

EDS Priorities Jul26-Jul27

Policy	2025/26 Priority	2026/27 Priority	Amendment	2026/27 Activity
Industrial	Invest and support projects linked to 'clean growth' including clean energy, green finance, sustainable transport and innovations in the circular economy.	Support projects and initiatives linked to 'clean growth' including clean energy, green finance, sustainable transport and innovations in the circular economy.	'Invest' removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	To be provided through inward investment and planning response services.
	Invest and support projects linked to new digital and data innovations, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and drone technology.	Support projects and initiatives linked to new digital and data innovations, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and drone technology.	'Invest' removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	To be provided through inward investment and planning response services.
	Support the development of the Future Flight Innovation Zone (FFIZ) centred on Exeter Airport.	Support the development of the Future Flight Innovation Zone (FFIZ) centred on Exeter Airport.	None	Continued support for FFIZ project.
	Invest and support projects to promote East Devon's renowned food and drink sector, including events and exploring specialist workplace provision.	Invest and support projects to promote East Devon's renowned food and drink sector, including events and exploring specialist workplace provision.	None	Explore Gate to Plate event for Ottery St Mary and support promotion of Cranbrook G2P. Continued support for Taste East Devon.
	Invest and support projects linked to East Devon's Tourism Strategy to promote improved quality, collaboration, sustainability and accessibility across the sector.	Invest and support projects linked to East Devon's Tourism Strategy to promote improved quality, collaboration, sustainability and accessibility across the sector.	None	Projects to be delivered using the council's new £30k annual tourism budget.
	Invest and support projects linked to local farm businesses, including support to diversify.	Support projects and initiatives linked to local farm businesses, including support to diversify	'Invest' removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	To be provided through professional support, planning response services and continued participation on the Farming in Protected Landscapes panel.
Workspace	Lead the delivery of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) programme by investing in the delivery and effective marketing of new commercial space.	Lead the delivery of the Enterprise Zone (EZ) programme by investing in the delivery and effective marketing of new commercial space.	None	Continued delivery of the EZ programme.
	Explore the viability of developing small start-up units on vacant Council-owned land.	Explore the viability of developing small start-up units on vacant Council-owned land.	None	Progress to continue on site viability, with other sites to be disposed of to enable delivery.
	Support the viability of employment allocations by exploring the use of Local Development Orders and working with partners to ensure their development.	Support the viability of employment allocations by exploring the use of Local Development Orders and working with partners to ensure their development.	None	Skypark and Science Park LDOs to be completed.
	Ensure employment and skills plans (ESPs) are produced for larger residential and commercial developments.	Ensure employment and skills plans (ESPs) are produced for larger residential and commercial developments.	None	An ESP support service to be launched through Building Greater Exeter following preparatory work.
	Maintain an online platform to help inform growing businesses about available workspace and link them with relevant commercial agents.	Provide a support service linking up land owners, developers and commercial agents to businesses seeking to grow.	Focus on direct support rather than an online platform.	Support service to be established, backed up by data on supply and demand of commercial premises.
	Invest and support small scale projects to enable underused or undeveloped space to generate new employment opportunities.	N/A	Removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	Proposals will continue to be monitored through the planning process.
Environmental	Provide training and specialist one to one support for organisations seeking to decarbonise, reduce waste and become more resource efficient.	Ensure that East Devon businesses and community organisations can access free and professional sustainability and decarbonisation support services.	Focus on ensuring a service is available rather than directly providing it.	Explore integrating this into wider business support provision or having a standalone 'on-demand' delivery model.
	Explore funding opportunities to provide decarbonisation grant funding to those organisations in most need.	Explore funding opportunities to provide decarbonisation grant funding to those organisations in most need.	None	Explore funding opportunities through Great British Energy.

