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	e Plan - Areas of Focus - Half Yearly Progress Report - May 2026			APPENDIX A
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4	Intended outcomes	Areas of focus	Progress - May 2026	Owner
5	<p>A thriving, diverse and resilient city which can adapt to changing conditions.</p> <p>An increase in independent shops and a low level of empty shops. A vibrant cultural and tourism offer.</p> <p>A safe and thriving night-time economy.</p>	<p>To achieve this our strategic efforts will focus on partnership work to deliver a City Centre Strategy and support regeneration and investment across the city.</p> <p>We will focus on building capacity and capability to work at national and regional levels to encourage growth, regeneration and inward investment.</p>	<p>City Development continue to support city centre vitality through a positive approach to regeneration, enabling flexible uses and facilitating schemes that contribute to increased footfall, cultural activity and reduced vacancy rates.</p> <p>There was a public consultation for the City Centre Strategy and the Culture Strategy, with the final Strategy's being recommended for adoption at September Executive and October Council 2026.</p>	Director of Place
6	<p>Health inequalities will reduce.</p> <p>Communities will be more resilient.</p> <p>More residents, including those from our priority neighbourhoods and communities, will be participating in leisure and cultural events and activities.</p> <p>A safe and thriving city with great things to see and do for everyone.</p>	<p>To achieve this our strategic efforts will focus on partnership work alongside our priority neighbourhoods and communities. We will work to ensure the provision of sustainable cultural, leisure and enrichment opportunities. We will secure and expand the work of the Sport England Place Partnership and Wellbeing Exeter, and we will address anti-social behaviour through the Exeter Community Safety Partnership.</p>	<p>The new Exeter Community Safety Charter was launched March 2026.</p> <p>The City Centre Community Safety Team pilot was approved by Council January 2026 to be made permanent and to increase to cover the whole of Exeter. Team has been recruited into with training being undertaken and to provide the new team with the necessary powers to address Anti-Social Behaviour across Exeter. Four new priorities for Safer Exeter, the Community Safety Partnership, were agreed by Safer Exeter March 2026 for the next 3 years. Action Plan developed to deliver the 4 priority themes.</p> <p>The Local Active Lives survey highlights a small increase in inactivity in those on the lowest incomes within priority neighbourhoods. Activity levels for ethnic minorities and women have increased.</p> <p>The Wonford and KGV schemes to improve community sport and playing field facilities have been agreed with budget through an extraordinary council, they are now proceeding to delivery.</p> <p>The Newtown Active Travel Scheme is under construction, with a new walking and cycleway through the Triangle Car Park being delivered</p> <p>A successful project to improve Green Circle signage and awareness delivered with city stakeholders and Great Western Railway.</p> <p>An enhanced programme of work within Wellbeing Exeter, includes delivering outcomes for women and young people currently not in employment or education. This is in addition to the core Wellbeing Exeter programme that continues to focus on addressing inactivity and supporting communities in priority areas.</p> <p>City Development continue to support healthy and inclusive communities through place-making, ensuring new development contributes to accessible spaces, community infrastructure and environments that encourage wellbeing and participation.</p>	CX and Director of Place
7	<p>Better quality, energy efficient and more affordable homes to buy or rent.</p> <p>New housing developments that are well integrated into existing communities.</p> <p>Fewer people will be homeless or in temporary housing.</p> <p>The number of people on the social housing waiting list will reduce.</p>	<p>To achieve this our strategic efforts will focus on working in partnership to deliver the Exeter Plan and Liveable Exeter sites. We will secure investment for building more social housing and reduce rough sleeping and the number of people in temporary accommodation, enabling more people to find sustainable housing.</p>	<p>Vaughan Road Phase A completed in September 2025 offering 35 additional 1 & 2 bed units</p> <p>Vaughan Road Phase B due to commence on site in July 2026 anticipated completion late 2027 offering 16 additional 1 & 2 bedroom units</p> <p>Laings commenced March 2025 anticipated completion March 2027 offering 7 new family homes.