

Section 1: EDS Progress Tracker Jan25-Jul25

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		Nothing since IRF3, IRF4 to launch soon, with awards due in Aug. Interconnector project is progressing well, with prep on the expansion area underway.
	Invest and support projects linked to new digital and data innovations, such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and drone technology.	Ongoing		Nothing since IRF3, IRF4 to launch soon, with awards due in Aug.
	Support the development of the Future Flight Innovation Zone centred on Exeter Airport.	Ongoing		£200k carried over into this FY, with focus turned to drones and air taxis. FFIZ partnership actively seeking East Devon partners to trial drone projects.
	Invest and support projects to promote East Devon's renowned food and drink sector, including events and exploring specialist workplace provision.	Ongoing		A Gate to Plate event planned for Cranbrook in 2026. G2P in Exmouth went very well. Taste East Devon prep has started for Sept. New Rockfish in Sidmouth to open in Autumn. Early prep on moridunum site in Seaton.
	Invest and support projects linked to East Devon's Tourism Strategy to promote improved quality, collaboration, sustainability and accessibility across the sector.	Ongoing		Marketing campaign for the cultural tourism map. Two EDTN meetings so far this year.
	Invest and support projects linked to local farm businesses, including support to diversify.	Ongoing		Nothing since IRF3, IRF4 to launch soon, with awards due in Aug. Three Farming in Protected Landscapes grant awards totalling £48,658 in one panel meeting.
Workspace	Lead the delivery of the Enterprise Zone programme by investing in the delivery and effective marketing of new commercial space.	Ongoing		Onyx sites nearly completed, prep has started on a third site at Skypark (office and workshop) to come forward in 2026. Demand for space at the Skypark has picked up since March. Prep continues on the Cranbox site.
	Explore the viability of developing small start – up units on vacant Council – owned land.	Ongoing		Progress on Cloakham Lawns and Hayne Lane (working through viability constraints). Disposal of Harepath Road a likely option. Redgate site nearly ready, with handover expected in July with around 50 early enquiries for the four units.
	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 required.
	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) will start soon to prepare for emerging Local Plan policies.
	Maintain an online platform to help inform growing businesses about available workspace and link them with relevant commercial agents.	Ongoing		An Options Appraisal has been developed by Strata and will be reported back to ELT soon.
	<i>Invest and support small scale projects to enable underused or undeveloped space to generate new employment opportunities.</i>	Starting soon		To be included in IRF4. IRF4 to launch soon, with awards due in Aug.
Environmental	Provide training and specialist one to one support for organisations seeking to decarbonise, reduce waste and become more resource efficient.	Ongoing		An extension for the Carbon Action Programme contract has been authorised for the CAF2 grant scheme. 8 new EDCAP signups Jan-March. THG have also been running carbon literacy training for freelancers and residents.
	Explore funding opportunities to provide decarbonisation grant funding to those organisations in most need.	Ongoing		Funding has been secured through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, CAF2 to launch in Autumn25.
	Support the reskilling and upskilling of residents into retrofitting and other careers linked to clean growth.	Ongoing		Training through the UKSPF Retrofit Programme concluded in March, with 75 learners in Q4. Prep continues for the scaled down 2025/26 provision. Officers continue to support this work through the Green Skills Advisory Panel.

	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, and feasibility study for bridge over railway north of Cranbrook is about to commence (led by NT Killerton).
	Provide retrofitting grants to households in poverty who cannot access support from other schemes.	Ongoing		Difficulties getting the agreements ready for the Action on Poverty Work have continued, with external legal support now provided. Hoping for signatures in the next couple of months. Support through the Housing Support Fund has also been made available.
	Support projects which seek to directly link climate action and nature recovery with our local culture and tourism offer.	Ongoing		8 Creative East Devon Fund projects were delivered in the final quarter of 24/25 on this topic. Also seeking to embed findings from Exmouth Festival decarbonisation pilot in 2024 to the new Events Strategy.
Social	Develop proposals to support high streets and regenerate town centres, focusing on sustainable retail and an attractive social offer.	Ongoing		A Town Centre Officers Group is to be formed to prepare us for future funding opportunities. The Exmouth placemaking plan, work should be concluded by end of calendar year. Further progress has been made on projects identified in the Axminster and Seaton Regeneration Strategies.
	Lead on the delivery of town centres for our new communities to improve pride in place.	Ongoing		Town centre masterplan has been concluded for Cranbrook, work underway on designing health and wellbeing centre on land acquired through EZ.
	Fund cultural and leisure projects targeted to improve the lifestyle offer for young adults and promote the existing offer more widely	Ongoing		Hyrox for leisure being supported (82% under 50 and 48% young adults vs Pickleball where 84% were over 50). 10 Creative East Devon Fund projects were delivered in the final quarter of 24/25 on this topic.
	Explore the viability of innovative projects to provide housing for young professionals in our coastal and market towns.	On hold		No progress. On hold for 2025/26.
	Help coordinate employment support for economically inactive residents of all ages, including specialist support for those with disabilities.	Ongoing		89 people supported at the Employment Hub in Honiton from Jan-Mar. This facility will continue to be funded in 2025/26.
	Develop a new business support programme for young entrepreneurs, including voluntary and mentorship for those at or near retirement	Starting soon		Prep work has started for a new provision which combines pre-start business support with mentoring, small grants and potential use of the East Devon Business Centre.
	<i>Promote succession plan options for business owners nearing retirement which promote resilience and innovation.</i>	Starting soon		Employee Ownership Incentive Scheme to launch in Aug25.
Resource	Produce a Customer Charter committing the Council to providing quality public services to local businesses which offer value for money	Starting soon		The Charter work is tied into a wider cultural piece and will be on hold until this wider work progresses further.
	To ensure a responsive and efficient planning service for businesses and commercial developers.	Ongoing		Refreshed the pre-app policy/pricing schedule, with new 50% discount for small units (100sqm) agreed in May. Dedicated planning officer for larger developments. More face-to-face meetings with applicants on difficult apps, with EcDev attending.
	Continue to provide an agile and approachable inward investment service to land high-value, aspirational employers.	Ongoing		Two specific high-value enquiries since January, although these are not close to being landed yet.
	Establish regular briefing sessions to keep local businesses up to speed on changes and updates from the council.	Starting soon		Early preparatory work has commenced, with a forum styled event earmarked for November 2025.
	Ensure that East Devon businesses and start-ups can access free and professional business support services.	Ongoing		5 businesses supported through Prosper in Q4 due to support running out. The GetSet East Devon service (an interim provision between Prosper and Prosper2) has also been fully spent, supporting 16 businesses and 5 entrepreneurs. Prosper2 procurement has started.