



**Oversight and Governance**

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## CITY COUNCIL – MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Monday 22 November 2021

2.00 pm

The Guildhall, Plymouth

**Members:**

Councillor Mrs Beer, Chair

Councillor Mrs Bridgeman, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Mrs Aspinall, Bingley, Bowyer, Mrs Bowyer, Dr Buchan, Burden, Carlyle, Churchill, Coker, Collins, Corvid, Dr Cree, Cresswell, Dann, Deacon, Derrick, Downie, Drear, Evans OBE, Goslin, Harrison, Haydon, Hendy, Hulme, James, Mrs Johnson, Jordan, Kelly, Laing, Loveridge, Lowry, Dr Mahony, McDonald, Morris, Murphy, Neil, Nicholson, Partridge, Patel, Penberthy, Mrs Pengelly, Rennie, Riley, Salmon, Shayer, Singh, R Smith, Stevens, Stoneman, Tuffin, Vincent, Wakeham, Ms Watkin and Wheeler.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf.

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - [Get Involved](#)

**Tracey Lee**

Chief Executive

## City Council

### II. Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Part B, paragraph 14 of the Constitution.

- a) Addressing the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis **(Pages 1 - 2)**
- b) Ocean Recovery Declaration - 'Motion for the Ocean' **(Pages 3 - 4)**
- c) Opposing Routine Discharges of Raw Sewage in Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats **(Pages 5 - 6)**
- d) Traffic Speed on the A38 Parkway **(Pages 7 - 8)**
- e) Waspi **(Pages 9 - 10)**

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council

**Addressing the Ecological Crisis in line with the Climate Crisis**

On 18th March 2019, Plymouth City Councillors voted unanimously to pass a motion declaring a climate emergency, pledging to be carbon neutral by 2030, and calling on Westminster for the powers and resources to make it happen.

The Climate Emergency is becoming more acute as evidenced by the landmark International Panel on Climate Change 2021 Report. The UK Committee on Climate Change progress report states that targets are not being met and that more urgent action is needed. The societal actions which have caused the climate emergency have also led to widespread degradation of nature. The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. More than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction and more than 40% are in decline. It's not enough to address the climate emergency, our sustainability also depends upon tackling the ecological emergency.

In line with the above, this council notes the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill proposed by a coalition of scientists, academics and lawyers with the aim of bringing the UK's climate policy into one with scientific evidence. Nationally we need a strong legislative framework that embeds the Government's targets in law, enabling us as supportive players, to plan and develop our future trajectories, to fit in with those climate change targets and set ambitious ecological targets.

As a local authority, Plymouth City Council does not have to wait for another bill to be passed, the council can set its own policy framework to take into account the ecological crisis that the country is facing in line with the climate crisis. We can take decisions to increase the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, habitats and ecosystems, in order to restore natural ecosystems in line with decisions to limit our carbon emissions

Council therefore resolves to:

- I. Note the proposed Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill
- II. Ask the Leader to write to local MPs, asking them to guarantee that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Office for Environmental Protection established in the Environment Bill 2021, sets strong and ambitious biodiversity targets to mitigate the ecological crisis that is facing the country

- III. Ensure Plymouth City Council decisions that mitigate our carbon emissions minimise impacts to ecosystems, food and water availability and human health and also mitigates and appropriately compensates any residual impacts
- IV. Ensure Plymouth City Council decisions relating to climate and ecological matters have a positive net impact on local communities, our young people, and a full equalities impact be undertaken

**Proposed by: Councillor Sue Dann**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**Seconded by: Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council

**Ocean Recovery Declaration – ‘Motion for the Ocean’**

Plymouth City Council is leading the way in connecting people to the ocean through the development of the UK’s first National Marine Park, in Plymouth Sound, champions of sustainable fishing industry and advocates for good marine management. In 2019 we unanimously declared a climate emergency. This Council recognises the role of the ocean in climate regulation.

2021 is the first year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The UK has just hosted COP26 in Glasgow and in the summer the G7 came to Cornwall. The UK Government has publicly declared its ambition to be a global leader in marine conservation. All eyes are on the ocean.

There is national and global recognition that the world ocean is in crisis. The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean is profound, including in our local waters. Raised atmospheric carbon dissolves in the seawater and causes ocean acidification, dissolving the shells, reefs and other hard parts of marine animals. The heating of the climate causes ocean heating too, which makes some parts of the ocean intolerable for life and is changing what lives and is caught locally. It also increases the volume of the ocean, causing sea level rise, added to by ice melt at the poles. Thanks to a more turbulent climate, increased storminess and sea level rise is a serious threat to all coastal communities, economies and infrastructure in the world, including Plymouth. Marine microplastics have been found in all marine environments and in the bodies of many species, including humans. Fish stocks collapse from permitted and illegal overfishing. Poor water quality impacts seafood and prevents safe bathing.

And yet the ocean is a place of incredible importance for people, providing food, energy, connections from one nation to another, and regulating the climate system which is so threatened by human activity. We must play our part in securing the sustainability and health of the ocean.

Plymouth Sound is at the heart of our economy, and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of our community. Urgent action is needed to recover the health of our ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including capturing and storing carbon through coastal salt marshes and seagrass beds, regulating our climate, supporting a sustainable and equitable blue economy, with equitable access to clean, safe recreation and nature experience for happy, healthy communities. Action is needed at all levels, from national and local government, down to individuals developing their ocean literacy (understanding of the relationship between people and the ocean), and individual and collective marine citizenship (promoting and demanding a relationship with the ocean that is healthy for people and nature).

**This Council declares an urgent need for Ocean Recovery.**

We recognise that we need ocean recovery to meet our net zero carbon targets, and we need net zero carbon to recover our ocean.

