

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be held in Training Suite (Ground Floor) - The Albemarle Centre, Albemarle Road, Taunton, TA1 1BA on 13 November 2018 at 6.15 pm.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. (Pages 5 - 12)
- 3 Declarations of Interest.

To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or personal or prejudicial interests, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, in relation to items on the agenda. Such interests need to be declared even if they have already been recorded in the Register of Interests. The personal interests of Councillors who are County Councillors or Town or Parish Councillors will automatically be recorded in the minutes.
- 4 Public Question Time.
- 5 Financial Monitoring 2018/19 - as at 30 September 2018 (Pages 13 - 32)
- 6 Report of the Task and Finish Group Review into Affordable Employment Land (Pages 33 - 64)
- 7 Confidential Update on the Leisure Procurement Project
- 8 Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider excluding the press and public during consideration of the report if the press and public were present during this item, there would be likely to be a disclosure to them of exempt information of the class specified in Paragraph 3 pf Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended as follows:

Agenda item 7 contains information that could release confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). It is therefore proposed that after

consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9 Scrutiny Work Programme.

(Pages 65 - 66)

Bruce Lang
Assistant Chief Executive

5 November 2018

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussions.

There is time set aside at the beginning of most meetings to allow the public to ask questions.

Speaking under "Public Question Time" is limited to 4 minutes per person in an overall period of 15 minutes. The Committee Administrator will keep a close watch on the time and the Chairman will be responsible for ensuring the time permitted does not overrun. The speaker will be allowed to address the Committee once only and will not be allowed to participate further in any debate.

Except at meetings of Full Council, where public participation will be restricted to Public Question Time only, if a member of the public wishes to address the Committee on any matter appearing on the agenda, the Chairman will normally permit this to occur when that item is reached and before the Councillors begin to debate the item.

This is more usual at meetings of the Council's Planning Committee and details of the "rules" which apply at these meetings can be found in the leaflet "Having Your Say on Planning Applications". A copy can be obtained free of charge from the Planning Reception Desk at The Deane House or by contacting the telephone number or e-mail address below.

If an item on the agenda is contentious, with a large number of people attending the meeting, a representative should be nominated to present the views of a group.

These arrangements do not apply to exempt (confidential) items on the agenda where any members of the press or public present will be asked to leave the Committee Room.

Full Council, Executive, Committees and Task and Finish Review agendas, reports and minutes are available on our website: www.tauntondeane.gov.uk



The meeting rooms at both Brittons Ash Community Centre and West Monkton Primary School are on the ground floor and are fully accessible. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available.

Lift access to the Council Chamber on the first floor of Shire Hall, is available from the main ground floor entrance. Toilet facilities, with wheelchair access, are available through the door to the right hand side of the dais.



An induction loop operates at Shire Hall to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter.

For further information about the meeting, please contact the Democratic Services on 01823 219736 or email democraticservices@tauntondeane.gov.uk

If you would like an agenda, a report or the minutes of a meeting translated into another language or into Braille, large print, audio tape or CD, please telephone us on 01823 356356 or email: enquiries@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillor S Coles (Chairman)
Councillor F Smith-Roberts (Vice-Chair)
Councillor J Blatchford
Councillor N Cavill
Councillor W Coombes
Councillor T Davies
Councillor E Gaines
Councillor A Gunner
Councillor T Hall
Councillor R Henley
Councillor R Lees
Councillor L Lisgo
Councillor S Martin-Scott
Councillor N Townsend
Councillor D Webber

Scrutiny Committee - 16 October 2018

- Present: Councillor S Coles (Chairman)
- Councillors F Smith-Roberts, N Cavill, E Gaines, A Gunner, T Hall, R Henley, R Lees, L Lisgo, S Martin-Scott, N Townsend, D Webber, J Gage (In place of T Davies) and R Ryan (In place of J Blatchford)
- Officers: Stephen Boland and Heather Stewart
- Also Present: Councillors T Aldridge, H Farbahi, R Habgood, J Warmington, Inspector Andy Pritchard and Chief Inspector Lisa Simpson

(The meeting commenced at 6.15 pm)

18. **Apologies.**

Apologies were received from Councillors J Blatchford, B Coombes and T Davies.

19. **Minutes of the previous meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.**

The minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 18 September 2018 were taken as read and were signed.

20. **Public Question Time.**

Agenda Item 6 – Homelessness Strategy

Mr Nick Magnum spoke on behalf of the charity he works for called People in Need South West. They operate homeless rehabilitation centres across the country. His role was to evaluate the south west area with the idea of setting up one of their centres on the outskirts of Taunton to help those that were homeless, had drug or alcohol problems, victims of abuse and generally those that were in need. Most of their centres took approximately a hundred residents at any one time and had on-site medical and mental health staff. They wanted to set up a centre in the area to help deal with the three prong homeless problem that included the following:-

- Basic homeless person that was living on the streets and needed a home;
- Homeless people that had been executed from their home because landlords had increased their rent; and
- People that had a roof over their head and who took part in criminal activity.

They had new ways of tackling homeless issues that had not been seen in the South West before. He wanted to network with the relevant agencies and collate information to be included in a report to gain funding from the Government so that the charity would be able to operate a centre in the Taunton area.

21. **Declarations of Interest.**

Members present at the meeting declared the following personal interests in their capacity as a Member of a County, Parish or Town Council:

| Name | Item | Member of | Action Taken |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Councillor S Coles | All | SCC | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor N Cavill | All | Parish | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor E Gaines | All | Parish | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor R Henley | All | Parish | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor J Hunt | All | SCC and Town | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor N Townsend | All | Parish | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor D Webber | All | Parish | Spoke and voted |
| Councillor J Warmington | All | Parish | Spoke |

22. **Update on Crime and Policing in Taunton Deane.**

The Chief Inspector greeted the Committee and introduced Inspector Andy Pritchard to the Members. Previously she had prepared reports for the Committee, however, she thought the time would be better spent if she answered any questions raised by the Committee Members that were important to them and their constituents, instead of presenting information that might not be relevant to what the Committee wished to discuss. She advised Members if there were any subjects that they wanted further details on, she was happy to take the requests away and respond to Members with the details.

The Chief Inspector then detailed the neighbourhood policing proposal that had been discussed previously and had now been restructured by the Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner, who had invested in neighbourhood policing and believed it was the root to keeping our communities safe and engaged. They had invested heavily in maintaining neighbourhood resource and had been asked to submit plans for what they thought was the best way to use the resources available to cover the geographical area of Somerset West. The plan was agreed and had gone live as a Pilot scheme. The area had been split into 19 zones and each had Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) who were responsible for all the problem solving and engagement in their area. There were also 35 Police Constables who would then support the PCSO's and assist them with their warrant powers. The new plan meant that there was cover at all times to support the community. The Police Officers (PO) had also been issued with new pieces of kit and lightweight laptops to enable them to carry out their work in the communities.

The Chief Inspector was aware of the issues being faced within Taunton town centre with the increased amounts of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and homelessness and that business owners and residents were concerned.

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and statements and asked questions which included:-

- Members praised the hard work that the PCSO's carried out in the communities. They agreed that the new laptops enabled the officers to carry out their work in an agile manner and that they were making use of their bicycles to travel around their local area.
The Inspector thanked the Member for their comment and advised that due to the efficiencies created, PCSO's should have more time to carry out their duties.
- Members raised concern on the skateboarders in Castle Green and mentioned that when they had tackled them, they had responded by saying they had not caused any damage and that the Police had said it was ok to use the area. A further concern was raised on cyclist's behaviour and queried how cyclists could be encouraged to use the Highway Code.
There was a time that PO's could deal with the lower level ASB concerns, but she was aware that there were opportunities to improve efficiencies in processes which could spare up PO's time to deal with ASB concerns. She suggested that the signage in the town could be improved.
- Members queried how the public found out which Facebook page the PO's used and suggested that the use of social media should be promoted.
The Police website gave information about the local PO's and their contact details. It also gave the details of what the Police priorities in the local area were. Not all PCSO's had Facebook pages, it was up to the individual whether they wanted to use social media or not.
- Members queried how the recruitment for the Special Constables was progressing.
There were 58 full time equivalent PCSO positions available, but currently there were 50 in post. They were recruiting for PCSO's at present and welcomed any applications and if the Members knew of anybody that was interested, that they could be signposted.
- Members requested details on the crime trends, but understood that it was missing due to the lack of administrative support.
The crime statistics were stored centrally and were accessible to PO's to distribute to Members. If there were any specific figures that Members wanted, the Chief Inspector could obtain them and report back.
- Members requested that the Police reported to the Committee every six months to gain some continuity in the information being reported.
- Concern was raised on the delay or lack of response from PO's to members of the public when they contacted them.
Historically if there was a community issue that was not urgent, the beat manager would have taken ownership of it, however, if they then had four rest days, it wouldn't be addressed until they returned to work, which caused the delay. There were more PCSO's available now, so they could deal with the non-urgent issues quicker for the members of the public. The shift pattern had also changed for PCSO's and meant they had less rest days, which was an improvement from a service point of view and allowed them more time to take ownership of issues rather than passing them to their senior officers. The Inspector wanted to keep and improve

on continuity of service in the local area, so they tried to keep PCSO's in post for about two to three years.

- Members had previously asked about the service called Lighthouse that provided support to people who had been a victim of hate crime. Concern was raised that there was a six week waiting list for assistance and they requested an update.

The Lighthouse service had lost staff in line with the efficiency savings so they had implemented a different structure now. There were more PO's and Detectives who were reviewing cases, as there were less frontline staff. They had a good business plan which appeared to be progressing well and they had received positive reports on their performance.

- Concern was raised that members of the public were reporting crimes on social media and not directly to the Police because they perceived that nothing would happen. Members suggested that the Police should post regular updates on their social media sites to inform the public of what had been achieved in the area which would improve the perception in the service provided by the Police.

PO's were trying to improve the use of social media and were trying to free up officers time to enable them to do this. PCSO's had been prompted to contact local community hubs and other local agencies to find out where the communication gaps were and ask how they would like information to be fed back. A survey had gone out to the Parish Councils and asked what they would like and what they thought of the service in their local area.

- Concern was raised that if a survey had gone to Parish Councils, a large section of Taunton town centre was unparished and so therefore they would not have had the survey. Members requested a copy of the survey so they could circulate it to the unparished areas.

- Members queried how they could help combat ASB and homelessness issues in the area.

Sadly there was potential for the issues to get worse before they got better due to funding cuts. However, these were multi-agency problems and it involved collaborative working to resolve them. Each agency were doing their best with the resources they had available.

- Concern was raised about phishing schemes and loan sharks and suggested that there should be a central portal to report such incidents. *The local PCSO's could support vulnerable residents to help prevent them being subjected to crime, however, cyber-crime has become very sophisticated and had been passed over to a central agency to tackle the issues rather than local Police forces.*

- Members queried why cautions were not issued to more people to act as a precaution and prevent further crime, for example young people skateboarding at Castle Green.

The Police were minded not to criminalise young people because this could affect their opportunities for the future with job prospects and further education. The skateboarders could be told to move to a more suitable area rather than being issued a caution.

- Concern was raised about the policing standard in some of the rural areas. Some Members had not seen any PO's in their rural villages and

highlighted that crime still occurred in those areas and not just in the town centres.

The Chief Inspector was aware that there were issues within the rural villages and was keen to address them and was happy to take any suggestions from Members on how to improve the situation. In West Somerset, cluster meetings were held, where the Chairs of the local Parish and Town Councils attended along with the Police, Highways and other agencies to discuss local concerns.

- Concern was raised that there was a perception that the public did not feel safe walking around the town due to ASB issues and what could be done to rectify that.

The PO's had ensured that CCTV had been installed in key areas and business forums had been used to address some of the concerns. She advised the Committee that the Somerset West area was one of the safest places to live in the country and had some of the lowest crime figures and lowest amount of serious violent crime reported.

- Members highlighted that there were additional resources available out in the communities that could assist with investigations, which included the use of CCTV footage from residential dwellings.
- Concern was raised on the public perception of crime and highlighted that there was a big difference between actual crime figures and perceived crime figures. Members suggested that work needed to be carried out on tackling crime perception.
- Members queried what could be done to improve community policing.
The Chief Inspector was aware that the Council was going through Transformation and advised that the Police had just been through a similar project which had impacted on the service delivery. She advised that partnership working needed to be improved which would take some time due to the loss of the designated Community Safety Officer role within the Council.
- Members queried whether more could be done with premise licence holders and the enforcement of the rule that prevented the sale of alcohol to people that were intoxicated and whether that could help alleviate some of the ASB pressures within the town centre.
The Police had worked with Licensing Groups to try and tackle those sorts of issues.
- The Portfolio Holder for Community Leadership thanked the PO's for their attendance and was pleased that they had given a brief verbal update which then allowed for a longer question and answer session for Members.