</p> <p>Fewer people will be homeless or in temporary housing.</p> <p>Data from MHCLG 'data for insights dashboard' has the following information on households in TA at the end of the relevant period</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan – Mar 26) – 108 households</p> <p>Quarter 3 (Oct – Dec 25) – 99 households</p> <p>The number of people on the social housing waiting list will reduce.</p> <p>Quarter 4 (Jan- Mar 26) Exeter had 2,004 applications recorded on Devon Home Choice</p> <p>Quarter 3 (Oct – Dec 25) Exeter had 1,932 applications recorded on Devon Home Choice</p> <p>Whilst we have not yet shown a reduction in households on Devon Home Choice nor those in Temporary Accommodation the figures have remained reasonably static for a period of time.</p> <p>Housing Needs and Homelessness restructure was completed on the 1st April which saw the formation of an 'Early Intervention and Prevention Team' and a dedicated casework service that will support all potential approaches from customers including those rough sleeping.</p> <p>The focus of the early prevention team will be to drive the 'Prevention First' agenda, in line with the National Plan to End Homelessness. This will mean that we would expect to see an increase in early preventions (prior to statutory action), a reduction in approaches at crisis point (statutory casework) resulting in a reduction being placed into Temporary Accommodation. Those that do require temporary accommodation work is underway to commission a framework agreement for providers to enter in if they wish which will raise the quality and standards of accommodation which will be in place from Qtr. 4.</p> <p>As part of a focused proactive approach to early prevention, the team will be regular reviewing applications on Devon Home Choice for those awarded lower bandings with a view to exploring viable alternative housing pathways such as private rented and supported accommodation improving our prevention outcomes much earlier on.</p>	<p>Director of Place</p> <p>Director of Housing and Operations</p>

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8	<p>A city taking action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>A Net Zero Carbon City.</p> <p>Well-maintained parks, open spaces and biodiversity across the city.</p>	<p>To achieve this our strategic efforts will focus on working in partnership to reduce carbon emissions, by supporting the delivery of District Heat Networks, securing affordable clean and secure energy for the city and bringing forward an Electric Vehicle Strategy for the city.</p>	<p>The City Council has been awarded Silver Status for delivering Carbin Literacy training across the City Council.</p> <p>The City Council's costed Carbon Reduction Plan was approved by Executive April 2026, the first of its kind across Local Authorities in England, a pioneering project developed by the Centre for Energy and Environment at the University of Exeter. Delivery is through existing Service Plans, as well as successful external grant funding.</p> <p>The Net Zero team are leading on the procurement of 511,000kw of new solar panels, to be installed on Exeter Arena, St Sidwell's Leisure Centre, Wonford Leisure Centre, the Guildhall Car Park and Exeter Bus Station. This will avoid 91,668 pf co2 emissions per year.</p> <p>The Riverside Leisure Centre Decarbonisation Project is in its 2nd year, with work being undertaken to finalise surveys and plans for the replacement of the roof and the decarbonisation of its heating system. The Riverside Leisure Centre is one of highest carbon emitting building and was eligible for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) funding, with £3.3m being awarded to be spent by March 2028.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Exeter Territorial Greenhouse Gas Inventory report (2023) (latest data available) shows that Exeter has continued its steady decline towards Net Zero, with total GHG emissions in Exeter for 2023 reducing by an estimated 8% (by 38.0 kCO2e to 436.3 kCO2e) from 2022. •The Exeter Partnership Climate and Nature Theme Group brings together representatives from organisations, businesses and community groups to work collaboratively together to deliver the Net Zero Exeter 2030 Plan. The quarterly meetings have focused on: nature and biodiversity; energy; and the circular economy. •The GWR/Green Circle Project aimed to connect the city's railway stations with the Green Circle trail, encouraging visitors and citizens to take the train rather than drive (reducing carbon emissions). The project was successfully delivered time and within budget, as part of the national Railway 200 celebrations (celebrating 200 years of the modern railway), and was highly commended at the Exeter Sustainability