	Support the reskilling and upskilling of residents into retrofitting and other careers linked to clean growth.	N/A	Removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	Exeter College and DCC will continue to deliver skills courses without UKSPF funding.
	Ensure that large scale employment development is coupled with sustainable travel options.	Ensure that large scale employment development is coupled with sustainable travel options.	None	Continue delivery of the Mosshayne to Cranbrook cyclepath and continue viability assessments for additional projects.
	Provide retrofitting grants to households in poverty who cannot access support from other schemes.	Provide retrofitting grants to households in poverty who cannot access support from other schemes.	None	Exeter Community Energy will deliver this through the Action on Poverty Fund.
	Support projects which seek to directly link climate action and nature recovery with our local culture and tourism offer.	Support projects which seek to directly link climate action and nature recovery with our local culture and tourism offer.	None	Projects to be delivered using the council's new £30k annual tourism budget and £37.5k annual culture budget.
	N/A	Explore projects to help decarbonise the East Devon Business Centre, to help lower running costs and increase tenancies.	New priority	Business cases to be developed and put to Green Team.
Social	Develop proposals to support high streets and regenerate town centres, focusing on sustainable retail and an attractive social offer.	Explore projects to support high streets and regenerate town centres, focusing on sustainable retail and an attractive social offer.	Focus on projects rather than proposals.	New Town Centre Officer Group (TCOG) to be formed to gather data and identify projects.
	Lead on the delivery of town centres for our new communities to improve pride in place.	Lead on the delivery of town centres for our new communities to improve pride in place.	None	Continued delivery of Cranbox initiative.
	Fund cultural and leisure projects targeted to improve the lifestyle offer for young adults and promote the existing offer more widely	Fund cultural projects targeted to improve the lifestyle offer for young adults and promote the existing offer more widely.	Leisure removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	Projects to be delivered using the council's new £37.5k annual culture budget.
	Help coordinate employment support for economically inactive residents of all ages, including specialist support for those with disabilities.	N/A	Removed to reflect loss of local growth funding.	DCC will continue to fund the Honiton Employment Hub without UKSPF funding.
	Develop a new business support programme for young entrepreneurs, including voluntary and mentorship for those at or near retirement	Continue to deliver the StartSmart programme, linking entrepreneurs with mentors, professional start-up support, small grants and workspace.	Wording amended to reflect the scope of StartSmart.	Continued delivery of the StartSmart programme.
	Promote succession plan options for business owners nearing retirement which promote resilience and innovation.	Promote succession plan options for business owners nearing retirement which promote resilience and innovation.	None	Continued promotion of the Employee Ownership Transition Fund.
Resource	Produce a Customer Charter committing the Council to providing quality public services to local businesses which offer value for money	Produce a Customer Charter committing the Council to providing quality public services to local businesses which offer value for money.	None	Continued development of the Customer Charter, ensuring this is applicable to businesses.
	To ensure a responsive and efficient planning service for businesses and commercial developers.	To ensure a responsive and efficient planning service for businesses and commercial developers.	None	Continue to deliver.
	Continue to provide an agile and approachable inward investment service to land high-value, aspirational employers.	Continue to provide an agile and approachable inward investment service to land high-value, aspirational employers.	None	Continue to deliver.
	Establish regular briefing sessions to keep local businesses up to speed on changes and updates from the council.	Establish regular briefing sessions to keep local businesses up to speed on changes and updates from the council.	None	Briefing sessions to remain focussed on LGR.
	Ensure that East Devon businesses and start-ups can access free and professional business support services.	Ensure that East Devon businesses and start-ups can access free and professional business support services.	None	A new business support service will be established to succeed Prosper.

EDS Indicative Workplan Jul26-Jul27

Activity	Type	Policy Priorities	Cost	Budget	Resource	Officer
Continue to fund retrofitting grants to households in poverty.	Contract management	Environmental (P4)	£129,913	Action on Poverty (internal)	Low	Benefits and Financial Resilience Manager
Continue to fund a professional business support service, including for start-up and farm businesses.	Contract management	Resource (P5), Environmental (P1)	£70,000	Business Support (internal)	Medium	Economy Projects Officer
Explore a Gate to Plate event for Ottery in 2027 and continue promoting the Cranbrook Gate to Plate event for Sept26.	Contract management	Industrial (P5)	£5,000	LABGI	Medium	Senior Economic Development Officer
Continue to bring forward stalled employment sites through the Employment Delivery Project Team.	Programme	Workspace (P2, P3)	Unknown	PWLB	High	Corporate Lead - Major Projects & Programmes
Delivery of a new internally funded Culture Programme, including the Creative East Devon Fund grant scheme.	Programme	Social (P3), Environmental (P5)	£37,500	Culture (internal)	High	Cultural Producer
Continued delivery of the Enterprise Zone programme	Programme	Workspace (P1)	Unknown	EZ funding	High	Project Manager (PAC)
Continue to establish Local Development Orders for Sky Park and the Science Park.	Programme	Workspace (P3)	Unknown	None	High	Project Manager (PAC)
Continue feasibility work and projects stemming from the Exmouth Placemaking initiative.	Programme	Social (P1)	Unknown	Exmouth Placemaking (internal)	High	Project Manager Place & Prosperity
Delivery of a new internally funded Sustainable Tourism Programme, including continuation of the East Devon Tourism Network.	Programme	Industrial (P4, P5), Environmental (P5)	£30,000	Tourism (internal)	High	Senior Economic Development Officer
Continue delivery of the StartSmart Programme for entrepreneurs, including the mentoring scheme and small grant fund.	Programme	Social (P4), Resource (P5)	£25,000	Business Support (internal)	Medium	Economy Projects Officer
Continue promoting the Employee Ownership Transition Fund to increase take-up of employee ownership succession plans.	Project	Social (P5)	£5,000	Business Support (internal)	Low	Economic Development Manager
Finalise a Customer Charter which is applicable to businesses as well as residents.	Project	Resource (P1)	N/A	None	Low	Economy Projects Officer
Continue delivery of the Cranbox development.	Project	Social (P2)	£1,950,742	Devolution funding	High	Project Manager (PAC)
Continue briefing sessions for local businesses on local government reorganisation.	Project	Resource (P4)	N/A	None	Medium	Senior Economic Development Officer
Establish a support service linking up land owners, developers and commercial agents to businesses seeking to grow.	Project (NEW)	Workspace (P5)	N/A	None	High	Economic Development Manager
Work with Exeter College to establish an Employment and Skills Plan support service through Building Greater Exeter.	Project (NEW)	Workspace (P5)	N/A	None	Low	Economic Development Manager
Deliver decarbonisation projects for the East Devon Business Centre.	Project (NEW)	Environmental (P6)	Unknown	Green Team (internal)	Medium	Economy Projects Officer
Establish a Town Centre Officer Group (TCOG) to gather data and identify small scale projects.	Project (NEW)	Social (P1)	N/A	None	Medium	Senior Economic Development Officer
Continue to provide planning application responses for proposals with economic development implications.	Service	Workspace (P4)	N/A	None	Low	Economic Development Manager
Continue to provide an agile and approachable inward investment service, with a focus on Industrial Strategy sectors.	Service	Resource (P3), Industrial (P1, P2)	N/A	None	Medium	Economic Development Manager and Senior Economic Development Officer