

## Annual Accountability Statement 2025/26

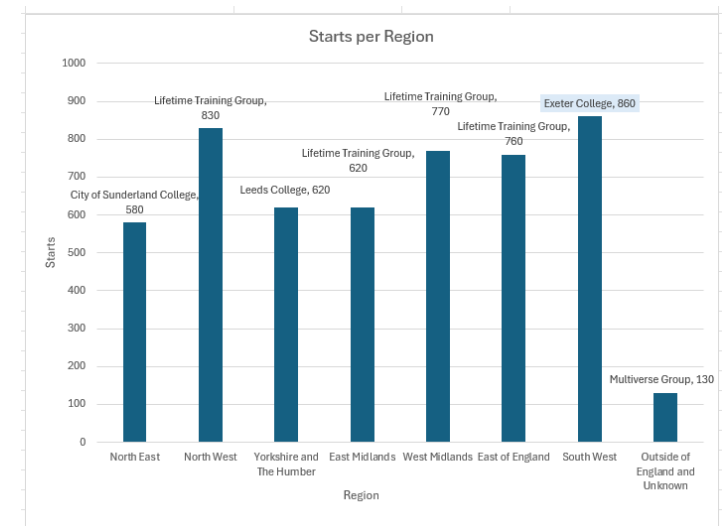
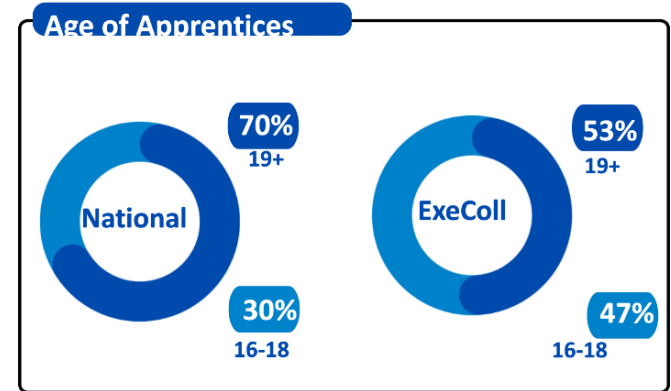
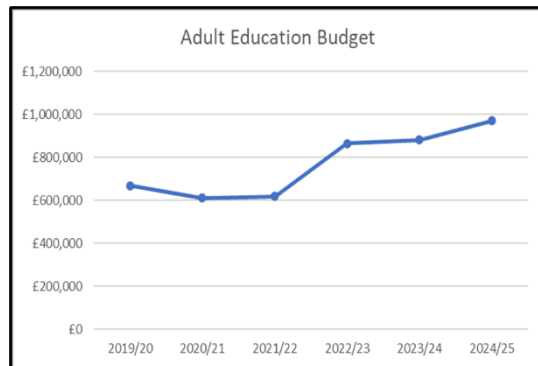
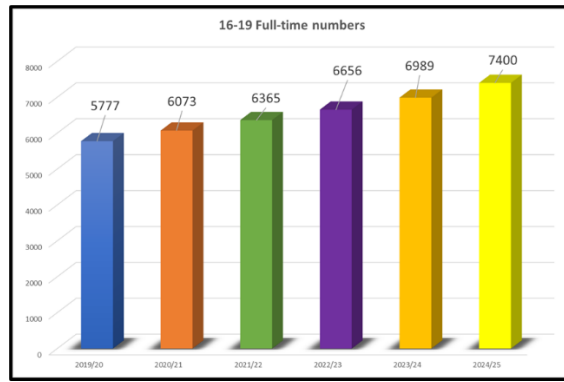
### Introduction

Welcome to the new annual Accountability Agreement for Exeter College for 2025-2026. In section one we have illustrated the sign off process and how we triangulate this internally and externally. In section two we will briefly reflect how we made progress against each of last year's targets. In section three we will share our new targets agreed by the board. Finally, in section four, we will show how we are meeting our 'Local Needs Duty'.

