

# Exeter Civic University Agreement Board

13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Minutes

**Attendees:** **Stuart Brocklehurst**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Business Engagement and Innovation, University of Exeter (Chair); **Clr Philip Bialyk**, Leader Exeter City Council; **Bindu Arjon**, Chief Executive, Exeter City Council; **Dave Tarbet**, Director- Business, Innovation and Sustainability, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; **Jade Otty**, Vice Principal, Exeter College; **Chris Evans**, Divisional Director of Exeter Innovation, University of Exeter; **Matt Dodd**, Devon Housing Commission Manager; **Dr Lindsey Anderson**, Regional Engagement Manager, University of Exeter (Minutes)

**Apologies:** **Prof Lisa Roberts**, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Exeter; **John Laramy CBE**, Principal and Chief Executive, Exeter College

	Agenda Item	
1.	<b>Welcome from the Chair</b>	
2.	<b>Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting</b>	
	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>
	Plan and deliver thematic sessions with Councillors	Completed – SB delivered several sessions to Exeter City Council members and they were well received. The induction programme for new councillors now includes a session by SB
	Invite the CUA Board members to join the Community Panel in February 2024	Completed – Board members attended the Community Panel meeting in February 2024 at the new Innovation Hub
	Ask the Centre for Energy and Environment when would be appropriate to update the baseline report	ECC have informally requested an update of the GHG and emissions report. It is anticipated that this will be undertaken this summer
	Share the Devon County CUA document with partners	Completed – sent with minutes of previous meeting
	Add an item about the Devon County CUA to the next meeting agenda	Agenda item added to this meeting
	Make a short summary of CUA Board Meeting minutes available on the Regional Engagement Webpages	In progress
	Establish a joint group to inform the development of City Point	CE has spoken with Director of City Development. This will now be actioned post-election, and following a report being considered by elected members
	Invite the Housing Commission Manager to present at the next Board Meeting	MD was in attendance
3.	<b>Update on CUA missions</b>	
	A Progress Report was circulated ahead of the meeting.	
	<b>Support the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of the City:</b>	

- The Exeter Innovation Hub (EIH), has been operational since January 2024:
  - Business support is available from the Hub on Mondays and Fridays, delivering against the SPF targets
  - The space is available for outside meetings and events on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A variety of Exeter partners such as Exeter Chamber is using the space
  - A grant has been secured from Barclays Eagle Lab and they are running sessions for business from the Hub
  - Other University teams using the Hub include the Degree Apprenticeship Team, Help to Grow, Student Employability to provide face to face services to Exeter businesses and partners
- Green Futures Solutions (GFS), is now fully staffed
- New Exeter Innovation business brand was launched in September 2023, increasing visibility and accessibility to the business community in Exeter
- The SW Innovation Expo was delivered with University of Plymouth and Falmouth University. This is a biennial event, with smaller sector-based events planned on alternate years
- Student and graduate entrepreneurs took part in Demo Night events in the City in May
- The CUA is a promise to work together to achieve agreed outcomes, however it was agreed that some things which we will wish to progress together will require additional resources including potential bids for external resources where possible. The four institutions share responsibility for responding to future funding calls, with the most relevant institution taking the lead
- Whilst there is currently not much regional funding available, it was agreed that it is important to have a pipeline of projects to move forward when funds become available, e.g. Deliver the Exeter Net Zero Plan, City Point Development etc

#### Action

- 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

#### Innovate towards a sustainable low-carbon economy for the City of Exeter

- In recent months Exeter City Council (ECC) agreed to take forward the coordination of this mission
- ECC has identified the funding for a 3 year post, and someone has been appointed
- As the CUA Board represents the largest employers in the City, changing our own agendas can make a significant difference to the City
- The Place board and a sub-group of the CUA Board will work with the post holder to look at what each organisation is doing and what is the added value of working collaboratively
- Collaborative research bids could be developed to help answer some of identified challenges
- The District Heating project has funding available now and there is an economic case for progressing this earlier rather than later
- We could aim to reduce the carbon footprint in our collective supply chains, by creating a procurement framework to help buy locally
  - While most local authorities want to work with local suppliers, there is a disconnect as there are so many conditions to working with public sector

