

TORRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCILFULL COUNCIL MEETINGCaddstown Business Support Centre - BidefordMonday, 4 July 2022 - 6.30 pm

PRESENT

Councillor D Bushby (Chair)
 Councillor P Christie (Vice-Chair)
 Councillors R Boughton, D Brenton, C Bright, M Brown, R Clarke,
 C Cottle-Hunkin, R Craigie, A Dart, J Gubb, P Hackett,
 S Harding, C Hawkins, K Hepple, C Hodson, K James, D Jones,
 S Langford, N Laws, C Leather, R Lock, J Manley, J McKenzie,
 S Newton, P Pennington, P Watson and C Woodhouse

ALSO PRESENT

S Hearse	- Chief Executive
S Dorey	- Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
S Kearney	- Head of Communities & Place
D Heyes	- Finance Manager (Section 151 Officer)
C Fuller	- Economic Development Officer
A Redwood	- Major Projects & Estates Manager
J Williams	- Public Health & Housing Manager
J Walter	- Strategy, Performance & ICT Manager
T Vanstone	- Senior Electoral & Democratic Services Officer
K Brown	- Democratic Services Officer

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: A Dart, L Ford, P Hames, K Hepple, R Hicks, D Hurley and A Inch.

14. PUBLIC CONTRIBUTIONS

There were no public contributions.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made as and when the specific agenda item to which they related was under discussion.

16. AGREEMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS PART I AND II

Councillor Bright proposed that all items on the agenda be taken in Part I due to improper use of Part II and the risk of a legal challenge. The Chief Executive and

Head of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer) explained in detail the reasons why the Housing Provision – Council Land Review was in Part II.

It was proposed by Councillor Bright, seconded by Councillor Brenton and –

Resolved:

That it be approved all items on the agenda be in Part I.

(Vote: For – 8, Against – 16, Abstention – 1)

Motion lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Manley, seconded by Councillor James and –

Resolved:

That the Agenda as circulated be agreed.

(Vote: For – 16, Against – 8, Abstention - 1)

17. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHER BUSINESS ESPECIALLY BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE DIRECTION OF THE CHAIR

No matters were brought forward.

18. LEVELLING UP FUND SUBMISSION FOR TORRIDGE

The Major Projects Manager and Economic Development Officer jointly presented the report, the purpose of which was to obtain Member approval to submit the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre proposals to the Levelling Up Fund by 6th July 2022 and to obtain Member approval to continue to develop Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre designs to Full Planning.

A comprehensive slide presentation was delivered highlighting the following:

- Visualisation
- Progress since 13th June Full Council meeting
- Costs and benefits
- Site plan
- Next steps
- Construction phase
- Operational modelling
- Risks
- Community comments

Councillor McKenzie joined at 6:47pm.

A discussion then took place.

Many Councillors expressed their support, congratulated and thanked the Major Projects Manager and Economic Development Officer for all the great work carried out.

Following queries from Councillor Christie, it was confirmed that letters of support had been received from the Universities and progression would be made towards a written commitment. Planning would progress in parallel to the design build.

In response to a query from Councillor Lock, the Economic Development Officer explained why it would be difficult for the bid to come back at a reduced amount and clear and strong justification would need to be provided.

Councillor Newton advised of Sir Geoffrey Cox, MP enthusiasm for this project.

Following a query from Councillor Manley to the exact location of the site, a satellite image was displayed on the screen.

The Major Projects Manager advised that not meeting the deadline was a risk and had been entered on the risk register. He also advised that if problems occurred and were communicated to the LUF team they would be receptive if mitigation can be shown.

The Head of Communities & Place advised if there was an underspend on the project then funds would be returned.

Following a query from Councillor Jones regarding the commitment of the Universities, the Head of Communities & Place advised that negotiations are yet to be had, however, the intention would be to tie the Universities in for as long as possible for certainty. The Universities would also want security of tenure.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Newton and –

Resolved:

That in consideration of the risks associated with the project - the following recommendations from the report be approved -

- That the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre proposal be submitted to the Levelling Up Fund by July 6th, 2022
- The capital programme to be increased by £17.3 million to cover the full costs of the scheme (of which £15.6 million will be external funding)
- To assign the Job Creation Fund of £194,720 as match funding towards the Levelling Up Fund.
- TDC to underwrite the costs net of external grants of £1.055 million to fund the project.
- That the funding requirement will take the form of external borrowing.

- The Council's approved capital borrowing limit be increased by £1.055 million to £7.70 million
- That the Appledore Clean Maritime Innovation Centre designs be further developed at risk to Full Planning and submission of an application

(Vote: For – Unanimous)

19. HOUSING STRATEGY

The Chief Executive presented this item and advised it would be discussed in Part I and Part II due to commercial sensitivity.

Reference was made to the Housing Crisis both locally and across the country to which no single impact or intervention would improve. It is in TDC's Strategic Plan to deliver intervention on affordable housing for residents and there are many streams to investigate.

An action plan had previously been established with three main areas to investigate:

- 1) TDC owned land for potential housing provision
- 2) Funding options
- 3) Work with registered providers and developers to help progress options further

Work was being progressed on a Strategic Delivery Plan to include the three above options with homelessness being added as a separate entity within the Housing Strategy.

20. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded Councillor Manley and -

Resolved:

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because of the likely disclosure of exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 and Paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(Vote: For – 21, Against – 5, Abstentions - 0)

21. PART II - (CLOSED SESSION)

22. HOUSING PROVISION - COUNCIL LAND REVIEW

The Chief Executive commenced this item explaining the purpose and aspects of the report.

Details of the next stage in the project were explained along with further Member involvement.

The ICT, Strategy & Performance Manager then concluded the item providing further information of work carried out and the next phase.

Councillor James, as Leader provided his comments and proposed that the recommendations in the report be taken en-bloc. This was seconded by Councillor Watson.

A lengthy discussion then took place.

Councillor Brenton proposed an amendment to recommendation 1, this was not seconded.

Councillor Leather proposed a further amendment to recommendation 1 in the report which was seconded by Councillor Brenton.

It was agreed that the recommendations in the report would be split. Recommendations 1,2 and 3 would be taken as one vote and recommendation 4 would be taken separately.

It was proposed by Councillor James, seconded by Councillor Watson and –

Resolved:

That recommendation 4 in the report be approved.

(For – 17, Against – 5, Abstentions – 4)

Motion carried.

Councillor James proposed that recommendations 1,2 & 3 be approved which was seconded by Councillor Watson, however, Councillor Leather's amendment to the recommendations superseded this.

It was proposed by Councillor Leather, seconded by Councillor Brenton and –

Resolved:

That recommendations 1i, 1iii, 2 and 3 within the report be approved.

(Vote: For – 19, Against – 6, Abstention – 1)

Motion carried.

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Newton and -

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted.

(Vote: For – unanimous)

The meeting went back into Part 1 for the following vote:

It was proposed by Councillor Bushby, seconded by Councillor Brenton and –

Resolved:

- That the sites to progress to the planning stage for the Modular Temporary Accommodation units are:
 - (i) Springfield Car Park, Bideford
 - (iii) Windmill Lane Car Park, Northam
- Authorise the submission of a planning application for the site(s) approved at recommendation one
- The Capital Programme be increased by £173,574 for the inclusion of monies for the Modular Units

(Vote: For – 25, Against – 0, Abstentions – 1)

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.30 pm