



Outline Recovery Plan

1. Introduction

This plan sets out our approach to recovery planning in the immediate aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic. Regional, strategic recovery arrangements will be put in place by, and overseen by, the Devon Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Resilience Forum. This plan focuses on a place-based 'Exeter' response as we oversee the transition from crisis management to turnaround and recovery planning.

'Will our cities, businesses and communities ever be the same again?' is a question that will come increasingly to the fore as we begin to emerge from the peak crisis phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The scale and breadth of disruption – affecting all aspects of life in all communities – and its rapid onset will make post-crisis turnaround and recovery uniquely demanding. The national response to recovery will not be designed and determined with specific places in mind. The reality is that consequences and impacts of the pandemic and its aftermath will play out very differently across regions, cities and communities.

Recovery planning needs to consider whether there will be 'new-normals' post-Covid-19 – i.e. economic, societal and environmental changes that require different types of intervention to the place-shaping strategies pre-crisis.

A concerted effort will be required to pull together local evidence and a place-based recovery plan. Having key players willing to share ownership of the plan is crucial - principles and priorities should be aligned across agencies and funding streams.

This plan sets out how the city and sub region have firm foundations in place to underpin recovery plans. It proposes an initial set of principles that underpin the strategy. It sets out proposals for a series of recovery groups, the purpose of those groups and some of the key players that are critical for their success. Finally it identifies a number of operational arrangements that will be critical for practical implementation of the plan.

2. Firm foundations for recovery

Prior to the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic it is important to highlight that Exeter has a strong place-making record and ambitious plans and programmes are in place to support the city and its communities. The scale and range of initiatives should provide a backdrop of confidence for all those working on the recovery. Importantly, they offer existing and new investors positive prospects for a successful future. Examples of some of those firm foundations are:

- A strong track record of productivity and growth
- Strong strategic and multi-sector collaboration
- An outstanding educational sector
- A Garden City designation with an agreed 12,000 homes transformational housing strategy – Liveable Exeter
- Future development plans in place and current projects underway e.g. St Sidwell's Point and new bus station
- Publication of the roadmap to a carbon neutral city by 2030
- One of twelve Sport England Local Delivery Pilots
- An established Analytical City approach
- Alignment with the Heart of the South West Industrial Strategy
- The emergence of the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan
- UNESCO City of Literature designation
- Emergence of Exeter Chiefs and Sandy Park as major Premiership stadium and conferencing facility

3. Our principles of recovery

We will:

1. Work on the basis of a 'build back better' strategy, avoiding sub-optimal quick fixes or 'replacement recovery' that recreate the pre-Covid-19 status quo
2. Aim for innovation and transformation, seeking progress on key priorities for the city, for instance: the climate emergency, clean inclusive growth, health and wellbeing, community cohesion, inequalities and cultural growth
3. Plan with robust evidence of damage and needs assessment, setting 'build back better' development or transformational goals and outcomes
4. Increase resilience for future pandemics (and other societal crises)
5. Collaborate with regional and sub-regional arrangements and our neighbours and showcase success in innovating and collaborating for shared outcomes

6. Work with our communities to understand local issues and ensure co-delivery of this plan

4. Our recovery areas

The following is an initial list of the key areas to focus on in recovery.

Business support

Construction and development

City centre

Transport

Visitor economy

Community wellbeing

Education