

# Exeter Labour Manifesto

Exeter City Council 2020-21



**Our city, our future**

**“By the time they are an adult, a child born in Exeter today will live in a city that is inclusive, healthy and sustainable.”**

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### “Our city, our future”

*“By the time they are an adult, a child born in Exeter today will live in a city that is inclusive, healthy and sustainable - a city where the opportunities and benefits of prosperity are shared and all citizens are able to participate fully in the city’s economic, social, cultural and civic life.”*

The Tory government has been elected with an 80 seat majority and despite their promise that ‘austerity is over’, cuts will continue for local authorities. Because of the government’s dwindling central grant, Exeter City Council’s revenue budget has been cut by a £3.9 million over the last two years. Further cuts up to 2024 of a further £3.7 million are expected as a result of the gradual abolition of New Homes Bonus and the resetting of business rates.

In spite of these continuing Government cuts, Exeter City Council continues to have one of the lowest rates of council tax in the country. For a band D property (2020/21), the proportion of the tax that goes to ECC is £3.08 a week which the Council uses to fund vital services.

The City Council also has a capital budget, funded through money from developments, the sale of assets which are no longer needed and borrowing. This money can be used to invest in one-off capital projects, such as new buildings and major improvements to public spaces and community facilities, but cannot be used to support day-to-day services or general maintenance of facilities or public spaces.

The City Council have again made significant savings and will have to make further savings between now and 2024 so that our revenue budget from Government will have been reduced by 60% since 2012. This will continue to be a challenge for ECC, when trying to identify funding to invest in our public spaces, community facilities and housing. We believe that Exeter City Council should aim to do more, working with partners such as Sport England, local Police and community groups, to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our city.

## LABOUR'S VISION TOWARDS 2040

- **A leading sustainable city**

Exeter will be a carbon neutral city by 2030 and recognised as a leading sustainable city and a global leader in addressing the social, economic and environmental challenges of climate change and urbanisation. The Exeter of the future will have grasped the opportunities ahead of us today.

- **A liveable & connected city**

Exeter will be a liveable city, with a thriving city centre, within a network of thriving rural and coastal towns and villages. The impacts of growth will be managed and mitigated and communities will lead development, helping to create a city where everyone has access to the places and services which enable them to meet their needs and lead fulfilling lives. Urban planning will protect and enhance Exeter's exceptional natural and historic environment, safeguard its iconic landscape and encourage high-quality contemporary design that complements and enhances the city's heritage.

- **An innovative & analytical city**

Exeter will be a model of strong local democracy. Communities will organise themselves and use their assets and resources to reduce inequalities and create a sense of belonging supported by the city's key institutions. Active, engaged citizens and communities will be empowered to create, share and use data to respond to shared problems and needs. Exeter will be a young people-friendly city and young people will have a meaningful voice in the decisions that affect them and their communities. An innovative and analytical culture will support communities, businesses, civil society and public bodies to work together to solve the city's challenges and achieve its ambitions. The city institutions will work collaboratively and coherently in pursuit of the city's vision.

- **A healthy & inclusive city**

Local services will support people to live their lives well, in ways that matter to them. Every resident will have a home that is secure, affordable and healthy in a balanced and connected neighbourhood that supports wellbeing and reduces social isolation.

Access to clean, secure and affordable energy will help to eliminate fuel poverty. Health, care and wellbeing services will be designed and delivered in partnership with the communities who use them.

- **The most active city in the UK**

Exeter will be the most active and accessible city in England – transport will not be a barrier to economic or social activities and sustainable means of travel will be cheaper, quicker and more convenient than private car ownership. Land currently dominated by driving and parking will be freed up for social, economic and environmental uses and air will be clean and healthy. A high-quality and accessible built environment and green spaces, with arts and cultural facilities, will encourage healthy, active lifestyles.

A comprehensive network of safe routes will ensure that most everyday journeys are made by walking and cycling.

