



Oversight and Governance

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NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 17 July 2024

2.00 pm

Warspite Room, Council House

Members:

Councillor Darcy, Chair

Councillor Holloway, Vice Chair

Councillors Allen, Bannerman, McCarty, McLay, Moore, Raynsford, Ricketts, M.Smith and Sproston.

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

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Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel

1. To note the appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2024/25

To note the appointment of Councillor Ian Darcy as Chair, and Councillor Charlotte Holloway as Vice Chair, for the Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel for 2024/25.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

4. Scrutiny Panel Responsibilities (Pages 1 - 2)

To note the responsibilities of the Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel.

5. Minutes (Pages 3 - 24)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 February 2024, and to confirm the minutes of the Water Quality Select Committee held on 22 February 2024.

6. Chair's Urgent Business

To receive reports on business which in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

7. Economic Intelligence and Insight: (Pages 25 - 32)

8. Plymouth City Centre Company BID (2025-30): (Pages 33 - 58)

9. The Box Annual Performance Review: (Pages 59 - 74)

10. Tracking Decisions: (Pages 75 - 82)

11. Work Programme: (Pages 83 - 86)

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel

Linked to the Cabinet Member and Department with responsibility for

- Net Zero Action Plan
- Natural Infrastructure and Investment
- Inclusive Growth
- Regional and local economic strategy
- Development planning
- Strategic Housing Delivery
- Transport policies and strategies
- Social enterprise support
- Sustainable public transport and cycling
- Events, Culture, Heritage and Museums (including Mount Edgumbe)
- Highways

MEMBERSHIP – Proportionality applies, the Chair of the panel shall serve on the Scrutiny Management Board. All members of the panel will adhere to the general rules of Overview and Scrutiny.

There are 11 members of the panel including the Chair and Vice Chair.

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Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 14 February 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Bingley, in the Chair.

Councillor Tuffin, Vice Chair.

Councillors Carlyle, Gilmour, Goslin, McLay, Noble, Penrose (substitute for Councillor Raynsford), Sproston, Stoneman and Tuohy (substitute for Councillor Stevens).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Raynsford, Salmon and Stevens.

Absent: Councillor Partridge.

Also in attendance: Councillors Briars-Delve, Evans OBE and Penberthy, Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) (via Teams), Jonathan Bell (Head of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development) (via Teams), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Matt Garratt (Service Director for Community Connections), Toby Hall (Project Manager), Emmanuelle Marshall (Low Carbon City Officer), Neil Mawson (Housing Delivery Manager), Lauren Paton (Economic Development Officer), Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place), Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy Enterprise & Employment) and Hannah Whiting (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 4.19 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

30. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interests were made.

31. **Minutes**

The Committee unanimously agreed the minutes of the meeting on 8 November 2023 as a correct record.

The Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting on 22 January 2024 as a correct record.

For (10)

Councillors Carlyle, Gilmour, Goslin, Noble, Penrose, Sproston, Stoneman, Tuffin and Tuohy.

Abstain (1)

Councillor Bingley.

Against (0)

Absent/Did Not Vote (0)

32. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

33. **NZAP 2024-27**

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- a) The Council had pledged in 2019 to reach net zero emissions by 2030;
- b) Important to produce a transparent annual progress report;
- c) Work with partners on improving the energy efficient in social housing;
- d) Beryl bikes and the electric car club;
- e) Climate Impact Assessment;
- f) Right stuff, right bin campaign;
- g) Climate Ambassadors;
- h) Climate Connections Website and business engagement;
- i) 84% of the actions in the 2023/24 NZAP had been completed, or were on track;
- j) Important to include commitments which were highlighted in the report in light green;
- k) Thanks to the officers for their hard work on the programme;
- l) Suggestions had been taken forward from carbon literacy training sessions with Councillors;
- m) New commitments included electric buses and heat networks;
- n) It was hoped that the majority of the Council's power would come from renewable sources and solar energy would play a large part in this;
- o) Food waste kerb-side collection;

- p) 19 new commitments relating to behaviour change including working with schools to gain eco-school status and neighbourhood level community plans.