Resolved: that the Committee noted the update report.

23. **Homelessness Strategy.**

Considered report previously circulated, which provided a detailed account of the results of the Homelessness Review that had been undertaken by the five Districts and proposed an Action Plan that covered four priorities which included:-

- Supporting the transition in services required by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017;

- Supporting clients to remain in their existing accommodation;
- Supporting clients to access suitable and affordable accommodation; and
- Building and maintaining strong working relationships across partnerships.

During the discussion of this item, Members made comments and statements and asked questions which included:-

- Members were disappointed that the Housing Portfolio Holder was not present at the meeting.
- Members suggested that the public speaker approached the Somerset County Foundation, who were organising a day for people to attend with ideas for projects that could tap into Hinkley Point funds and could help with funding issues, it would also help promote partnership working and networking.
- Members thanked the Housing Officer for their hard work on the strategy.
- Concern was raised about the amount of people that TDBC currently had lodged in the Travelodge due to the lack of accommodation available to them. Members requested an update in three months' time.
- The Chairman agreed and requested regular reviews.
The strategy was a countywide strategy and would not be able to be reviewed every three months, however, the Housing Officer could produce figures for the local cases and update Members on that. Currently the amount of cases being lodged in temporary accommodation was abnormally high. There were a number of issues that had caused the high figures, lack of social housing, landlords not willing to take on tenants on benefits, were just a couple of examples. Staff were trying to help customers find accommodation and had accompanied them when they had gone to an estate agents to offer assistance.
- Members praised the methods being adopted by the Housing Team and the support they were offering to customers. They suggested that the Council should be advertising the success stories which would help promote the help available to customers.
- Members queried whether officers had access to a database of private landlords located in the area who they could approach for homeless customers.
Yes, the Homeless Team had access to a list of local landlords.
- Members raised concern that when customers had been given rent money to pay the landlord themselves, there had sometimes been issues with managing their money.
The Housing Officer shared their concern because it had been historically proved that certain tenants struggled with their finances and would get themselves into rent arrears. Direct payments to landlords had been used previously to tackle this issue. However, Central Government had introduced regulations that benefit payments should be paid direct to the tenant to give them the opportunity to manage their own money.
- Members requested an update on the housing project that had been set up to assist ex-servicemen.
The project had identified that there was a need for ex-servicemen accommodation in the area. The Housing Officer advised the Committee that once the customer's service history was known, they were directed to the project.

- Members queried whether there was capacity if all the rough sleepers were taken off the streets tonight.
There were currently twenty-two rough sleepers known to the Housing Department. Four of which had been long term rough sleepers and were not visible and did not want to use Council accommodation. Officers still offered help and would liaise with other agencies who would visit them. There was capacity to accommodate all of the rough sleepers but the choice to use it was down to the customer.
- Members queried whether the Homeless Team liaised with the Housing Options Team because they had experienced cases where the customer had been let down by the service provided.
The Housing Officers confirmed that all the Housing Teams worked together, however, some decisions were difficult because housing and homelessness was governed by strict regulations set in law. Homelessness legislation instructed officers on what they could and couldn't do. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 had widened the regulations on how many types of people could be helped. The use of private rented accommodation was promoted due to the fact that there was not enough social housing in the area and it wasn't fair on tenants to be temporary accommodation for long lengths of time.
- Members queried how much money was being spent on temporary accommodation.
The figures were not available at the meeting, but the Housing Officer would distribute the answer to Members. Some of the cost was covered by housing benefit and housing grants available from Government.
- Members had experienced problems with poverty through their work and knew there had been an increase in use of local food banks and temporary accommodation. They were concerned because the problem would only get worse due to the lack of funding.
- Members were disappointed that the Government had made the decision to pay Universal Credit direct to tenants.
- Concern was raised on customers that had fled domestic abuse who had ended up homeless. They were aware that there were charities that issued grants to assist victims of domestic abuse.
The Housing Officer highlighted that paragraph 2.6 of the Strategy gave details of what help was available for victims of domestic abuse.
- Members queried how many homeless applications had been received this year compared to the previous year.
Last year 470 homeless approaches were recorded. From April to September 2018, 520 applications had been reported and the Housing Officer believed it was due to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

Resolved that the Scrutiny Committee:-

- a) Provided 'in principle' support to the draft Somerset Homelessness Review and Strategy;
- b) Challenged and scrutinised the detail and identified content that may require further clarity or amendment and provided a view on whether Scrutiny considered some aims and priorities were more important than others; and

- c) Challenged the content of the draft Equalities Impact Assessment and suggested any further additions or amendments.

24. **Time Extension**

The Chairman proposed a 30 minute time extension which was carried.

25. **Formation of a Task and Finish Review to investigate Crime and Disorder and Anti Social Behaviour Issues within The Deane.**

Full Council had requested that a Task and Finish Group be set up to investigate Crime and Disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour Issues within The Deane.

The Chairman read out the motion as follows:-

On the 2 October 2018 at the meeting of Full Council, a motion was brought forward by Councillor Farbahi around tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in the Deane. Two motions were passed.

- To set up a Task and Finish Group to look into the issues; and
- To engage with all the businesses in the town centre to fully understand their challenges and see if contributions via the radio link system could help support their businesses.

Taunton Deane and the New Authority had to come together with the business community to ensure a safe environment for them to operate so they could survive in these difficult times.

The Chairman requested support from the Committee to set up the group and suggested that it include between five and seven Members and that it be politically balanced.

The Scrutiny Officer suggested a spotlight review rather than holding many meetings over the next six months. The Scrutiny Officer would send an invite to all Councillors asking for volunteers to be involved in the group.

(The Meeting ended at 9.25 pm)

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Scrutiny – 13 November 2018

Financial Monitoring – 2018/19 as at 30 September 2018

This matter is the responsibility of the Leader of the Council, Councillor John Williams

Report Author: Andrew Stark, Interim Finance Manager

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the projected outturn financial position of the Council for the financial year 2018/19 (as at 30 September 2018).
- 1.2 Monitoring the budget is an important part of the Council's performance management framework.
- 1.3 The current revenue forecast outturn for the financial year 2018/19 is as follows:
- The General Fund (GF) Revenue Outturn is forecasting a net underspend of £13k.
 - The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is forecasting underspend of £356k.
- 1.4 The current capital forecast position for 2018/19 is as follows:
- The General Fund capital account is forecasting spend of £11.762m against a total Programme budget of £71.883m with £43.462m forecast to be spent in future years (£16.659m spent in previous years);
 - The HRA capital account is forecasting spend of £8.679m against a budget of £17.686m with £9.007m forecast to be spent in future years.
- Any overspends or underspends in the capital forecast at this time are shown in **Appendix C**.
- 1.5 The General Fund reserves forecast balance as at 31 March 2019 is projected to be £2.312m. The balance remains above the recommended minimum reserves level approved in the Council's Budget Strategy (£1.7m).
- 1.6 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Reserve forecast balance as at 31 March 2019 is £3.132m, which is above the recommended minimum level (£1.8m) set within the Council's Budget Strategy and HRA Business Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Corporate Scrutiny notes the Council's forecast financial performance for 2018/19 financial year as at 30 September 2018.

3 Risk Assessment

Risk Matrix

| Description | Likelihood | Impact | Overall |
|--|------------|--------|---------|
| That the Authority overspends against the approved budget | 3 | 4 | 12 |
| <i>Mitigated by - Regular budget monitoring reports are produced and managers actively manage the budgets under their responsibility</i> | 1 | 4 | 4 |

Risk Scoring Matrix

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Likelihood | 5 | Almost Certain | Low (5) | Medium (10) | High (15) | Very High (20) | Very High (25) |
| | 4 | Likely | Low (4) | Medium (8) | Medium (12) | High (16) | Very High (20) |
| | 3 | Possible | Low (3) | Low (6) | Medium (9) | Medium (12) | High (15) |
| | 2 | Unlikely | Low (2) | Low (4) | Low (6) | Medium (8) | Medium (10) |
| | 1 | Rare | Low (1) | Low (2) | Low (3) | Low (4) | Low (5) |
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | | Negligible | Minor | Moderate | Major | Catastrophic |
| | | | Impact | | | | |

| Likelihood of risk occurring | Indicator | Description (chance of occurrence) |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Very Unlikely | May occur in exceptional circumstances | < 10% |
| 2. Slight | Is unlikely to, but could occur at some time | 10 – 25% |
| 3. Feasible | Fairly likely to occur at same time | 25 – 50% |
| 4. Likely | Likely to occur within the next 1-2 years, or occurs occasionally | 50 – 75% |
| 5. Very Likely | Regular occurrence (daily / weekly / monthly) | > 75% |

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 This report provides the Council's forecast end of year financial position for revenue and capital expenditure as at 30 September 2018 for the Council's General Fund (GF), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and trading services.
- 4.2 The regular monitoring of financial information is a key element in the Council's Performance Management Framework. Crucially it enables remedial action to be taken in response to significant budget variances, some of which may be unavoidable. It also provides the opportunity to assess any consequent impact on reserves and the Council's the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 4.3 Members will be aware from previous experience that the position can change between 'in-year' projections and the final outturn position, mainly due to demanded service costs and income levels. The budget monitoring process involves a detailed review of the more volatile budgets and a proportionate review of low risk/low volatility budget areas.
- 4.4 Budget Holders, with support and advice from their accountants, regularly review the position and update their forecasts based on currently available information and knowledge of service requirements for the remainder of the year. As with any forecast there is always a risk that some unforeseen changes could influence the position at the year end, and a number of risks and uncertainties are highlighted within this report. However, the following forecast is considered to be reasonable based on current information.
- 4.5 It is clear that the organisation is undergoing major change at present with implementation of the new operating model under Transformation and the preparation for the new Somerset West and Taunton Council taking effect in April 2019. All reasonable effort is being undertaken by budget holders and finance staff to ensure that budgets remain under control during this period of disruption.

5 2018/19 Forecast Outturn

General Fund Revenue Account – 2018/19 Forecast as at 30 September 2018

- 5.1 The Council is currently forecasting an overall net underspend of £13k. This is a very small underspend compared to the Net Budget of £13m, and Gross Expenditure of £62m. It should be noted that this forecast assumes the costs of and savings from transformation are within budget.
- 5.2 Shadow Scrutiny will receive an update report in respect of transformation, with costs expected to exceed budget. The best estimates of anticipated costs and the funding plan are currently being finalised and will be reported to Shadow Scrutiny in November.
- 5.3 A Summary Statement of the General Fund Revenue Outturn by Portfolio is provided in **Appendix A**.

Table 1 - Summary of Significant Forecast Variances for the Year

| | Staffing | Other | Income | Total |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | £000 | Expend | £000 | £000 |
| | | £000 | | |
| Deane Helpline | 96 | (22) | (40) | 34 |
| Planning | 149 | 0 | (143) | 6 |
| Car Parking | 0 | (178) | 267 | 89 |
| Recycling | 0 | 0 | (76) | (76) |
| Bereavement Services | 28 | 99 | (215) | (88) |
| Waste Collection | 0 | 53 | 0 | 53 |
| ICT | 0 | 35 | 0 | 35 |
| Council Tax collection costs | 0 | 0 | 47 | 47 |
| Shopmobility | 0 | (20) | 0 | (20) |
| Leisure | 0 | (38) | 0 | (38) |
| Community Safety | 0 | 42 | 0 | 42 |
| Asset Management | 160 | (18) | (95) | 47 |
| Investment Income | 0 | 0 | (144) | (144) |
| Business Rates | 0 | 236 | 0 | 236 |
| Transfer from Business Rates smoothing reserve | 0 | 0 | (236) | (236) |
| TOTAL – over / (under) spend | 433 | 189 | (635) | (13) |

5.4 The main variances to budget are explained as follows:

Asset Management: There is a projected overspend of £62k. The use of agency to cover a number of vacancies staff has led to one-off overspend of £175k on staff costs. This reflects the challenging market for property specialist roles. This has been offset by one-off recovery of historic bad debt income of £95k plus a forecast underspend of £18k on bus shelters. Work is underway to let these properties where possible. Opportunities to further mitigate the cost pressures will be explored during the remainder of the financial year.

