

REPORT OF Chief Executive
To: Full Council
Subject: Northern Devon Futures
Date: 5 October 2021

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

For members to decide if they wish to join the Northern Devon Futures Partnership and to appoint the Leader of the Council as the representative on the Northern Devon Futures Strategic Board

1. INTRODUCTION

Members may recall that they received a briefing on the Northern Devon Futures (NDF) partnership from Sean Mackney, Principal and CEO, Petroc College at the Full Council Meeting held on the 9 December 2019.

Sean explained that the partnership was being created with the intention of connecting the main partners and initiatives in Northern Devon who will be working together to improve the lives of those who live and work in Northern Devon and to plan holistically for the future of the area.

2. REPORT

The NDF Partnership is founded on the belief that through working together organisations can achieve more in support of agendas that the partners share. It recognises that in addressing different aspects of improving life in Northern Devon: its economy, the places that people live, its health, its education, action that can be taken in one aspect can impact (positively or negatively) on other areas. NDF looks to add value through providing a perspective that takes a holistic view, exploring and developing the areas where different actions can complement more than one agenda positively.

Progress with the partnership over the past 12 months or so has not been as fast as we would have liked but the pandemic, and the recovery from it, has shown that it is more important than ever for organisations to be working towards similar strategic goals within North Devon and Torridge. There are real opportunities through government agendas such as Levelling Up and Build Back Better but the chances of being able to influence outcomes will be far stronger if we work in collaboration.

We have been looking at how we can advance the partnership and make it into a recognised collaborative body and enable it to really influence the future direction of northern Devon. Now is an excellent time to progress this as not only do we have the government agendas mentioned above, but both local authorities are about to embark on a comprehensive review of the Local Plan, the primary spatial strategy for the area, which should be influenced by the overall Vision for the area set by the partnership.

A letter has been sent from the Chief Executives of Torridge District Council, North Devon Council and Petroc College to the main partners seeking a commitment, and any comments, positive or negative, on the proposals. This will then be followed by an inaugural meeting



towards the end of October/beginning of November where we can discuss the proposed Vision and plans and set the agenda for the way forward

The attached document, (Appendix 1) Northern Devon Futures – The Way Forward - describes the proposed way forward as well as progress to date and the proposed new structure for the partnership.

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

No specific legal implications

Financial Implications

None

Human Resources Implications

Some officer resource needed

Sustainability/Biodiversity Implications

This will be covered by one of the action groups within Northern Devon Futures

Equality/Diversity

Not applicable

Risk Management

Not applicable

Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report is in relation to the action in the Council's Strategic Plan - "*Develop a long term vision for the future of Northern Devon with all relevant partners*"

Data Protection (GDPR) Implications

Not applicable

Climate Change

There is a climate emergency action group within Northern Devon Futures.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Working in collaboration with a range of partners as part of Northern Devon Futures will increase our ability to influence outcomes at regional and national level and will give us a stronger voice.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- Torridge District Council join the Northern Devon Futures partnership and commit to its vision and,
- The Leader of the Council be the nominated representative on the Northern Devon Futures Strategic Board