Supported by Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Jonathan Bell (Head of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development) and Emmanuelle Marshall (Low Carbon City Officer), in response to questions, the following was discussed:

- q) A narrative would be helpful on changes from one plan to the next in the future, and why some commitments had been removed/altered;
- r) Appendix B detailed the challenges faced in relation to the commitments;
- s) BHPI0C had been expanded to include what had previously been included in BHPI0E;
- t) IT infrastructure and the suggestion that other companies such as Google have done more work to be 'greener' than Microsoft;
- u) Environmental benefits of working from home;
- v) The go green travel plan;
- w) Work was underway through the relevant Cabinet Member (Councillor Coker), the Councillor Bus Champion (Councillor Kevin Sproston), Plymotion and more to encourage people to use buses and bikes more;
- x) Plymouth was the most successful in the country for bikeability;
- y) Public realm works included opportunities for improvements of transport infrastructure;
- z) Richard Stevens, CEO of CityBus, was working with the Council on the ZEBRA 2 bid for electric buses;
- aa) Bus shelters were not Council assets, new ones were being installed with 'green roofs';
- bb) Carbon literacy training was moving away from the accredited course, to adapt a more flexible training sessions and to deliver the training 'in-house', and the possibility of introducing this into the Councillor induction process;
- cc) Carbon literacy training for community groups;
- dd) Work was ongoing with the procurement team on a weighting factor for environmental impact, when tendering for contracts to be brought back to Committee;

- ee) Climate Emergency Planning Statement built on what was included in the Joint Local Plan, in relation to planning applications;
- ff) Mixed bins should be installed as standard in new schemes across the city;
- gg) Suggestion that the word 'new' be included in T5F;
- hh) Challenges of introducing food waste collection.

The Committee agreed to:

- I. Support and endorse the Plymouth City Council Net Zero Action Plan 2024-2027.

34. **Plan for Homes 4**

Councillor Chris Penberthy (Cabinet Member for Housing, Co-operative Development and Communities) introduced the item and highlighted:

- a) The Plan for Homes programme had delivered more than 7,500 new homes across Plymouth in the past nine years;
- b) The Plan for Homes detailed the Council's priorities for ensuring that Plymouth had the housing to tackle the local effects of the national housing crisis;
- c) Reduction in delivery of affordable housing;
- d) Strong track record of achievement and innovation;
- e) Increasingly challenging housing delivery landscape;
- f) The plan aimed to deliver 5,000 new homes in the next five years;
- g) Climate action would be a cross cutting theme of Plan for Homes 4;
- h) Successes so far had included:
 - i. 7,581 homes delivered in all of which 1,980 were affordable;
 - ii. 48 Council sites released to developers for new homes;
 - iii. £2.485 million of land release and brownfield land release funding from Government;
 - iv. 385 long term empty homes had been brought back into use;
 - v. Partnered on the regeneration of Devonport, North Prospect and Barne Barton;

- vi. 24 train and build service veteran homes;
 - vii. 33 wheelchair homes across various sites to meet high demand for accessible homes;
 - viii. Worked with PEC (Plymouth Energy Community) and Livewest to deliver 40 energiesprong net zero carbon homes in King's Tamerton;
 - ix. They were close to completing on the first Council-built housing project for 40 years;
- i) In recent years new and affordable housing delivery in Plymouth had reduced to record low levels;
 - j) Impact of national approaches to investment and taxation for private landlords;
 - k) As of January 2024, 8,597 households were on the Devon Home Choice register, of which 1,351 were in a high banding of priority need, and 1365 had accessibility needs;
 - l) In the past five years, the number of social housing lets had reduced by 36%;
 - m) In 2023/24 there had been an average of 173 homelessness applications per month;
 - n) There 342 households in temporary accommodation at the time of the meeting, of which 167 were families;
 - o) Plan for Homes 4 would accelerate existing activity as well as bring forward new initiatives to focus action;
 - p) Six housing themes had been identified for action:
 - i. Affordable housing;
 - ii. Market housing;
 - iii. Private rented housing;
 - iv. Partnerships;
 - v. Supported and specialist housing;
 - vi. Climate action.

Supported by Matt Garratt (Service Director for Community Connections) and Neil Mawson (Housing Delivery Manager), in response to questions the following was discussed:

- q) Long term empty homes often had a different set of circumstances and required different action plans involving different approaches such as enforcement action and/or financial support;
- r) At the time of the meeting there were just over 800 empty homes (empty for longer than 6 months);
- s) Two CPOs would go to Cabinet in March 2024 relating to homes that had been empty for more than 10 years;
- t) The team worked with partners to bring empty homes back into use;
- u) Bungalows were land heavy, and did not maximise housing delivery, but some bungalow provision was included in some schemes across the city;
- v) Joint Local Plan identified the city centre as a housing development area and there might be opportunities for older residents to relocate to these, close to amenities;
- w) A large number of areas identified for housing were for a small amount of homes;
- x) Each housing site was looked at individually with regards to mitigation for anti-social behaviour;
- y) There were areas across the city that had high numbers of Airbnb's, which was impacting housing, and this needed national government regulation;
- z) Taxation and regulation on the private rental sector was needed to improve the sector.

The Committee agreed to:

- I. Note the report.

35. **Economic Intelligence and Insight**

Lauren Paton (Economic Development Officer) introduced the item and went through the information on the slides in the agenda pack and covered data updates on the following in relation to Plymouth:

- a) Enterprise start-ups;
- b) Job vacancies and unemployment;
- c) Productivity and GVA (gross value added);
- d) Full time equivalent jobs.

Supported by David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), in response to questions it was further explained:

- e) The committee could be provided with a half page report with more detail on why there was a continual decline in productivity from 2017 onwards;
- f) The COVID19 pandemic and Brexit had impacted productivity data in Plymouth, but the most recent data was from 2021, so the picture would become clearer with more data;
- g) 100% GVA was not achievable due to the skewing effect of London being included in data;
- h) London's economy was less reliant on manufacturing and therefore had been impacted less by the COVID19 pandemic lockdowns.

The Committee agreed to:

- I. Note the report.

36. **Plan for Economic Growth**

The Leader introduced the item and highlighted the following points:

- a) The plan had been developed in 2014 and refreshed in 2020;
- b) In the last decade Plymouth City Council had delivered a £365 million capital programme, which had brought in £600 million of match funding;
- c) There was a £1 billion development pipeline;
- d) A rolling average of £30 million of grant funding per year had been secured;
- e) Transformed the skyline of the city;
- f) Delivered major inward investment such as The Barcode, Land Registry offices and The Range headquarters;
- g) Nationally recognised for cultural driven place making done as a local authority;
- h) Championed tourism;
- i) Nationally recognised marine sector manufacturing;
- j) Developed more employment land than ever before;
- k) Need for the dockyard;

- l) Opportunity for growth in Plymouth's ports;
- m) Environmental benefits of container ships.
- n) The work on the refresh would be done in two stages, first a review of the evidence based and identification of priorities, then work with the Growth Board and the scrutiny panel to develop four delivery plans:
 - i. Productivity and high value jobs;
 - ii. Inclusive growth;
 - iii. Sustainable growth;
 - iv. Civic pride and regeneration.

Supported by Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy Enterprise & Employment) and David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), in response to questions the following was discussed:

- o) Wage rates increasing;
- p) Need for an ecosystem where Plymouth was an attractive place to live, work and study;
- q) Skills and training for young people;
- r) Opportunity that when high economic investment is made, that there was social value in opportunities for the local community;
- s) Devonport had some of the most significant regeneration in the country, which invested in the area;
- t) There was a continued aim to strive for excellence in all schools across the city;
- u) Transport infrastructure had been overlooked would be included in the refresh.

The Committee agreed:

- I. To endorse the approach on the Economic Strategy including the production of 4 delivery plans and governance arrangements;
 - Phase one – March 2024. Vision, Analysis of the main underlying competitive advantages and strengths of Plymouth, opportunities for strategic connections across regions, growth over the next 10 years;
 - Phase two – post March 2024 and - Plymouths top public and private sector investment priorities;

2. To add the 4 delivery plans to the Scrutiny work programme.

37. **Tracking Decisions**

The Committee agreed to:

1. Follow up on the letter sent to Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE MP regarding increasing utility costs for the cultural sector as no reply has been received;
2. Note the tracking decisions document.

38. **Work Programme**

Hannah Whiting (Democratic Advisor) clarified:

- a) The review into public toilets would be looked at by the Performance, Finance and Customer Focus Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee agreed to:

1. Note its work programme.

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Select Committee Review – Water Quality

Thursday 22 February 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Bingley, in the Chair.
Councillor Tuffin, Vice Chair.
Councillors McLay, Penrose, Raynsford, Reilly and Tofan.

Also in attendance: Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning), Hannah Whiting (Democratic Advisor), Alan Burrows (South West Water), Lawrence Couldrick (Tamar Catchment Partnership), Elaine Hayes (National Marine Park CEO), Mark Hinchliffe (Sea Swimmer), Paul Montgomery (Sea Swimmer), Bruce Newport (Environment Agency), Frank Newell (Environment Agency), Jenny Parkins (Ocean Conservation Trust) (via Teams), Professor Richard Thompson (University of Plymouth) and Mark Wolsford (South West Water).

The meeting started at 11.00 am and finished at 3.40 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Minute Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Raynsford	3	Had a share in Pennon South West Water (something customers were offered).	Disclosable Pecuniary

2. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

3. **Water Quality Review**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Select Committee and gave an overview of proceedings.

Issues and Challenges

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change) welcomed everyone to the Committee, introduced the item and highlighted:

- a) Thanks to everyone involved in the ongoing major incident in

Keyham due to an unexploded WW2 bomb that had been discovered;

- b) The Corporate Plan included a vision for the waterfront;
- c) The waterfront was one of the cities greatest assets that supported economic prosperity, health and wellbeing;
- d) Plymouth's waterfront had been designated the first National Marine Park in the UK;
- e) Supporting people to engage with the water, and public needed to be assured of a clean environment;
- f) Wildlife within Plymouth Sound needed clean water to thrive;
- g) Use of storm overflows were of concern;
- h) Partners had worked hard together to create a third bathing area in Plymouth at Firestone Bay;
- i) No singular, easy or cheap fix, whilst facing the climate change impact of increased rainfall;
- j) A collaborative, creative and innovative solution was needed.

Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning) introduced Plymouth City Council's role in relation to Water Quality and highlighted:

- k) Plymouth City Council had a role in provision of signage on water quality and short term pollution advice;
- l) Strong partnership working with organisations on nature delivery, shell fisheries, highways and flood risk;
- m) Challenges included the sewage network, urban and agricultural run-off, microplastics, changing weather patterns, changing culture in relation to 'bathing season', behaviours, complexity of solutions;
- n) Every household could be part of the solution.

Bruce Newport (Environment Agency) introduced the Environment Agency's role in relation to Water Quality and highlighted:

- o) All 3 of Plymouth's bathing waters were classified as excellent, the highest rating, without any discounting;
- p) The Environment Agency advised the Council when water quality was going to be impacted and signs could be put up;

- q) Samples had continued through the winter at Firestone Bay to see if winter sampling was feasible and to determine the winter water quality, which was excellent;
- r) Discharges, treated by Plymouth City Council, into the River Plym from Chelson Meadow landfill continued after its closure and would for some time, but did not impact bathing waters;
- s) Devonport Dockyard discharges had been eliminated;
- t) Ammonia levels were increased due to agricultural activity;
- u) Industrial areas were monitored;
- v) More employees across the country to increasing monitoring of water companies;
- w) Not all storm overflows had the same impact on Plymouth Waterfront.

Frank Newell (Environment Agency) added:

- x) Infilled creeks meant that a lot of the water drainage within the city was underground and was difficult and expensive to map;
- y) Integrated urban drainage modelling allowed them to understand what improvements could be made;
- z) Expected 30% increase in peak rainfall events over next 60 years, 50% over 100 years;
- aa) Sea levels were expected to rise 1.5m over 100 years;
- bb) Significant investment was being made into water storage in parkland at Trefusis Park;
- cc) Work in the city centre was aimed at separating surface water into a new system, but this was an expensive solution.

Alan Burrows (South West Water) and Mark Wolsford (South West Water) introduced South West Water's role and highlighted:

- dd) Strong partnerships in Plymouth;
- ee) Strategy called Waterfit up to 2025 and then to 2030, aimed at nurturing healthy rivers and seas and aiming to reduce the impact on rivers by 1/3 by 2025 and to reduce operation of

storm overflows;

- ff) Changes in people using the water had led to a demand from the public expecting good water quality all year round;
- gg) Significant progress had been made in reducing pollution incidents since 2020, with none serious incidents in 2021, and one in 2022 and none in 2023 and only 13 minor incidents since 2020;
- hh) South West Water (SWW) had installed event duration monitors on all storm overflows ahead of the government target, and the information was available to regulators, and members of the public;
- ii) A storm overflow action plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State, and SWW were waiting to be able to publish this;
- jj) SWW expected to complete their plan by 2040, the only company in England and Wales to set this target (Government's target was 2050);
- kk) 126 overflows in the Plymouth region, 54 were meeting standards at the time of the meeting, and did not require investment;
- ll) A lot of what happened in the network could be as a result of customer behaviour and putting items into the system that should not be there such as wet wipes and sanitary products;
- mm) Working with ECAS (Environment Compliance Experts) looking at sewer misuse from food establishments to stop grease, oils and fats entering into the system;
- nn) Green and blue systems were looked at as a priority as they were more sustainable;
- oo) Focus on storm overflows and pollution, with significant investment from 2025-2030 as the majority of the coast was bathing water and/or shellfish water;
- pp) Plan to invest just over £3 billion from 2025-2040 in storm overflows, with £750 million funded from customer bills;
- qq) There were four categories of pollution impact levels, set out by the Environment Agency (EA).

Laurence Couldrick (Tamar Catchment Partnership) added the

following:

- rr) A graphic was shown demonstrating the impact of farming on water quality from overgrazing, growing crops close to the river, high risk crops, inadequate infrastructure, non-separation of pollutants, meaning they wash into the river system: [VRT Good Farm Bad Farm Logo small-scaled.jpg \(2560×1805\)](#);
- ss) Agriculture was one of the biggest pollutants of the rivers local to Plymouth, impacting Water quality and resilience;
- tt) Tamar Catchment Partnership (TCP) aimed to build and promote nature based solutions, through incentives with farmers as well as regulation and enforcement;
- uu) Soil health needed to be achieved;
- vv) TCP aimed to build resilience in communities and the catchments.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- ww) Data was taken from the Met Office which predicted the future impacts of climate change on the weather, which was used by SWW to assess the future impacts on the sewage/water systems and the investment plan would be updated every 5 years using this data;
- xx) 11 named storms came over England in 2023, when the average had been 3 or 4 previously;
- yy) Balance of affordability and size against climate change forecasting;
- zz) Customer bills and dividends in relation to the SWW investment plan;
- aaa) 1.2 million water customers and 900,000 waste customers of SWW;
- bbb) At the end of May 2024 a full report would be produced on Firestone Bay by the Environment Agency;
- ccc) Real time data was available on storm overflows;
- ddd) Water Quality was commensurate with animal welfare;
- eee) Water for animals in farming;

- fff) Water net gain was a project helping farmers to create lakes and ponds to store storm run off for their animals;
- ggg) 0 days were discounted in Plymouth in 2023 for water quality, but some days information on pollutants allowed people to decide if they wanted to enter the water;
- hhh) Approximately only 6 or 7 poor warnings for water quality were given in West Hoe each year;
- iii) There were four categories of pollution that the Environmental Agency regulated water companies on;
- jjj) Issues relating to Ernesettle Creek;
- kkk) Major developments in the Joint Local Plan had a requirement to deliver sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS);
- lll) The city centre developments included sustainable urban drainage systems to separate run off from sewage;
- mmm) Misconnections from homes;
- nnn) Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) had not yet been enacted, but the Government planned on enacting it within 12 months, which would make guidance on SUDS in new developments more clear;
- ooo) Promotional material to make residents and companies more aware of what couldn't/shouldn't be put into the drainage system;
- ppp) Educating communities of impacts of actions such as concreting over driveways.

Impact and Opportunities

Professor Richard Thompson (University of Plymouth) introduced the subject of microplastics and highlighted:

- a) Microplastics varied in size, shape, polymer and chemical composition and origin, but had to be 5mm or less to qualify;
- b) The first paper on microplastics had been published in Plymouth in 2004;
- c) Action to reduce larger items of plastics in the present, would reduce “the microplastics of tomorrow”;
- d) It was believed that nano-particles of microplastics were in

the environment in large quantities but they were so small, their presence had not yet been confirmed;

- e) Long term chronic effects of microplastics on organisms;
- f) There was a limit to the amount of plastics that could be banned as plastic was beneficial to society;
- g) Microfibers from domestic laundry were released in relatively high quantities, and some 'solutions' that were marketed, were not effective;
- h) Tyre wear created particles that were entering the environment in relatively high quantities and had been tracked locally;
- i) Testing had proved that some agri-plastic that claimed to be biodegradable, had not decomposed at all over 12 months in a different environments;
- j) Tests on a device collecting rubbish in the Barbican, had collected more seaweed and small fish (some of which were dead after not being able to escape) than plastic, and could be doing environmental damage;
- k) New products needed to have a focus on design for life and end of life.

Jenny Parkins (Ocean Conservation Trust) explained how water quality had impacted some of the work the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT) was doing at the National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth, and highlighted:

- l) The OCT was working hard to get as many people involved with Plymouth Sound as they could;
- m) In 2023, at least 7 snorkelling sessions (approximately 100 people in total) run by OCT had to be cancelled due to sewage discharge from storm overflows;
- n) Getting involved with the water was important for heritage, culture and mental health;
- o) OCT encouraged young people to write to the Council and SWW when they had been unable to enter the water.

Elaine Haynes (CEO, National Marine Park) gave an overview, following on from her statement included in the agenda pack, and highlighted:

- p) People were responsible for the water quality they received and were both the problem, and the solution;
- q) Need for update of the bathing water regulations;
- r) The National Marine Park (NMP) would campaign and work towards the goal of good water quality 365 days a year;
- s) Education of local communities on water quality;
- t) Changing behaviours of local people and help people to take personal action;
- u) Sea grass meadows in Plymouth Sound were being killed by some of the pollutants coming down the rivers;
- v) