

Exeter Civic University Agreement Board

6^h May 2025 Minutes

Attendees: **Prof Lisa Roberts**, President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Exeter (Chair); **Cllr Philip Bialyk**, Leader Exeter City Council; **Lorraine Betts**, Executive Office Manager, Exeter City Council; **Dave Tarbet**, Director- Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; **John Laramy CBE**, Principal and Chief Executive,, Exeter College; **Stuart Brocklehurst**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Business Engagement and Innovation, University of Exeter; **Chris Evans**, Divisional Director, Exeter Innovation, University of Exeter; **Dr Lindsey Anderson**, Regional Engagement Manager, University of Exeter (Minutes).

Apologies: **Bindu Arjoon**, Chief Executive, Exeter City Council

| | Agenda Item | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1. | Welcome from the Chair, Professor Lisa Roberts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2. | Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There were no matters arising from the previous meeting <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action</th><th>Status</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Plan a workshop where all partners share their list of ambitions and create a priority list of shared ambitions to progress in anticipation of a future funding call</td><td>Workshop held online in February – conversations have fed into the revised missions and ambitions</td></tr> <tr> <td>The new Low Carbon Delivery Group to look at current procurement arrangements for working with local suppliers and identify activities that can be shared for suppliers to work with all partners</td><td>In progress – Procurement is being discussed by the Heads of Finance of partner organisations and we are seeking to bring Procurement Leads together to discuss opportunities</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ask the Ted Wragg Strengthening Communities Lead to report progress to the CUA Operational Group</td><td>Completed – progress report received</td></tr> <tr> <td>Consider how we progress the Exeter Education Alliance</td><td>JO had intimated the need to maintain a close focus on the city based partnerships - The updated MOU will help to ensure the place-based civic and educational partnership work continues - Date for signing has been aligned with the visit by Minister for Education</td></tr> <tr> <td>LA to link JO with the Student Access and Further Education Relationship Manager</td><td>Completed</td></tr> <tr> <td>UoE to plan to deliver a 3-year Report and launch in the Autumn</td><td>A 3-year glossy highlights report is in development – advice sought from Board on how to launch / socialise</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Action | Status | Plan a workshop where all partners share their list of ambitions and create a priority list of shared ambitions to progress in anticipation of a future funding call | Workshop held online in February – conversations have fed into the revised missions and ambitions | The new Low Carbon Delivery Group to look at current procurement arrangements for working with local suppliers and identify activities that can be shared for suppliers to work with all partners | In progress – Procurement is being discussed by the Heads of Finance of partner organisations and we are seeking to bring Procurement Leads together to discuss opportunities | Ask the Ted Wragg Strengthening Communities Lead to report progress to the CUA Operational Group | Completed – progress report received | Consider how we progress the Exeter Education Alliance | JO had intimated the need to maintain a close focus on the city based partnerships - The updated MOU will help to ensure the place-based civic and educational partnership work continues - Date for signing has been aligned with the visit by Minister for Education | LA to link JO with the Student Access and Further Education Relationship Manager | Completed | UoE to plan to deliver a 3-year Report and launch in the Autumn | A 3-year glossy highlights report is in development – advice sought from Board on how to launch / socialise |
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| 3. | Changing or emerging priorities, challenges, and opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elements of the local electorate are feeling “left behind” | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The University has announced a round of voluntary severance in response to financial pressures across the sector - The Further Education sector is also facing challenges, and Exeter College is exploring a merger with Petroc - Changes in apprenticeship funding is likely to present opportunities for the college, while creating further challenges for the University - The RDUH Trust needs to make savings. A lot of work is being done around the use of AI and digital tools to increase productivity - Targets for waiting lists remain. Virtual wards are being used to increase capacity and deal with the challenge of population growth - The lack of a Mayoral Combined Authority is impacting on the University's ability to innovate and engage with local businesses, putting the region at a disadvantage | | | | | | |
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| 4. | Update on CUA missions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Progress Report was circulated ahead of the meeting - There were no questions or actions arising | | | | | | |
| 5. | Recommendations to the Board The Operational Group sought support from the Board for a number of proposed changes to the CUA missions: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Recommendation</th><th>Board's Response</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> 1. We propose merging Missions 1 & 2, on the basis that (i) a number of ambitions have been completed; (ii) there is currently a lot of overlap between these 2 missions, and (iii) we believe that any growth of the city should be sustainable. - We therefore propose combining Mission 1: Support the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of the City and Mission 2: Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter and creating a new Mission entitled: - <i>Support the City's sustainable and inclusive growth and transformation</i> </td><td> The Board agreed that the Missions 1 and 2 should be combined and that in order to put a low carbon economy at the heart of the revised mission should read: - <i>Support the positive transformation of the city through sustainable and inclusive growth</i> </td></tr> <tr> <td>2. We recommend updating the ambitions within each mission as described in Table 1, to reflect recent progress and current priorities.</td><td>The Board agreed with the recommendations</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | Recommendation | Board's Response | 1. We propose merging Missions 1 & 2, on the basis that (i) a number of ambitions have been completed; (ii) there is currently a lot of overlap between these 2 missions, and (iii) we believe that any growth of the city should be sustainable. - We therefore propose combining Mission 1: Support the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of the City and Mission 2: Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter and creating a new Mission entitled: - <i>Support the City's sustainable and inclusive growth and transformation</i> | The Board agreed that the Missions 1 and 2 should be combined and that in order to put a low carbon economy at the heart of the revised mission should read: - <i>Support the positive transformation of the city through sustainable and inclusive growth</i> | 2. We recommend updating the ambitions within each mission as described in Table 1, to reflect recent progress and current priorities. | The Board agreed with the recommendations |
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| 6. | Update on Devon County CUA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signed 23rd October 2022 at Devon County Hall by the University of Exeter and Devon County Council • The over-arching mission is to support Devon to be a thriving, sustainable and prosperous place to live and work. The agreement focuses on three specific areas that support the overarching mission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thriving Futures for our Young People ○ Carbon considered housing for all ○ Skills and innovation ecosystem to deliver sustainable futures. | | | | | | |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Delivery Groups comprising relevant stakeholders from DCC, UoE, and other relevant organisations from across the county, have been brought together and have co-created an action plan for each mission. • Delivery Groups are meeting termly, with smaller working groups progressing specific actions meanwhile • The Board met for the first time in October 24 • The Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Alliance has emerged from this CUA and has 2 sub-groups which focus on (i) SEMH and (ii) tutoring programmes |
| 7. | <p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newly named Exeter Partnership has some overlapping priorities with the CUA so it was important to ensure synergy and prevent duplication. • The District Heath Network is still progressing. Partners agreed to keep each other updated at each stage of the process. |
| | <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Engagement Team to liaise with the Communications and Design Teams to create resources for different audiences which share successes from the last 4 years |
| | <p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners agreed to continue meeting every 6 months • Next meeting October / November 2025 |



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