



Devon County Civic University Agreement

Annual CUA Board Report, October 2024

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Executive Summary

This new formalised relationship between Devon County Council (DCC) and the University of Exeter (UoE) has progressed swiftly with a small core team in both institutions seeking to capture collaboration and establish new relationships, joining up delivery to fulfil the Civic University Agreement (CUA) ambitions. This has uncovered and raised awareness of in-progress activity, extending the tenure of exciting activities that support young people, skills, innovation, and housing.

Our focus on Young People (Mission One) has seen activity taken forward through several routes. The new Devon Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance is a considerable development with Higher Education, Further Education and Multi-Academy Trust representation. Activity is focused on expanding tutoring and mentoring models across the geography and seeking to explore novel approaches to supporting schools' and colleges' SEND and SEMH needs. A considerable body of partnership activity has taken place to support Higher Education participation by underrepresented groups from Devon.

Skills and innovation (Mission Two) activities have led to the creation of new assets for Devon, including a Social Care Skills Escalator to support sector training and recruitment and a new suite of dashboards investigating the local labour market, devised in partnership with the Local Skills Improvement Partnership (LSIP). Further we have been successful in creating new placement opportunities for students and graduates in Devon helping to retain our skilled workforce.

The Devon Housing Commission (Mission Three) has been an exemplar activity for how DCC and UoE have been able to work together responding to a regional priority. The Housing Report contains a suite of recommendations for local authorities, national government and housing sector bodies and is supportive of the ambitions for a Devon and Torbay Combined Authority. The next steps will logically be the development of an Action Plan with partners in the Devon Housing Task Force, and critically there is a need for the Board to consider what a longer-term Mission around housing should consider and who needs to be involved.

A challenge Mission 2 has faced has been the relative lack of new opportunities from government and innovation agencies which is limiting our ability to take forward new collaborative initiatives where they have been developed/are needed. The CUA can be a framework to help guide collaborative investment and bidding, particularly around greater (and better aligned) innovation support, building on existing structures. The Combined Authority may be able to help facilitate this and how it seeks to engage with innovation and the replacement fund for Levelling Up (e.g. another Shared Prosperity Fund).

The delivery team are actively learning and sharing and have been invited to present their lessons and experiences by the UK Civic University Network.

Introduction

Devon County Council and the University of Exeter share a strong commitment to the economic growth and prosperity, health, social and environmental fabric of our County. Working together as partners through the Devon County Civic University Agreement (DC CUA), our ambition is to generate benefits for our County, its businesses, and its people. This Agreement builds on already strong partnership foundations, and a history of mutual engagement. The intention of entering the agreement was to advance and amplify the impact of our activities, strengths and assets and a year on we are proud to share our progress.

Our missions and the partnership framework which sit at the heart of this Agreement, respond to an analysis of local needs and consultation with partners and stakeholders.

Our over-arching mission is to support Devon to be a thriving, sustainable and prosperous place to live and work. In doing so, this agreement recognises that health, education, culture, environment, and economy are all intertwined. To begin with this agreement will focus on three specific areas that support this overarching mission: developing our civil society to be ambitious for each young person to thrive; to develop a skills and innovation ecosystem to deliver sustainable futures; and to provide ample access to affordable, carbon considered housing.

The Devon CUA was signed by Professor Lisa Roberts, President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and Councillor John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council, in October 2023. These signatories and other key senior leaders from each organisation represent the Agreement's Partnership Board.

The delivery of the DC CUA is overseen by an Operational Group comprising representatives from each organisation, which facilitate collaboration of key stakeholders (Delivery groups). The three Delivery Groups meet termly to advance "common ground" that realises the three DC CUA missions:

- Thriving Futures for young people
- Innovation and skills for a sustainable future
- Carbon considered housing for all

Progress against the three missions is reported to the Board.

Mission One: Thriving Futures for Young People

Summary of progress

Four meetings across the year have established positive working connections between colleagues in the Council, and the University and across FE and the VCSE sector working with young people.

Establishing a clear Who's Who, roles and contact details has allowed individuals to connect outside of meetings and as the year progressed, this group has seen high levels of connectivity and clusters of colleagues forming to work on discrete common objectives.

Ambition 1: Support the work of the Social Mobility Commission to deliver clear and actionable recommendations, promoting good practice to business, education, public and the third sector.

- All University of Exeter research and projects relating to social mobility is being mapped to help identify gaps and priorities for future research. The group has updated the commission on stakeholders and connected with the new Devon VCSE Assembly. Through the Devon Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance, we are consulting education practitioners on how to share insights.

Ambition 2: Building on work started in Exeter, develop a Devon Education Alliance to ensure children throughout have equal access to world-class pedagogy of teaching.

- Three meetings of the Devon Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance held chaired by Stuart Brocklehurst
- The initial focus is developing proposals to:
 - Develop a student-led tutoring and mentoring programmes for years 6, 7 & 8
 - Support educators with increasing complexities of SEMH and neurodiversity

Ambition 3: Address the skills and recruitment gaps in key areas of public service, such as Health and Social Care.

- A Social Care Skills Escalator was published and launched at a well-attended sector event in June 2024. Employers present keen to take forward careers event for YP
- The University is considering trialling a professional pathway to Social Care
- Early conversations are exploring the development of a Health Skills Escalator

Ambition 4: Widen Higher Education participation, helping more young people in Devon reach university, including the University of Exeter.

The focus of this group to date has been to connect colleagues to improve access to HE for underrepresented groups including care experienced young people (CEYP), young carers and young asylum seekers.

- An initial meeting was held between key members of DCC Education, Training & Employment (ET&E), the Communities teams and the UoE Access and Participation and Student Immigration teams to gain an understanding of the landscape.
- Awareness has been raised of the Exeter Scholar Programme which works with Year 10-12 students to encourage uptake from underrepresented groups into HE.
- The ET&E team visited UoE, and as a result, some CE young people are now considering Higher Education and Degree Apprenticeships. The ET&E team have mapped University provision across the UK. This has led to improved understanding of the support available nationally.

- The UoE Access and Participation Team will deliver training to ET&E team on completing UCAS applications and clearing. UoE provided work experience for 3 CE young people. The team are looking to replicate with other underrepresented groups.
- PACE programme which aims to provide opportunity and employment for CEYP in Devon was launched. This was attended by UoE Degree Apprenticeship team who will promote amongst employers. Degree Apprenticeship team have secured OFS funding to expand participation.
- A calendar of events which outlines support available from FE and HE is being developed for DCC colleagues and foster families. Connection made to the DCC young People Change group supporting foster families.
- Ongoing conversations with the University's Sports Development Team to widen access and participation through facilities and sporting events.
- DCC are to become a member of National Network for the Education of Care Leavers. DCC staff members with asylum and care experience to join this group to inform development.
- Young Asylum Seekers working group have met a couple of times, and the Virtual School has appointed a learning advocate for young asylum seekers. The University of Sanctuary team is supporting asylum seekers to access HE.

Ambition 5: Supporting young people's mental health in Devon.

- Plan to map provision of mental health services to identify gaps in provision.
- Build on the Kailo insights and continue to seek opportunities to hear from young people to understand what services are working well e.g. Ted Wragg Trust Youth Summit in 2025.

Mission One Recommendations to the Board for 2025 Action Plan

Both the range of internal and external stakeholders and opportunities for impact from this mission is vast, and whilst containing the meetings to three times a year helps manage the ask of stakeholders, the time required for the operational group to drive, support, and facilitate the activity is considerable. Board support is requested for:

- Improved organisational-wide communication of progress and Executive commitment to this mission's scope. This will foster further and faster collaboration across our respective workforces and wider stakeholders.
- Joint targeting of HE under-represented groups from across the Devon geography – with a view to extending current UoE provision.
- Continued institutional prioritisation of the Devon Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance as a vehicle for regional innovation. Initially to include commitment from both partners for:
- Seeking finance for enhanced mentoring and tutoring
- Exploring where school and college SEMH-need is most required and identification of potential solutions and joint funding opportunities/bids.

Mission Two: Innovation and skills for a sustainable future

Summary of progress

Early work identifying priorities for skills and innovation activity identified several core sectors that had the potential for delivering transformative change. We have focussed our skills work on these three sectors:

- Environment (including Energy and Waste)
- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing (including Marine and Aerospace)
- Health, Care and Life Sciences

Linked to these have been new developments including Degree Apprenticeships, the Devon Social Care Skills Escalator, a major EXPO with a first time focus on healthcare businesses and new developments in support of Policy Making at the Local Skills Improvement Partnership. Progress against our 5 Ambitions is set out below. The supporting expert delivery group has met twice virtually and once in person.

Ambition 1. Develop a skills ecosystem to deliver sustainable futures that are responsive to the change

- SWIoT has now been re-licensed, and the plan continues to focus on the kind of escalator-type activity (mapping of future skills need) envisioned in the CUA, and we hope to hear very soon how work will be funded. We may therefore need to push back the delivery date for any escalators or similar, given the election delay.
- We have delivered a new suite of labour market Dashboards that are now available via LSIP and DCC.
- Social Care Escalator was completed earlier this year and launched at the Innovation Hub in Exeter.
- New Degree Apprenticeships are now available, or under development including in CUA target areas of Data Science/Digital and Health.
- New suite of regional CPD leadership programmes to help ensure SMEs and business leaders have access to programmes that can support business transformation.

Ambition 2. Target activity to support innovation in key growth sectors for Devon, based on their potential for transformational impact

- Continued collaborative business support involving our core offer of The Growth Hub and SETSquared Exeter.
- We have targeted sectors we feel have greatest potential to contribute to the economy and bring jobs and innovation, namely health and social care, advanced manufacturing and energy and environment (including waste).
- New HealthTech Research Centre in Sustainable Innovation was established earlier in the year.
- SETSquared were recently named as the leading start-up hub in the UK and have achieved considerable traction towards a new AI mentor scheme. They have also almost doubled last years' investment regional portfolio (including £7.5m investment into Devon based organisations)

Ambition 3. Boost research and development investment to support levelling-up across Devon

- The SW Innovation EXPO earlier in the year was a success with over 400 attendees in person. Health and Life Sciences was a major focus for the first time, and the event hosted two Panel Sessions on this topic and several enterprises in the Innovation Showcase.
- We have been working with the University of Plymouth with a view to delivering two events in the sectors identified in the CUA:
- A targeted Health Expo in 2024/25, in Plymouth
- A large SW Innovation Expo in 2025/26 at Sandy Park, Exeter

Ambition 4. Grow the number of Devon employers benefitting from University of Exeter placements, internships, and work experience programmes

- Continued prioritisation on Devon placements, internships, and work experience. Placement numbers have grown from 1,211 in 2022 to 1,601 in 2024 and there are a substantial number of credit-bearing placements. The drive is to increase the number of short placements.
- In Devon in the last 12 months there have been 133 interns, and 86 have been supported with funding from UoE.