### Updated Contextual Changes Since Last Year's Statement

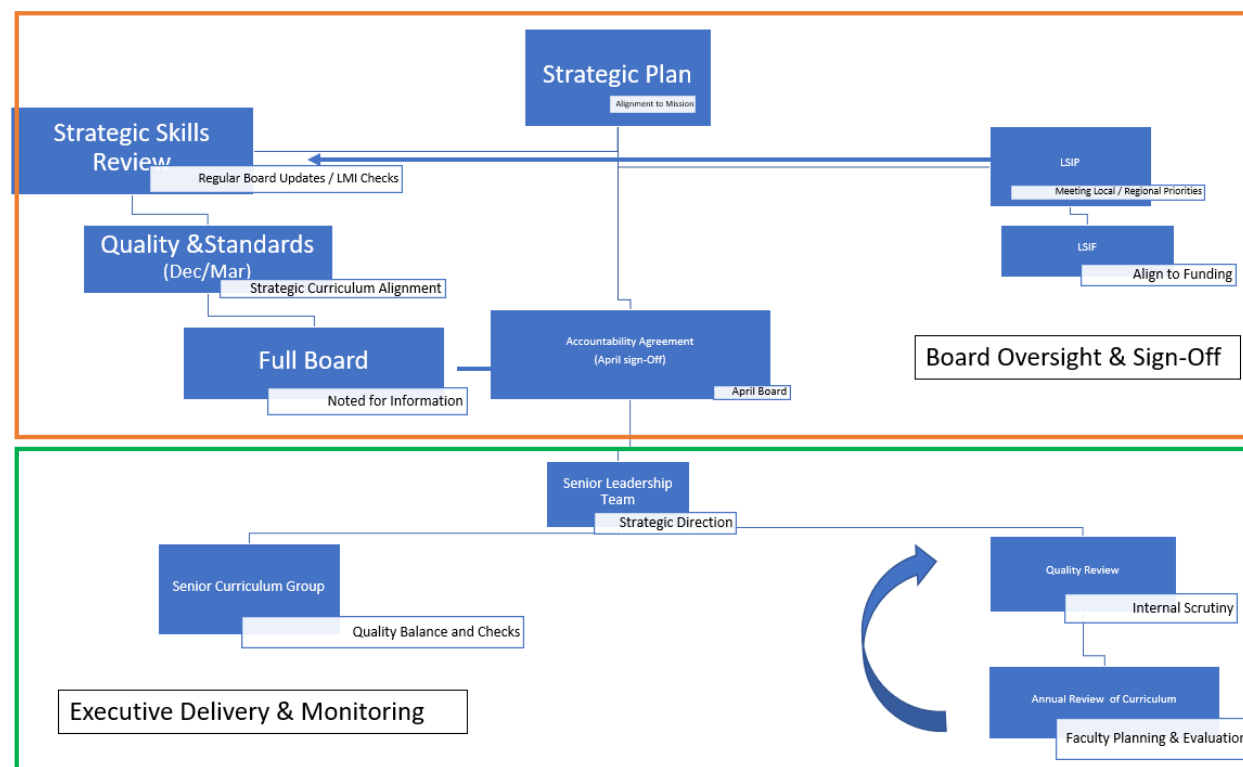
1. There is a **continuing increase in 16-19 learners** reflecting the current demographic trend locally (with anticipated peak being 2029/30). In 2024/25 we grew by c350 16-18 learners, and at time of writing have a further 5% increase in 16-18 school leaver applications for 25/26.
2. We continue to face **significant pressures on sufficient space to meet our growth in numbers, particularly in specialist technical areas**. For example, in Sept 2025 our 16-18 learner numbers in construction grew by a 30%, engineering by 16% and hospitality by 14%. These technical areas also all grew in apprenticeship numbers. We have used our available resources to ameliorate space shortages, **for example leasing additional construction space in Sept 2025. However, in construction in particular, demand and local skills need is growing at a faster rate than our capital resources can meet**. Our utilisation average score is c12% above DFE norms (and significantly higher in construction), and our lease costs for 24/25 rose to £585,00.
3. There is once again a **significant increase in Education Health Care Plans in Devon** and a growing need for more targeted focus on learners with Social Emotional & Mental Health needs. High Needs learner numbers have increased 40% between 2022 and 2024 and are expected to continue to rise.
4. Our **apprenticeship delivery grew by over £1m in 24/25 and is budgeted to increase to £10.1m in 25/26**. Achievement rates for 24/25 are significantly above national averages (projected to be at c.75% end of year).
5. Due to the success of our new adult offer we have experienced an increase in community and adult learning in the last few years. In 2023/2024 the college delivered 120% its allocated Adult Skills Budget. For 2025/26 our revised allocated **ASF has been confirmed as being 70k below our previous funded delivery**. We are therefore having to review and reduce our delivery despite continued local need and demand.

