmouth Neighbourhood Plan commence?”

Answer: It was agreed that consideration should be given to the East Devon Local Plan prior to revisiting the Neighbourhood Plan”

EDDC Planning Service will look at:

- The new Local Plan;
- Addressing climate change;
- Coastal erosion and flooding;
- Implications of new Environment Act;
- Diversity of types of housing;
- Supporting economic recovery;

- Audit recommendations on CIL and section 106.

On 18th January I attended the Poverty Working Panel where A presentation was given by Lee Tozer, Partnership Manager for Devon and Cornwall, Department for Work & Pensions, which included the following points:

- Statistics relating to the Universal Credit caseload for East Devon (also available on www.StatXplore.dwp.gov.uk) showing age, the breakdown by lower super output area and household data.
- The response of Job Centre Plus to the pandemic lockdown .
- Partnership working to support members of the public and benefit claimants.
- The Job Centre Plus offer, highlighting the role of work coaches supporting people moving back into work .
- Job finding support which provided a swift intervention for people who had been out of work for less than 13 weeks with the intention of getting them back into work as soon as possible.
- The Kickstart Scheme which offered a six month work placement for 18 to 24 year olds and which had seen interest from a significant number of local employers .
- Sector-based Work Academy Programme.
- Flexible Support Fund which can be used to purchase support and provision to help overcome barriers to employment.
- The response to redundancy including advice on benefits, pensions and skills training to help with moving into another job .

On 4th February I attended Scrutiny as a Non-member and put my question to the PH which was: *"Firstly, I congratulate the PH on launching this Twitter Campaign Help keep our outstanding countryside looking beautiful. Pick it up. Secondly, I wish to know what are the specific lessons that have been learnt from last year regarding litter on the beach given the number of complaints around this topic that were received from Exmouth residents which included creating their own poster to raise this issue with EDDC and the public. There were also resourcing issues such as the lack of sufficient bins available at Orcombe Point which is very popular at this time in the summer months. Cllr Jung and I had an email correspondence about this at the time. I also refer to the Service Plan success comments "Following the relaxation of the COVID lockdown measures East Devon's beaches attracted a higher volume of local residents and visitors enjoying and exercising from early morning to late evening due to the dry hot weather throughout the summer. "This put tremendous strain on cleansing and bin operations". Can the PH please confirm that this summer following the end of this current lockdown we will not get similar complaints and that if we do then next year the Service Plan will be adjusted to ensure that this type of demand is catered for financially in the budget assuming we have a similar summer".*

The reply received was: *"Thank you, Councillor, for your question. Oh, if only people picked up their litter and took it home! I've watched people leave it on the beach, plus people going to their parked car emptying all the rubbish and leaving it by the full rubbish bin! Why? The StreetScene team are as ready as possible for another hectic summer for our sea front cleaning. Last year we came out of lockdown quicker than we could have anticipated and we had not taken on our summer temporary staff. Therefore, we were playing catch up for the first fortnight. I believe we then managed very well considering the increase in waste mainly due to*

pubs and cafes being closed and take away food and drink was the only option. In the first few weeks the tonnage almost doubled comparing week on week, so we had increased waste, less staff The waste tonnage collected last year by StreetScene (district wide) was 786.88 tonnes against the previous year 692.20 tonnes a 7% increase”.

So I think that is a very positive response to what is a very relevant topic to this Town Council and I know that we are keen and committed to ensuring that we keep our Town tidy and litter free.

On 9th February I attended the **Second Extraordinary meeting** of the Council which was a Part B matter for private consideration: The Vice Chairman to move the following: “that under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting as exempt information, of the description set out on the agenda, is likely to be disclosed and on balance the public interest is in discussing this item in private session (Part B)”. So I am not in a position to report back on it although I did make every effort to participate in the subsequent debate which followed.

Finally On **10th and 15th February** I took part with my fellow Exmouth Members present in the two planning meetings caused by the heavy volumes of work Planning receives and spoke to the two Exmouth items on the Agenda of which the most controversial of course was **20/0993/MRES Goodmores Farm Hulham Road Exmouth EX8 5BA *Proposal Reserved matters application (layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 14/0330/MOUT for 303 residential units including 16 affordable units, associated roads, open space (formal and informal) and an attenuation basin. The provision of serviced land for mixed-use employment/commercial uses and land for the provision of a primary school.***

Members were very unhappy with this application and Ward members Cllr’s Chapman, Caygill and Millar delivered very useful and compelling arguments against the proposal which subsequently was agreed as noted Approved as per officer recommendation.

