

Minutes of a Meeting of the Economy Overview Committee
held at Knowle, Sidmouth on Wednesday, 19 November 2003

Present:

Councillors:

B C J Hughes (Chairman)
B O Ingham (Vice-Chairman)

D G Button
P W Burrows
B H Clark
R H H Cross
J E D Falby
K W George
Mrs P A Graham
D R A Key
Mrs A E Liverton

G K Liverton
Ms S M Merritt
R Mudge
J B Nicholson
T G Reeves
A J Toye
B J Toye
P C Townsend

Also Present:

Councillors:

P A Diviani
A T Moulding

Apologies:

Councillors:

Mrs M Boote
A S Pascoe
Mrs L A Roden
Dr H W Waterworth

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and terminated at 8.50pm

*7 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Economy Overview Committee held on 17 September 2003, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

*8 CCTV Task and Finish Forum

The reports of the meetings of the CCTV Task and Finish Forum held on 24 September and 30 October 2003 were received and noted. Members were advised that another meeting would be held on 27 November 2003.

*9 Sidmouth International Festival – Box Office

In 2003 the organisers of Sidmouth International Festival were obliged to find alternative accommodation for their box office as their usual location of the Territorial Army Drill Hall, Sidmouth had been condemned and therefore was unavailable for use. A mobile unit was sited in the Ham Car Park for use as the Box Office. The unit took up four car park spaces for which cars would have been charged approximately £2 per space per day. The Economy Portfolio Holder had agreed with Officers that the lost income to the Council should not be charged to the Festival. Members were advised that the annual agreed arrangements with the Festival allowed it to use several spaces on the Ham Car Park during the festival, free of charge. It was noted that when the fair used the carpark they

were charged at a rate of £5 per space per day. Discussion took place on whether all users of the Ham Car Park should be charged at the same rate. Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Economy were congratulated on their speedy response to the problem in 2002.

*10 Regeneration of Exmouth

The Corporate Director – Environment gave an informative presentation detailing proposals for the regeneration of Exmouth. The Local Plan, which would be replaced by the Local Development Framework, identified four key development sites, these included the Imperial Road carpark, the waterfront and the London Inn car park site. Research carried out revealed that the number of vacant units in the town centre had decreased from 12.57% in 1995 to 6.6% in 2002. The total number of units had remained constant. The level of shopping for both convenience and clothing goods carried out in the town as opposed to out of town was less than the national average. These factors combined showed a potential demand for more retail outlets. The proposals for each site were explained and considered. The Corporate Director – Environment was thanked for his report.

*11 Performance Monitoring Report – Quarter 2 2003/04

Consideration was given to the report of the Policy Officer in respect of performance and proposed remedial action against key performance indicators for the second quarter of 2003 for services under the control of the Economy Overview. It was noted that figures had not been given for the 4th quarter of 2002/03 and that the figures stated for the number of fraud investigators appeared to be misleading.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

*12 Outline for an EDDC Carbon Management Plan

Consideration was given to the report of the Sustainable Development Officer outlining what a Carbon Management Plan for the Council would involve. The report had been requested at the previous meeting of the Committee when consideration was given to a strategy to integrate sustainable development aims into Council policy and practice. It was suggested that developers could be encouraged to adopt more sustainable building practices and designs.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

13 East Devon District Council Economic Development Strategy for the World Heritage Coast

Consideration was given to the report of the Economic Development Manager which updated Members on work in progress to obtain economic benefits from the designation of the East Devon World Heritage Coast. Three strategies had been commissioned. These looked at education, interpretation and the marketing of the site. Members were advised of the proposal to develop the Norman Lockyer Observatory as an educational visitor centre.

RECOMMENDED that the Council endorses the approach outlined in the report

14 Dualling of A303/A30 – Ilminster to Honiton

Consideration was given to the report of the Economic Development Manager which informed Members of the findings of the Ove Arup report on the economic and environmental case for dualling the A303/A30. The report predicted that by 2015 there would be peak summertime flows all year round on the A303.

RECOMMENDED that the Council endorses the findings of the Ove Arup report and uses the conclusions to continue to work with other Local Authorities and the private sector to:-

1. Lobby the Secretary of State for Transport to complete the dualling of the A303/A30
2. Secure the support of the Regional Assembly for making the complete dualling of the A303/A30 to Exeter the highest priority

*15 Tourism in East Devon

Members considered the report of the Economic Development Manager which summarised progress on tourism work carried out by the Economic Development Section. An additional report was circulated which detailed the work carried out by the Section for the economy of the district as a whole. Discussion took place on the value of being a member of the Exeter and the Heart of Devon campaign and whether Tourist Information Centres should work more closely together.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

Chairman Date.....