## Our Core Business – Education & Training



## Section 1: Accountability Agreement Process

The College Board agreed a clear protocol for signing off and delivering the Accountability targets. This aligns our internal processes with external skills plans. The content is discussed at the Annual Strategic Conversation with the DfE. The targets will be signed off by the Board for ratification and submission to the DfE in June. The process is a live flow, with constant information being fed in and back to through various internal and external balance and checks.



## Section 2: Update on 2024/25 Agreed Targets

The Previous Annual Agreement Statement Targets are attached below, we have included a column to update on whether planned actions were achieved. Please note the Board do not need to officially sign these off as they are triangulated in the annual strategic conversation by the DfE.

Delivery Area / Dimension	Purpose	Aim	Success Measure Target	Progress update
Local Skills Needs	Meeting the local skills needs in Green & Sustainable construction and Engineering.	To develop a new curriculum, offer in retrofit insulation, heat pumps installation, and engineering to support district heating networks.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a dedicated space for this provision at the Future Skills Centre.</li> <li>2. Deliver up to 50 courses in installation.</li> <li>3. Further develop the employer voice through GCAP.</li> <li>4. Realise a capital investment via the new skills plan for Devolution.</li> <li>5. Deliver the Aerospace Engineering Apprenticeship.</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved – NB now GSAP</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved</p>
Foundation Learning & Inclusion	To deliver exceptional education and training that fulfils individuals' ambitions	To develop a new curriculum that meets the changing needs of our younger learners transitioning with Special educational needs, and high levels of Social, emotional and mental health needs.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A redesigned curriculum offer that has more phases of differentiated and targeted delivery to reflect the needs of the learner.</li> <li>2. Establish a new faculty which has a sharper focus on learners with these needs.</li> <li>3. Explore a phase two of 'The Hill' building which provides facilities that enable learners with SEN to thrive at the college.</li> <li>4. Explore a new project in partnership with Devon County Council that will</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved – Connect suite of curricula opened Sept 2024</p> <p>Achieved – creation of 'FLI' Sept 2024</p> <p>Achieved- secured funding for building planned for Sept 2026</p>

			create a new space for learners with high levels of SEMH.	Achieved without DCC support through lease partnership with ECCT. NB will need a new location for 2026.
The Sixth and Work-based Learning (Construction – 16-19 & Apprenticeships)	To be essential to the region's skills development strategy, by shaping agile and forward-looking training and skills for the benefit of Apprentices, Employers and Stakeholders	To increase our capacity to meet the growing need of construction skills.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a new space in the current construction centre to meet the needs of the growth in trade areas.</li> <li>2. Ensure the new space accommodates green skills in line with the LSIF.</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved – Construction Innovation Centre leased Oct 2024</p> <p>Achieved – new air-source heat pump training hub opened in Construction Training Centre</p>
The Sixth and Work-based Learning (Engineering – 16-19 & Apprenticeships)	To deliver exceptional education and training that fulfils individuals' ambitions	To develop a new composite curriculum to meet employer demand and align with curriculum reform.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Convert a current 'dead' space into a composite and design space.</li> <li>2. Evolve the current curriculum to ensure the students will have the skills to progress into apprenticeships and the world of work.</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved – composite lab opened in Technology Centre</p> <p>Achieved</p>
Adult & Community Learning (ESOL)	To deliver exceptional education and training that fulfils individuals' ambitions	To ensure our ESOL learners and staff have a high-quality learning environment.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will lease a new space that will ensure ESOL learners have the right environment to thrive.</li> <li>2. We will refurbish the space to the very best standard and ensure the IT facilities are match fit.</li> <li>3. We will consolidate the offering of ESOL to ensure the 16-19 learners benefit from the subject expertise that adult learning learners current receiving.</li> </ol>	<p>Achieved – Brittany House leased</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>Achieved – ESOL moved to PAL faculty</p>
The Sixth	To inspire young people in our region	To ensure the accommodation in	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We will continue to implement plans for e new £12m building to replace</li> </ol>	Achieved – CLS building due to open Autumn 2025