On 2nd February I attended with both Cllr Bailey’s-Brian and Aurora the Exe Estuary Winter Forum as your **Town Council Representative** a summary of which can be seen in the Town Clerks Report to us all.

Exe Estuary Management Partnership (EEMP) Winter Forum and Executive Meeting

The Winter Forum was held on the evening of February 2nd and had an agenda focussed on Climate Change. Presentations were received from Plymouth Coastal Observatory, Martin Davies of the Environment Agency (with reference to the Dawlish Warren Beach Management Scheme) and Sam Bridgewater (in respect of the Lower Otter Restoration Project). Updates were also provided in respect of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership and Exeter Port Authority.

District Councillor's Report – Councillor Olly Davey

Since the last Town Council meeting, I have attended the following meetings:

13th and 14th January: Joint Overview and Scrutiny meetings to receive budget reports from Service Leads. It was very useful to receive these and to hear about the excellent services being provided for East Devon. The budget for this year appears to be well balanced but the projections for the future show potential shortfalls, and like all Local Authorities, EDDC needs to maximise income from its existing and possible future assets. Fortunately, previous administrations have taken a cautious approach to investment, unlike some councils which took on high risk speculative investments, using PWLB borrowing, which subsequently failed to deliver, and in some cases, left councils with a great deal of debt. The PWLB will now not lend to councils looking to make investment solely to generate income, though prudent investment in local infrastructure and housing etc, could still provide modest returns.

20th and 22nd January: A couple of confidential briefings on the Strata password breach (where councillors passwords were visible to other users) and on a proposed development at Exeter Logistics Park.

25th January: Queen's Drive Delivery Group. This resolved to refer to the "temporary" car park as the "former car park" to make it clear that this use would not be reinstated. While some reference has been made to "lost" income, the use of that space was only ever temporary, and it simply attracted drivers away from other car parks. It was resolved to pursue grassing over the area (at quite considerable cost) and to explore community use for exercise, etc. Since that meeting, I have had an email suggesting that there would be interest in using this space as a permanent beach volleyball area, and I have passed this on to the Assets Portfolio Holder for his consideration, and for possible discussion at the next QDDG meeting. The group is very keen to hear from all members of the community for suggested uses of the Queen's Drive Space, and I was glad to have received this approach.

February 2nd and 11th: Car Parking TAFF. This has already recommended an increase in car parking charges from £1/hr to £1.20/hr, and this has yet to be debated at Full Council. Along with some other Councillors from all parties, I supported this, accepting the argument that charges have remained static for 10 years, and that car parks need to cover their costs – currently some do not. In these TAFFs we discussed payment methods, car parks where we do not currently charge, electric car charging, how to address the climate change agenda, and the vexed question of provision for motorhomes. I am very supportive of "aire" type facilities, providing basic facilities and parking space for motorhomes, and making a reasonable charge for these, which does not undercut local campsites. I was quoted in several press articles for my comment that the current DCC charge of £11 for overnight seafront parking was "a bargain", and less than many campsites, where I would normally expect to pay around £20 for my small campervan. Both councillors and members of the public commented on the nuisance caused by some inconsiderate motorhome owners. I am also pleased that following communication I have had with a local resident and the EDDC Car Parks team, consideration will be given to a policy that allows local motorhome owners to apply for a permit to park in

some car parks, subject to proof that it is their main or only vehicle, it is of modest size, and that they live near the car park in question. We do not wish to see a return to motorhome owners using EDDC car parks for cheap winter storage, and this facility would be very limited.

3rd and 17th February: I had a couple of very positive meetings with Mark Hodgson and Helen Scholes of Co-Cars and Andrew Ennis from EDDC car parks. Initially this was to explore the possibility of siting a Co Cars hybrid in Exmouth to explore the level of interest in this shared car model, but it has since expanded into a wider opportunity for EDDC to link in to an Exeter scheme to provide charging points for electric cars, and as a result of this and other initiatives, it now looks as though EDDC will be able to provide these around the East Devon area, at little or no cost, making it also possible to site electric Co Cars in a number of locations. This will go alongside a public survey to assess the amount of local interest in charging points and the Car Club model, and we will involve as many organisations as possible in ensuring that this has wide coverage. At our last meeting we also discussed siting of electric Co Bikes in Exmouth, and it looks as though this is a distinct possibility in the near future once we have identified the exact site and land ownership issues. We plan to meet again on 1st April. This is a cause close to my heart as a believer in Zero Emission transport, and I will continue to pursue it.