- **A city with accessible world-class education**

Exeter will be agile and innovative, and economic growth will be clean, inclusive and resilient. Local supply chains will be stronger, supporting the city's businesses and social enterprises and keeping more money within the local economy. All residents will have access to world-class education and training, and meaningful, high-quality employment with fair wages. The life-changing benefits of access to and participation in arts, culture and physical activity will be realised. Employers will be able to recruit, nurture and retain a skilled local workforce as well as attracting the best global talent.

- **A city of culture**

Exeter will be known nationally and internationally as a city of culture. It will innovate and lead in the area of the environment, wellbeing, cultural literacy, innovation in creativity and heritage to build a living city where everyone thrives. Under its UNESCO City of Literature status Exeter will become a destination for writers and a city of readers. The city will use the power of literature and language to pursue a set of wellbeing goals to improve life for all.

# LABOUR WORKING FOR YOU

## A Carbon Neutral Exeter

The Special Report on Global Warming (SR1.5) identifies that cities have a duty to act quickly, collectively and concertedly to avoid the worst of the predicted outcomes of climate change. Recognising this responsibility, Exeter City Council has declared a commitment to make Exeter a carbon-neutral city by 2030. This ambition is aligned to the vision for the city and has potential to make a vital contribution to our planet.

Exeter has been playing a role in rising to the critical climate change challenge for some time and the city already has a world-class reputation in climate and environmental research. The Met Office and the University of Exeter inform the international response to climate change every day and Exeter's Local Industrial Strategy sets out the ambition to be the global leader for addressing the challenges of climate change and urbanisation.

Exeter City Council is strongly committed to renewable energy and to playing a part in pushing the boundaries of what local authorities can do to deliver a low carbon future. Over the past decade the Council have pioneered Passivhaus standards in the UK, deployed renewable generation across their public sites and delivered large-scale district heating networks.

The choices we now make about the growth of Exeter are incredibly important and will shape the way we live and our environmental impact for decades to come. The SR1.5 outlines the need for Cities to make significant changes to their urban planning in order to be on a pathway to limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. Its Summary Report for Urban Policy Makers (December 2018) states:

“Urban planning that decreases the long-term reliance on carbon-intensive transportation (e.g. compact, pedestrianised cities and towns) will play an important role in limiting future emissions. Such planning, coupled with policies that encourage zero emission vehicles and modal shifts toward walking, cycling, public transport, as well as shorter commute distances, will be key to decarbonisation. Delivering these policies will offer additional benefits to Cities including reduced air pollution, congestion and road fatalities, and improved health outcomes from more active travel and cleaner air.”

Exeter has the opportunity to show leadership among cities through decisive implementation of new policies and through embracing innovations in:-

- renewable energy generation associated with battery storage
- energy efficiency
- efficient appliances
- electric vehicles
- better public transport and local shared mobility
- active transport
- low-energy buildings
- reduced food wastage
- ecosystem restoration
- more sustainable land-use and urban planning.

Working with Exeter City Futures (ECF), brings together some of the largest employers in the City - Exeter City Council, Devon County Council, Exeter College, the University of Exeter, Global City Futures and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust - alongside a wide range of business and community partners. Through our work with ECF to date we have made the following contributions to climate action:

- Defined a set of clear representative goals for Exeter which reflect the priorities of residents and businesses in Exeter in responding to creating a carbon neutral future.
- Commissioned and published insight reports on Energy Independence and the economic evaluation of creating a sustainable Exeter.
- Established the Exeter Data Mill to bring together data from key stakeholders within the city and making it accessible to start up's, citizens and communities.
- Deployed Exeter Velocities, an accelerator programme aligned with our 12 Goals for the City. Exeter Velocities has assisted in building 34 ventures, generating 17 jobs and brokering 18 City pilots to test new technologies. Alumni include Exeter based businesses Binit, Co-Delivery, Freemovement, and Art and Energy.
- Delivered a range of pilot projects and partnerships to test potential innovation approaches and generate early learning (Heavitree Community Partnership project, Minecraft Challenge, Road Traffic Collision Challenge, NHS key worker redevelopment )

- Set out the steps we need to take to develop a roadmap to meet the carbon neutral commitment in paper entitled Towards a Carbon Neutral Exeter

## **Reshaping our City Centre**

Traditional high street retail continues to face enormous challenges so we need to rethink the city centre to ensure it has a vibrant and viable future. This requires new investment in order to draw people into the centre of Exeter. To do this the City Council is planning a significant £300 million extension of the Bus Station/Leisure Centre site, which will include much needed housing, office space, two new hotels and, at the centre of this new complex, a new civic space and hub next to the St Sidwells Point Leisure Centre.