Ambition 5. Raise visibility and generate greater engagement with the region's innovation assets

- New dedicated business support provision through Green Futures Solutions (GFS).
- Attempting to develop a 'one-front door access for SMEs looking for innovation support' to ensure all enterprises in Devon know where to go for advice on innovation support. The Growth Hub remains pivotal to this and are helping business to understand the pathway to getting grants or innovate funding etc.

Mission Two Recommendations to the Board for 2025 Action Plan

The new CCA will provide collaborative opportunities to take both the 'skills' and 'innovation support' ambitions for this mission forward. At the strategic level, Board support is requested for:

- Closer joint institutional mapping of funding priorities including;
 - Co-funding (via a replacement for SPF and through UoE SEAS programmes) for an enlarged, and jointly branded, Devon-wide placements and internships programme
- Collaboratively mapping innovation support across the new CCA geography to identify gaps and make recommendations for (below)
- Extending the reach of innovation support and creating a one-stop-shop for micros and SMEs - for all parts of Devon - (that includes Growth Hub and SETsquared type support)
- Maintaining the existing successful evidence-base arrangements for labour market policy decisions (currently in partnership with LSIP)
- Explore together where UoE may be able to provide skills Bootcamps targeting digital/AI and green skills, plus where UoE could work with DCC to make these careers open to excluded groups and what an intervention to enable this would need.

Mission Three: Carbon considered housing for all

Summary of progress:

The overarching ambition of the housing theme in the CUA was to deliver the Devon Housing Commission (DHC). This has been completed and the final report of the Commission was launched in July 2024. The report contains a suite of recommendations for local authorities, national government and housing sector bodies and is supportive of the ambitions for a Devon Combined Authority.

Ambition 1.

Develop a Report of a Comprehensive Analysis of Devon's Housing Challenges.

- *Call for evidence:* 509 responses received and analysed with quotes added to narrative of the final report. Breakdown and review of responses available from UoE.
- *Data Review:* Data analysed and presented for DHC final report. UoE has extensive data sets that can be collated for a Devon-wide analysis. This could form the basis for a data dashboard on housing.
- *Literature Review:* Papers on most subjects covered by the DHC at commission meetings were prepared and circulated to attendees. These are available from the UoE and cover topics such as rural housing, planning (including a deep dive into the planning situation across the county) and student housing.
- *Suite of recommendations from the DHC aligned to the Devon Carbon Plan and report to the Devon Housing Task Force:* Report completed and successfully launched both in Devon and a Parliamentary launch to Devon MPs. Report contains 46 recommendations to government, local authorities and other organisations aiming to ease the housing situation in Devon. Chapter 6 of the report focusses on ambitions in the DCP and partnerships between Devon's LAs and educational institutions. (Rec 6.1)

Ambition 2.

Supporting Delivery of Future Construction and Retrofit Initiatives (e.g. Funded Through Devolution 2024 - 2025)

- DCC has worked closely with the districts to draw up plans to use devolution funding on deliverable schemes across Devon. This is now being reviewed considering the new Government and tightened time scales.

Ambition 3.

Increasing the Carbon Efficiency of Devon's Existing and New Housing Stock

- We continue to work with DCC's Environment team to identify commonality and opportunities. This will be linked to how the Mission is taken forward now the Housing Commission Report has been launched.

Ambition 4.

Continuing to Collect Data on Local Housing After the Completed Devon Housing Commission Report to Ensure that the Understanding of the Devon Housing Stock Is Up-To-Date and to Ensure that the Data Can Be Used to Inform Local Housing Policy

- Parliamentary launch held 09/09/24 with 7 MPs, 3 MP parliamentary assistants, Lords' Minister for Housing Baroness Taylor, and representatives from Devon.
- Parliamentary work- using the Commission report to leverage. Rural proof (GSW – Cornwall/Dorset Labour MPs)
- Developing a data dashboard and the plans for a housing intelligence unit, as well ensuring that the partnerships between the college, the University and Devon County deliver the skills agenda that is set out in the action plan could form the basis of work for the next few months.

Mission Three Recommendations to the Board for 2025 Action Plan

Board support is requested to:

- Collaboratively develop a data dashboard and jointly scope out plans for a housing intelligence unit (as set out in the Devon Housing Commission report)
- Work at Devon-wide (or broader) geography to map green skills support for retrofit and green construction (potentially with the SWIoT, GCAP and the South West Net Zero Hub)
- Co-develop a series of promoted case studies for green construction and retrofit.

