

Exeter Civic University Agreement Board

23rd October 2023 Summary

Attendees: Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter (Chair); Leader Exeter City Council; Principal and Chief Executive, Exeter College; Director- Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; Divisional Director of Exeter Innovation, University of Exeter; Regional Engagement Manager, University of Exeter (Minutes)

1. **Update on CUA missions**

An online workshop was held in July with a broader group of stakeholders from across the city to consider CUA progress and future priorities. A report of the findings and recommendations from the workshop, along with a progress report, was shared in advance of the meeting.

An update was provided on each of the 5 CUA missions:

Support the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of the City:

- The Exeter Innovation Hub (EIH) in the old Exeter Works space in Princesshay should be finished in December with a launch in January
- There are on-going opportunities for supporting skills development, particularly around green skills and meeting the skills needs of the NHS, working through the SWIoT
- Propose that the Housing Commission be asked to consider the issue of the impact of student accommodation in Exeter

Deliver a Net Zero Exeter:

- The City Council has agreed to take on a leadership / coordination role for partners in the city post-Exeter City Futures (ECF)
- Agreed to organise some workshops on topics such as transport, energy and retrofit, share good practice, see what is practical to do together and develop a delivery plan
- Consider when would be appropriate to update the baseline report that was written by the Centre for Energy and the Environment

Build a City of Aspiration and Opportunity:

- The Urban Learning Academy (ULA) is being led by Exeter College, working with CoLab and other partners in the city to deliver community education across the city
- We are seeking to create a new Devon Education Alliance
- A new "Strengthening Communities" lead, jointly funded by the Ted Wragg Trust and the University, has been appointed to support the development of a Community Hub model for Greater Exeter.
- The University's CPD offer is continuing to expand.

Support an ambitious Culture and Tourism offer:

- The University and Exeter City Council have confirmed 2 years' funding for the Creative Arc - a cultural innovation programme which will help shape place. A Programme Manager has been appointed and a new website and brand is live. The first of six Creative Arc Projects will commence in January 2024

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECC in partnership with the university, will be refreshing their Cultural Strategy in 2024. This will include the use of a new digital platform to engage a range of people across the city. This will be the first “crowd-sourced” informed strategy for ECC. <p>Enhance the Health and Wellbeing of our citizens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The RDUH-led £3m HealthTech Research Centre (HRC) bid has been successful. Funded by the NIHR, the centre will bring academics, clinicians and industry together to provide the evidence needed for medical device approval.
2.	<p>Recommendations to the Board</p> <p>The following recommendations were approved by the Board:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mission 2 should be revised to “<i>Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter</i>” to reflect the importance of the transition to a low-carbon economy, and the role of Green Futures Solutions as a vehicle for the successful delivery of the ambitions associated with this Mission. 2. Ambitions within each of the five Missions should be revised to reflect current priorities, challenges and opportunities across the city and should continue to be refreshed and updated as new social, economic and environmental challenges emerge. 3. Partners should identify opportunities for joined-up ambition, delivery and messaging, between the Exeter CUA and the new Devon County CUA, particularly in areas such as transport and housing where there are clear overlapping priorities. 4. We should continue to embed the broader community voice in the CUA and strive to reduce inequalities and make a difference to the most disadvantaged in society. 5. A summary of Exeter CUA progress reports and minutes should be made publicly available via the University’s Regional Engagement webpages. 6. Establish a joint group to take forward the planning of City Point.
3.	<p>Changing or emerging priorities, challenges and opportunities</p> <p>As all partners are under increasing financial challenges, it was agreed that we should look at opportunities for external funding to support future collaborative work</p>
4.	<p>Progress on related topics</p> <p>Devon County Civic University Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signed on the 23rd October 2023 by the VC and the Leader of DCC <p>Devon Housing Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Commission is continuing to gather evidence to inform future recommendations - It was suggested the Commission Manager should attend the next Board meeting