

Dear resources and scrutiny panel:

I am very sorry but we are unable to attend the budget public meetings at Brixham as we are in the tourism industry and it is high season.

Please accept and give our apologies.

I would ask that the panel consider the following questions regarding funding to the English Riviera Tourism Company Ltd budget removal: Your Number 11 in the proposals report

1. The repost mentions transition funding - what is the 'transition' from what to what? or is this it a deceitful euphemism for closure?
2. How will the Council ensure that tourist information and promotion carries on and is successful?
3. Does the panel believe that the budget proposal could damage any bid for promotional funding as it could be seen that a bid is just a cynical attempt to replace Council funding and not new money that can create a specific outcome and impact? What happens when the bid money, if it appears, ends?
4. There is a reliance in the proposal that there will be an alternative source of funding, but this is by no means certain. What will be the Council's position if the Bid fails and the tourism service closes. Will the Council find the money from elsewhere to rescue the service and in what form will the service manifest itself?
5. Your proposal identifies a risk that the promotion of tourism could be lost as a result of this decision. Has the panel been given a detailed impact assessment quantifying this identified risk - both in costs to the Council in lost revenues and increased demands on services and to the people and economy of Torbay as a whole.
6. The Elected Mayor talks about not funding 'private sector businesses... is it not true that ERTC belongs 100% to the Council and thus its company status is more device for operation and funding rather than it being a true private company with profits going to shareholders. The panel should investigate if the Elected Mayor need to be more open and honest in his reasoning. The panel needs to establish is the mayor is seeking to deceive the public on this point.
7. Has there been consideration of gaining savings, efficiencies and additional revenues to the Council by passing duplicated functions at the English Riviera Centre to the ERTC... The ERTC certainly knows how to promote, market and book accommodation using 2014 technologies.
8. There must have been good reasons for the Council to create the ERTC - should the panel revisit these? It is very easy to forget the position that went before and the achievements since. Do these achievements represent value for money for the grant?

I hope the Panel gives this issue the consideration it deserves. The budget proposal to end funding may have major consequences for the tourism industry and the wider economy - that may not be able to be reversed once a spiral of decline sets in.

I thank you for your time

kind regards.

**Paul Moore**

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