Awards. •Nature Towns and Cities Accreditation: Exeter City Council is leading Exeter's Nature Towns and Cities accreditation application with support from partners including Devon Wildlife Trust, the University of Exeter and the Met Office. Successful accreditation will result in Exeter being designated a 'Nature City'. The project is currently in the engagement phase with more than 1,000 people taking part in the recent 'Wild Exeter' survey through the Engage Platform. Focus groups and workshops are taking place over the coming months. •Great British Spring Clean: Exeter City Council joined Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean providing litter picking equipment and promoting the initiative through its networks and communications channels. Held between 13 and 29 March, community groups, schools and individuals took part in the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign by pledging to pick up litter in their neighbourhoods. <p>Through planning policy and development management, City Development is embedding Net Zero and biodiversity objectives into new development, supporting the delivery of low carbon, climate resilient growth.</p>	<p>Director of Place</p>
9	<p>A balanced budget achieved by focusing on priorities, efficient delivery of services and sustainable income generation.</p> <p>Effective investment and maintenance programmes for the assets that underpin our business.</p> <p>Delivery of cost effective and accessible customer focused services enabling more people to self-serve when and how they want with a face-to-face offering for those residents who need it.</p> <p>Staff and members who feel valued, supported and equipped to achieve the best they can for residents and stakeholders.</p> <p>Open and transparent decision-making.</p>	<p>To achieve this, we will work within our Code of Corporate Governance, to ensure good practice in financial services, governance and staff and Members health and wellbeing.</p> <p>We will actively communicate and engage with residents and communities and seek their views on projects and initiatives in line with our Consultation Charter.</p> <p>Equality and diversity will be a priority to ensure we meet our legal duties and promote inclusion in all that we do.</p>	<p>Good progress has been made in strengthening how the Council supports, engages and develops its workforce. A more structured approach to workforce oversight is being introduced through monthly KPI and action reporting, ensuring consistent monitoring of risks, trends and actions across services and supporting more transparent, evidence-based decision-making.</p> <p>Improvements to employee experience are underway, including the rollout of enhanced performance management arrangements through iTrent, development of a learning and development system, and implementation of a new Occupational Health service. At the same time, HR capacity and capability has been strengthened through recruitment and a more structured HR Business Partnering model, enabling more proactive and strategic support to services.</p> <p>A wider programme of organisational development and engagement is progressing, including LGR staff engagement activity, strengthened communication channels, and leadership development to support managers to lead through change and uncertainty.</p> <p>Progress is also being made in advancing the Council's equality, diversity and inclusion agenda, with delivery of the EDI plan, development of inclusive policies and training, and improved use of workforce data to monitor outcomes and inform future action.</p> <p>Progress is being made to implement the Consultation and Engagement Strategy, establishing clearer standards, strengthening coordination across services, and promoting more inclusive, evidence-based engagement with residents and stakeholders.</p> <p>Balanced Budget</p> <p>The Government completed its Fair Funding Review, reforming the allocation of grant funding to English local authorities from 2026/27 based on updated assessments of relative need, area costs, and resources. This resulted in the first multi-year Settlement in a decade, covering the period from 2026/27 to 2028/29.</p> <p>As a result of the Fair Funding Review, the anticipated reductions of £3.5m for 2026/27 were no longer required. This enabled a balanced budget to be set using previously approved reductions and a number of straightforward budgets adjustments that do not affect service provision.</p> <p>For the first time, a flexible use of capital receipts strategy was approved, allowing capital receipts to fund expenditure that would ordinarily fall to revenue. This provides flexibility to support the transitional costs associated with Local Government Reorganisation.</p>	<p>CX and Director of Corporate Resources</p>