Car Parking: There is overspend on car parking of £89k. The income levels forecast in the budget setting has not materialised by £267k and there is an increase in the external contract of £41k. This has been partially offset by £219k savings in business rates and repairs and maintenance. Base budgets for both costs and income will be realigned for 2019/20 budget estimates.

Planning: Increased income of £143k has been offset by costs of agency staff to backfill staff shortages of £149k gives a projected overspend of £6k.

Leisure: A potential additional contract item for the spa from Tone Leisure has not materialised has given a saving of £38k.

Community Safety: There is a budget error in the CCTV contract of £42k.

Shopmobility: Savings on electricity, maintenance and grant has given underspend of £20k.

Waste Recycling: The service is projecting additional income from green waste collection services of £76k with demand for the service exceeding budget expectations. As this is a demand-led service the position can fluctuate, however as the majority of income is received early in the financial year for the annual kerbside collection service the forecast is expected to be reasonably accurate at this stage.

Waste Collection: Additional volume costs of £53k are being charged for the year by Somerset Waste Partnership.

Bereavement Services: The service has projected additional income of £88k. Bereavement services is a demand led service and usage has increased during the year producing additional income for the service of £215k which has been offset by planned maintenance by contractors, additional staffing of £28k to cover upturn in workload and additional cremator maintenance and repair of £60k and £39k for the purchase, lease and repair of plant and machinery.

ICT: Smartphone 8*8 rollout has increased revenue costs by £35k but enables greater efficiency and agile working.

Council Tax Collection: This projected shortfall of income of £47k is in respect of reduced recovery action.

Interest Costs and Income: Additional investment income of £144k has been received due to improved returns.

Business Rates

A summary of the new Retained Funding forecast is shown in the table below:

Table 2 – Business Rates Retention Estimates

| Business Rates Retention Funding Estimates | 2018/19 Budget £000 | 2018/19 Actual £000 | 2018/19 Difference £000 |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 40% Standard Share of Business Rates Yield | 15,219 | 15,219 | 0 |
| Rates yield from renewable energy schemes | 171 | 171 | 0 |
| Tariff to Government | (12,781) | (12,781) | 0 |
| Levy Payment | (375) | (501) | (126) |
| Safety Net Income | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S31 Grant | 1,358 | 1,248 | (110) |
| Net Retained Business Rates Funding | 3,592 | 3,356 | (236) |

5.5 The forecast of Business Rates retained income is £236k lower than the 2018/19

budget. This is primarily down to paying a larger levy than budgeted for as the Council's income has risen due to higher compensation factor allowed against Small Business Rates Relief. The budget assumed 50% whereas the actual percentage is 69.7%. S31 grants are also lower than budgeted.

- 5.6 The Council is part of the Somerset Business Rates Pool and should receive a pool dividend for its sharing of the pooling gain, which is currently estimated at £503k. This figure is not accounted for in Table 1 as it will probably change on completion of the NNDR3 return for the year 2018/19, and won't be confirmed until the end of the financial year. The aim of pooling is to increase funding to support measures for delivering financially sustainable council services and investing in growth and infrastructure initiatives.

6 General Fund Reserves

General Reserves

- 6.1 The following table summarises the movement on the General Reserves Balance to 30 September 2018.

Table 3 - General Reserve Balance

| | £000 |
|--|--------------|
| Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2018 | 2,299 |
| 2018/19 Projected Outturn Variance – Q2 Forecast | 13 |
| Projected Balance 31 March 2019 | 2,312 |
| Recommended Minimum Balance | 1,700 |
| Projected Balance above recommended minimum | 612 |

- 6.2 The forecast balance as at 31 March 2019 is £2.312m. This would be £612k above the recommended minimum balance of £1.700m. The balance is only a forecast and can change which means it must be caveated at this stage. The final outturn for the year will be reported in the spring.
- 6.3 In view of the Council's future financial pressures the prudent advice is to maintain reserves above the recommended minimum, to provide some resilience for emerging costs and to provide some flexibility to support measures to address ongoing financial sustainability.

General Fund - Risk and Uncertainty

- 6.4 Budgets and forecasts are based on known information and the best estimates of the Council's future spending and income. Income and expenditure over the 2018/19 financial year is estimated by budget holders and then reported through the budget monitoring process. During this process risks and uncertainties are identified which could impact on the financial projections, but for which the likelihood, and/or amount are uncertain.

- 6.5 The following risks and uncertainties have been identified:
- 6.5.1 **Fluctuation in demand for services:** We operate a number of demand-led services and the levels of demand do not always follow a recognisable trend. We therefore have to caveat the forecasts in these areas to account for fluctuations.
 - 6.5.2 **General Spend:** It is conceivable that, whilst budget holders are optimistic that they will spend all of their budget, we could see underspends of £50k-£100k by year end caused by the cumulative effect of minor underspends in a number of service areas.
 - 6.5.3 **Year End Adjustments:** Certain items are not determined or finalised until the financial year end. For example, the final assessment of provisions required for bad debts, and final allocations of support service recharges. These can result in potentially significant differences to current forecasts.
 - 6.5.4 **Business Rates:** There are inherent risks and uncertainties within the Business Rates Retention system. The Council's share of business rates funding is directly linked to the total amount of business rates due and collected in the area. The figures are subject to volatility. Forecasts have to reflect this uncertainty. Due to delays caused by the additional work required on last year's accounts, the current forecasts still need to be prepared.
 - 6.5.5 **Rent Allowances/Rebates:** Q2 has identified a possible overspend in rent allowances/rebates of £85k. As this service has historically underspent in previous years the overspend has not been formally reported as a variance in this report, but is however flagged as a potential financial risk.
 - 6.5.6 The Council carries protection against risk and uncertainty in a number of ways, such as insurances and maintaining reserves. This is a prudent approach and helps to mitigate unforeseen pressures.

Deane DLO Trading Account

- 6.6 As at 30 September 2018, the DLO is forecasting to come in on budget after contributing £50k to the General Fund. Any surplus will be transferred to the DLO trading reserve. Due to the complexities of the business and the significant sums involved in the DLO operation, the year-end outturn forecast is an estimate at this point in time. This forecast outturn needs to be flagged as a risk and will be continually monitored.
- 6.7 The Trading Account Reserves Position balance brought forward of £436k relates to a retained trading surplus of £121k, plus capital reserves and £315k to fund vehicle replacement.
- 6.8 As agreed within the transformation plan, continuous improvement of DLO

services will enhance all aspects of operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Deane Helpline Trading Account

- 6.9 The Deane Helpline's net budget is £135k. The service is predicting a net overspend of £34k at year end. Forecast overspend in staffing of £96k due to increased sickness has been offset by additional income of £40k and IT contract saving of £22k.
- 6.10 There are no funds held in the Deane Helpline Trading Account Reserve, therefore any deficit would have to be underwritten by the General Fund.

General Fund Capital Programme

- 6.11 The total approved General Fund Capital Programme is currently £71.883m. This relates to schemes which will be completed over a number of years. Of this, Budget Holders are projecting that £11.762m will be spent during 2018/19 with £43.462m due to be spent in future years. £16.659m has been spent on 'current' schemes in previous years. Current in-year spend as at 30 September 2018 is £4.709m. The Council is supporting this investment through the use of Capital Grants and Contributions, Capital Receipts, Revenue Funding and Borrowing
- 6.12 The major areas of capital spend planned for future years include, £3.5m on Somerset Waste Partnership loan, £2.765m on Town Centre Regeneration and £2.669m on Major Transport Schemes. In addition, significant budget approvals have been made by Council within confidential reports – with figures not disclosed in order to protect the Council's interests during procurement phase.
- 6.13 The major area of capital spend in 2018/19 is £650k on Disabled Facilities Grants, £4.092m on Deane House Accommodation backlog maintenance and improvements, £774k on Transformation costs, £1.135m on Parking Access and Signage, £742k on Coal Orchard and £334k on DLO vehicles.
- 6.14 A summary of the General Fund Capital Programme budget and forecast for the year is included in **Appendix C**.

7 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

- 7.1 The HRA is a 'Self-Financing' account for the Council's Housing Landlord function, which is budgeted to break-even (net of approved transfers to/from HRA Reserves). The current forecast HRA Revenue Outturn for 2018/19 is a gross surplus of £356k (1.3% of gross income).
- 7.2 The current forecast outturn for 2018/19 is provided in more detail in **Appendix B**.
- 7.3 The major under and overspends forecast for year are summarised as follows

- 7.4 **Leasehold Income:** Income from leaseholders is higher than budgeted by £65k to reflect the increased cost of maintenance on shared blocks.
- 7.5 **Housing Management:** Vacancies in tenant management, lettings, tenant empowerment, supported housing have created underspend of £351k.
- 7.6 **Insurance:** Insurance costs are higher than budget. Grounds maintenance costs for clearing properties are above budget. The forecast overspend for both is £215k.
- 7.7 **Responsive Maintenance:** A forecast underspend in maintenance of £172k in subcontractors used in electrical works as a result of better scheduling and securing cover for vacant posts.
- 7.8 **Interest Receivable:** Changes to reserve balances mean that the interest received on investments is forecast to be lower than budgeted by £66k.

HRA - Risk and Uncertainty

- 7.9 As with the General Fund, budgets and forecasts are based on known information and the best estimates of the Council's future spending and income. Income and expenditure over the financial year 2018/19 is estimated by budget holders and then reported through the budget monitoring process. During this process risks and uncertainties are identified which could impact financial projections, but for which the likelihood and/or amount are uncertain.

Housing Revenue Account General Reserves

- 7.10 The HRA reserves at the start of the year were £2.778m. The forecast underspend of £356k for 2018/19 increases the balance to £3.132m. This is above the minimum recommended reserve level of £1.800m by £1.332m, providing a good level of resilience to unplanned fluctuation in costs.

Table 3: HRA Reserve Balance

| | £k |
|---|--------------|
| Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2018 | 2,778 |
| Forecast Outturn 2018/19 (as at 30 September 2018) | 356 |
| Forecast Balance Carried Forward 31 March 2019 | 3,132 |
| Recommended Minimum Balance | 1,800 |
| Forecast Balance above recommended minimum | 1,332 |

8 HRA Capital Programme

- 8.1 The HRA approved Capital Programme is £17.686m. This relates to schemes which will be completed over the next five years. The Council is supporting this investment through the use of Capital Receipts, Revenue Funding and Borrowing.

- 8.2 **Appendix C** provides a breakdown of the HRA Capital Programme Outturn by scheme.
- 8.3 The capital programme can be split into three distinct areas:
- 8.4 **Major Works:** £7.499m of the capital budget in the HRA relates to major works on existing dwellings and includes works such as kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems, roofs, doors and windows. Actual spend at 30 September 2018 is £2.431m. Forecast expenditure to 31 March is £5.769m.
- 8.5 **Improvements:** A total of £2.535m capital budget relates to such as disabled facilities adaptations, asbestos removal, environmental improvements and extensions. Actual spend to 30 September 2018 is £59k. Forecast expenditure to 31 March is £1.217m.
- 8.6 **Development:** The remaining budget of £7.652m is for the provision of new housing through Creechbarrow Road, Weavers Arms and the Social Housing Development Programme. Actual spend to 30 September 2018 is £745k with forecast expenditure to 31 March £1.693m.

9 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

- 9.1 The financial performance of the Council underpins the delivery of corporate priorities and therefore all Corporate Aims.

10 Finance / Resource Implications

- 10.1 Contained within the body of the report.

11 Legal Implications

- 11.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

12 Environmental Impact Implications

- 12.1 None for the purpose of this report.

13 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 None for the purpose of this report.

14 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 14.1 None for the purpose of this report.

15 Social Value Implications

15.1 None for the purpose of this report.

16 Partnership Implications

16.1 A wide range of council services are provided through partnership arrangements e.g. GLL for leisure services and Somerset Waste Partnership for Waste and Recycling services. The cost of these services is reflected in the Council's financial outturn position for the year.

