

VISION FOR THE WATERSIDE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet :-

- (a) endorses the Vision for the Waterside document subject to the following amendments;
 - Add graduate retention to bullet 2 under Social and Community Outcomes section
 - Add Investment in arts, culture and heritage under Social and Community Outcomes section.

- (b) Delegates authority to the Chief Planning Officer to make minor amendments to the document, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Planning and Infrastructure, in response to any further amendments resulting from the County Council and the National Park Authority decision making process.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm to Cabinet the comments and recommendation of the Special Environment and Overview Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 13th August 2020 to consider the Vision for the Waterside document.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Given the significance of the Waterside and the level of development proposed in our Local Plan and the National Park Local Plan a public-private Steering Group was formed some three year ago between New Forest District Council, the National Park, the County Council, the Solent LEP and the major landowners: ABP, ExxonMobil, Solent Gateway, Barker Mill Estates and Fawley Waterside.
- 3.2 Whilst the Local Plan sets out the vision for growth across the Waterside it has been agreed within the Steering Group that there is a need for a high level document that all parties can be signatories to that sets out the shared vision of the opportunity across the whole of the Waterside.
- 3.3 A draft Vision document has now been prepared between officers of the District Council, the National Park and the County Council. It is intended that the document sets out a collective assessment of the cumulative impact of the development aspirations, and an understanding of the total infrastructure needed to support and enable the growth plans for the area, to be delivered in a way compatible with the shared vision. It is envisaged that this document, amongst other things, will be used to support bids most notably the bid currently being prepared by the County for improvements to the A326.

3.4 As the Local Plan is now adopted it is now the appropriate time to share the draft Vision document.

3.5 At a Special Environment and Overview Scrutiny Panel on the 13th August 2020 the draft document was considered. District councillors for the Waterside and the town and parish council were invited to speak at the Panel. A number of councillors addressed the Panel the following table provides a summary of the comments made.

Issues	Comments
Heath roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well used – introduction of a 2 lane crossing is not good planning. • More lanes at roundabouts will not help traffic
Local concern about more traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport improvements need to be delivered before development happens
Cycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cycling need serious promotion and dedicated routes
Rushington roundabout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major accident blackspot • should have been upgraded as part of the Fawley application
A326	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document supports funding bid
The Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to include vision for all towns in the Waterside • No input from town or parish councils • Starts the ball rolling but nothing new in document • Not something that the people of the Waterside would buy into • Not specific enough • Why not produce a real vision for the Waterside
What is missing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to graduate retention, education, well-being, town centres, arts, culture and heritage • Need a review of what has worked in the past and what has not worked • Need more cultural facilities within the area
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need funding for specific things that need to be identified • Should have appointed a professional to write the bid
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of major employers has reduced within the Waterside and these have not been replaced • Need to reference the need for local jobs for local people

- 3.6 A number of the comments made were reflective of the fact that the document is purposely prepared as a high level document. The Panel were advised that there would be other more detailed strategies and documents that would be prepared to cover specific issues in the future.
- 3.7 Having considered the issues raised by the speakers the Panel confirmed that it endorsed the document, having reviewed the comments it does appear that there is no specific reference in the document to graduate retention, heritage, art and culture. It is therefore recommended to Cabinet that within the Social and Community Outcomes section within bullet 2 graduate retention is added and that an additional bullet is added stating; Investment in arts, culture and heritage.
- 3.8 The County Councillor and the National Park Authority will take the draft document through its own decision making process. There maybe further amendments to the document resulting from there consultations.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the Strategic Actions.

5. CRIME & DISORDER, ENVIRONMENTAL, DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no crime and disorder, environmental or data protection issues arising directly from this report.

6. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder supports the recommendations contained within the report.

Further Information

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