

EXMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall, St. Andrews Road, Exmouth on Monday 29 April, 2024 at 6.30pm.

Present:	Councillors	
	O Davey (Chairman)	A Sadiq
	A Colman	P Stott
	G Deasy	A Toye
	T Dumper	J Whibley
	S Gazzard	J Whipps
	M Hall	M Williamson
	N Hookway	D Wilson
	C Nicholas	A Woodward
	M Rosser	

Officers:

Lisa Bowman, Town Clerk
Chetna Jones, Deputy Town Clerk

Apologies: Apologies were noted from Councillors Aurora Bailey, Brian Bailey, Maddy Chapman, David Poor and Louise Venables.

The Chairman then welcomed all to the meeting.

Public Forum:

There were several members of the public present for the duration of the meeting but nobody had registered to speak.

C24/020. Declarations of pecuniary interests and dispensations

There were no declarations of pecuniary or personal interest.

C24/021. Exclusion of the Press and public

There were no items on the agenda which necessitated the exclusion of the press or public and would be considered in Part ii of the meeting.

C24/022. To review the supporting Devon County Council Cabinet Report (8th May 2024) in respect of any proposals for the Exmouth Gateway Active travel Improvements: Levelling Up Fund Scheme (listed for Approval) and agree a response (by way of written representation), if necessary.

The associated Devon County Council Cabinet report had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that the recommendation was that Cabinet would be asked to:

- 1) note the results of the consultation report;
- 2) approve the removal of the Exmouth Gateway proposals from the Destination Exmouth Levelling Up Fund package.

Members debated the recommendation and its associated impact. Highlights of the discussion included the following questions and observations:

- It is disappointing that there will now potentially be no improvements to the area.
- Would it be possible to save the Exmouth Gateway project and deliver some of the more popular components, such as the extra crossing points, light controlled signal etc?
- The withdrawal of the Gateway project represents a missed opportunity for the Town, especially with respect to an integrated transport interchange.
- A light controlled crossing by the railway station is absolutely critical and would remove uncertainty for drivers and pedestrians.
- Uncertainty about the associated risk to the Dinan Way extension is troubling.
- The money apportioned to the Gateway proposals could arguably have been used to provide better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure improvements across Exmouth and the proposals were out of keeping with climate crisis.

The Chairman explained that the Town Council had an opportunity to pose a single *question* to Devon County Council Cabinet in respect of the recommendation.

After some discussion, the potential wording for a question was agreed and it was proposed by Tim Dumper, seconded by Steve Gazzard and agreed by the majority of those present that the following should be submitted to Devon County Council Cabinet for consideration:

“Would Cabinet consider retaining the less controversial aspects of the scheme such as the bus shelter relocation and road crossing upgrades, which would improve road safety and be welcomed by pedestrians, cyclists and motorists? Exmouth Town Council still retains an ambition for an integrated transport hub.”

The meeting concluded at 7.20pm.

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