

## STRATEGIC SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -19 November 2020

### CLLR RACHEL SUTTON – DEPUTY LEADER & PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NET ZERO EXETER 2030

#### Update on Portfolio Holder Priorities in relation to COVID-19 Recovery.

<b>Net Zero Exeter</b>	<p>Officers of the City Council and Exeter City Futures (ECF) has participated in a number of the City recovery groups. The Net Zero Exeter 2030 goals were confirmed as a core principle of Exeter's Covid-19 Recovery Plan. Each of the seven recovery groups considered and put forward actions that support the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan and included in the City Recovery Plan.</p> <p>ECF held the Net Zero 2030 Open Conversation online, with 100 people attending, with input from businesses, politicians, community organisations and residents, which confirmed Exeter's positive appetite for the Net Zero Plan early in Covid-19 lockdown. During lockdown ECF also held discussions on issues around local food &amp; logistics, with plans to develop a local food plan for the city.</p> <p>ECF launched an interactive lockdown map in May 2020, inviting residents to highlight positive changes that they have seen, what they would like to keep, and their ideas about how Exeter could be improved for life after lockdown. To-date over 600 responses have been recorded on the interactive map. The data is available for public use and by Exeter City Futures as a tool with Devon County Council about how this can continue to inform their transport and travel measures.</p> <p>Led by the University of Exeter an informal group has been established working on city green recovery. Attended by the Director for Net Zero and City Management, this group aims to map Covid-19 recovery and net zero plans of key city organisations against the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan's goals and tracks building usage data. They will identify how Exeter is moving towards the net zero target, where carbon is being saved, where best practice can be shared, where there are gaps and opportunities to do more to meet net zero, and share calls to actions for other organisations to focus their efforts for greatest return on their investment in reducing carbon emissions. Once time and resources allow, other opportunities will worked on, such as shared travel, building and land use, energy sourcing and other procurement could be possible.</p> <p><u>Skills agenda (including low carbon construction &amp; retrofit skills)</u> Exeter Works</p> <p>As part of the activity for the Business Support strand of the Exeter Recovery Plan, the Exeter Skills Advisory Group, discussed actions required to respond to the pandemic, particularly at the end of the Furlough scheme in late October. An online portal was deemed most appropriate, with all relevant and appropriate local</p>
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offers needed to be brought together to support individuals seeking employment or re-training, and for businesses that want to re/up-skill their staff or want to support people through the redundancy process.

Exeter Works <https://exeterworks.org/> is a joint initiative with Exeter Chamber of Commerce and was launched 22 October 2020, as part of Exeter Chamber's ReFocus virtual seminars.

#### Kickstart

Exeter City Council are acting as a Gateway Organisation for the Government Kickstart scheme.

Kickstart is a 6 month placement for a minimum of 25 hrs per week, for a young person aged 16-24 who is currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. Exeter City Council will receive £300 per young person it places into a Kickstart placement, which will fund a New Kickstart co-ordinator post. The business employing the young person must be able to develop the young person's skills and experience, including:

- support to look for long-term work, including career advice and setting goals
- support with CV and interview preparations
- supporting the participant with basic skills, such as attendance, timekeeping and teamwork

The first batch of Kickstart placements were submitted to DWP w/c 26 October, with an expected 4 week turnaround.

#### General

Digital Skills was identified as one of the key asks in the City recovery plan. There is some additional work to do around the 'journey / life cycle' of digital skills – the basics (those needed just for everyday life) through to Digital and Tech careers. This is a piece of work that cuts across every part of the City Council and all of our customers. The City Council are an active partner of the Heart of the South West Digital Skills Partnership.

The Exeter Skills Advisory Group is working the HOSW LEP to ensure that priorities for Exeter in relation to employment and skills are addressed in the LEP Skills Strategy, and the Devon County Council Skills Recovery groups.

#### Building Greater Exeter

Due to Lockdown Building Greater Exeter has created a number of assets to support schools in promoting careers in construction. These include the online 'Education Hub', which offers a wide selection of engaging activities and educational resources for different age groups; video assets to promote different careers in construction and fact sheets. They also launched their own YouTube channel to share videos produced by them and their partners.

Since the spring, they have been attending a number of virtual events including a resettlement fair for military service leavers, a

conference for Career Leads from secondary schools across the SW and an apprenticeship show.

They are in the process of mapping out the major construction projects across Greater Exeter, so they can determine the number of trainee and apprenticeship workplace opportunities in order to help connect employers to the right people.

Devon Wide

Climate Emergency Response Group and Net Zero Task Force  
Both the Climate Emergency Response Group and The Net Zero Task Force have continued to meet. The groups have sought to ensure that the Devon and Exeter Recovery plans have green recovery embedded into them from the start. The Draft Interim Devon Carbon Plan is due to be put out to consultation by DCC in December through to January.