	through the provision of an inclusive and ambitious curriculum which is an engine for social mobility.	Humanities, Social Sciences and law are the very best for our 16-19 learners.	<p>unfit accommodation for our sixth form learners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. We will ensure the curriculum is co-designed with external partner and stakeholders.</li> <li>3. We will design a building with state-of-the-art facilities to ensure we drive ambition through our community and meet the needs of the students progressing into Advanced Level studies at Exeter College.</li> </ol>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Achieved – new build to include debating space, outdoor and indoor collaboration and study space and sculpture gallery</p>
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### Section 3: New Targets Agreed by the Board for 2025-2026

Delivery Area / Dimension	Strategic action link	Aim	Success Measure Target
National and local skills need – construction	To collaborate with the region's business community to deliver current and future workforce solutions	<p>Develop a centre of excellence for the specialist roofing pathways to support regional skills</p> <p>Diversify our bootcamp delivery to include training on new construction technology</p> <p>Develop our Green Skills curriculum to include higher level studies</p> <p>Increase capacity in construction facilities to meet demand for 16-19, apprenticeships and bootcamps</p> <p>Ensure coordinated approach with employers to meeting construction skills need in our region</p>	<p>Begin delivery of apprenticeship standard in Roofing (tiling) pathway and plan for additional pathways in roofing skills (cladding and/or waterproof membrane roofing)</p> <p>Deliver new bootcamps in plumbing installation air source heat pumps</p> <p>Create and deliver level 5 retrofit coordinator qualification.</p> <p>Short term: Develop mezzanine floor for the Construction Innovation Centre (leased) and modify the Retrofit Centre to increase learning space in current facilities.</p> <p>Longer term: scope out plans and funding sources for construction site of sufficient scale to meet training demand.</p>

			Take on leadership the Building Greater Exe construction network
National and local skills need – health	<p>To collaborate with the region's business community to deliver current and future workforce solutions</p> <p>To inspire learners with industry-standard resources and professional learning environments</p>	<p>To create higher level health courses that meet NHS local need</p> <p>To create industry standard facilities for higher level health curriculum</p>	<p>Deliver L3 Bootcamp in health for the RDUH.</p> <p>Deliver Assistant Practitioner course in Sept 2025 for RDUH pilot cohort.</p> <p>Establish HE partner and write foundation degree ready for delivery of Nursing Associate standard in 2026/2027.</p> <p>Plan a training ward facility (to meet NMC requirements) for delivery of nursing courses.</p>
National and local skills need – engineering	To collaborate with the region's business community to deliver current and future workforce solutions	<p>Ensure advances in vehicle technology are embedded across appropriate courses to support skills development</p> <p>Continue to evolve our curriculum offer in Aerospace Engineering to meet industry needs.</p>	<p>Increase skills bootcamp delivery of courses related to Electric vehicle maintenance</p> <p>Include exposure to new hydrogen technology in motor engineering curriculum</p> <p>Plan how to maintain delivery of sixth form training in aerospace specialism if curriculum reform removes specialist L3 qual to meet need of local partners.</p> <p>Seek approval and deliver Category A License training and/or qualification.</p>