Appendix 1: Thriving Futures for Young People Action Plan

We will support the work of the Social Mobility Commission to deliver clear and actionable recommendations, to achieve enhanced social mobility within Devon, promoting successful practice to business, education, public services and the third sector service providers.						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner (nominated lead shown in bold)	Other organisations involved	Timetable
1.1	Working through the commission to identify and address gaps in evidence and circulate relevant research and/or pursue research grants where insights are missing to better support needs of young people from low-income homes.	Improve our understanding of the barriers to and effective approaches for enhancing social mobility and attainment across Devon	Relevant research base Best practice cascaded across stakeholders through the SW Social Mobility Commission	DCC- Emily Youngman Kailo -Katie Potter UoE -Anne Marie Sim & Anna Mountford Zimdars, Phil Harrison		On-going
1.2	Increase access to education support, careers advice and work opportunities for young carers (access to HE – see 4.5)	Young carers on average miss more school, have worse GCSE outcomes and are less likely to go to HE than their peers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of young carers receiving Careers guidance No. of invitations to attend careers events 	Beth Simmons- DCC Liz Smith – Devon Carers CSW – Fiona Reed UoE - Nicola Sinclair	Devon Colleges Group Devon Headteachers SPACE Young Devon Careers Hub	On-going

Ambition 2: Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay Education Alliance Building on work started in Exeter, develop a Devon, Plymouth, and Torbay Education Alliance to ensure children throughout each Key Stage of the National Curriculum benefit from equal access to world-class pedagogy of teaching.						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
2.1	Establish a Devon Education and Skills Alliance of education providers across the county	Widen initiatives from current Exeter Education Alliance out across Devon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Headteachers engaged • Team Devon engaged • Key priorities agreed • Priorities mapped to Support Available 	Ceri Morgan - DCC C Collyer -DCC Wendy Ohlsen - DCC L Anderson - UoE Anna Mountford-Zimdars -UoE	Exeter teaching alliance, Devon Headteachers, Team Devon	Alliance established – complete Alliance work streams ongoing
2.2	Work through the alliance to support evidence-based initiatives that improve the progression of disadvantaged students at Key Stage 3, 4 & 5	Insights from South West Social Mobility Commission – sub national attainment and progression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence activity with 6 schools across Devon 	Ceri Morgan - DCC C Collyer -DCC Wendy Ohlsen - DCC L Anderson - UoE Anna Mountford-Zimdars -UoE	Exeter teaching alliance, Devon Headteachers	In-progress
Ambition 3: Skills for key sectors and pathways for Young People Together we will seek to address the skills and recruitment gaps in key areas of public service, such as Health and Social Care, through new initiatives and new skills provision, including Health T-Levels, Apprenticeships, HTQs, Degrees and Continuing Professional Development.						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
3.1	Explore opportunities for new course provision based on the findings of the	This sector is struggling to recruit and retain staff. Identifying gaps in	Consider against LSIP recommendations.	C Collyer - DCC Jo Skeel - DCC Sara Gibbs – DCC Rhys Wallace – UoE Steve Wallers - UoE	Devon Colleges group, Skills Bootcamp	Social Care Skills Escalator completed.

	Social Care Skills Escalator	provision and pathways provides opportunity for young people to progress through a wide range of roles.	Consult on UoE Social Care Skills Escalator Social Care Skills escalator published Recommendations brought into this Action Plan Review recommendations from Proud to Care Review Health sector skills evidence Explore Skills Bootcamps Accelerated Apprenticeships to Health and Social care Apprenticeships Explore Student part-time employment to support sector Case Study UoE Health Degree Apprenticeships in this area Social work Degree Apprenticeship Business Case	Elaine Pavelle - UoE David Hancock - UoE	Consult with DCTPN on work done in this area.	(Launch June 17th 2024) Ongoing- planning a Health Care event at UoE and look at trialling a professional pathway to Social Care
3.2	Seek funds/partners to develop new Health Skills Escalator	This sector is struggling to recruit and retain staff. Identifying gaps in	Health Skills escalator published.	A Dean - UoE David Hancock -UoE C Collyer – DCC Sara Gibbs - DCC	Devon Colleges group, Skills Bootcamp	On-going DCTPN are also looking at mapping

		provision and pathways provides opportunity for young people to progress through a wide range of roles.	Funding opportunities appraised			different sectors to pathways available and linking with apprenticeships standard
Ambition 4: Widening access to Higher Education						
We will widen Higher Education participation, helping more young people in Devon reach university, including the University of Exeter.						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
4.1	Work with the Access and Participation Team at UoE to identify and support groups traditionally less likely to attend university including Care Experienced Young People, young Carers, refugee community, neuro divergent individuals.	Widens diversity of student participation engaging with University Open days, events, University applications and University students enrolled.	Information to help YP decide if university is for them, raise aspiration and improve access. - HE aspiration works with KS3- KS5 -Increased No. YP from Devon entering HE	Fiona Reed – CSW Ben Ferne -DCC Claire Richardson - DCC Khristine Norton – DCC Jo Skeel - DCC Simon Kitchen – DCC Dave Wright - DCC Nicola Sinclair – UoE Anna Mountford Zimdars – UoE Pete Bragg UoE Thomas Barrass – UoE Rhys Wallis – UoE Dan Barton -SPACE Duncan Cherrett – Young Devon	CSW, Young Devon, SPACE, Careers Hub	On-going Significant work in progress and complete.
4.1.1	Increase HE awareness and access for Care Experienced Young people	Widens diversity of student participation engaging with University Open days, events, University applications and	- Develop peer to peer student programme - increase university visits	Ben Ferne -DCC Claire Richardson - DCC Khristine Norton – DCC		December 2024 In progress