#### Action

- 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

	<p><b>Build a City of Aspiration and Opportunity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University and College are currently updating their MOU</li> <li>• The first meeting of a putative Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Education Alliance was recently held, where the expansion of the undergraduate tutoring module was discussed. This might also include FE students, as well as tutoring hubs, with school pupils supporting existing outreach</li> <li>• The University is in discussion with a philanthropic donor, and transport providers about supporting this programme</li> <li>• The Exeter Education Alliance has been paused meanwhile, as there was ambiguity over boundaries</li> <li>• The University's Policy Support Funding is being used to support a Strengthening Communities Project with the Ted Wragg Trust, to develop bespoke Community Hubs in each of their schools. The Project Lead is currently working with each of the schools to understand their specific needs and priorities</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask the Ted Wragg Strengthening Communities Lead to report progress to the CUA Operational Group</li> <li>• Consider how we progress the Exeter Education Alliance</li> </ul> <p><b>Support an ambitious Culture and Tourism offer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Mission continues to progress well and is a good example of partnership working well when resourced</li> <li>• The City's Cultural Strategy is being refreshed and will be crowd-sourced using an App and website survey</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhance the Health and Wellbeing of our citizens:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The University is currently consulting on the development of St Luke's campus, recognising that scale is needed to maintain a medical school and groundbreaking research to attract a high level of clinicians</li> <li>• The University is seeking to make facilities including health facilities such as the sequencing equipment more available to business in the local area. This will make the City a more attractive location for health-related business. This work is being led by a new Director of Technical Services</li> <li>• It was noted that we could be more joined up around progression pathways for young people studying medicine and allied health professions – this is a critical piece of work as many medical professionals seek jobs close to where they are training</li> <li>• The Social Care Skills Escalator has been completed and will be launched in the Innovation Hub in June 2024, and there are plans underway to assess the need for a Health Skills Escalator</li> <li>• There have been several successful collaborative bids between the RDUH and the University, with the latest UKRI Net Zero bid recently submitted</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LA to link JO with the Student Access and Further Education Relationship Manager</li> <li>• UoE to plan to deliver a 3 year Report and launch in the Autumn</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Update on Devon County CUA</b></p> <p>Due to time constraints, this agenda item was not covered in the meeting. The <a href="#">Devon County CUA</a> is available online. An overview is provided below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signed 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at Devon County Hall by the University of Exeter and Devon County Council</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our 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"> <li>○ Thriving Futures for our Young People</li> <li>○ Carbon considered housing for all</li> <li>○ Skills and innovation ecosystem to deliver sustainable futures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Delivery Groups are meeting termly, with smaller working groups progressing specific actions meanwhile.</li> </ul>
5.	<p><b>Update on Housing Commission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Housing Commission came out of the Devon Housing Task Force, comprising members from across each of the Devon Districts</li> <li>• The Commission was tasked to build a picture of what is going on in housing in Devon, model the impact of changes in the County’s population, and make recommendations on a local and national level</li> <li>• The Commission is chaired by Lord Best and comprises 11 commissioners with a range of different skills and background. The Manager is on secondment from Homes England</li> <li>• The Commission started out representing all of Devon, but Plymouth opted out, so it now represents the Devolution Deal Area</li> <li>• The aim was to visit as many of the local authorities as possible, covering different topics. E.g. coastal issues and HMOs in Ilfracombe; rural housing challenges in S Hams; rural homelessness and rental properties in the National Parks; Student housing in Exeter; landowners and stewardship in Teignbridge</li> <li>• The final meeting will be in Torbay, where there will be discussions on regeneration, green construction skills and the Devon Carbon plan</li> <li>• The Devolution Deal and Devon CUA both include the Housing Commission and a commitment to consider recommendations</li> <li>• The Report will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A picture of what's happening in Devon - bringing together the data, and identifying gaps</li> <li>○ The need to create the legacy and monitor the interventions</li> <li>○ The need to make sure planning is supporting the delivery of affordable housing</li> <li>○ Rural and coastal towns</li> <li>○ Delivery restraints - lack of skills and contractors</li> <li>○ Housing with care for vulnerable</li> <li>○ Sustainable housing</li> <li>○ The role for the combined authority</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is role for a research - innovation function that can monitor delivery and bring together the important parts of the jigsaw across the county</li> <li>• The Report will be launched 19th July in Reed Hall, and the Housing task force will look over the recommendations and determine what to do next</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging plans for an Exeter Climate Conference in June 2025</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 4.30-6.00pm at Redcot</li> </ul>