

# Supporting our businesses and jobs

Mid Devon's economy has high rates of employment - of 47,100 residents (ONS population estimates 2017) aged between 16 and 64, 85% were economically active. This is significantly higher than the South West and UK rates. However, many local jobs are low waged and low skilled - average work place earnings are 11% lower than the national average. The percentage of the district's workforce holding a degree or higher qualification (NVQ 4+) at 31.4% is well below the national average.

Mid Devon has strong links to surrounding areas, particularly to Exeter to the south, with over a third of the resident population commuting out of the district for work. The district is relatively strong in manufacturing, but its economy is dominated by traditionally low productivity (GVA) sectors such as retail, distribution and agriculture, which means that opportunities for high wage jobs are limited.

Plan Mid Devon will be informed through an up to date economic needs assessment, which will take into account economic uncertainty as a result of Brexit and COVID-19. This will tell us how much new employment land should be planned for. The new Local Plan will make sure that sites come forward to help create new jobs locally alongside the development of new homes, together with the infrastructure needed to support it. This will include a choice of sites, which can supporting a range of forms of workspace to help businesses stay in Mid Devon and to grow and expand.

The new Local Plan will also provide the opportunity to plan for and support a greener, more inclusive, recovery of the economy post pandemic. The Government has indicated that this can be science led, clean, resilient and could create jobs in new industries while ensuring we address challenges in climate change, public health and biodiversity.

This could build on the Council's 'Economic Strategy for Mid Devon 2019 – 2024' which includes a vision where, amongst other features, commercial opportunities are embraced for the benefit of the district and emerging businesses are able to develop and thrive; and where a successful economy, including an emphasis on low carbon, agriculture and high-tech, is supported by a highly skilled workforce.

Plan Mid Devon provides an opportunity to embrace measures to support a just transition from a carbon intensive economy to a net-zero future, which can also include renewable energy and embedding the circular economy principles of designing out waste and pollution, reusing and recycling products and materials, moving away from the current 'take, make, consume and dispose' culture, and for entrepreneurs to find innovative ways of recovering value from waste streams and regenerating natural systems.



We would like you to tell us how you think we should plan for a green economic recovery in Mid Devon