		University students enrolled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DCC PA team able to advise and support HE discussion -Increased awareness of UoE fee bursary programme for Care Experienced Young People -Number of DCC Care Experienced Individuals applying to HE increases by 5% 	<p>Mo Hurley – DCC (Post 16 Virtual School)</p> <p>Nicola Sinclair – UoE</p> <p>Anna Mountford</p> <p>Zimdars – UoE</p> <p>Thomas Barrass – UoE</p> <p>Rhys Wallis - UoE</p>		
4.1.2	Increase HE awareness amongst foster and adoptive parents	Fostering community and adoptive parents can support their young person explore HE pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Buddying programme established between UoE staff and DCC community - Regular content published to community 	<p>Wendy Ohlsen - DCC</p> <p>Sarah Acland – DCC</p> <p>Claire Richardson - DCC</p> <p>Anna Mountford</p> <p>Zimdars - UoE</p>		May 2024 Delivered and continuing
4.1.3	Increase access and participation to HE amongst refugee community	Mentoring and tailored support will increase refugee participation in HE and support individuals access resilient and stable work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -develop the University sanctuary offer refugee community outreach and on-site activities -Number of refugees under 25 engaged in sanctuary increases by 5% each term -explore funding for skills transition plan Provide link to ESOL support 	<p>Nicola Sinclair – UoE</p> <p>Thomas Barrass – UoE</p> <p>Rhys Wallis - UoE</p> <p>Simon Kitchen – DCC</p> <p>Dave Wright - DCC</p>	Learn Devon Devon Colleges Group	May 2024 Delivered and continuing

4.1.4	Increase access and participation to HE for young carers	Widens diversity of student participation engaging with University Open days, events, University applications and University students enrolled.	Increase access and participation to HE for young carers	Nicola Sinclair -UoE Jo Skeel - DCC Khristine Norton – DCC Beth Simmons– DCC Young Carers lead Anna Mountford Zimdars - UoE Thomas Barrass – UoE Rhys Wallace - UoE	Devon Colleges Group Devon Headteachers SPACE Young Devon Devon Carers	September 2024 Delivered and continuing
4.2	Support an increase in Degree Apprenticeship / employment for Care Experienced Young People and young adult Carers	Widens Participation Creates positive role models. Develops social mobility Secures support from large employers.	Active conversations with large employers to consider ring fencing places or making support available for CEYP - ETE PA team actively engaged with John Lewis Care Leavers Careers programme relating to DA opportunities	Charlotte Collyer- DCC Khristine Norton – DCC Beth Simons – DCC Young Carers lead Peter Bragg - UoE Nicola Sinclair – UoE Anna Mountford Zimdars - UoE		December 2024 PACE programme in place
4.3	Raise internal and external awareness of the UoE vulnerable student programme	Widens diversity of student participation engaging with University Open days, events, University applications and University students enrolled.	-Communication leads in each organisation connected. -Signpost to vulnerable student programme information Spotlight on programme included in internal and	Khristine Norton – DCC Debbie Stafford – DCC Emily Youngman - DCC Charlotte Collyer - DCC Simon Kitchen – DCC David Wright – DCC	DCC ETE PAs, CIC UoE Vulnerable Student team	May 2024 In progress: linking in with DCC’s virtual school to support care leavers into HE and the Education, Employment and Training team based in the Leaving Care team to support students and is

			external communications	Nicola Sinclair - UoE Anna Mountford Zimdars - UoE		working with the virtual school and Exeter College to support asylum seekers and refugees into further and higher Education
Ambition 5. Supporting Young People's Mental Health						
Together we will explore how we can help support young people's mental health in Devon.						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
5.1	Map groups working to support young people's mental health across Devon	Improve our understanding of the support landscape and identify gaps in provision	Map of provision	Charlotte Collyer – DCC Emily Youngman – DCC Rhys Walis - UoE Thomas Barrass – UoE Katie Potter - Kailo	Young Devon, SPACE, DCC Care Experienced tea, Virtual School, Youth Hub, VOYC Devon UoE, Foyer Foundation, Devon Communities Foundation	July 2024 Remans outstanding
5.2	Engage with young people to understand what services are working well and identify opportunities for more joined up working	Establish engagement listen, participate, and test action with young people.	Young Persons insights shared/ published to inform policy and programmes	Khristine Norton – DCC Charlotte Collyer - DCC Emily Youngman – DCC Debbie Stafford – DCC Claire Richardson - DCC Ceri Morgan – DCC Beth Simons - DCC Anna Mountford - Zimdars – UoE	Young Devon, SPACE, DCC Care Experienced tea, Virtual School, Youth Hub, VOYC Devon UoE, Kailo Wider colleagues consulted May 24 Julie Potter Vikki Hearn Rachel Hearn Charlotte Allen	September 2024 In progress, Kailo report informed and Ted Wragg Trust youth Summit in planning

				David Roe - CSW Dan Barton – SPACe Duncan Cherett – Young Devon Thomas Barrass – UoE Katie Potter - Kailo	Kate Huthbert	
Ambition 6: Better connected. Support greater communication and collaboration across the mission groups agenda						
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
6.1	Clarify roles, support programmes and key points of contact across the two organisations	Establish effective collaboration and communication and empower colleagues to make efficient connections which will accelerate impact and opportunity	Maintain a Who's Who directory in the project team's space. Quarterly agenda item to accept directory has been reviewed.	C Collyer - DCC L Anderson - UoE	DCCUA participants	May 2024 Done
6.2	Identify overlap with each anchor institutions Young People Strategies	Improved communication, maximising opportunity, de-duplication, and increased efficiency of resources	Action Plan mapped against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCC's Corporate Parenting Strategic Board delivery • UoE's Regional Skills Strategy • UoE Access and Participation Plan 	C Collyer - DCC L Anderson - UoE		May 2024 To be reviewed as part of Partnership Board.