4th February: Scrutiny Committee. This received a report and answers to questions from Geoff Jung, Portfolio Holder for Coast, Countryside and Environment. The Committee was asked to note that Sport, Leisure and Tourism are no longer part of his portfolio, in recognition of the breadth of this portfolio, and Cllr Nick Hookway is now PH for Culture, Tourism, Leisure and Sport. Geoff answered questions about Sidmouth Beach Management Plan, the SE Habitat Regulations Committee, Exmouth beach litter and refuse provision, electric car charging, Maer Road parking, CEMP prosecutions (none!), Exmouth Beach Management Plan, trees and developers responsibilities, recycling, Cranbrook, fly tipping and Wild East Devon. The Committee also looked at S106 and CIL collection issues and were pleased to note that new member of staff has been recruited to deal with a backlog of these.

10th and 15th February: Planning Committees. As you will know, the Goodmores Farm application was approved. Having read with interest the Landscape Officers comments, I felt that an opportunity had been missed to design an exciting, forward looking place for people to live, and my comment that this was a 20th Century development, instead of one fit for the 21st Century, was, I note, picked up by the Exmouth Journal. I was somewhat reassured that provision had been made for cycling and walking, but I am still dubious that this would link effectively to other provision in Exmouth, making it viable and attractive for residents to cycle and walk into the town. Despite some reservations, I felt we had gained as much as could be hoped for, and I supported the development, though I have great respect for those who still felt that this development fell short in a number of areas, many of which, unfortunately, had been dealt with at the Outline stage, leaving us little room for manoeuvre. We also approved development of the Tower St Methodist Church buildings, though again, I rather regretted the loss of the view from Queen St of one side of a very attractive building, due to a proposed building fronting on to Queen St.

9th February: Extraordinary Council Meeting to discuss a confidential matter relating to employment.

16th February: I dropped in to the Asset Management Forum, where I was very heartened to hear an Officer refer to the Doughnut Economic Model in looking at Council actions and decisions. I was also pleased to hear about moves to use Council assets and borrowing capability to invest in Green infrastructure and development. Further to this, I also attended LGA webinars on 12th February and today, 22nd February, to hear about other Councils' use of assessment tools and models such as the Doughnut Model (Cornwall) or the UN's Sustainable Development Targets (Bristol and West Midlands) in assessing the impact of developments and Council initiatives, and providing a direction of travel towards Zero Carbon ambitions.

District Councillor's Report – Councillor Joe Whibley

Over the past month I have attended various meetings including the Queen's Drive delivery group, at which plans were laid out for uses of the temporary car park site. Additionally, several private enterprises looking to use EDDC land were flagged up, and I look forward to seeing how these potentially ground-breaking proposals develop.

I have been unable to attend meetings of the planning and licensing committees due to work commitments - under normal circumstances my employer is able to accommodate such attendance but I hope you understand that in times when resources are stretched I was required to work and therefore unable.

This month I have been working with Lisa on the removal of the clock - I must commend her and Mollie for all of their efforts. In terms of what comes next, I feel that public consultation is key so I will be working with Lisa to formulate a motion for council next month. I also have received word that the Co-op, who are planning a store refurbishment in the coming months, may be keen to get involved. If you have any ideas as to what you'd like to see in place of the timepiece, please email me. Also, how do councillors feel about a charity auction of the old clock? Cllr Chapman can therefore fulfil her wish to have it in her back garden if she is the winning bidder.

This week I will be putting a motion to full council of EDDC to try to discover what has happened to the £150,000 grant Exmouth was promised by Robert Jenrick to develop a bid for up to £20m from the Future High Streets Fund and shall report back next month.

I will also be chairing the Arts and Culture Forum on Wednesday, which will focus on the new Culture plan, the possibility of Arts providers applying for the new AIR grants, and catching up with some local arts provision. I believe it is available to watch on YouTube.