

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Community Services
DATE	12th November 2013
REPORT TITLE	Economy Service Delivery
Report of	Economy Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All wards

Summary of report:

This report details what the Council's Economy Team presently deliver and how future action plans will be formulated.

Financial implications:

To reduce the economy service revenue budget by £20,000 for financial year 2014/15.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members note the report and agree to the proposed process to achieve an economy service reduction.

Officer contact:

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council's economy service underwent a review 12 months ago which resulted in the formation of an economy team in West Devon comprising of a shared Economy Manager and 1.6 FTE Economic Development Officers.
- 1.2 The role of the Council's economy team is to deliver the Economy Action Plan, which forms part of the Council's overall Connect Partnership Strategy.
- 1.3 In April this year the Council agreed to a £20,000 reduction in Economy Service Delivery for financial year 2014/15.

2. CURRENT ECONOMY SERVICE RESOURCE

- 2.1 In order to achieve the agreed £20,000 saving the existing work of the Economy Team will need to be scaled back.
- 2.2 At present the agreed Economy Team's workload per week is as follows:

Engaging businesses: 2.5 days

Business Voice forum, e newsletters, local chambers, BIDs and FSB engagement

Maximising funding opportunities: 2 days

EU funding, Heritage Lottery, Dartmoor LEAF, Council Grant Schemes

Developing sectors and supply chains: 3 days

Supporting key existing sectors and networks and developing local supply chains

Workforce development: 0.25 days

Keep abreast of initiatives and signpost opportunities to the business community

Business support and advice: 0.5 days

Procure, monitor and signpost to businesses a business support and advice service

Community led planning: 3 days

Engage in shaping business community led plans and inform the local plan process

Strategic working: 2 days

Develop and review the Economy Delivery Plan to complement partner activity

Research and intelligence: 1 day

Identify necessary research about the local economy to inform Council policy

TOTAL 14.25 days

- 2.3** Current officer resource equates to 11.75 days per week (2.5 days short of the total detailed above). A £20,000 reduction will mean activity will need to be reduced by a further 3 days per week equating to 8.75 days per week as of April 2014.

3. FUTURE ECONOMY DELIVERY

- 3.1** Increasingly the government focus is on supporting economic growth which includes providing a greater role for Local Enterprise Partnerships, as the channel for future national and European funding streams, as well as a commitment to initiatives such as the Plymouth and Peninsula City Deal as a way of bringing the private and public sector together to drive economic recovery.
- 3.2** In order to make the most of future funding streams and economy service resource it is advised that service delivery from April 2014 focuses on:



3.3 The Economy Manager proposes holding a series of workshops early next year (open to all Members and local businesses) to test the above concept and to formulate an action plan for April 2014 onwards when the current Action Plan ceases. The workshops will provide an opportunity to increase awareness of the changing strategic context that will influence the future work of the team and related Council services, such as planning.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Connect Strategy and the actions plan which sit within it is one of the Council’s key policy documents that defines its priorities and strategic direction and must be approved by Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 To reduce the economy service revenue budget by £20,000 for financial year 2014/15 as agreed by full Council on 16th April 2013.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The Risk Management implications are shown at the end of this report in the Strategic Risks Template.

Corporate priorities engaged:	Economy
Considerations of equality and human rights:	An impact assessment has been carried out on the Connect Strategy action plans.
Sustainability considerations:	An impact assessment has been carried out on the Connect Strategy action plans.
Crime and disorder implications:	An impact assessment has been carried out on the Connect Strategy action plans.
Background papers:	Resources Committee Minutes March 2013 Council Minutes April 2013
Appendices attached:	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Impact on Economy Plan delivery	Risk that economy service provision will be too thinly spread and lack impact	5	1	5	↔	Current management procedures through the Connect Strategy are aimed at efficient use of resources.	Economy Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