

**Seaton Project Group**  
**Meeting: 15 February 2023, 10am**  
**Venue: Seaton Marshlands**

**NOTES**

**Attendees:**

Cllr P Hayward Portfolio Holder Economy and Assets, EDDC (Chair)  
Julia Mutlow – Seaton Town Council - Clerk  
Jo Hemery – Seaton Deputy Town Council - Clerk  
Carl Northcott – Seaton Chamber, Northcott Building Contractors Ltd  
Sophia Moseley – Seaton Gateway Theatre  
Richard Betts – Seaton Chamber of Commerce  
Eleanor Carr – Unique Boutique Events  
Cllr Nick Hookway, East Devon District Council  
Cllr A Singh, Seaton Town Council  
Cllr Eric Bowman – Seaton Town Council (instead of Cllr Wood)  
Cllr J Rowland, East Devon District Council  
Sean Taylor – Seaton Chamber of Commerce (guest)  
Keir Duffin, Devon County Council  
Tim Child, East Devon District Council  
Alison Hayward, East Devon District Council  
Linda Perry, East Devon District Council

**Apologies received:**

Cllr Cheryl Wood, Seaton Town Council  
Cllr M Hartnell, East Devon District Council  
Cllr D Ledger, East Devon District Council

**1. Update on Regeneration Strategy**

The development of the Seaton renewal strategy document has now concluded, it is scheduled to be considered and noted by East Devon District Council (EDDC) Cabinet on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Cllr Hookway – provided updates on East Devon District Council activity in relation to culture and tourism:

East Devon District Council has recently appointed Sarah Elghady as Cultural Producer. Sarah is within the Countryside & Leisure service.

The East Devon Tourism Network (EDTN) has been formed as part of the East Devon Tourism strategy. The Network will create opportunities for businesses to share best practices, encourage partnership working and sustainable growth. A representative from the Forum could be invited to this Project Group in the future to inform the Group on the work of the Forum

The first network event will take place in March 2023 and businesses interested to join the network and attend the event are encouraged to express their interest via email to: [tourismnetwork@eastdevonexcellence.co.uk](mailto:tourismnetwork@eastdevonexcellence.co.uk)

## **2. Levelling Up Fund (LUF) Outcome and Way Forward**

As already communicated, the Axe Valley bid to Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) was unsuccessful.

The Government have indicated that there is to be a round 3 for applications. LUF criteria and priorities do change between application rounds – these will need to be reviewed and considered as further information becomes available.

East Devon District Council awaits feedback on the application and this will inform future application strategy. When a round 3 is announced it is proposed that the forum will be convened to discuss the opportunity and if appropriate make an application.

Way Forward - EDDC will review the feasibility of the employment sites – Harepath and Colyford Road both in Seaton and Cloakham Lawns in Axminster and will propose a way forward and recommendations to Cabinet i.e. EDDC could invest in development **or** take the sites to open market.

There is existing Cabinet approval to take the Seaton Moridunum site to market. This exercise is now moving forward.

The council will follow a clear process in terms of the disposal of sites i.e. selection criteria for developer partner, conditions of disposal, delivery timeframe. The council will be advised by the property agents selected, regarding the appropriate disposal method and process.

Cllr Hayward – Reminded the group about conflict of interest. This is particularly important when the Group is discussing commercial opportunities that the council may bring forward, where any members of the group may have a future interest in acquiring those council assets. Similarly when considering any opportunities that members of the group have a particular business interest in.

## **3. Seaton Quick Win Project - Refurbishment cost contribution, Marshlands.**

The quick win funding has enabled a lift to be repaired and the building to be DDA compliant. This has allowed the first floor of the building to be upgraded for community and some commercial uses.

## **4. Business Case**

Original business plan proposal was Stoplevel Way - DCC met with transport colleagues to discuss Stoplevel Way opportunity, but were advised that the opportunity for funding was not considered feasible in the short term. DCC wanted to provide something that was more tangible – deliverable in a shorter timescale - therefore E-bikes come forward.

Sean Taylor from the Chamber of Commerce – has previously reached out to Sustrans and has been exploring opportunities they are keen to support – DfT, also recent government announcements re transport design, feasibility, planning funding available. Is there potential for S106 investment for locality.

Concerns that the Stop Line Way is no longer the Business Case. Kier Duffin from DCC explained the rationale – that the project is not a priority for DCC Team currently and is some way off. The Group is keen to understand how and when this could happen. KD: Will go back to Transport Team to ask this question. – Keir will act as the link between DCC Transport and group.

#### E-Bikes

Hardisty Jones Associates are talking to Cllr Holt at Axminster Town Council about their e-bikes project – will report on progress at a future meeting.

#### **5. Future meetings and role of the group**

Quarterly meetings- project focussed – shared responsibility in terms of project leadership. Ideally to include a Chamber Update on the Agenda.

#### **6. AOB.**

All members are requested that if in future they wish to invite anyone to attend a meeting of the Group on a one-off basis, they would please discuss this first with the Chair, Cllr Hayward, via the officers at EDDC (Alison Hayward).