

**NOTES OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 10.00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Councillor: P Bullivant (Chairperson) Presiding

Councillors: L Cooke (Mayor)
M Joyce
C Parker
L Wood

By invitation: Rob Kelley, Senior Planning Officer - Teignbridge District Council

Officers In attendance: Phil Rowe – Town Clerk
Pierre Doutreligne - Projects & Strategy Officer
Nigel Canham - Communications Advisor

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor A Hall (Vice-Chairperson), Samantha Scott (Deputy Town Clerk & RFO) and Linda McGuirk (Principal Administrator).

16. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Infrastructure Plan Working Group held on 9th June 2026 were agreed.

17. INTERESTS

None declared.

18. REVIEW OF THE IPWG MEMBERS' VISION DOCUMENT

The Projects & Strategy Officer reminded members of the context of their individual submissions being compiled into a single document. This had been done by the Communications Advisor who, drawing on his journalistic background, stressed the importance of “short, sharp” messaging. During discussion, members made the following points:-

- The Infrastructure Plan, combined with a clear Vision for the town, would unlock the door for funding opportunities;
- Councillors would be able to act as a pressure group with the help of a robust Infrastructure Plan;
- Residents of new out-of-town developments would naturally use facilities and services located in Newton Abbot;
- It was essential to make specific reference to the “hinterland” of Newton Abbot.

Responding to a comment from a member about pressure on GP surgeries and NHS provision, Rob Kelley informed the working group that a “per household fee” was now put on developers towards NHS provision.

The Projects & Strategy Officer talked members through a presentation by a Communications and Branding Agency, which had been selected by Teignbridge District Council to create a compelling place brand for Newton Abbot as part of the Town Centre Masterplan project, in which TDC and NATC were equal partners. Members were asked to consider utilising the agency to fully develop the combined vision of the working group, in return for a financial contribution towards the overall costs of the professional place branding exercise. The Projects & Strategy Officer confirmed that, should such a cooperative approach gain traction with members, Newton Abbot would acquire a bespoke visual identity, including artwork, templates and assorted digital assets, as well as a clearly articulated vision for the town. Arising from the ensuing discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED that the sum of £3,000 be allocated towards a cooperative place branding exercise led by the independent agency appointed by Teignbridge District Council, on the understanding that any output be informed by the vision produced by the Infrastructure Plan Working Group.

Members further discussed the combined vision compiled by the Communications Advisor and made a number of suggestions including an overarching Strategic Objective to “establish positive relationships with enabling authorities and other bodies” as well as references to:-

- Newton Abbot’s role as the transport hub for South Devon;
- the need for dentists and pharmacists as well as GPs;
- special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision;
- accessible town hall & museum spaces;
- exploring the feasibility of a park & ride or park & change scheme;
- how cleaning up strategic areas in the town centre (e.g. Sherborne Rd) could deliver ‘quick wins’ in terms of promoting what the council has plans for;
- the importance of the appearance of the gateways into the town.

The Communications Advisor noted all the suggestions additions and amendments and endeavoured to submit an updated version of the Vision document within days.

Rob Kelley suggested adding a closing paragraph explaining how the infrastructure plan reflected the focuses of the other plans (Neighbourhood, Local, Community).

It was **agreed** that all councillors would be offered the opportunity to contribute suggestions for Delivery Programme (Phase 1) priorities ahead of the next meeting.

19. **NEXT STEPS**

The review of Teignbridge District Council's annotated version of the Infrastructure Plan and the update on the Infrastructure Plan 'Action Plan' were deferred to the next meeting, due to time constraints.

20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held within two weeks and focus solely on the review of Teignbridge's annotated version of the Infrastructure Plan and an update on the Infrastructure Plan 'Action Plan'.

Meeting closed at 12:04 p.m.

CHAIRPERSON..... Date.....