The vision for the site, which will involve the redevelopment of the lower half of Sidwell Street, includes:-

- 250 housing units on the present Civic Centre site
- A 10 storey four star hotel and a budget hotel
- A new Office Quarter and public space
- Potential to house the relocated Civic Centre
- A mix of housing and retail units fronting Sidwell Street

## **Building great neighbourhoods**

Labour-led Exeter City Council has always sought to work as effectively as possible within the constraints set by this Conservative Government to provide quality housing for our residents. We have been one of the few councils in England to continue to build council housing despite severe restrictions imposed by this Conservative government. After extensive campaigning by the Labour Party, the cap for borrowing for council house building was finally lifted during October 2018. We are now embarking on an ambitious and timely house building programme for social and affordable renting. We are proud to have been named as the council in the strongest position, outside of London, to be able to do this with an ambitious bid of £103 million. This will greatly improve our housing stock for Exeter people. We have commenced this programme with an £18 million house build for 100 homes, which will all be zero carbon.

Since 2013 Labour have completed 3085 homes, of which 645 are affordable. Exeter City Council has also secured social and affordable homes from developers through our planning policy, which is one of the strictest in the country.

Social rented housing is let at the lowest rents by councils and housing associations to those who are most in need. A typical weekly rent for a 2-bedroom City Council flat is currently £76.36, which is less than the equivalent housing association home at £92.23 and far less than the average private sector rent of £178.85 per week.

Affordable rented housing is more expensive than social rented housing but less expensive than private rented. The Tory-Lib Dem Coalition defined 'affordable rent' as 80% of local market rates and restricted funding for new social-rented homes. As a result, the majority of local authorities no longer require developers to build any social-rented homes and only require them to build 'affordable' homes.

However, thanks to Labour, Exeter City Council was singled out for praise by the Homes and Communities Agency for protecting the delivery of new social housing. We require 35% of all developments over 10 houses to be social-rented and shared ownership.

Exeter Labour Group remains committed to providing social and affordable housing and continues to build more council homes. Construction has been completed on Chester Long Court in Whipton which consists of high-quality, low energy council apartments for the over 60s. The Council will complete on 22 homes this year at Bovemoors Lane, Anthony Road and Thornpark Rise. ECC has also established an in-house development company which will allow the council to take on development projects to build more energy efficient housing and to retain profits which were once taken by private developers. We are using this Company to bring forward 44 homes at Clifton Hill, 53 homes at St Loyes (aftercare for the over 55 years old) and redevelopment at the Vaughan Road site to provide 92 homes. All these homes will be to Passivhaus standard to contribute to our 2030 Carbon Neutral objective.

Seventeen poor energy efficient non-traditionally constructed council homes in the Newman Road area have been demolished and are being rebuilt

offering tenants improved quality homes. The project will be completed in September 2020.

The Council is also pioneering approaches to retrofit energy measures to our existing properties – our pilot at Chestnut Avenue has delivered a retrofit Energiesprong solution to six properties – with benefits including a ground source heat pump heating system, insulated wall and roof panels, and photovoltaic roof panels with battery storage facility. Work is now underway to evaluate the pilot outcomes and agree a strategy for the entire Council housing stock. Reducing CO2 emissions significantly and reducing fuel bills by up to 88%. This is a major step in ending fuel poverty for many of our residents.

Exeter City Council is striving towards delivering its Vision for sustainable growth, having successfully secured funding from Homes England to support the Liveable Exeter (Garden City) Programme.

Liveable Exeter will deliver 12,000 new homes for the city and its residents while also supporting the need for a more sustainable and active city to make Exeter a carbon neutral city by 2030 and recognised as a leading sustainable city across the world.

Urban planning will protect and enhance Exeter's exceptional natural and historic environment, safeguard its iconic landscape, and encourage high-quality contemporary design that complements and enhances the city's heritage.

Supporting this vision is the Liveable Exeter Place Board, whose members met for the first time in December 2019. The Place Board involves strategic city partners including the University, Exeter College, Great Western Railway, Stagecoach and Devon County Council as well as the Arts Councils and the Met Office. This board demonstrates the commitment of the Council and its partners to deliver this exciting vision for our city.

With the Liveable Exeter project team now in place we are already driving forward the programme into the next phase. For example, a strategy is being developed to realise net biodiversity gain through new developments contained within our city. These interventions will develop amenities for residents, support our ecosystem and create sustainable and active communities

The City is striving forwards in its Vision to deliver sustainable growth. Building on the vision set out through the Liveable Exeter work, we successfully secured Homes England funding to support the Liveable Exeter programme – which seeks to deliver 12,000 new homes for the city and its resident.

### **Purpose built shared housing**

This accommodation, which is also known as co-living, has the potential to help meet the growing demand for private rented housing. It offers opportunities to pool resources, foster communities and cater for an increasingly mobile workforce. It can provide a good quality housing option for single person households including young professionals, key workers and students who cannot or choose not to live in self-contained homes or HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation). The provision of purpose build shared housing therefore has the potential to help free-up market housing for other households.

The development of purpose built shared housing will be supported, provided that:-

- It is well connected to local services by walking, cycling and public transport.
- It is car-free and supported by a Travel Plan that includes a car club facility.
- Occupation is restricted to students by means of either (a) Section 106 Agreement and 35% of bedspaces are provided (and maintained in perpetuity) as affordable student bedspaces or (b) The developer pays a financial contribution towards the provision of affordable housing off-site. It is supported by a Management Plan.
- It is under single management.
- All units have minimum tenancy lengths of no less than 3 months (There is no maximum length, or break clause).
- It provides communal facilities and services that are sufficient to meet the requirements of residents.
- Convenient access to a communal kitchen.
- Internal communal living space (including dining rooms, lounges)
- External communal living space (e.g. gardens, balconies)
- Laundry and drying facilities

- It is designed so as to be capable of conversion to general purpose housing in the future

This policy will need to be incorporated in the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), in order to amend our existing Core Strategy planning document. We will ensure Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments to the appropriate level are made, charging more in city centre areas and bring forward a policy within the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) to protect the city centre wards ensuring a balanced and sustainable community.

## **Supporting Communities**

We have launched a new Exeter Grants Programme, which will see a grants panel including local organisations and independent advice. This is an exciting launch in which we will be distributing at least £1,065,000 each year in a wide range of community grants.

We have awarded contracts to support community engagement. The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) give advice to residents on a wide range of issues.

We have supported the building of the community centre in Belmont Park; we awarded £80k to St David's Community Centre to allow them to complete their restoration of the top floor and have awarded £50k to Heavitree Park life towards their Community project, while also supporting The Alphington Community Association in building restoration work. Other projects in the pipeline will support the work to create the new Community Hub at Pinhoe Station Road.

At a time of ongoing austerity faced by local authorities, this is one of the largest programmes of grants and community engagement in the South West.

## **Rough Sleeping and Homelessness Strategy**

In September 2019, a revised Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan was released and the Council is working with its key partners to build on programmes tackling and reducing core homelessness.

In order to further expand the pro-active work with people who are street homeless and drive forward the local effort towards meeting the national objective to end rough sleeping by 2027, Exeter City Council was a successful bidder to the government's rough sleeper initiative fund. £830k was awarded and invested into the following development projects:

- a winter night shelter project to support up to 26 persons per night over 6 month period
- a Housing First scheme – to accommodate 15 individuals with dedicated support team for hard-to-house rough sleepers
- a tenancy ready scheme with enhanced support for 10 persons to access housing association tenancies
- 7 units of supported shared accommodation units for women and prison-leavers
- rolling 10 discretionary placements into temporary accommodation
- psychological intervention and clinical supervision service supporting better mental health, rough sleeper co-ordination worker
- a team of 4 specialist navigators to intensively support access for individuals to services.

To date the above services have delivered:

- 188 people prevented from Rough Sleeping through accessing the Night Shelter in 2018-19 and a further 98 from November 2019 to date
- 99 (to date) people supported to move on from the night shelter into more sustainable accommodation
- 14 persons per week (on average) with discretionary Council temporary accommodation placements
- 9 Housing First tenancies let and 5 Tenancy Ready tenancies let with partner RSLs
- 41 homeless people provided with intensive intervention and support under the Navigator Project. 25 of these individuals have been accommodated.

Whilst there was a decrease in the official rough sleeper numbers in 2018, unfortunately Exeter recorded an increase in numbers of people rough sleeping in the city during the recent autumn 2019 count. However, the Council has just been awarded a further £918k government funding to continue with these projects into 2021 tackling rough sleeping in the city.

## **Access to private rented housing**

In March 2019 the Council was also successful in being awarded additional short-term government funding totalling £218k to expand on access to private rented tenancies for households and individuals at risk of homelessness. New private rented sector access services have been developed incorporating financial and tenancy sustainment support initiatives across two delivery agents, ECC's Housing Access Team and St Petrock's Fair Lets social lettings agency. To date these services have delivered 49 new tenancies for homeless persons with ongoing tenancy support where required.

## **Tackling congestion & accessibility**

Traffic congestion is one of the biggest problems facing Exeter today with 40% of car journeys within city boundaries being less than 0.5 kms. A growing population with more people living in, visiting and working in the city mean that this will only become a bigger challenge and a potential inhibitor to future economic growth. Any further development of land for housing and employment will potentially have a negative impact on our road network.

Devon County Council, as the Transport Authority, is responsible for roads, traffic management and road safety. They have worked with us to manage the impact of traffic on the highway network and are implementing a range of congestion management solutions. Increasingly, financial constraints have restricted what can be done to mitigate the impact of continuing economic growth.

As Exeter continues to grow and we build the housing numbers required to support this growth it is critical that we continue to work closely with Devon County Council and our neighbouring authorities via the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESp), to ensure that we can meet our vision of a connected city that is a great place to live. To help address this issue we have created a partnership with key city stakeholders to form Exeter City Futures (ECF), an independent Community Interest Company with a mission to make Exeter congestion free and energy independent by 2025.

ECF is building a strong network of partner organisations who are committed to this mission, setting out specific goals to reduce private car use, to increase shared and active transport and improve air quality.

Census data shows that in 2011 there were 37,000 people commuting to work in the city each day, leading to an increase of 28.5% in Exeter's working-day population.

In 2017, Exeter was named as the fastest growing city in the UK (Centre for Cities). That same year it was named the slowest moving city in the UK with an average speed of just 4.6 mph during peak hours (The INRIX 2017 Global Traffic Scorecard)

Exeter drivers spend an average of 24.9 hours a year sitting in traffic congestion at rush hour (INRIX). Residents in the Greater Exeter area spend around £500 million every year on fuel for their cars. It is expected that 40,000 new residents will be living in the Greater Exeter by 2026 which could add 14,000 car journeys to the roads. A recent survey showed:-

- 66% of people agreed that the impact of private cars needs to be reduced by reducing numbers of journeys.
- Measures to increase the attractiveness of travel by means other than private car has strong support - 90% of responders agreed this is a priority.
- 61% support restrictions on accessing certain parts of the city for certain types or ages of vehicles. Only 27% disagreed.

Exeter City Council receives significant income from its car parks and congestion reduction schemes will have to address any reduction in revenue. We will continue to work with Devon County Council, neighbouring councils and Exeter City Futures to:-

- Create a strong collaborative environment that brings together councils, the private sector and communities to solve jointly the transport and accessibility challenges facing our city.
- Promote and support the use of open data, data analytics and engagement approaches to identify clear challenges to be solved through collaboration, co-creation and social enterprise
- Access innovative solutions to those challenges that meet the needs of people.

However, Exeter is already doing well compared to many other cities:

- The majority of Exeter residents (55%) do not drive to work
- Exeter has the 4th highest proportion of residents who walk to work (22%) with 21,000 people travel by bus every day.
- Exeter has one of the highest proportions of residents who use public transport
- Exeter has good rates of cycling compared to similar cities, with 27.7% of residents cycle at least once a month, although still significantly less than Cambridge, Oxford and York.

## **Air quality**

Air quality has improved significantly across the city, probably due to cleaner vehicles. The majority of the population of Exeter live in locations with concentrations of nitrogen dioxide below the legal levels. However, in recent years the annual average objective for levels of nitrogen dioxide has not been met at a number of places in the city, including Alphington Street, the junction of Blackboy Road and Pinhoe Road, and along the Heavitree corridor into the city. The 24 hour mean PM10 objective of 50µgm-3 was exceeded three times in 2017, up from zero in 2016. In Exeter City Council's Air Quality Action Plan survey the following responses show support for the goals of ECF:

## **Waste and recycling**

Exeter and its residents have an enviable record with regard to household waste. The aim is to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle and we do just that. Our households produce on average 174kg of waste per person according to recent figures. This is the fourth best record outside London. In addition The Materials Reclamation Facility based in Marsh Barton processes on average 30 tons of paper, cardboard, metal and plastic per day preventing it from going into landfill or being incinerated and returning it into a useful raw material from which many useful items are produced including a stage at Glastonbury.

Furthermore we have ambitious plans to introduce a kerbside collection in 2021, collecting paper glass and food waste from the kerbside. It is hoped that this new initiative will increase our recycling rate up to well over 50 %.

Exeter's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) has been operational since July 2014. Operated in partnership with Devon County Council, the facility diverts up to 60,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste away from landfill each year. In 2018 the ERF exported 22,860.8 MW of low-carbon energy to the national grid. Exeter has two zero waste stores (Nourish, The Real Food Store), as well as a local online vegetable delivery service (Veg in a Box) and a farm shop selling some refillable products such as oil (Darts Farm).

## **Green spaces**

Within the city itself, Exeter currently has 334,739 square metres of parks and open spaces. The urban tree canopy in Exeter covers 24.5% of the city area. There are 49 wildflower sites across the city, covering an area of approximately 16,000 square metres. We have added 13 acres of open space to the Ludwell Valley park. We have committed not to build on the Northbrook Golf course and are discussing its future in partnership with the Devon Wildlife Trust. We will return the open green space behind the former Clifton Hill site for the use of the community.

## **Promoting active & healthy lifestyles**

A quarter of the adult population of the U.K. (11.5 million people) are inactive, meaning they do less than 30 minutes of moderate exercise each week. In Exeter, some people are already more physically active than the national average and two years ago Exeter became the most active city in the South West. However, there are certain groups, such as those on low incomes or the unemployed and people living with disabilities, who struggle to be physically active in their everyday lives.

Whilst Exeter is overall a healthy place to live, some areas in the city have poorer health outcomes than others and whilst prosperity overall in the city has grown in recent years the health inequalities gap between the most and least well-off areas has increased. Yet we know that active and healthy lifestyles bring wider benefits to individuals and communities and can help tackle wider problems. In particular, more people leading an active and healthy life could reduce health inequality, tackle congestion, improve community connections and reduce social isolation.

Our challenge is that the most recent Active Lives survey data shows 17% of people (18,900) in Exeter are inactive, taking part in less than 30 minutes a week of physical activity. In total, including children and young people, we estimate that over 30,000 residents are doing less than the recommended 150 minutes of physical activity per week.

There is a widening inequality gap for Exeter communities in terms of health, employment and access to services. Exeter has populations that face social and financial exclusion, particularly in the six wards which are in the top 20% most deprived in the country.

Some groups are at a significant disadvantage. The life expectancy at birth for residents in Topsham is over 86 years. This is more than 12 years greater than for those living in Sidwell Street where life expectancy is just 74.5 years. This is close to the maximum life expectancy inequality (16.7 years) between most and least deprived areas in England.

In December 2017, Sport England confirmed Exeter and the East Devon new town of Cranbrook as one of twelve places selected to work on a ground-breaking new approach to tackle inactivity. Through its 'Towards an Active Nation' strategy, Sport England aims to build healthier, happier communities and to discover a blueprint for tackling inactivity. Around £100million of National Lottery funding will be invested in the twelve pilot areas over four years to make it easier for people in these communities to access sport and physical activity. Competing with over 100 other local authorities in the country, the Exeter and Cranbrook bid was selected as one of the national pilots due to our strong track record of partnership working in the city and the success of programmes such as Active Exeter and Wellbeing Exeter. The commitment of city leaders was also important in making Exeter and Cranbrook pioneering places that lead active lifestyles.

The Sport England Local Delivery Pilot intended outcomes are as follows:-

***Wellbeing Exeter***

- An initial £4.721m investment agreed with Sport England Accelerator Award (Scale and Grow) of £1.79 million to embed physical activity.
- 2,000 new social prescribing referrals: 1,000 with active lifestyle plans
- 20 new community activity groups, a pathfinder award (Test and Learn) of £2.4m for test projects potential to scale up as we learn

about things that get our target populations more active, active environments and travel and a local community built environment transformation programme

- 15 Play Streets bringing communities together
- 3 Community Streets designed for improved walking and cycling
- 3,000 more residents supported to access strategic cycling and walking routes.

### **Active School Communities**

- 10 schools mobilised
- Creation of 10 active school community hubs with families shaping and leading activities themselves
- 2,000 children (of which 700 will be from low income families) participating in new physical activities
- 2 active street neighbourhoods

### **Active Workplaces**

- A community of learning established with 10 target workplaces
- 5,000 employees reached and 500 of least active engaged
- 10 new workplace Active Travel policies in place and demonstrating early increase in the number of staff choosing active community
- 10 new Active Workplace policies /programmes being delivered

### **Active Communities: Wonford**

- A community owned vision for a new Wonford Health & Wellbeing Centre
- A business case detailing options for the mix of uses, partners and overall strategy for the development of the site
- 20 community organisations and hundreds of residents engaged in the design and development of the vision and plans for the future
- Improved usage of the local Sports Centre by local residents
- New community activity session for inactive local residents in Wonford established and led by local people

## **Culture**

In UNESCO's 2019 round of Creative Cities awards Exeter was the only successful UK city and one of only 66 such cities around the world. It is

understood that, subject to making satisfactory reports to UNESCO every four years, Exeter will be able to retain this status for the foreseeable future.

Exeter now has two UNESCO designations. Exeter Cathedral's Exeter Book of Anglo-Saxon poetry, one of only four such manuscripts in the world, was inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2016.

The fact that Exeter gained this success at the first time of asking in a very competitive process underlines the quality, ambition and strength of the City Council's bid. It also indicates the robustness of the partnerships that are being put in place within the city.

The Exeter Canal and Quay Trust (ECQT) was recognised as a partner in Exeter's successful bid, having allocated £500 towards Exeter Culture's costs of drawing up the bid. City of Literature status will place increased significance on ECQT's plans for Exeter Custom House. The successful bid included a proposal that the building should be developed as a literature hub for the City of Literature. It also recognised the Custom House's potential to be a focus for international networks, linking Exeter with other cities and kindred organisations around the world.

Exeter's City of Literature programme is being taken forward through a steering group led by Exeter City Council. Literature Works was represented on the bid preparation steering group and, indeed, prepared the documentation for the bid and this representation is likely to continue. Exeter City Council is the third highest spending local authority on culture. Exeter spends 53p per person against the UK average of 19p. Only the City of London and Middlesbrough spend more per person than we do.

# OUR COMMITMENTS

## Climate & environment

- We will deliver a series of events and engagement activities to identify and explore the barriers and challenges that we must overcome and the types of solutions that can deliver our carbon-neutral aspirations by 2030 and ensure that Exeter remains a healthy, happy and inclusive city.
- We will continue to work with Exeter City Futures and others to stimulate and support innovative solutions to Exeter's biggest challenges, with a mission to make Exeter congestion free and energy independent by 2025.
- We will continue to invest in renewable energy, energy efficiency and recycling projects, to build on our success in reducing the City Council's carbon footprint by a third since 2012. We will continue our commitment to implementing the Air Quality Action Plan (2018). We have reduced emissions by 7.7% and are seventh nationally for low emissions.
- We will work to develop a strategy to realise net biodiversity gain through the new developments contained within our city.
- We will complete our programme for kerb side collection of glass and food waste and convert our council fleet of vehicles to fully electric.

## Building better neighbourhoods

- We will continue our commitment to build new homes, to include market sale, affordable/social rent and private rent, all to Passivhaus standard.
- We will continue to deliver our Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy Action Plan recently securing funding of £917k to support and improve our work.
- We will prevent student development on council-owned land and we will bring forward a new shared housing planning policy recognising the needs of all people requiring homes.

- We will revise the current Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) amounts that developers pay to reflect the current demands of our City.
- We will lobby government to ensure that student housing pay their share of Council Tax.
- We will bring forward our purpose built shared housing policy ensuring CIL payments to the appropriate level are made, charging a higher rate in city centre areas and bring forward a policy within the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP) amending the core strategy planning document to protect the city centre wards ensuring a balanced and sustainable community.

## **Sustainable Transport**

- We will continue, through our representatives on the Exeter Highways and Traffic Orders committee, to seek improvements to pedestrian access at priority locations across the city and the adoption of a comprehensive cycle network plan for Exeter.
- We will continue to support the roll-out of the electric bike and car network through the planning system and all other available means.
- We will work with local bus companies and other interested groups to work with us to design the best possible commercially viable network of bus routes that meets the needs of Exeter's residents and commuters, using all available travel data. We will support local bus companies bids to government for all electric bus network in our city, ensuring that we meet our 2030 targets on carbon reduction and air pollution.
- We have committed to part-funding and supporting the delivery of the new Marsh Barton train station, and will press for the County Council to fulfil their responsibilities.
- We will continue to lobby for improvements to local, regional and intercity rail services such as the reintroduction of the Exeter to

Okehampton line, and continue our support for the campaign to improve the Dawlish line.

- We will lobby Network Rail to improve disabled access to St Thomas Station by installing lifts.
- We will progress and complete work on the new bus station, which is now due to open during the spring of 2021.
- We will continue to review and improve Exeter City Council's own Green Travel Plan and aim to become an exemplar in sustainable travel, and continue our reduction of carbon emissions.

### **Active Exeter**

- We will complete and deliver the new Leisure Centre at Sidwells Point during spring 2021 and produce a new investment plan (Built Facilities Strategy) to improve our other leisure centres, with a focus on the areas of highest need such as Wonford as part of our strategy to reduce health inequality and commence work on a Sports Village at the Exeter Arena site to include a replacement pool for Northbrook and bring other sports to the venue.
- We will offer free swimming in council leisure facilities to all children (under-seven).
- We will continue to invest in our play areas (playing fields, pitches, play areas, parks and open spaces) and work with children, young people (Youth Groups) and families to decide how this is done.
- We will use Sport England funding to enable more people to live active lives in Exeter and reduce health inequalities by supporting those least likely to take part in physical activity.

### **Communities & culture**

- We have invested over £1.065 million in community grants and support development and community-led projects through a city-wide fund.

- We have been awarded UNESCO City of Literature. We have agreed a Culture Strategy and will continue to invest in arts and culture and recognise the benefits that they bring to our communities, economy, education and wellbeing.
- We will engage with organisations and possible partners to bring forward our aspiration for a new entertainment venue.
- We will continue to support the Exeter Youth Strategy for a Young-People Friendly City, where young people's views are heard and responded to.

### **Council economy**

- We will continue to support and expand the City Council's apprenticeship programme introduced by Labour.
- We will continue to increase minimum staff pay in line with the Real Living Wage and will continue to lobby the Government for a fully-funded pay rise for local government employees.