

ADEPT President's Awards 2025

Entry form

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Award category Delivering Sustainable Growth

Project Title The Sunspot, Jaywick Workspace

Local authority entrant Essex County Council

Partner/s if applicable Tendring District Council

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

The Sunspot project has transformed Jaywick Sands, Essex, by addressing deprivation, enhancing community wellbeing and fostering economic growth.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.



Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://www.itv.com/watch/news/how-jaywick-in-essex-is-trying-to-shake-off-its-most-deprived-title/w3g1c1n>

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project delivering sustainable growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and futureproofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

Jaywick Sands, particularly the Brooklands area where Sunspot is located, is the most deprived area in England according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. The community faces high levels of poverty, poor health and wellbeing, and limited economic opportunities. The coastal location adds complexity due to flood risks, further limiting development prospects.

The vision for Sunspot was to regenerate Jaywick Sands by providing a sustainable, economically viable solution to its challenges. The project aimed to create a new landmark building offering flexible and affordable business spaces and serving as a community hub. Sunspot includes 24 units, ranging from light industrial to office spaces, designed to support start-ups and growing businesses. Public facilities, such as a café, public toilets, a covered market/event hall, and a community garden, were integral to the plan, addressing local service deficits and enhancing residents' quality of life.

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

The Sunspot offers a replicable model for other deprived areas seeking to stimulate economic growth and improve community wellbeing. The project's success demonstrates the viability of combining affordable business space with public amenities and community services.

Secured funding from the Government's Getting Building Fund, administered by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership, and ECC, along with a contribution from TDC. The total budget for the project is £5.2 million; this collaborative funding effort was crucial in bringing Sunspot to fruition.

The success of the Sunspot project is underpinned by strong partnerships, not only with ECC, but also with local companies and organisations. The Active Wellbeing Society, for instance, operates the onsite café, offering healthy meals and community services, while Essex-based construction firm TJ Evers employed local people to carry out the work.

The project has garnered significant media attention, highlighting its innovative approach to addressing deprivation and promoting economic growth.

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)

The Sunspot project has made significant contributions to carbon reduction, job creation, and the overall success of UK businesses. The building's energy-efficient design and future renewable energy plans align with the council's Net Zero carbon ambitions. T

The economic impact of Sunspot has been significant. Completed in September 2023, the building is already at 100% occupancy, housing a diverse range of businesses. From a sensory school uniform manufacturer to a dog groomer and a barbershop, Sunspot has become a bustling centre. It has created 48 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs, along with the employment of 15 FTE local people during the construction phase. The project has also stimulated local entrepreneurship, with several businesses expanding their operations and increasing their workforce through the support of Sunspot, including moving out into a new permanent base. A full programme of business support and training is also offered to all businesses with the building.

Delivering sustainable growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)

Sunspot is more than just a building; it symbolises progress and resilience for Jaywick Sands. By addressing the specific challenges faced by the community, the project has created economic opportunities, improved local services, and contributed to environmental sustainability.

Environmental sustainability was a core principle from the outset. The building was designed with energy efficiency in mind, achieving an A rating for energy performance. It uses air source heat pumps and is fully

electric, minimising its carbon footprint. Future plans include installing solar panels, which could reduce carbon emissions by up to 96% or 25 tons a year, aligning with TDC's Net Zero carbon ambitions. The community garden, developed in response to extensive community engagement, promotes biodiversity and provides a green space for residents.

Economic sustainability is also important, with fair-rate rental income designed to support new businesses while covering long-term running costs, making it sustainable without further taxpayer funds.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

Sunspot symbolises progress and resilience for Jaywick Sands. By addressing the specific challenges faced by the community, the project has created economic opportunities, improved local services, and contributed to environmental sustainability. The success of the Sunspot project demonstrates its potential for replication in other areas, offering a blueprint for sustainable urban regeneration, while locally it serves as a springboard for the delivery of the Jaywick Sands Place Plan.