Appendix 2: Skills and Innovation Action Plan

Ambition 1					
Develop a skills ecosystem to deliver sustainable futures that are responsive to the change					
Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner and Lead(s)	Other organisations involved	Timetable
Grow skills in Devon to support business growth in Environmental Intelligence and Floating Offshore Wind (New Escalator)	Ensure regional skills capacity that can deliver growth in transformational sector	New Escalator developed with SWIoT	UoE and ExColl (Andrew Dean and Richard Brine)	SWIoT All FE	Start in September 2024 with a view to a new regional Escalator by Spring 2025.
Work together to ensure an effective and consistent evidence base through shared Labour Market Intelligence (LMI)	Ensure policymakers and employers have access to intelligence on skills and the economy	LSIP Dashboard and regular updates and analysis	UoE and DCC (Andrew Dean and Phill Adams)	Chambers SWBC	Review annually
Deliver a Social Care Escalator	Need to ensure training and skills are available to ensure access and progression for workers	Escalator Complete	UoE (David Hancock)	RDUH FE DCC	February 2024 ACHIEVED
Grow the provision of Digital and Data Science Qualifications and modular courses (new Degree Apprenticeship in Health Data Science) including a specific focus on Health sector	We need more and higher-level digital skills for sectoral expansion in our innovating sectors. Healthcare digital needs becoming pressing.	Number of new D&D courses level 3+	UoE (Dan Hallam)	RDUH DCC	September 2024

Maintain a DSP championing pervasive digital skills development at all levels across the workforce	Target central and regional skills funding. Network with businesses to support their awareness and adoption of automation, cyber security, and data science.	Delivery of DSP programme	DCC (Debra Steel)	DSP	Review annually
Deliver Leadership Programmes to SMEs	Ensure SMEs and business leaders have access to programmes that can support business transformation to take advantage of new opportunities	Number of SMEs attending leadership programmes	UoE/DCC (Louise Osborne)	D&P Chamber (LSIP) Exeter Chamber SWBC SWMG	Review annually
Ambition 2.					
Target activity to support innovation in three key growth sectors for Devon, based on their potential for transformational impact					
Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
Increase the number of graduate start-up and spin-out enterprises	Need for innovative new enterprises to contribute to the economy and bring jobs and innovation	Number of new start-ups	UoE (Joe Pearce)	Science Parks	Review annually
Communicate a regional innovation offer that includes a focus on commercial benefits and actions	Innovation is not just 'skills' so we need to make sure we are seeing innovation in a broader setting	New offers explored via CUA partners	DCC/IUK (Layla Burrows)	Science Parks Growth Hub Innovate UK	Review annually
Work closely with Innovate UK to use our innovation assets to leverage investment. This to include Catapults and successes such as Appledore's Clean Maritime Innovation centre in North Devon.	We need to ensure that Devon has a competitive ask for innovation support to government.	Investment from Govt into the geography	DCC/IUK (Layla Burrows)	Science Parks Innovate UK	Review annually

Ambition 3.					
Boost research and development investment to support levelling-up across Devon					
Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
Health and Life Sciences Zone at SW Innovation EXPO	Deliver joined-up activity and events in sectors where innovation is critical	Number of events showcasing innovation in priority sectors	UoE DCC (Andrew Dean)	EXPO	EXPO in March 2024. New EXPO events planned by December 2024.
Work through Great South West (GSW) for coherent action on major regional opportunities	GSW priorities for the peninsula will very much overlap with Devon ones	Establishment of new innovation offer targeting real opportunities	DCC (Phill Adams)	UoE	September 2024 Postponed to Spring 2025.
Better provision and synergies between innovation support funding including angel investors	There should be a clear holistic offer with pathways and 'no wrong door' for business	Infographic and map of innovation support	DCC (Charlotte Collyer)	Innovate UK Growth Hub	September 2024 Postponed to Spring 2025.
Work together to explore how larger partners can help smaller organisations to reach markets beyond the region	Lots of innovative businesses but growth can be tricky without wider reach	Work through GSW to champion our innovating enterprises	DCC (Charlotte Collyer)	DCC UoE Science Parks Innovate UK	Ongoing

Ambition 4.					
Grow the number of Devon employers benefitting from University of Exeter placements, internships, and work experience programmes					
Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
Increase the number of business placements, internships, and quality work experience opportunities. This to include potential work promoting opportunities through supply chains.	Students and graduates with work experience in the region more likely to stay for longer	Number of new student opportunities in Devon	UoE (Steve Wallers)	Exeter Chamber Exeter Science Park DCC Devon and Plymouth Chamber	Review annually
Ambition 5.					
Raise visibility and generate greater engagement with the region's innovation assets					
Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner	Other organisations involved	Timetable
Develop dedicated business support provision for Innovation Driven Enterprises related to the Green Futures Innovation Hub.	Ensure regional enterprises can pivot and take advantage of key sectors linked to growth and sustainability	Number of green enterprises receiving business support	UoE (Amy Shaw)	Science Parks ECC	Review annually
Develop a one-front door access for SMEs looking for innovation support.	Ensure all enterprises in Devon know where to go for advice on innovation support	Accessible Innovation support made available to SMEs	Growth Hub (David Hynd)	Chambers SWBC SWMG Growth Hub HRC	Review annually
Increase awareness of the SME-innovation support ecosystem to include new pipelines fostering institutional linkages.	Our business-facing innovation offer needs to be varied, linked and responsive	Devon's innovation support take-up	DCC/IUK (Charlotte Collyer and Layla Burrows)	Chambers SWBC SWMG Growth Hub HRC	Review annually

Appendix 3: Carbon Considered Housing Action Plan

The Devon Housing Commission forms a significant part of this action plan. Upon publication of the DHC report and submission of the recommendations to the Devon Housing Task Force, it will be important to review this document and amend the actions to reflect those accepted recommendations and build on the partnership that has been established.

Overarching Ambition							
Explore and make recommendations to address the housing crisis in Devon by working with the Devon local authorities, the University to establish and support an independent county-wide Devon Housing Commission (DHC). With an independent chair and commissioners, the Commission will hear evidence from academics, experts, and key stakeholders to produce a report with recommendations to the Devon Housing Task Force.							
Ambition 1.							
Develop a Report of a Comprehensive Analysis of Devon's Housing Challenges							
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner(s)	Other organisations involved	Timetable	Progress
1.1	Collate and review existing evidence and data						
1.1.1	Call for evidence	Housing issues impact people all across Devon. The online call for evidence allows broad stakeholder engagement to feed into the final report	Number of responses to the call	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock	DCC, Districts, all delivery group members to share	Call released July 2023, analysed by March 2024	Complete: 509 responses received and analysed with quotes added to narrative of the final report. Breakdown and review of responses available from UoE.
1.1.2	Data Review	There are many different data sources existing on housing in Devon (and nationally). Bringing these together is important to ensure a robust and timely evidence base	A report that is evidence based, timely, and can be relied upon by policy makers and politicians in their housing related work	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Jamie Evans	Delivery group members and other sources of data	Ongoing through DHC	Complete: Data analysed and presented for DHC final report. UoE has extensive data sets that can be collated for a Devon-wide analysis. This could form the basis for a data dashboard on housing.

1.1.3	Literature review	There are many specific reports on housing issues including affordability, rural housing, homelessness, carbon reduction in housing, etc. The DHC needs to use these to inform its work and report	Summary papers on each topic we cover at DHC meetings, to go towards the final report	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock		Ongoing through DHC	Complete: Papers on most subjects covered by the DHC at commission meetings were prepared and circulated to attendees. These are available from the UoE and cover topics such as rural housing. planning, (including a deep dive into the planning situation across the county) and student housing.
1.2	Make policy recommendations and influence social policy change to overcome local housing affordability and supply						
1.2.1	Develop a suite of recommendations from the DHC aligned to the Devon Carbon Plan and report to the Devon Housing Task Force	To propose solutions to mitigate the impacts of the housing crisis that are both ambitious and achievable	Report with recommendations for local and national policy actions is produced	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Natural Environment Team Devon Carbon Plan Delivery Group	Devon Housing Task Force, housing sector professionals, CUA delivery group, Devon Carbon Plan delivery Group	Report submitted in Summer 2024	Complete: Report completed and successfully launched both in Devon and a Parliamentary launch to Devon MPs. Report contains 46 recommendations to government, local authorities and other organisations aiming to ease the housing situation in Devon. Chapter 6 of the report focusses on ambitions in the DCP and partnerships between Devon’s LAs and educational institutions. (Rec 6.1)
1.3	Seek to deliver practical solutions						DHTF currently reviewing the recommendations to determine how to take forward.
1.3.1	Devon Housing Task Force to consider the	To ease the housing crisis in Devon by		Devon Housing Task Force	District Councils,	Review annually	

	recommendations of DHC and develop a further action plan that is owned by a clear governance structure and involves local authorities and external bodies such as UoE, Homes England, NHF, HBF etc	delivering more, high quality, energy efficient, and affordable homes in Devon			housing providers, developers, Devon, and Torbay One Public Estate Partnership, GCAP, Energy Saving Devon, and Southwest Net Zero Hub		
1.3.2	Support Devon Housing Task Force to implement recommendations: From the strategic group should flow pilots, data groups, consultations, research where appropriate etc to ensure progress	Without partnership working across tiers and accessing the expertise in external bodies, strategic responses will be less effective, and a structure will be needed to achieve this	Clear proposals to undertake pilot projects or demonstrators that can test the effectiveness of identified solutions	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Jamie Evans and Kier Duffin	Members of delivery group, others to be identified when relevant	Ongoing	
1.3.3	A strategic Devon-wide approach to implementing the recommendations of the DHC	Having districts, county, and local councils (as well as two NPs) involved in planning strategy can be challenging when consistency is sought, and resources are tight (and consistency is	Number of models identified and implemented	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Jamie Evans	Homes England, NHF, HBF	Review annually	

		key for housing providers)					
Ambition 2.							
Supporting Delivery of Future Construction and Retrofit Initiatives (e.g. Funded Through Devolution 2024 - 2025)							
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner(s)	Other organisations involved	Timetable	Progress
2.1	Support DCC to develop business cases for up to £8m that support the creation of additional housing stock and retrofit and carbon efficiency upgrade of existing housing stock	Using the collated evidence / data to propose business cases that respond to challenges identified in the DHC Report	Business cases developed and mobilisation commenced	DCC – Phill Adams, Keir Duffin, Doug Eltham, Arabella Moore, and Marc Burton		June 2024	Update from DCC:
Ambition 3.							
Increasing the Carbon Efficiency of Devon’s Existing and New Housing Stock							
	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner(s)	Other organisations involved	Timetable	Progress
3.1	Amplify good practice in modern construction and retrofit	To ensure that construction and retrofit remains high quality whilst maintaining affordability and	Produce useful case studies to share with the housing sector, construction supply chain,	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Doug Eltham, Ellen Rodgers, Marc	Devon Housing Commission, Devon and Torbay One Public Estate	Ongoing	

		accessibility of carbon considered homes	local authorities, and other relevant parties	Buton and Keir Duffin Exeter College – Mike Blakely South Devon College – Steve Caunter	Partnership, South West Procurement Alliance, GCAP, Energy Saving Devon, and Southwest Net Zero Hub		
3.2	Develop innovative solutions for green energy to heat buildings	To develop energy efficient and cost-effective heating for homes	Raise awareness of local and national solutions Support research or pilots for innovative solutions	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd, David Hancock, and Alex Huke DCC – Marc Burton and Keir Duffin	Devon Housing Commission, Devon and Torbay One Public Estate Partnership, South West Procurement Alliance, GCAP, Energy Saving Devon, and Southwest Net Zero Hub	Review annually	
3.3	Compile training, careers pathways, and projects supporting the	To increase the pipeline of individuals that support initiatives to	Number of training options, apprenticeship	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock	Devon Colleges, South West Institute of	Ongoing	

	carbon considered housing agenda	increase affordable carbon considered housing stock	s, work placements, and internships	DCC – Arabella Moore and Keir Duffin Exeter College – Mike Blakely	Technology, Housing Associations, Construction Supply Chain		
3.4	Support Skills Bootcamps in Construction and Green Skills	To increase the pipeline of individuals and number of businesses that support initiatives to increase affordable carbon considered housing stock	Number of skills bootcamps in the construction and green sectors in Devon	DCC – Arabella Moore and Kevin Booker UoE – Julia Paci	Skills Bootcamp providers, housing providers, construction firms	Reviewing annually	
3.5	Support the SouthWest Net Zero Hub’s Community Energy Fund	To support the development of affordable energy and efficient homes across Devon	Add relevant actions from the SWNZH green skills report due March 2024	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock DCC – Doug Eltham and Arabella Moore SWNZH – Lara Reutsch		June 2025	

Ambition 4.

Continuing to Collect Data on Local Housing After the Completed Devon Housing Commission Report to Ensure that the Understanding of the Devon Housing Stock Is Up-To-Date and to Ensure that the Data Can Be Used to Inform Local Housing Policy

	Action	Rationale for Action	Measure	Owner(s)	Other organisations involved	Timetable	
4.1	Development and maintenance of a housing data	As a county with numerous districts gaining a clear picture of the issues can be challenging.	Date of last	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd and David Hancock	Districts, Homes England,	Ongoing	Work could now start to develop this

	dashboard with agreed metrics	All agreeing to a common set of metrics to measure progress will be important in gauging success	update	DCC – Jamie Evans, Sophie Francis, and Arabella Moore	housing providers		
4.2	Engage central government, policy makers, and lobbying organisations to effect change that can benefit Devon	There are many housing issues at a national level that are exacerbated in Devon. To make a real impact national policy change may be necessary. For example, the freeze in Local Housing Allowance	Number of engagements at Ministerial and Departmental level	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd, David Hancock, and Marina Altoe DCC – Phill Adams and Jamie Evans		Ongoing	Parliamentary launch held 09//09/24 with 7 MPs, 3 MP parliamentary assistants, Lords’ Minister for Housing Baroness Taylor, and representatives from Devon.
4.3	Identify pilot projects to ease Devon’s housing crisis with involvement from DCC and the UoE – delivering the legacy of the DHC	Partnership working is key to delivering change. The DHC will leave a legacy of important work for the UoE and DCC	TBC – dependent on projects	UoE and DHC – Matt Dodd, David Hancock, and Marina Altoe DCC – Jamie Evans and Keir Duffin		Ongoing	

Appendix 4. Institutional Mission Leads

Mission	Devon County Council Lead	University of Exeter Lead
Thriving Futures for young people	Charlotte Collyer charlotte.x.collyer@devon.gov.uk	Lindsey Anderson l.j.anderson@exeter.ac.uk
Innovation and skills for a sustainable future	Charlotte Collyer charlotte.x.collyer@devon.gov.uk	Andrew Dean A.Dean@exeter.ac.uk
Carbon considered housing for all	Arabella Moore Arabella.moore@devon.gov.uk	Matt Dodd m.dodd@exeter.ac.uk