			Explore HEI partnership opportunities to enable learners to top-up (to Level 6) their HNC/D in Engineering.
Local skills need – hospitality and catering	To collaborate with the region’s business community to deliver current and future workforce solutions	Develop and shape an Apprenticeship offer to meet Industry needs in the SW	<p>Deliver new apprenticeship standard in butchery</p> <p>Deliver new bootcamp in hospitality management</p> <p>Develop new space for delivery patisserie</p>
Adult tailored learning – meeting job vacancies in Exeter	Maintain an inclusive curriculum that enables adult learners to achieve future goals	Pilot a codesigned programme with job centre plus for job seekers in the city	Deliver careers builder programme to support work readiness
Sixth form - Local rising demography need	Create nurturing learning environment	<p>Increase no of classrooms for 16-18 learners to meet predicted demographic peak of 2029/30</p> <p>Increase specialist science facilities to meet growth in Science A levels and technical health science routes.</p>	<p>Open CLS building for delivery in Autumn 2025</p> <p>Create two new classrooms on Queen St site</p> <p>Plan additional science labs to increase science and health capacity</p> <p>Plan for new adult learning base so to reduce lease costs and rationalise 16-18 spaces to allow for maximised group efficiency.</p>
Sixth form – High Needs learners	To provide an offer that is vibrant and inclusive that supports learners to flourish	Plan for new space for Sept 2026 to increase HN	Increase allocation by 100 of element 3 HN learners as part of collaboration with DCC on new HILL build

		Collaborate with DCC to help them meet HN gaps in non-private provision	Pilot new FLI course for HN adults to support independent living Sept 2025
Apprenticeships – 16 - 18	To be essential to the region's skills development strategy, by shaping agile and forward-looking training and skills for the benefit of Apprentices, Employers and Stakeholders	Create provision that's in line with both government and employer need under the banner of Foundation Apprenticeships to increase take up of young persons on Apprenticeships	Successful launch of Foundation Apprenticeships in 2 out of the following 3 vocational areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Con</li> <li>• Eng</li> <li>• Health</li> </ul>
Bootcamps – Skills development for employers	To collaborate with the region's business community to deliver current and future workforce solutions	Evolve boot camp to align with employer / skills needs within the region	Secure approval to provide wave 6 Bootcamps for DCC  Increase delivery in 2025/26 by 10%  Develop and deliver 20 bootcamps across Con, Professional Services, Engineering, Hospitality, Data and Digital, Creative, Healthcare and Technical.

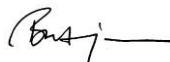
#### **Section 4: Local Needs Duty**

The college received a 'Strong' judgement in its enhanced Ofsted inspection in 2023. We believe this reflects our ambition to meet local and national skills needs and secure suitable skilled employment for learners and apprentices. Our performance in terms of delivering volumes of regional Apprenticeship starts, outside of Greater London, is unmatched. The city of Exeter is ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in terms of size, but **Exeter College is the joint top provider nationally of FE-based Apprenticeships** in terms of starts. We continue to build on the success of the **Devon Colleges Group** to maintain an agile and complementary offer for the County with our partner colleges in the region. This group will also make us well-placed to maximise the opportunities and efficiencies in the coming devolution deals for Devon & Torbay. We are actively engaged in the newly formed **Devon and Torbay Skills and Employability Advisory Group** and shaping the landscape in preparation for the renewed skills agenda. We are a key partner in the **LSIP**, with our major focus being on **green skills and sustainable construction and engineering**. We have developed new curricula in these areas, which are being shared with our national network and fully align to government priorities. In addition to the growth in our apprenticeship offer, we have also grown the adult offer for the community and redeveloped our higher technical offer. We are working on how we continue to meet these needs with a reduced ASF allocation and over-delivery allowance in 2025/26. We continue to refine how we meet the growing needs of learners coming through the education system with significant social, emotional, and mental health needs.

#### **Corporation Statement**

On behalf of the Exeter College Board, it is hereby confirmed that the plan as set out above reflects an agreed statement of purpose, aims and objectives as approved by the corporation at their meeting on 4 July 2025. The plan will be published on the college's website within three months of the start of the new academic year and can be accessed from the following link: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/about/policies/>

Chair of Governors:



Principal/Chief Executive and Accounting Officer



Dated: 4 July 2025

#### **Relevant Supporting Documentation**

Link to the Strategic Plan: [Strategic Plan](#)