This Council pledges to:

1. The Leader to report to Full Council, in line with the development of the National Marine Park, on the actions and projects that will continue and improve ocean recovery in Plymouth Sound.
2. Consider the impact on ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, budgets, and approaches to decisions by the Council (particularly in planning, regeneration, skills and economic policy), aligning ocean recovery with climate emergency plans.
3. Ensure that the Local Plan supports ocean recovery as part of the National Marine Park planning considerations, and through the existing TECF partnership.

4. Work with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries, and invest in the development of a sustainable and equitable blue economy, including the local fishing industry and the vital work of Devon & Severn IFCA.
5. Grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship in the city, including ensuring all pupils have a first-hand experience of the ocean before leaving primary school, and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean through physical and digital experiences, ensuring these are key outcomes in the development of the NMP.
6. Create an online portal of the Council website to update on ocean recovery progress, signpost to ocean literacy development opportunities, and marine citizenship pledges.
7. The Leader to write to the Prime Minister to call on the Government to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by:
  - a. Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities have the resources they need to effectively research and monitor our growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that support local economies and deliver environmental sustainability.
  - b. Incorporating social scientific evidence and lived experience to improve community co-production of policy and develop more effective and equitable solutions.
  - c. And by listening to marine scientific advice to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which will:
    - i. Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
    - ii. Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
    - iii. Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moves beyond Marine Protected Areas and enables links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
    - iv. Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits from ocean management, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods and wellbeing.

**Proposed by: Councillor Dr Pam Buchan**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**Seconded by: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council

**Opposing Routine Discharges of Raw Sewage in Plymouth's rivers and marine habitats**

Last year raw sewage was put into coastal waters and rivers in England more than 400,000 times which is totally unacceptable, this practice has to be stopped and should be a statutory requirement of all water companies to put into place the actions needed to not just reduce the practice but to stop the practice.

The south west has some of the most valuable bathing waters in the country but not a single river in our region meets good chemical standards and only 14% of rivers across England meet good ecological standards. England has the worst river quality in Europe.

Measures to end the routine discharge of raw sewage were opposed by the Government in the Environment Bill but following public outcry the Government performed a U-turn and has now adopted some of the measures to tackle combined sewer outflows but has not adopted measures to reduce sewage discharges from the wider sewer system, nor have they specified how much sewage must be reduced by when.

The Rivers Trust has published details of raw sewage outflows in the rivers across Plymouth and into Plymouth Sound. We note that sewage discharges may be unavoidable in the event of extreme weather but should not be used on a routine basis.

Notes that Plymouth Sound is the UK's first National Marine Park and believes that our city should be leading the way in making the case for cleaner waters while preserving the wide variety of jobs that rely on the water.

If you are a keen swimmer in the coastal waters in and around Plymouth there is an interactive App managed by Surfers Against Sewage which gives you the current state of the waters around the coast, the water quality varies. South West Water are constantly doing work around the coast but there needs to be a clear statement of intent for how this issue is going to be managed to reduce the impact of sewage dumping and to improve the water quality.

This council asks the Leader of the Council to:-

1. Write to all local MPs to lobby the Environment Secretary to provide a timetable for the ending of raw sewage discharges into rivers and seas and call for swift implementation of provisions in the Environment Bill.
2. For the Leader of the Council to write to South West Water for their plans to eradicate the practice in rivers and coastal areas around Plymouth and rivers that flow through the city.
3. For the Council Chief Executive to investigate whether water quality of our city's bathing waters could be better communicated to the people of Plymouth so they can be informed about when it is safe to swim in the sea or rivers around Plymouth.

**Proposed by: Councillor Sue Dann**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**Seconded by: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE**

**Signature: Approved by email**

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**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council

**Traffic Speed on the A38 Parkway**

This motion, in view of the continuing concerns and spike in road traffic incidents this Council asks the Cabinet Member for Transport to publish, within seven days, a briefing note to all Members highlighting:-

- The number and dates of meetings he has held with Highways England since May 2021 to discuss with the issue of improving safety and efficiency on the A38 Parkway between its junctions with the Tamar Bridge and Deep Lane, Plympton.
- Confirming that he has asked if that Authority will provide data and consider whether measures, temporary or otherwise, are needed to control the speed of traffic.
- Detailing those meetings he has held with other authorities and interested parties since May 2021 designed to ensure a common approach is adopted.
- Providing a clear statement of this Council's current policy in relation to the issue of road safety on this stretch of the A38 Parkway, and how it is intended to bring about improvements at the earliest possible date?

**Proposed by: Councillor Mrs Andrea Johnson**

**Signature:** *A Johnson*

**Seconded by: Councillor Nigel Churchill**

**Signature: Approved by email**

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**MOTION ON NOTICE**

City Council

**Waspi**

This motion seeks to build on the cross-party support previously shown by Plymouth City Council for the campaign for Fair Transitional State Pension Arrangements for 1950s Women (Waspi).

The Waspi group campaigns against the inequalities caused by the way pension changes for women born in the 1950s were implemented and we now acknowledge and uphold the findings by the Parliamentary Ombudsman in July 2021, that maladministration occurred in the way this change was communicated. The Waspi women were right and we should congratulate them on their continuing, unrelenting campaign nationally and here in Plymouth and we believe the women affected should be compensated for this maladministration.

This council asks the Leader of the Council to:-

Write to our three MPs to ask the Secretary of State to acknowledge and act on the findings of the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

**Proposed by: Councillor Jemima Laing**

**Signature: Approved by email**

**Seconded by: Councillor Sally Cresswell**

**Signature: Approved by email**

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