

**EDS Progress Tracker Jul25-Jan26**

Policy	Priority	Progress	RAG	Progress Notes
Industrial	Invest and support projects linked to 'clean growth' including clean energy, green finance, sustainable transport and innovations in the circular economy.	Ongoing		This sector was given priority status in round 4 of the IRF, with 1 project from this sector being supported in this round.
	Invest and support projects linked to new digital and data innovations, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and drone technology.	Ongoing		This sector was given priority status in round 4 of the IRF, but no projects from this sector were supported in this round.
	Support the development of the Future Flight Innovation Zone centred on Exeter Airport.	Ongoing		Focus remains on drones for public and emergency services, with further work on air taxis being developed. EDDC has been approached for a drone trial but this opportunity has not been explored further internally.
	Invest and support projects to promote East Devon's renowned food and drink sector, including events and exploring specialist workplace provision.	Ongoing		This sector was given priority status in round 4 of the IRF, with 1 project from this sector being supported in this round. A Gate to Plate event is planned for Cranbrook on 13 Sep26.
	Invest and support projects linked to East Devon's Tourism Strategy to promote improved quality, collaboration, sustainability and accessibility across the sector.	Ongoing		EDTN delivered 2 more events and now has 138 members. Procurement to continue delivery of the network is being completed in January. Active Nature theme developed by specialised content on Visit Devon website. Continued support to the SW Visitor Economy Hub and LVEP representation.
	Invest and support projects linked to local farm businesses, including support to diversify.	Ongoing		This sector was given priority status in round 4 of the IRF, with 2 projects from this sector being supported in this round.
Workspace	Lead the delivery of the Enterprise Zone programme by investing in the delivery and effective marketing of new commercial space.	Ongoing		Onyx site, Skypark now completed. Demand for space at the Skypark has picked up since March 2025.
	Explore the viability of developing small start – up units on vacant Council – owned land.	Ongoing		Feasibility study for Cloakham Lawns undertaken, seeking to prepare a planning application for the site for submission in summer 2026. The Harepath Road is currently being marketed, with multiple offers for the site received, a decision will be made on the sale at the end of January 2026. Preperation work continues for the Hayne Lane site.
	Support the viability of employment allocations by exploring the use of Local Development Orders and working with partners to ensure their development.	Ongoing		Stalled as resource has been allocated elsewhere. Looking to complete Skypark LDO and Science Park LDO in next 6 months. Amendments to the Power Park LDO are now complete.
	Ensure employment and skills plans are produced for larger residential and commercial developments.	Ongoing		No further ESPs supported. Work with Building Greater Exeter (Exeter College) to prepare for emerging Local Plan policies is progressing well, with a support service to commence later in 2026.
	Maintain an online platform to help inform growing businesses about available workspace and link them with relevant commercial agents.	Ongoing		In-house development of the Commercial Property Register is no longer being pursued. Project has now been changed to collecting commercial property supply data and insights via CoStar platform. Contract signed end of Dec and onboarding in January.
	<i>Invest and support small scale projects to enable underused or undeveloped space to generate new employment opportunities.</i>	Starting soon		This was targeted in round 4 of the IRF, with 8 workspace projects supported, forecasting 80sqm in commercial floorspace to be created and 301sqm of floorspace to be improved.
Environmental	Provide training and specialist one to one support for organisations seeking to decarbonise, reduce waste and become more resource efficient.	Ongoing		The Carbon Action Programme came to an end on 31st Dec 2025. Some ongoing support is available through the Prosper business support programme. Since July, 69 organisations have received one to one support and training and 20 have received individualised carbon footprint surveys and action plans. 10 businesses receiving green support through Prosper between Mar-Nov25.
	Explore funding opportunities to provide decarbonisation grant funding to those organisations in most need.	Ongoing		Delivered through the Carbon Action Fund 2, supported 15 projects – 7 businesses and 8 community organisations. 82t of carbon savings expected per year.
	Support the reskilling and upskilling of residents into retrofitting and other careers linked to clean growth.	Ongoing		Retrofit Programme being delivered by Exeter College until March 2026. Final spend used to support a Level 5 Retrofit cohort, as well as schools engagement, introductory courses in solar and heat pumps,