17 Health and Wellbeing Implications

17.1 None for the purpose of this report.

18 Asset Management Implications

18.1 None for the purpose of this report.

19 Consultation Implications

19.1 None for the purpose of this report.

20 Scrutiny Comments / Recommendation(s)

20.1 Scrutiny comments and recommendations are invited at this meeting.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny – Yes 13 November 2018**
- **Executive – Yes 28 November 2018**
- **Full Council – Yes**

Reporting Frequency: Quarterly (except Quarter 1)

List of Appendices

| | |
|------------|--|
| Appendix A | General Fund Revenue Account Outturn Summary |
| Appendix B | Housing Revenue Account Outturn Summary |
| Appendix C | General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme Outturn Summary |

Contact Officers

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| Name | Andrew Stark | Name | Steve Meers |
| Direct Dial | 01823 219490 | Direct Dial | 01823 219488 |
| Email | a.stark@tauntondeane.gov.uk | Email | s.meers@tauntondeane.gov.uk |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Name | Paul Fitzgerald |
| Direct Dial | 01823 217557 |
| Email | p.fitzgerald@tauntondeane.gov.uk |

GENERAL FUND REVENUE ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2018/19

| | Current Budget £000s | Forecast Outturn £000s | Forecast Variance £000s |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Service Portfolios | | | |
| Corporate Management | 1,589 | 1,589 | 0 |
| Growth and Development | 2,200 | 2,212 | 6 |
| Housing and Communities | 2,935 | 2,982 | 47 |
| Operations | 6,083 | 6,127 | 44 |
| Transformation | (279) | (279) | 0 |
| Somerset Rivers Authority | 72 | 72 | 0 |
| Net Cost of Services | 12,606 | 12,703 | 97 |
| Other Operating Costs and Income | | | |
| Deane Helpline Trading Account | 135 | 169 | 34 |
| Interest Payable | 170 | 170 | 0 |
| Interest and Investment Income | (614) | (758) | (144) |
| Parish Precepts | 773 | 773 | 0 |
| Capital Financing from GF Revenue (RCCO) | 402 | 402 | 0 |
| Repayment of Capital Borrowing (MRP) | 400 | 400 | 0 |
| Transfers to Capital Adjustment Account | (2,301) | (2,301) | 0 |
| Transfers To/(From) Earmarked Reserves | 2204 | 1,968 | (236) |
| Transfers To/(From) General Reserves | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Other Operating Costs and Income | 1,169 | 823 | (346) |
| NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE GRANTS AND TAXATION | 13,775 | 13,526 | (249) |
| Business Rates and Council Tax Income | (10,210) | (9,974) | 236 |
| New Homes Bonus Grant | (3,565) | (3,565) | 0 |
| TOTAL FUNDING | (13,775) | (13,539) | 236 |
| PROJECT (UNDER)/OVERSPEND FOR THE YEAR | 0 | (13) | (13) |

APPENDIX B
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUMMARY 2018/19

| | Current Budget £'000 | Forecast Outturn £'000 | Forecast Variance £'000 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Income | | | |
| Dwelling Rents | (24,141) | (24,159) | (18) |
| Non Dwelling Rents | (628) | (635) | (7) |
| Charges for Services/Facilities (Service Charges, Rechargeable Repairs, Leaseholder Charges) | (1,444) | (1,509) | (65) |
| Contributions Towards Expenditure | (430) | (454) | (24) |
| Total Income | (26,644) | (26,758) | (114) |
| Expenditure | | | |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 6,774 | 6,601 | (173) |
| Housing Management | 6,302 | 5,951 | (351) |
| Capital Charges – Depreciation and Revenue Contribution to Capital | 6,659 | 6,428 | (231) |
| Other Expenditure | 1,779 | 1,995 | 216 |
| Provision for Bad Debt | 502 | 502 | 0 |
| Total Expenditure | 22,016 | 21,477 | (539) |
| Other Costs & Income | | | |
| Interest Payable | 2,742 | 2,742 | 0 |
| Interest and Investment Income | (132) | (66) | 66 |
| Provision for Repayment of Debt | 1,821 | 1,821 | 0 |
| RCCO Contribution | 0 | 231 | 231 |
| Social Housing Development Fund | 1,170 | 1,170 | 0 |
| Transfers To/(From) Earmarked & Other Reserves | (986) | (986) | 0 |
| Total Other Costs & Income | 4,615 | 4,912 | 297 |
| NET (SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR | (13) | (356) | (356) |

| 2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 September 2018 | | | | | | | APPENDIX C |
|---|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project Code | Project Code Description | Completed Scheme | Programme Budget | Actual Spend In Previous Years | Actual Spend 2018-19 | Predicted Spend 2018-19 | Projected Spend 2019-20 and Beyond |
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Growth Programme | | | | | | | |
| XT029 | Project Taunton - Longrun Meadow Bridge | No | 138,300 | 134,100 | 0 | 0 | 4,200 |
| XT032 | Town Centre Improvements | No | 266,904 | 98,204 | 1,440 | 1,440 | 167,260 |
| XT035 | Confidential Budget Allocation | No | 10,701,935 | 281,441 | 102,314 | 742,000 | 9,678,494 |
| XT036 | Confidential Budget Allocation | No | 3,108,500 | 11,964 | 12,674 | 50,000 | 3,046,536 |
| XT037 | Firepool Land Assembly | No | 1,500,000 | 1,020,275 | 20,902 | 479,725 | 0 |
| XT067 | St James Pool Demolition | No | 249,300 | 26,584 | 0 | 220,000 | 2,716 |
| XT068 | Major Transport Schemes | No | 2,750,000 | 81,091 | 0 | 0 | 2,668,909 |
| XT069 | Taunton Strategic Flood Alleviation Work | No | 250,000 | 0 | 0 | 250,000 | 0 |
| XT073 | Brewhouse | No | 120,000 | 115,000 | 0 | 5,000 | 0 |
| XT074 | Creech Castle Improvements | No | 375,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 375,000 |
| XT078 | Town Centre Regeneration | No | 2,765,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,765,000 |
| XT079 | Employment Site Enabling | No | 1,355,000 | 10,000 | 0 | 0 | 1,345,000 |
| XT080 | New Garden Communities / Urban Extensions | No | 500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500,000 |
| XT081 | Broadband SEP | No | 380,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 380,000 |
| XT091 | Parking, Access and Signage | No | 1,200,000 | 64,449 | 587,022 | 1,135,551 | 0 |
| XT094 | Confidential Budget Allocation | No | 15,677,900 | 0 | 35,500 | 250,000 | 15,427,900 |
| XT096 | Marketing Promotion and Inward Investment | No | 100,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100,000 |
| XT099 | Somerset Coast YMCA Loan | No | 750,000 | 0 | 75,000 | 750,000 | 0 |
| | Total Growth Programme | | 42,187,839 | 1,843,108 | 834,852 | 3,883,716 | 36,461,015 |
| IT Projects | | | | | | | |
| XT001 | Members IT Equipment | No | 24,000 | 11,442 | 3,630 | 12,558 | 0 |
| XT039 | Joint Management and Shared Service | No | 804,897 | 29,967 | 0 | 774,930 | 0 |
| XT054 | PC Refresh | No | 390,400 | 340,400 | 0 | 50,000 | 0 |
| XT056 | Cemetery IT System | No | 50,000 | 0 | 0 | 50,000 | 0 |
| XT070 | Transformation | No | 995,000 | 169,921 | 310,125 | 407,330 | 417,749 |
| | Total IT Projects | | 2,264,297 | 551,730 | 313,755 | 1,294,818 | 417,749 |
| Major Projects | | | | | | | |

| 2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 September 2018 | | | | | | | APPENDIX C |
|---|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project Code | Project Code Description | Completed Scheme | Programme Budget | Actual Spend In Previous Years | Actual Spend 2018-19 | Predicted Spend 2018-19 | Projected Spend 2019-20 and Beyond |
| XT047 | Blackbrook Pool | No | 6,505,300 | 6,446,837 | 41,091 | 58,463 | 0 |
| XT052 | Somerset Waste Partnership Loan | No | 3,500,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,500,000 |
| XT060 | Orchard Car Park Major Repairs (Paul Street) | No | 887,000 | 365,700 | 6,826 | 400,000 | 121,300 |
| XT076 | Deane House Accommodation | No | 5,905,100 | 1,813,174 | 2,920,091 | 4,091,926 | 0 |
| XT095 | Crematorium Waiting Room | No | 400,000 | 59,175 | 108,053 | 340,825 | 0 |
| | Total Major Projects | | 17,197,400 | 8,684,886 | 3,076,061 | 4,891,214 | 3,621,300 |
| | Housing | | | | | | |
| XT020 | Grants to Registered Providers (Affordable Housing) | No | 3,016,800 | 1,180,254 | 127,938 | 182,938 | 1,653,608 |
| XT028 | Disabled Facilities Grants | No | 3,307,402 | 1,932,986 | 75,664 | 650,000 | 724,416 |
| | Total Housing Projects | | 6,324,202 | 3,113,240 | 203,602 | 832,938 | 2,378,024 |
| | Other Projects | | | | | | |
| XT002 | Special Expenses - Play Grants | No | 36,800 | 8,804 | 0 | 11,000 | 16,996 |
| XT019 | Youth Project Capital | No | 281,470 | 261,473 | 0 | 0 | 19,997 |
| XT021 | Gypsy Site | No | 108,500 | 16,732 | 0 | 0 | 91,768 |
| XT040 | DLO Vehicles | No | 1,271,540 | 937,063 | 106,878 | 334,477 | 0 |
| XT041 | Waste Containers | No | 535,910 | 433,726 | 56,000 | 102,184 | 0 |
| XT048 | Play Equipment - Grants to Halls and Sports fields | No | 179,300 | 173,721 | 5,870 | 11,100 | (5,521) |
| XT049 | Play Equipment - Grants to Parishes | No | 77,500 | 82,157 | 6,500 | 9,576 | (14,233) |
| XT050 | Play Equipment - Replacement | No | 261,027 | 205,390 | 16,043 | 98,295 | (42,658) |
| XT051 | Community Alarms | No | 253,736 | 225,736 | 3,652 | 28,000 | 0 |
| XT057 | DLO Plant | No | 138,000 | 90,124 | 33,663 | 47,876 | 0 |
| XT090 | Crematorium Project | No | 94,000 | 31,155 | 24,031 | 24,031 | 38,814 |
| XT097 | Norton Fitzwarren Hillfort | No | 165,000 | 0 | 900 | 165,000 | 0 |
| XT098 | West Monkton Country Park | No | 479,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 479,000 |
| | Total Other Projects | | 3,881,783 | 2,466,081 | 253,537 | 831,539 | 584,163 |
| | Externally Funded Projects | | | | | | |
| XT083 | Community Infrastructure Grants | No | 27,580 | | 27,580 | 27,580 | 0 |
| | Total Externally Funded Projects | | 27,580 | 0 | 27,580 | 27,580 | 0 |
| | Total General Fund Capital Programme | | 71,883,101 | 16,659,045 | 4,709,387 | 11,761,805 | 43,462,251 |

| 2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 September 2018 | | | | | | | APPENDIX C |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project Code | Project Code Description | Completed Scheme | Programme Budget | Actual Spend In Previous Years | Actual Spend 2018-19 | Predicted Spend 2018-19 | Projected Spend 2019-20 and Beyond |
| | HRA Schemes | | | | | | |
| | Major Works | | | | | | |
| XH021 | Kitchens | | 650,000 | 0 | 190,872 | 620,029 | 29,971 |
| XH003 | Bathrooms | | 950,000 | 0 | 463,748 | 889,000 | 61,000 |
| XH004 | Roofing | | 109,780 | 0 | (59,448) | 108,590 | 1,190 |
| XH005 | Windows | | 200,790 | 0 | 167,837 | 300,007 | 0 |
| XH006 | Heating Improvements | | 1,400,000 | 0 | 809,977 | 1,532,967 | 0 |
| XH007 | Doors | | 100,000 | 0 | (70,802) | (845) | 100,845 |
| XH008 | Fire Safety Work | | 1,000,000 | 0 | 38,607 | 394,536 | 605,464 |
| XH010 | Fascia's and Soffits | | 700,000 | 0 | 46,142 | 409,614 | 290,386 |
| XH011 | Air Source Heat Pumps | | 350,000 | 0 | 180,970 | 313,714 | 36,286 |
| XH012 | Door Entry Systems | | 250,000 | 0 | 20,772 | 391,196 | 0 |
| XH018 | Insulation | | 800,000 | 0 | 634,263 | 799,479 | 521 |
| XH019 | Ventilation | | 100,000 | 0 | 8,235 | 11,144 | 88,856 |
| XH001 | Major Repairs and Improvements | | 888,610 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 515,230 |
| | Total Major Works | | 7,499,180 | 0 | 2,431,173 | 5,769,431 | 1,729,749 |
| | Improvements | | | | | | |
| XH020 | Vehicles | | 214,800 | | 50,428 | 121,000 | 93,800 |
| XH103 | Extensions | | 82,690 | 0 | 42,940 | 82,690 | 0 |
| XH203 | Sewerage Treatment | | 20,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 |
| XH201 | Meeting Halls | | 131,000 | 0 | 1,231 | 1,231 | 129,769 |
| XH301 | Asbestos Works | | 662,830 | 0 | 80,682 | 122,173 | 540,657 |
| XH204 | Unadopted Areas | | 30,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 30,000 |
| XH205 | Related Assets | | 80,000 | 0 | 0 | 80,000 | 0 |
| XH402 | DFGs | | 563,330 | 0 | (140,927) | 381,000 | 182,330 |
| XH401 | Aids and Adaptations | | 81,970 | 0 | (3,206) | 81,970 | 0 |
| XH102 | Environmental Improvements | | 225,000 | 0 | 28,103 | 152,528 | 72,472 |
| XH202 | Garages | | 49,380 | 0 | 0 | 34,062 | 15,318 |
| XH601 | IT Systems | | 394,000 | 0 | 0 | 160,000 | 234,000 |
| | Total Improvements | | 2,535,000 | 0 | 59,251 | 1,216,654 | 1,318,346 |

