



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department

Plymouth City Council

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Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Delegated Executive and Officer decisions are published every Wednesday and are available at the following link - <https://tinyurl.com/ms6umor>

Cabinet decisions subject to call-in are published at the following link - <http://tinyurl.com/yddrql6>

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Unit by 4.30 pm on Wednesday 21 December 2022. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at <https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx>
- on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/jhnax4e>

The decision detailed below may be implemented on Thursday 22 December 2022 if it is not called-in.

Delegated Decisions

I. Councillor Bill Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene:

I.1. Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change

(Pages 1 - 14)

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – ESS06 22/23

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Bill Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene
3	Report author and contact details: Chris Avent 304184
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the receipt of the grant award from DEFRA of £966,674 to deliver the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change project as detailed in the briefing report. Delegates the awarding of contracts to the Strategic Director for place where they would otherwise not have authority to do so
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The Council and its partner the National Trust has been successful in applying to DEFRA for funding to enable the delivery of a Nature-based Solutions programme of projects across the city for the next 18 months.</p> <p>These projects will take place on six sites in the city (Ham Woods, Seaton Valley, Efford Marsh, Radford Woods, Newnham Meadow and Budshead Woods), improving habitats and providing opportunities for DEFRA to measure the carbon sequestration rates as a result. The funding will support the continued employment of the Plymouth Natural Grid project team and support the responsibility of the Council to maintain and improve the sites. The funding generates a small financial saving in 23/24 (£20k) for the Council.</p> <p>In addition an engagement programme will involve local communities in the work and the project will provide an opportunity for two apprentices to be employed by PCC.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Do nothing – turn down grant funding offer.</p> <p>Consider carrying out similar works through existing staff. Rejected due to lack of capacity and lack of ability to measure impacts of work on carbon sequestration</p>
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>This decision brings an additional £966,674 grant funding to the Council to deliver the project objectives. As well as the investment in site infrastructure and staff capacity this realises a saving of £20k p.a. for site maintenance from 23/24 to 32/33.</p> <p>The Council is obliged to maintain the sites in line with management plans for a further 8 years which is funded through this grant (to be held in reserve). There is also potential to utilise funding generated from the carbon credits generated on the site enhancements to complement this (by what % will be</p>

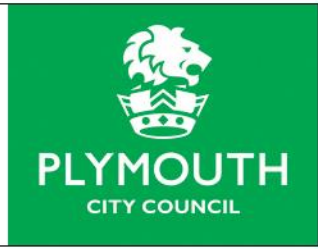
	determined through the course of the grant funded period).			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
		x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.	
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	Corporate Plan A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment Joint Local Plan - DEV026 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, - DEV028 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows Plymouth Plan - SO1 – Delivering a healthy city - HEA7 - Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	This programme of works aligns with and supports the delivery of the Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan by delivering a programme of works that will enhance and add resilience to the city's green estate. It will also allow us to measure the amount of carbon locked up using different management techniques, informing future practices in the city.		
Urgent decisions				
11	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			

12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:			Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:				
	Print Name:				
Consultation					
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes			
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(If no go to section 14)	
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?				
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted				
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer	
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne		
		Job title	Strategic Director for Place		
		Date consulted	21/10/2022		
Sign-off					
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS83 22/23		
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.22.23.270		
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/39414		
		Human Resources (if applicable)	NA		
		Corporate property (if applicable)	NA		
		Procurement (if applicable)	NA		
Appendices					
17	Ref.	Title of appendix			
	A	Briefing report for publication (mandatory) 221101 Briefing Report_NbS			

	B	Equalities Impact Assessment (where required) 221101EqIA_NbS						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	x					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature					Date of decision		09/12/22	
Print Name		Councillor Bill Wakeham						

BRIEFING REPORT - PART I

Plymouth's Natural Grid – Nature-based Solutions



I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

A partnership between Plymouth City Council and The National Trust, Plymouth's Natural Grid Nature-based Solutions is funded with £966,000 from Natural England. It aims to invest in nature-based solutions for climate change on 541.78ha of land, targeting 99.7ha of priority habitat for biodiversity and carbon sequestration improvement. The sites selected represent a diversity of habitats and will be monitored by Natural England to assess the carbon sequestration that has occurred as a result of the works carried out. The work will also enhance our current green financing development through biodiversity and carbon credits as the associated governance structure for this is already in place.

The project will start in November 2021 and runs until the end March 2024.

Plymouth's Natural Grid - Nature-based Solutions aims to contribute to climate change mitigation through positive interventions on urban green spaces across the city, and to engage with local communities, raising awareness of the issue of climate change and demonstrating practical solutions.

This will be achieved by:

- improving 541.78ha of land via direct interventions on 99.7ha, for the benefit of people and wildlife, including rewilding and nature conservation/restoration, with resulting increases in carbon sequestration.
- providing six new jobs including apprenticeships.
- providing opportunities for local communities to get involved in practical nature-based solution delivery.
- providing 250 hours of engagement activities across the project sites

The Nature-based Solutions (NbS) proposal has been informed by evidence gathered in the [Plymouth Open Space Assessment 2017](#) and is part of the city's wider strategy to ensure high quality wildlife-rich space for all our residents that deliver vital natural services – embedded in our Climate Emergency Response, Joint Local Plan and Covid Recovery Plan. Our ambition can be seen [here](#).

2. OUTCOMES & BENEFITS

Financial

Natural capital of the city's urban forest increased – Plymouth's trees contribute £4.6 m of benefits to the city per year and provide £3.5 billion in amenity value.

Ecosystem services to the city increased and long term cost savings through; urban cooling, surface water attenuation, increased property values of tree lined streets, carbon capture and storage.

Ten years' maintenance cost savings on the six NbS sites as the project team will undertake works normally completed by Plymouth City Council Street Services as part of BAU.

Green finance. This project will allow PCC to further develop its habitat banking vehicle through biodiversity net gain, flood management solutions and carbon credits.

Non-financial

- improving 541.78ha of land for people and wildlife, including rewilding and nature conservation/restoration.
- providing six new jobs including apprenticeships.
- Providing the opportunity for Natural England to carry out research on the most effective methods of sequestering carbon through habitat management, informing best practice in the future and building climate change resilience in the city.
- providing opportunities for local people to engage with the project, to increase their understanding of climate change mitigation and how local action can have an impact on a global scale.
- Improving health and well-being benefits (mental and physical) through improvements to accessible urban green spaces.

3. RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES

Risks

This project is a low risk to the Council as it is fully grant funded with a healthy (9%) contingency for the capital and revenue costs associated with the project.

The highest risk is the short time frame for capital works to be delivered and completed (March 2024). This has been mitigated by ensuring the project team is suitably resourced with a dedicated Project Manager and technical specialism within the team to be able to realise the project objectives in the time set out.

Opportunities

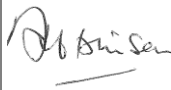
The project presents a number of opportunities for the Council:

- To continue to lead the way in developing knowledge and data to inform new Green Finance funding streams for long term enhancement and management of the city's natural spaces
- To consolidate the partnership working approach with National Trust under the Urban Pioneer Partnership banner and Plymouth Natural Grid project
- To offset existing Council budget commitments for maintenance of green space sites for 10 years. Expected to average £20k p.a.
- To provide continued opportunity for community engagement in managing green space sites
- To deliver climate resilience and understand opportunity for carbon sequestration on green space sites to link into Plymouth's CEAP.

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EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PLYMOUTH HABITAT BANKING VEHICLE

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): This is the person completing the EIA template.	Chris Avent	Department and service:	Place. Environmental Planning	Date of assessment:	18/11/2022
Lead Officer: Please note that a Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director must approve the EIA.	Philip Robinson	Signature:		Approval date:	1/12/2022
Overview:	Plymouth's natural capital is key to the growth and social and environmental wellbeing of the city. The Plymouth Natural Grid Nature-based Solutions partnership project, led by Plymouth City Council and with the National Trust, will invest in NbS for climate change on 541.78 ha of land, targeting up to 99.7 ha of priority habitats for habitat creation or restoration (final figure subject to EIA). Sites have been selected to offer a diversity of habitats for biodiversity improvement, significant carbon sequestration potential and the potential for innovative funding (e.g. through Biodiversity and Carbon credits). They are accessible for research, which will be carried out by Natural England, to measure the various rates of carbon sequestration. The work carried out by Plymouth's natural Grid NbS will lead to improvements on six nature reserves across the city, will engage local communities in this work and will contribute to the resilience of the city as a whole. This work enhances our current green financing development with associated governance structures already in progress.				
Decision required:	Approves the receipt of the grant award from DEFRA of £966,674 to deliver the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change project as detailed in the briefing report.				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	Yes		No	X
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	X
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section two)	Yes		No	X
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	There is no negative impact to service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics, nor any PCC			

	employees, the project is open to all, and enhanced habitats and access to them will contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and communities across Plymouth.
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SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
Age	<p>All data is from the 2011 Census except for age and sex which has been updated with 2021 data. Data will be updated with the 2021 Census data as it becomes available.</p> <p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(Data sourced from the 2021 Census)</p>			
Disability	10 per cent of our population have their day-to-day activities limited a lot by a long-term health problem or disability (2011 Census).			
Gender reassignment	<p>There are no official estimates for gender reassignment at either national or local level (awaiting 2021 Census data).</p> <p>However, in a study funded by the Home Office, the Gender Identity Research and Education Society (GIRES) estimate that between 300,000 and 500,000 people aged 16 or over in the UK are experiencing some degree of gender variance.</p>			
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>There were 234,795 marriages in England and Wales in 2018.</p> <p>In 2020, there were 7,566 opposite-sex civil partnerships formed in England and Wales, of which 7,208 were registered in England and 358 were registered in Wales.</p> <p>There were 785 civil partnerships formed between same-sex couples in England and Wales in 2020, of which 745 were registered in England and 40 were registered in Wales.</p>			
Pregnancy and maternity	There were 640,370 live births in England and Wales in 2019, a decrease			

	<p>of 2.5 per cent since 2018. The mid-year 2019 population estimates show that there were 2,590 births in Plymouth.</p> <p>The total fertility rate (TFR) for England and Wales decreased from 1.70 children per woman in 2018 to 1.65 children per woman in 2019.</p>			
Race	<p>92.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identify themselves as White British. 7.1 per cent identify themselves as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic.</p> <p>Census data suggests at least 43 main languages are spoken in the city, showing Polish, Chinese and Kurdish as the top three (2011 Census).</p>			
Religion or belief	<p>Christianity is the biggest faith in the city with more than 58 per cent of the population (148,917). 32.9 per cent (84,326) of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion (2011 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim were just under 1 per cent while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2011 Census).</p>			
Sex	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p>			
Sexual orientation	<p>There is no precise local data on sexual orientation in Plymouth (awaiting 2021 Census data).</p>			

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Celebrate diversity and ensure that Plymouth is a welcoming city.			
Pay equality for women, and staff with disabilities in our workforce.			
Supporting our workforce through the implementation of Our People Strategy 2020 – 2024			
Supporting victims of hate crime so they feel confident to report incidents, and working with, and through our partner organisations to achieve positive outcomes.			
Plymouth is a city where people from different backgrounds get along well.			

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