				and teacher training in green construction. 11 additional learners have completed courses, with the pushed back start date for the Level 5 qualification moving output achievement to the next quarter.
	Ensure that large scale employment development is coupled with sustainable travel options.	Ongoing		Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans now adopted. Sections of Clyst Valley Trail are progressing in partnership with DCC (Mosshayne Lane) and initial part of Mosshayne Lane - Station Road shared path is 90% complete (final surfacing in June). Concept proposals for West Clyst - Broadclyst active transport route (B3181) are being prepared (joint commission EDDC, Broadclyst PC and DCC). Feasibility study for bridge over railway north of Cranbrook is about to commence (led by NT Killerton), and costed concept plans for active transport links from Cranbrook to Broadclyst have been prepared (by NT).
	Provide retrofitting grants to households in poverty who cannot access support from other schemes.	Ongoing		Currently in discussion with Exeter Community Energy Advice regarding the terms of the contract and number of households helped, looking at a minimum of 45 households supported. The aim is for the project to be up and running by the time of the next update.
	Support projects which seek to directly link climate action and nature recovery with our local culture and tourism offer.	Ongoing		3 projects aimed at climate action and nature recovery through the third round of the Creative East Devon Fund.
Social	Develop proposals to support high streets and regenerate town centres, focusing on sustainable retail and an attractive social offer.	Ongoing		This work has been put on hold to free-up officer time to support LGR. This will be picked up again from 2026/27.
	Lead on the delivery of town centres for our new communities to improve pride in place.	Ongoing		Preparation continues on the Cranbox site in Cranbrook town centre, but this scheme is delayed as EDDC have not taken ownership of the site yet.
	Fund cultural and leisure projects targeted to improve the lifestyle offer for young adults and promote the existing offer more widely	Ongoing		4 projects aimed at young people supported through the third round of the Creative East Devon Fund. No specific projects targeting young adults.
	Explore the viability of innovative projects to provide housing for young professionals in our coastal and market towns.	On hold		No updates from last time.
	Help coordinate employment support for economically inactive residents of all ages, including specialist support for those with disabilities.	Ongoing		There continue to be high referral numbers into the Honiton Employment Hub, with caseworkers having a full load. Since the start of the financial year, 155 individuals have been supported, 70% of whom identify as having a disability. 48 people supported have entered either employment or self-employment.
	Develop a new business support programme for young entrepreneurs, including voluntary and mentorship for those at or near retirement	Starting soon		Project brief completed. Relevant documentation prepared. Due to launch in Feb 2026.
	<i>Promote succession plan options for business owners nearing retirement which promote resilience and innovation.</i>	Starting soon		The Employee Ownership Transition Fund launched in Aug25 with 1 expression of interest completed, against a soft target of 5 recipients by the end of 2029.
Resource	Produce a Customer Charter committing the Council to providing quality public services to local businesses which offer value for money	Starting soon		No updates from last time.
	To ensure a responsive and efficient planning service for businesses and commercial developers.	Ongoing		The planning service continue to work closely with business and commercial agents to shape the new Local Plan to meet the needs of the local economy and responding to pre-app enquiries and planning applications for growth in a timely manner.
	Continue to provide an agile and approachable inward investment service to land high-value, aspirational employers.	Ongoing		Ongoing conversation with high-value drone operator currently on hold due to UK regulation barriers and lack of support at identified suitable site on private land. Local businesses looking to expand to other East Devon locations like Budleigh and Seaton.
	Establish regular briefing sessions to keep local businesses up to speed on changes and updates from the council.	Starting soon		LGR event to inform and consult the business community held in November 2026.
	Ensure that East Devon businesses and start-ups can access free and professional business support services.	Ongoing		Prosper2 has supported 13 businesses and 7 entrepreneurs since Jul25.