| 2018/19 CAPITAL PROGRAMME AS AT 30 September 2018 | | | | | | | APPENDIX C |
|---|---|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Project Code | Project Code Description | Completed Scheme | Programme Budget | Actual Spend In Previous Years | Actual Spend 2018-19 | Predicted Spend 2018-19 | Projected Spend 2019-20 and Beyond |
| | Social Housing Development Programme | | | | | | |
| XH501 | Creechbarrow Road | | 1,131,030 | 0 | 21,362 | 836,523 | 294,507 |
| XH500 | Social Housing Development Fund | | 5,178,020 | 0 | 465,000 | 504,500 | 4,673,520 |
| XH506 | Weavers Arms | | 1,015,410 | 0 | 211,066 | 309,280 | 706,130 |
| XH508 | North Taunton | | 0 | | 1,789 | 0 | 0 |
| XH509 | 2 Moorland Close | | 277,630 | 0 | 40,225 | 36,620 | 241,010 |
| | Outer Circle | | 49,880 | | 5,795 | 5,795 | 44,085 |
| | Total Social Housing development Programme | | 7,651,970 | 0 | 745,237 | 1,692,718 | 5,959,252 |
| | Sub-total - HRA Schemes | | 17,686,150 | 0 | 3,235,661 | 8,678,803 | 9,007,347 |
| | Capital Programme Total | | 89,569,251 | 16,659,045 | 7,945,048 | 20,440,608 | 52,469,598 |

SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP REPORT – 13th NOVEMBER 2018 REVIEW INTO AFFORDABLE EMPLOYMENT LAND

Introduction

This report sets out the findings of the Task and Finish Group (“the Group”) charged to review Taunton Deane Borough Council’s (“TDBC”) 2009 Affordable Employment Land Strategy, agreed by the then TDBC Executive.

In significant part, implementation of the 2009 strategy has not occurred.

There is no doubt that TDBC needs to create an appropriate balance between the number of homes vis-à-vis the number of jobs provided. Taunton Deane is falling behind neighbouring conurbations in providing well-paid employment. The Council must work in meaningful partnership to facilitate inward investment and encourage economic growth.

Members of the Group

Councillor Ian Morrell (Chairman); Councillor Norman Cavill; Councillor Simon Coles; Councillor William Coombes; Councillor Dave Durdan; Councillor Jefferson Horsley; Councillor Habib Farbahi; and Councillor Andrew Sully (co-opted).

Background

In 2009 TDBC worked with Professor Mark Hepworth from Geo-economics to produce a vision for the future of Taunton Deane’s economy. Professor Hepworth identified that upwards of 20,000 new local jobs must be created between 2011 and 2026, with a higher proportion in high skill, high paid occupations, with private sector knowledge intensive jobs being created at the rate of 2:1 in order to increase earnings within Taunton Deane.

It was recognised in 2009 that 36% of the jobs in Taunton Deane were part-time, against the regional average of 28% and the national average of 24%. Taunton Deane’s part-time economy from the figures studied seems to be nationally high. It was recognised at the time that the local economy was imbalanced towards the public sector employment, which provides around 40% of the total employment in the Borough. Over the last five years there has been a 40% reduction in number of public sector employees.

Professor Hepworth reported that Taunton Deane needed to retain talent and attract graduates; it needed to diversify toward private sector knowledge intensive employment such as digital and green technology, health and education including innovation centres and a physical central place for higher education, a green building programme and social innovation to drive the adaptation of sustainable energy production within mixed use of urban extension. The presumption was that if TDBC did not branch out into these areas we could expect a gradual economic decline.

The real challenge was set to create 28,000 new jobs by 2026, of which 18,500 needed to be high value private sector employment opportunities.

Terms of Reference and Objective of the Review

'In establishing the viability of our employment land, to then offer a bold vision to the Council that will enable TDBC to fulfil its future vision for Prosperity; By recommending specific policy and resources for affordable employment units and high-tech innovation in shaping our future employment offer.'

This Task and Finish undertook the following:

- Reviewed to growth Industries;
- Examined the evidence presented by invited guests (TDBC officers, academics and external consultants);
- Reviewed TDBC policies and practices;
- Considered opportunities to enable an Innovation Centre; and
- Evaluated the outcomes from the 'Great Plastics Debate' on 14th September 2018, facilitated by Councillor Habib Farbahi and Mr Marcus Prouse.

Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

The Group's *modus operandi* and this report accords with TDBC's Corporate Strategy 2016-20 and TDBC's Core Strategy 2011-2028¹.

Finance / Resource Implications

Funding requirements to ensure the delivery of the recommendations requires confirmation. However various sources could include:

- Innovation grants / UKRI government modern industrial fund;
- Partnership/joint venture;
- Garden Town Status²;
- Regional Growth Fund;
- New Homes Bonus / Community Infrastructure Levy;
- Local Enterprise Partnership; and

¹ "TDBC has developed the Core Strategy with new jobs at its heart so that we can ensure that there is sufficient growth in employment to warrant the growth in housing with areas such as the green knowledge economy, health and education being drivers for new employment but still very aware that a thriving economy needs all types of employment".

² Delivering a new garden community requires long-term strategic thinking and robust delivery arrangements. There are many forms that this could take – from arrangements such as joint venture companies, to Development Corporations. See Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Report (August 2018): https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/734145/Garden_Communities_Prospectus.pdf.

- Public Works Loan Board.

Partnership Implications

HM Treasury advises on best practice. Detail as to any partnership implications will be identified as required during relevant programme viability stages.

Asset Management Implications

TDBC needs to future proof council services by effective and equitable partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as local and national industries, landowners, local / national / international investors, developers and other public sector bodies.

Process

The Group held five meetings. Various background documents are annexed to this report.

Current Context

National & Regional

Nationally the proposal for an Innovation Centre is consistent with the UK government's industrial strategy, published in December 2017. The government's strategy highlights the need to capitalise on the UK knowledge base, develop an 'ideas' based economy and facilitate higher levels of research, development and innovation.

Regionally the drive to develop high value activities relating to business opportunities in research and innovation is consistent with the Heart of the South West (adopted by the regional Local Enterprise Partnership in March 2018³). The 2017 South West and South East Wales Science and Innovation Audit, commissioned by the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, also identified innovation as a key focus for research and development. This could include Taunton in the corridor of opportunity spanning Exeter to Bristol.

Locally the present ambition for an innovation centre is consistent with TDBC's prosperity agenda, and the 2009 Strategy into Employment Land. An Innovation Centre could complement Taunton's Strategy in relation to Garden Town Status.

³ <https://heartofswlep.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/HeartoftheSouthWestProductivityStrategy.pdf>

Taunton Deane Area

As reported in the 2009 report, Summerfield Developments Ltd were engaged in the employment land review. Summerfield Developments Ltd reported:

*“If potential sites have not been developed over the last 10 year (1999-2009) of boom in commercial property it follows therefore that most of these sites listed are potentially unsuitable. This is for a variety of reasons but particularly because they are in the wrong location, are too rural in nature or have high infrastructure costs with low value building that make the sites unviable”.*⁴

Apart from the Local Development Order on Nexus 25, other recommended employment sites remain undeveloped in significant part, or at all.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is clear that TDBC needs to embed a culture of change and provide the level of resource to facilitate sustainability and growth. This will lead to increased productivity, innovation (an increase in new ideas that are successfully exploited to create economic, social and environmental value) and prosperity for the community at large. TDBC must put in place measures to track the health of the economy. TDBC must tap into the creativity of local people.

TDBC cannot be stuck in a cycle of being average; it needs to address this problem. It is suggested that TDBC reconsider and renegotiate allocations of land, especially allocations that have not come forward in the last ten years.

Working differently may include Integrated Project Delivery (“IPD”). IPD focuses stakeholders on project success by collaboratively addressing risk and reward for all partners engaged within a project. By effect, the primary participants enter into an agreement in which each brings its own expertise to the design and construction of the project and involves the same parties in decision-making during each phase.

TDBC needs to focus on what is meant by the Garden Town Status and ensure Taunton’s competitiveness. Funding of infrastructure requires full and proper consideration prior to speculative development.

Employment land needs to be led by market demand, not TDBC’s subjective beliefs. Key issues the Group aims to influence relate to the encouragement of inward investment and the promotion of the district as a place to visit and do business. This includes:

1. Further develop the Deane in terms of social, leisure and culture activities in order to make the area an attractive proposition for investment;

⁴ Pg. 38 -

[https://democracy.tauntondeane.gov.uk/Data/Corporate%20Scrutiny%20Committee/200908061815/Agenda/Item_06_Recommendations%20of%20the%20Employment%20Land%20Task%20and%20Final%20Review%20-%20report%20of%20the%20Chairman%20of%20the%20Group%20\(attached\).PDF](https://democracy.tauntondeane.gov.uk/Data/Corporate%20Scrutiny%20Committee/200908061815/Agenda/Item_06_Recommendations%20of%20the%20Employment%20Land%20Task%20and%20Final%20Review%20-%20report%20of%20the%20Chairman%20of%20the%20Group%20(attached).PDF)

2. Ensure the Council is 'business friendly', ensuring rules are applied appropriately and not acting as a hurdle;
3. Promote Taunton Town Centre;
4. Identify suitable affordable employment sites;
5. Rollout of better broadband and better mobile phone signal coverage across the Deane;
6. Continue to work with partners to remove barriers to job growth by addressing infrastructure constraints and securing funding for that infrastructure; and
7. Support business start-ups and expansion within the Deane.

The Group makes recommendations to TDBC based on the evidence heard through external witnesses and research. The following is recommended:

1. Affordable employment land:

- a. TDBC, and the subsequent Council, must instigate an urgent reappraisal of all employment sites;
- b. TDBC, and the subsequent Council, must identify the means by which the supply of affordable, starter-type employment units can be delivered. There are two suggested means by which this can be undertaken:
 - i. Planning-based approaches boosted through allocation, a streamlined Local Development Order identifying suitable sites or, a more criteria-based Local Development Order that sets the broader locations and parameters subject to which starter units can be delivered; and
 - ii. Expedient Council enabling through a standalone approach or development partner involvement.

3 Investigate the feasibility of an office for the creation of a Research and Innovation Centre:

TDBC, and the subsequent Council, should undertake a prompt detailed feasibility study into the viability of such a centre. This needs to be enabled by appropriate TDBC resources, including officers, elected members and a dedicated office if appropriate. Effective use of appropriate partnership working is crucial to the success.

References

- Appendix A – Group Terms of Reference
- Appendix B – Councillor Sully and Councillor Farbahi Research Document
- Appendix C – TDBC Letter of support to University of Exeter
- Appendix D – Letter from Dr. Stuart Monk (South West Academic Health Science Network)
- Appendix E – The Great Plastics Debate Summary

- Appendix F – Planning Policy Note
- Appendix G – Lead Member and Officer’s response to the Group

| | | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| Name | Marcus Prouse (Specialist – Governance and Democratic) | Name | |
| Direct Dial | 01823 219570 | Direct Dial | |
| Email | m.prouse@tauntondeane.gov.uk | Email | |

Appendix A

Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of the Task and Finish Group | Affordable Employment Land Task and Finish Group |
| Purpose of the group | <i>In establishing the viability of our Employment Land, to then offer a bold vision to the Council that would enable Taunton Deane to fulfil its future vision for Prosperity, by recommending specific policy and resources to test the opportunities in the market for high-tech innovation in shaping our future employment offer.</i> |
| Anticipated outcomes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review (Cllr Morrell) 2) Locations (Cllr Farbahi & Sully) 3) Sectors/Industries (Cllr Farbahi) 4) Planning/Policy (Cllr Coles) 5) Resource Required (Cllrs Coombes, Durdan & Sully) |
| How often will the group meet? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 24th July • Wednesday 1st August • Wednesday 5th September |
| Anticipated timescale for completion | Final Report to be circulated at Queens College Conference at 14 th September, then to go through the Council Democratic Process, commencing at Scrutiny on 18 th September. |
| Membership of the Group | <p>Cllr Morrell (Chair)</p> <p>Cllrs Cavill, Coles, Coombes, Durdan, Farbahi & Horsley.</p> <p>Cllr Sully (Co-opted Support from Executive)</p> |
| What information will be required to inform the work of the group? | <p>Relevant Government legislation and guidance.</p> <p>Officer site surveys and other information such as maps.</p> <p>Consultation with Parish and Town Councils and the wider public.</p> |

Appendix A

| | |
|--|---|
| What support arrangements are required? | Officer support and the Corporate Director responsible. |
| How often will the group report into Scrutiny Committee | 18 th September 2018. |
| Who will prepare and present documentation for Scrutiny Committee | Scrutiny Officer |

Taunton Deane urged to take up Grand Challenges.

Our goal to create a Centre for Research and Innovation for the South West, based in Taunton Deane, is aligned with the governments modern Industrial Strategy that sets out Grand Challenges to the UK to be at the forefront of the industries of the future, ensuring that the UK takes advantage of major global changes, improving people's lives and the country's productivity, this ties in with our own Prosperity agenda at Taunton Deane.

Taunton Deane is very strategically placed, with universities nearby such as Bristol, Bath, Exeter, Plymouth and the Combined Universities in Cornwall,* also with strategic linkages to industries such as agriculture and fisheries which are important in terms of food production thus meeting the technology needs of the agricultural sector in the future is paramount. We want to enable new collaborations across different growth sectors as stated in our report and reshape policies to be in line with our ambitions.

We know that we have low productivity in the South West, but gradually we can in part improve this situation by attracting highly educated people to the region. The South West is the number one area that people come to retire because it is a great place to live, our collective aim is to also make this area and particularly Taunton Deane a leading region for jobs, technical apprenticeships and graduate research programmes.

Jo Johnson, the science minister, has announced the fund of £100m to attract overseas talent as part of the biggest shake-up of public research funding since 1965, to be named after the father of nuclear physics and immigrant to the UK, Ernest Rutherford.

The Rutherford fund is part of wider reforms, which will see an umbrella body, the UK Research and Innovation Agency (UKRI), take on responsibility for strategic oversight of all public research spending.

The announcement in November 2016 of an additional £4.7 billion in research funding up to 2020 will see UKRI controlling a budget of £8 billion per annum by the end of the decade.

Much of the rationale for UKRI is to create a body that can foster **multidisciplinary research**.

The Five Pillars to our Innovation Centre (based on year on year growth) are:-

1.) Environmental impact (EI) effect of plastics into our fragile environment, challenges and opportunities.

Mass production of plastics, which started in 1950, has accelerated so rapidly that it has created over 8.3 billion metric tons of plastics, equivalent to 922 million 40ft Lorries full of plastics— only 10% of it is recycled; the rest end up in landfills or scattered around the planet much of it eventually ending up in the oceans. The task even to slow this build-up of non-biodegradable material is monumental and we cannot and must not allow the situation to continue.

We were slow to understand the implications of plastic ending up in our fragile oceans and environment and entering the food chain. Now we have a situation where we are perforce coming from behind to catch up.

Gaining control of plastic waste is now such a large task that it calls for a comprehensive, global approach, which involves biodegradable alternatives, rethinking plastic chemistry; product design, recycling strategies, consumer use and complete change of habits.

This is our opportunity as leaders of our communities to be at the forefront of this. We are quite fortunate that we have some of the most talented researchers in the world at Exeter University on our doorsteps, who have lent their expertise free of charge to our authority. It would be wonderful if Taunton Deane was to be recognised as Leading nationally on this.

Opportunities by 2030

Plastics is one of a number of environmental issues facing the world's seas, along with rising sea levels and warming oceans, and metal and chemical pollution, the Foresight Future of the Sea Report for the Government said.

But it predicted there were also opportunities for the UK to cash in the global "ocean economy" - which is set to double to £2 trillion by 2030 - in areas where the country is a world leader, such as offshore wind.

2.) Renewable Energy (RE)

Our drive to increase the proportion of energy we obtain from renewable sources will not only increase the security of energy supplies in the UK, it will also provide opportunities for investment in new industries and new technologies. The UK Government will help business develop in this area to put the UK at the forefront of new renewable technologies and skills.

The UK Government believes that climate change is one of the gravest threats we face, and that urgent action at home and abroad is required. We need to use a wide range of levers to decarbonise the economy. The development of renewable energy sources, alongside nuclear power and the development of carbon capture and storage, will also enable the UK to play its full part in international efforts to reduce the production of harmful greenhouse gases.

Meeting our 2020 target

The history of energy production in the UK has been based around our natural resources of fossil fuels. This means that we have not been as active in our exploitation of our renewable resources – this must change. Compared to many other Member States, the UK is starting from a very low level of renewable energy consumption and this means that our challenge to meet the 2020 targets is even greater.

The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive sets a target for the UK to achieve 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. This compares to only 1.5% in 2005

UK targets by 2020:

- 15% share of energy generated from renewable sources in gross final energy consumption;
- 12% of heat consumption met by renewable sources;
- 31% of electricity demand met by electricity generated from renewable energy sources;
- 10% of energy demand met by renewable energy sources.

The UK renewables policy framework relies on three main components:

1. Financial support for renewables;
2. Removing barriers (administrative, policy uncertainty, etc.);
3. Supporting and developing emerging technologies;

3.) Education (E)

The importance of knowledge and learning has been recognized since the beginning of time. Plato wrote: “If a man neglects education, he walks lame to the end of his life.”

The current skills system is not delivering the skills that UK businesses or the economy needs. Skills shortages consistently top the list of concerns of business leaders in our annual Global CEO survey, while the lack of powers over skills is a concern for local leaders.

Without addressing this issue, the skills gap will only grow wider. If the UK is to improve productivity, and build an economy fit for growth, focusing on delivering the right skills for the economy, the improvement of people and the growth of businesses will be essential.

A window of opportunity

The vote to leave the EU has drawn renewed attention on the need to **reshape the UK economy** and create an agile, highly skilled workforce which makes the UK a place where companies want to invest, where products drive trade and where people have access to opportunity.

With local institutions such as city regions, LEPs and Combined Authorities strengthening, there is a **window of opportunity to create a new locally-driven skills model** that can deliver on this vision. This new devolved approach requires a radical reorganisation of the current system.

Central government, local government and business, as well as skills providers, will all have their role to play in building this new inclusive skills system which helps people reach their full potential, businesses grow and regions prosper.

Potential Market

According to PriceWaterhouseCoopers;

- £163bn increase in GDP over the next decade by improving vocational skills
- £45bn Increase in GDP if UK NEET rate for 20-24 year olds matched German levels

- £105bn increase in GDP if the UK employment rate for workers aged 55+ matched Swedish levels
- £9bn lost revenue in taxation as a result of people not fulfilling their potential in the labour market

4.) Artificial Intelligence (AI)

artificial intelligence

noun

“The theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.”

Artificial Intelligence promises to transform more than just the way we do business, it will touch every corner of society. From using image recognition such the UK Hydrographic Office here in Taunton, identifying objects in the oceans around the world, to enhance public security and giving automated services with a human touch and natural language processing. The future will be the development of Block Chain – Advanced Robotics and Internet Technology according to Prof. Koorosh Khodabandehloo, he said, *“The technology was moving rapidly and in terms of block chain it was considered early days, but that it would mature”*.

Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark has said:

“Artificial intelligence provides significant opportunities for future economic growth, which is why we made it a crucial part of our modern Industrial Strategy and worked with industry on a sector deal that outlines how we will ensure the UK is best placed to realise this potential”.

The Government and industry announced on the 26th June 2018, that they are going to work together to put the UK at the forefront of AI technologies. This gives Taunton Deane an ideal opportunity to make itself a centre of excellence for research and innovation in the South West. The Government's modern Industrial Strategy sets out a long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. It sets out how building an economy and a Britain fit for the future will help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs in every part of the UK with investments in skills, industries and infrastructure.

Forefront of the global AI industry.

The announcement forms part of the Governments modern Industrial Strategy to use the Country's knowledge power in research and innovation to ensure the benefits of technology are felt by everyone. We must grab our

share for the South West, and base it here at Taunton Deane. It also builds upon the £1 billion joint Government and private sector announced earlier this year to put the nation at the forefront of the global AI industry.

UK Economy by 2035.

Research suggests artificial intelligence could add £654 billion to the UK economy by 2035, and that the country is already recognised as the number one place in the developed world in readiness for AI.

The Office for AI.

The Office for AI is based in the UK Government and is responsible for overseeing implementation of the UK's AI strategy. As well as advising government on how to improve its use of the technology, the AI Council will promote industry-to-industry cooperation, boost the understanding of AI in the business world, and identify barriers to growth and innovation.

5.) Medical Science (MS)

Medical Science

noun

“The branch of science concerned with the study of the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease.

Medical Science covers many subjects that try to explain how the human body works. Starting with basic biology it is generally divided into areas of specialisation such as anatomy, physiology and pathology with some biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology and genetics.

The world of modern medicine is moving very fast, but if expert predictions about what to expect in 2018 prove true, they might move at a quicker speed than anyone anticipated.

It could also see technology companies start to become as important a player in healthcare world as pharmaceutical companies. Breakthroughs in everything from patient monitoring to sleep apnoea are coming from Silicon Valley and could dramatically shift the current paradigm.

Technology companies will become mayor players in healthcare.

It could also see technology companies start to become as important a player in healthcare world as pharmaceutical companies. Breakthroughs in everything from patient monitoring to sleep apnoea are coming from Silicon Valley and could dramatically shift the current paradigm.

The Prime Minister's Vision.

The Prime Minister also recently announced plans for how we can transform the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and dementia by 2030.

The Government has since opened a competition, with £50 million of funding available, for a new set of radiology and pathology images, to help develop important new AI algorithms to fight disease. This is an important step to digitise all pathology networks by 2025, which lays the groundwork for even greater adoption of AI-based technology.

Size of the market

In 2016, the Life Science sector had 5,142 companies, generating approximately £63.5 billion in turnover with 233,000 jobs. The database shows that the sector is also growing, with 6.2 per cent revenue growth and 2.5 per cent employment growth from 2015 to 2016.

The Life Sciences database shows that in 2015, the Life Sciences sector had 5,142 companies generating approx. £63.5 billion turnover. This covers both core Life Sciences companies and the service and supply chain. This breaks down into:

- Biopharmaceutical sector and service and supply chain 1,857 companies, generating £41.9 billion turnover; employing 113,000 workers;
- The biopharmaceutical sector is largely dominated by large, global companies. There is a diverse size range of core biopharmaceutical companies with a lot of micro companies: 43 per cent have less than 5 employees and 10 per cent have over 250 people;
- Medical technology sector and service and supply chain 3,463 companies, generating £21 billion turnover; employing 120,000 workers; and
- 98 per cent of UK Med Tech firms are SME's, 42 per cent are micro-companies with less than 5 employees and only 2 per cent have over 250 employees.

Our vision in TD

We have secured the support of Dr Stuart Monk, Director of Innovation, South West Academic Health Science Network (SWAHSN), he works across the commercial sector and the third sector identifying proven products and services expanding into the South West peninsula's health care and wellbeing systems through NHS and local authority.

Dr Monk states,

“Somerset is a great place to live and work, healthcare entrepreneurs and innovators would benefit enormously from considering Taunton as a possible site for their ventures.” He goes on to say that SWAHSN is supportive of the Task and Finish Group’s vision to make Taunton a world-class site for healthcare innovation.

Cllrs Habib Farbahi and Andy Sully (August 2018)

End.



Democratic Services Officer
Of Taunton Deane Borough Council
and West Somerset Council
The Deane House, Belvedere Road,
Taunton TA1 1HE
Tel 01823 219570 Fax 01823 356329
m.prouse@tauntondeane.gov.uk

Our Ref: DEMSERV/

14th August 2018

University of Exeter,
Penryn Campus
Cornwall,
TR10 9FE

RE: UKRI Creative Circular Economy Approaches to Eliminate Plastic Waste

Dear Professor Peter Hopkinson,

Thank you for inviting us to become an industrial stakeholder in your proposed research project. I have read your research proposal with great interest and shared it with my colleagues. We are very excited by your ideas and express our interest in supporting your project.

Our organisation is a forward-thinking Borough Council, which has recently passed a resolution phasing out the use of single use-plastics in the Borough and is pro-actively interested in tackling this issue on a regional and multi-disciplinary basis. Research into future economy plastics is vital to understanding the effects of plastics on our environment. We have chosen to be an Industry partner on this proposed hub as we are keen to support cutting edge research into an issue with high salience for our people and are excited about the possibility offered by collaboration on this project.

The added value is that this research would be likely to lead to increased productivity, innovation (an increase in new ideas that are successfully exploited to create economic, social and environmental value) and prosperity for the community at large. Specifically the opportunity to explore how as a society we are to tackle our plastics problem would engender the Council and local businesses to adapt to the complex issue of sustainability, embrace all growth sectors and engage with the community. Aspirations for Taunton to become an incubator for global research and innovation by the pursuit of an R&D Innovation Centre concept would require a mandate to come separately to this through the Council's Prosperity Plan work with support from Full Council.

Taunton is very strategically placed in the South-West region and has strategic linkages to industries such as agriculture and fisheries which are important in terms of food production and the technological needs of the agricultural sector in the future are therefore paramount. This project aligns with our strategies around Our Place. The Council could have a role to play as a Regional Demonstrator providing exemplars for upscaling to (inter)national scales across the 4 themes; e.g. mapping regional health and wellbeing, environmental and social impact and

costs of plastics, reducing and eliminating single use plastic from selected regional supply chains (clothing, food and drink), prototyping high value upcycled products from recovery and re-use of existing plastic flows (e.g. Local authority flows, Ocean debris from regional beaches), exploring societal barriers to their uptake.

We are able to help the ambitions of this project by providing 4 days of staff time to support advisory activities, attending meetings, workshops, dissemination events and/or promoting the proposals outcomes and findings through our communication channels. We estimate the value of this support to be equivalent to in the region of £750 over the 18 month duration of the project.

In summary, we believe your proposed research has the potential to reduce, substitute or eliminate plastics through systemic innovation and high quality scientific research and has our strongest support.

I look forward to hearing your good news and the opportunity to working with you.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MP', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

MARCUS PROUSE
Democratic Services Officer

EXEMPLAR: The Exeter Hub for a Circular Economy for Plastics.

Background. The elimination of plastic waste and creation of maximum value from the use of plastic is one of society's grand challenges. Tackling this problem requires large scale systemic innovation across industrial value chains within a framework of circular economy (CE). This requires integration of circular design principles, co-ordination of reverse material flow networks, new business models and design of new plastic circulation systems, creating enabling conditions at multiple scales that will lead to substantial economic, environment and health benefit. We are ideally placed to tackle these challenges, with an outstanding track record in CE approaches, illustrated by recent institutional investment in the interdisciplinary **Centre for Circular Economy (ECCE)** encompassing 5 Colleges and 50 academics. We are an Ellen MacArthur Foundation Global Pioneer University for CE and lead their MasterClass Programme '**Closing the implementation Gap**', with a strong emphasis on the challenge of plastic waste in global supply chains. We have world-leading expertise in environmental risk assessment of complex, persistent materials, winning the Guardian University Award 2018 for our pioneering work on microbeads. We are experts in **safe-by-design** approaches to minimise ecological and health impacts of new substances, and in conducting population-based interventions. We have proven expertise in the co-design of secure Water Systems and novel materials, aiming to keep recycled materials out of the waste stream and create enhanced value products. This proposal will bring these individually excellent activities together into a single, highly visible institutional platform: **EXEMPLAR: The Exeter Hub for a Circular Economy for Plastics**. Working across scales from regional to national and global systems, EXEMPLAR will focus activities and leverage funding, infrastructure and external partnerships to co-design, innovate and integrate novel solutions that accelerate the transition to a new plastics economy. EXEMPLAR will initially comprise **16 core academics**, encompassing expertise in business, manufacturing, data analytics and artificial intelligence, environmental sciences, psychology, health, law and business. We will build on our strong foundations of UKRI/EU funded work on CE systems for food and drink sectors, building and construction (Business School, Engineering), design of polymers decoupled from fossil fuel feedstocks (Engineering), and health impacts of human activities on the natural world (Biosciences, Environmental Sustainability Institute, Exeter Medical School). EXEMPLAR will enable **exciting new collaborations**, e.g. with human geographers, psychologists and business experts to determine earth system tipping points, the role of civil society in consumption patterns and to build policy and legislative perspectives into governance. Our growing networks of **project partners** includes the Eden Project, Marks and Spencer, Coca Cola, Renault, Sea Salt, H&M, WRAP, Plastics Europe, Food Packaging Forum, EA, DEFRA, Devon and Cornwall County Councils, NGOs; links with national and global projects (New Plastics Economy, Plastic Pact); design innovation companies and startups (e.g. Materiom, A Short Walk, Ideo).

Our programme of work combines 2 interlinked strands: [1] **Capacity and capability:** People-based activities will include intensive boot camps, hackathons, design sprints and workshops, industrial engagements and study visits. Through co-creation with stakeholders and practical demonstrations, these will build knowledge about the systemic nature of the plastic challenge and leverage Exeter research to deliver transformative systems-oriented innovations, following 4 major themes. **Diagnostics:** measuring, quantifying and evaluating the health, ecological and social drivers, pressures and costs of plastic waste at various scales; testing new standards. **Supply side Intervention:** Developing materials and tracking systems (e.g. blockchain, AI, big data) for future packaging, improving techniques for incorporation of recycled plastics into new products, testing options for durability, reuse, and reduction. **Demand Side Interventions:** measuring, quantifying and evaluating consumer acceptance of novel circular packaging propositions in diverse contexts. **System level enablers:** Radically re-thinking policy, regulation, incentives, subsidies and taxes to influence the system. [2] **A Regional Demonstrator:** An initial portfolio of interlinked projects will target specific solutions and build on our excellent regional networks, providing exemplars for upscaling to (inter)national scales across the 4 themes; e.g. mapping regional health and wellbeing, environmental and social impact and costs of plastics, reducing and eliminating single use plastic from selected regional supply chains (clothing, food and drink), prototyping high value upcycled products from recovery and re-use of existing plastic flows (e.g. Local authority flows, Ocean debris from regional beaches), exploring societal barriers to their uptake. We confirm our enthusiasm, ability and Institutional readiness to spend funds between Jan 2019 and June 2020.



Dr Stuart Monk
SW AHSN
Pynes Hill Court
Exeter
EX2 5AZ

17 January 2018

Dear Habib,

Potential for Taunton Innovator Site

The South West Academic Health Science Network (SW AHSN) works across the commercial sector and the third sector to identify proven products and services, then spreads these appropriately into the South West Peninsula's healthcare and wellbeing systems through the NHS and local authorities.

We engage with the Chambers of Commerce and the Local Enterprise Partnerships across our region to ensure that health and wellbeing remains on our economic growth agenda. There are pockets of digital health innovators springing up in Devon and Cornwall and we believe that Somerset has equal potential to host healthcare entrepreneurs from around the UK and the rest of the world. The population in the South West is relatively stable and elderly, so provides a great potential research and testing site for innovators wishing to develop new health and wellbeing products.

Somerset's healthcare system is passionate about improvement and innovation, and is open to conversations with those that are developing new products as-well as those with proven solutions that the healthcare system could already be benefitting from.

We work with all of the NHS organisations in Somerset, which has a reputation nationally for being one of the more innovative and forward thinking NHS environments. For example, the NHS England New Models of Care Vanguard work in Yeovil has linked primary and secondary care services and data sets, to enable enhanced care delivery through more joined up clinical pathways. The population of Somerset's general practice records can now be observed in the county's Acute Trusts, meaning patients can arrive in hospital with the reassurance that their clinical history can be easily accessed.

Somerset is a great place to live and work, and we believe healthcare entrepreneurs and innovators would benefit enormously from considering Taunton as a possible site for their ventures. We would be very supportive of Habib's vision to make Taunton a world class site for healthcare innovation and would be delighted to contribute to any further conversations around this concept.

Kind regards,

Dr Stuart Monk
Director of Innovation
South West Academic Health Science Network (SW AHSN)

The Great Plastics Debate

- This extremely thought-provoking debate took place on Friday, 14 September 2018 at Queen's College, Taunton. It came about because of a motion raised at the February 2018 meeting of Taunton Deane's Full Council.
- The debate event was well put together by Councillor Farbahi with the help and support of Councillor Sully and the undersigned. Queen's College was also heavily involved, and we are very grateful to Mrs Jane Evans, Director of Education, and the College management for allowing the event to be held there. The following account was kindly prepared by Councillor Andrew Sully:-

"Taunton Deane Borough Council passed a resolution at its Full Council meeting on 22 February 2018 aimed at phasing out the use of single-use plastics. Councillors have been looking to facilitate further initiatives that would help shape the environment we would wish to live in and reduce the impact of plastics on our health and wellbeing. Some of the South West's leading minds came together on Friday, 14 September 2018 to take part in the Great Plastics Debate at Queen's College also attended by members of the public. The conference brought together world leading specialists in one room to discuss an issue that has particularly high salience now.

This conference related to the effects of plastics on our fragile environment and the possible innovative solutions that could help tackle this modern-day scourge. The

knowledgeable panellists discussed matters relating to single-use plastics, the circular economy and health and wellbeing in Somerset, as well as the town's drive to be leading researchers on the subjects.

The panellists were Nick Bryant, Head of Strategy for Taunton Deane Borough Council, Jim Claydon, past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Natasha Bradshaw, for South West Marine Ecosystems, Koorosh Khodabandahloo, a Professor from the University of Southern Queensland, Dr Stuart Monk, from South West Academic Health Science, Mickey Howard, a Professor from the University of Exeter, and Owen Pask, Assistant Director for Norr Consultants Limited. The evening was chaired by editor of the County Gazette, Paul Jones.

Professor Mickey Howard explained the concept of the circular economy to the audience and how it can be adapted to plastics.

"We're leaving a legacy of plastics," he said, "and the quantity is expected to double in the next 20 years. 95% of the value of what we have made has been lost in the economy."

He explained how going from a 'take, make and waste' attitude, to a circular one, would recover much of the value lost in not reusing the plastic we have already created.

He added: "Where's the value in throwing things away? Burning it is better than landfill, but it is not there yet.

Professor Khodabandahloo joined Professor Howard in explaining the wasteful plastic industry.

He explained how technology to clear the oceans of plastic waste is something he is excited about, but more work needs to go into these machines to enable them to better distinguish between fish and waste. He said: "People will take notice when it hurts their pockets or their health, but the global problem is already here. We have got to make people aware."

With 90 per cent of marine wildlife having plastic inside of them, humans are already unknowingly consuming plastic. Professor Khodabandahloo said more work needs to be done to understand what this does to our health, and the health of other creatures.

Dr Stuart Monk explained how the NHS in the South West was the perfect place for research to take place. This research would bring light to understanding what plastic is doing to our bodies and would also bring funding and jobs to the area.

But, he advised, this knowledge is worthless without a plan to back it up.

Nick Bryant, Taunton Deane's Head of Strategy, said "We have got to be mindful of how decisions are made. A plan can be made, but there needs to be a mandate. We need a business case and to figure out what we want to tackle. Once we understand that and learn what it means in terms of land requirement, we can move forward and set out the route map."

Natasha Bradshaw explained how taking a small step to do something such as banning plastic straws in the town would have a huge impact, as well as increasing awareness for the issues surrounding other single-use plastics.

Jim Claydon, past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute, explained how Taunton could be the perfect place for a centre for research and innovation. He said: "Taunton has Garden Town status. This allows it to have development corporations, which can get money back into the town and make development work. We are sitting with the opportunity of a lifetime. If we want to make Taunton a special place, now is the time to do it."

He added the town's location aided its ability to make the plans work, as well as being close to a motorway junction.

Owen Pask, from Norr Consultants, who are Canada based and have over 1,000 top architects around the world. They are familiar with Integrated Project Delivery where all the stakeholders become partners.

They have a detailed plan where they address issues such as:-

- 1. Project organisation and challenges;*
- 2. Operating systems that will deliver objectives; AND*
- 3. Commercial terms binding the project participants.*

The idea around creating a Centre of Excellence for Research and Innovation in Taunton is an idea that is currently being explored by the Council's "Review of Affordable Employment Land, Task and Finish Group". The Group would like the Council to provide some funding to establish an office with dedicated staff to work with partners such as the town's surrounding universities, as well as other stakeholders, to bring the idea to fruition.

The conference provided evidence of interest and potential viability of such a concept. If developed, it is felt that this would be likely to lead to increased productivity, innovation and prosperity for the community at large.

By aspiring to become an incubator for global research and innovation, and specifically to explore how as a society we are to tackle our plastics problem would engender the Council and local businesses to adapt to the complex issue of sustainability.

A Centre for Research and Innovation for the South West, based in Taunton Deane, would be aligned with the Government's modern Industrial Strategy that sets out Grand Challenges to the UK to be at the forefront of the industries of the future. This would ensure that the UK took advantage of major global changes, improving people's lives and the country's productivity, which ties in with Taunton Deane Council's own Prosperity agenda."

Employment Land Task and Finish Planning Policy Note

Affordable Employment Land:

- Issue: There is anecdotal and documented evidence of a shortage of affordable employment units. There is only a limited margin in the value of developing such sites and consequently there is latent demand currently not being met.
- Response: Identify a means by which the supply of affordable, starter-type employment units can be delivered. There are two identified means by which this can be done:
 - Planning-based solutions: boosted through allocation, a streamlined LDO identifying suitable sites or more criteria-based LDO which sets the broader locations and parameters subject to which starter units can be delivered.
 - Broader Council enabling or development partner involvement: could include investigation of investing in direct delivery either through pump priming sites and site preparation works or acting as developer and retaining an interest in units to then be let to end occupiers. There is a direct example of this on the former Thales site on Lisieux Way

Employment Land as part of Larger Mixed-use Development Allocations:

- Issue: There are a number of examples where employment parcels of larger mixed-use allocations such as Norton Trading Estate and Monkton Heathfield have not kept pace with housing. Developers have argued that sites are not viable and in some instances not deliverable by virtue of lack of interest where sites have been marketed. There has been pressure to release land for other uses, principally residential development.
- Response: Reappraise the supply of employment sites particularly those larger parcels which are part of mixed-use allocations. This would normally be a matter for the review of the development plan (our Core Strategy).
 - Planning-based solutions: review existing employment land allocations against evidence of quantitative and qualitative need and make recommendations for the release/partial release and subsequent deallocation or reallocation of those sites which fail to meet criteria. For land that is retained, the planning system should provide maximum surety that employment space is delivered; this may include revisiting appropriate wording to S106 agreements and policy (when the development plan is reviewed). As a general rule it will be important to stress that employment elements of larger mixed-use proposals need to be seen as part of this overall mix and consequently their viability should be considered as part of overall scheme viability in much the same way as affordable housing or other infrastructural requirements provided for through S106 or CIL would be.

- Broader Council enabling or development partner involvement: this could include investigation of investing public money in direct delivery either through pump priming sites and site preparation works or acting as developer and retaining an interest in units to then be let to end occupiers. In addition, brokered discussions with key developers, particularly where there may be pressure to release land for other uses ahead of development plan review may be required to ensure where land is released, there can be confidence employment land can still be delivered where appropriate.

Research and Innovation Centre:

- Issue: There is a consensus that the key outcome we would wish to achieve for Prosperity is improved productivity although this has not yet been articulated in high level strategy. Members of the Task and Finish Group have identified the potential role for a Research and Innovation Centre in driving increases in GVA.
- Response: In order to respond to the T&F ambition we would need to undertake considerable due diligence in preparing a Business Case to support such a proposal and prior to this have this ambition framed by full council support. Key steps could include:
 - Identify potential sectors for investment and potential end users/investors
 - Understand land and premises requirements including supporting infrastructure
 - Undertake call for sites to identify potential locations (which could include a cluster-based, polycentric approach)
 - Appraise site options
 - Explore and develop finance models which could include Council retaining a stake along similar lines as discussed above
 - Make recommendations to Council to pursue (or not), if supported, a decision would need to be made on the best delivery vehicle through the planning process which could include the use of a LDO

Nick Bryant 30/07/2018

2009 Employment Land Task and Finish Review

Commentary against Recommendations

The five recommendations from the 2009 task and finish review are highlighted in bold italic, with brief commentary appearing below each recommendation.

Much of the progress that has been made has been dependent upon the Council's role as enabler and influencer, rather than direct deliverer, of the schemes described. TDBC funding contributions have certainly played a part in levering in additional external support – such as the contribution towards Junction 25 enhancement and commercial loans to enable the cricket club development and rail station enhancement. The earmarking of significant New Homes Bonus funding (£16.6m) for growth has played a key role in this respect, freeing up ability for the Council to invest. The Council has also decided to invest directly in certain growth schemes, such as the Coal Orchard and Lisieux Way Technology Park.

Looking to the future, the new Council will be resourced to serve an increased political appetite for direct commercial investment, where business cases demonstrate a solid return and/or wider economic and community benefit.

Recommendations

1. In line with Circular 02/2009, the Council initiates discussions with landowners and developers for the release of immediate short term employment land opportunities at Nerrols, Creech Heathfield and Walford Cross for up to 5,000 sq.m. (around 2 hectares per site);

- Taunton Deane Core Strategy Policy CP2 'Economy' provides for 11,900 additional jobs within Taunton Deane with an emphasis on provision in and around Taunton. The urban extensions provided in the Core Strategy and SADMP all have mixed use elements including employment land. In practice it has proved difficult to bring forward these identified short term employment land opportunities.

2. In line with Circular 02/2009, the threshold for out-of-centre office proposals for requiring a sequential assessment be raised to 1,000 sq.m. This should enable additional windfall opportunities to come forward in the short term.

- Taunton Deane Core Strategy policy CP3 states that proposals for main town centre uses on edge of centre or out of centre sites will be assessed sequentially. In addition, proposers of retail schemes of above 500 sq.m. in such locations will also be required to undertake a retail impact assessment.

- Paragraph 89 of the revised 2018 NPPF has removed 'offices' from the list of types of 'town centre development' for which impact assessments should be required where they are proposed outside town centres.

3. A strategic employment site of about 25 hectares be brought forward in the medium - longer term, through the LDF. (Any attempt to bring forward a strategic site outside the LDF would be blocked by the Highways Agency and possibly GOSW and SW Councils).

- A Local Development Order (LDO) for the new strategic employment site (Nexus 25) adjacent to J25 has been adopted by TDBC (2018), creating a high quality 'green campus' with potential to accommodate over 3000 high quality jobs.
- The T&F report concluded that *'Taunton needs to improve its road infrastructure before it can attract the right business'*, and that *'Taunton Deane ... should therefore be proactive in engaging with the Highways Agency to enable investment to be brought forward'*. Taunton has since won considerable infrastructure funding, including a successful 'growth deal' bid of c.£13m for the enhancement of Junction 25, which also received planning consent from SCC in early 2018. Growth deal funding (£6.4m) has also been secured for improvements along the Toneway Corridor, linking J25 towards the town centre. Both schemes are led by SCC with support from TDBC and are critical to unlocking Nexus 25 and its full growth potential, as well as the wider growth of Taunton. The funding and opening of the Northern Inner Distributor Road (now called Trenchard Way) also relieves traffic congestion in the town centre and facilitates the development of the Firepool and rail station sites.
- Staying with road infrastructure, Highways England (formerly Highways Agency) have committed, after a long and hard fought campaign, to the dualling of the A358 between Southfields Roundabout on the A303 and the M5 at Taunton (Somerset's busiest 'A' road). Three route options have been consulted upon (investment range £250-£400m), with a preferred route announcement expected in autumn 2018. This route is part of a wider National Strategic Infrastructure Project (NSIP) to create a new 'expressway' from London to the south west. All three route options have been designed in a way that enables the Nexus 25 strategic employment site to come forward.
- The T&F report is silent in respect of rail infrastructure as an important catalyst for business, yet Taunton also benefits from an excellent location on the national rail network, with regular high speed trains to/from London and other major towns and cities. A more frequent (hourly) fast service to/from London will commence in 2019, with new trains offering c. 25% additional seating capacity. Growth deal funding of £4.6m has also been secured for the enhancement of Taunton Rail Station, comprising a new multi storey car park, south facing forecourt and ticket hall and public transport interchange. These

works are supported by commercial loan from TDBC and will also commence in 2019.

- The award of Garden Town status in early 2017 has many benefits, but principal among these is a greater likelihood of securing additional funding for key infrastructure. This is evidenced by recent success in bids for capacity funding and Housing Infrastructure Funding (marginal viability and forward fund). Whilst mainly about accelerating housing delivery, much of the key infrastructure funded will also support economic growth.

4. To progress a strategic site it is also recommended that a Working Group be set up and led by Economic Development or Project Taunton, involving a Taunton Deane Strategy Officer, and representatives of Somerset County Council Transport, Highways Agency, Environment Agency, Regional Development Agency/SW Councils, developers and agents and a Councillor representative with the purpose of developing an evidence base and proposal for the LDF Core Strategy. As part of this process there should be community engagement with the parishes that would be affected. It is recommended that the strategic employment site should provide opportunities for major inward investment to Taunton. It is accepted that an element of office and non Class B employment generating development (non Class A1) will be necessary to fund the initial infrastructure to open up the site, but the total proportion of floor space for such uses should remain ancillary (around 10%) and focus on medium sized office suites (300-1,000 sq.m.) in order to remain consistent with Government policy and to avoid undermining Firepool as the strategic office site for the SSCT.

- A delivery team led by TDBC and comprising Highways England, Somerset County Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, Summerfield Developments (landowner and lead developer) and the Environment Agency was established in 2014/15, with a common aim – enshrined in a shared memorandum of understanding - to facilitate the delivery of a new high quality strategic employment site for Taunton at Junction 25. This provided an important forum for partners to identify and resolve some of the key infrastructure issues (mainly transport related) to enable the site to come forward and
- Parish Councils in the area were informed of progress at every key stage of the process in bringing the employment site forward. Consultation was undertaken both informally and formally during the LDO process leading to adoption. Business and wider community engagement and consultation also featured throughout.

5. The Executive be requested to identify the specific partners for the Working Group which would be led by Taunton Deane with the process and reporting back arrangements (to ensure progress was measured) being led by the Strategic Director, Joy Wislade.

- Partners were identified as described above (section 4).
- Progress was reported and monitored by a cross party steering group of TDBC members (Growth Steering Group) and also by partners on the Taunton Economic Advisory Board (recently renamed Taunton Strategic Advisory Board).

Penny James – Chief Executive

Brendan Cleere – Head of Localities

Cllr Mark Edwards – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder.

September 2018

TDBC Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme 2018/19

| 13 th Nov (CR) | 12 th Dec (CR) | 15 th Jan (CR) | Feb/Mar (JMR) | Apr/May (JMR) | June/July (JMR) | TBC |
|---|--|--|---|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Review of Affordable Employment Land Task and Finish Report – M. Prouse | Norton Playing Fields CPO – T. Burton | N. Taunton Woolaway Proposal – J. Humble | Gypsy and Travellers Report – M. Clarke | | | DLO Finance Update – |
| 2018/19 Financial Performance Mid-Year Report – A. Stark | Q2 Performance Report – R. Doyle | Leisure Procurement Contract – S. Hughes | | | | Asset Strategy Review of Land at Frobisher Way Disposal – M. Clarke |
| Leisure Operator Procurement Project – S. Hughes | Brewhouse Update – V. Lefrancois/ I. Timms | | | | | River Tone Task and Finish Report – M. Prouse |
| | | | | | | Corporate Plan Review 17/18 |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|