

## **Urbanism Awards 2023 nomination: Exeter, England**

European City of the Year category

*The supporting statement for Exeter's nomination is quoted in full below.*

“Exeter is one of the great university cities in the UK. It is a great place to live, work and enjoy as a destination. Indeed, Exeter has been named one of the 20 best places in the country to live by the Sunday Times, labelling it the Capital of Devon, 'a glorious gateway to the west'. As an historic south coast port, connected to the tidal harbour at Topsham by a canal and the river Ex, the city has enjoyed economic success since the medieval ages. Thankfully much remains of the city defences and significant buildings from that era, particularly a splendid cathedral.

“The post-war planning of the centre respected some that remained from the past and as the economic centre of the West Country, the city has attracted shoppers, businesses and visitors from a wide hinterland. In addition to the M5 motorway, the A38 and the A30, the city is well connected by rail and has its own airport.

“In recent years the economic success of the city has been underpinned by a sensitively planned new mixed-use shopping area, Princesshay, incorporating remnants of the historic fabric; a rapidly expanding university; “Shared-space” interventions in the shopping district, and has taken advantage of its location alongside the M5 motorway to expand business districts around the access points. The provision of well-located sites encouraged the Met Office relocated to Exeter in early 2004. It is one of the largest employers in the area, together with the University of Exeter, Devon County Council and the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust”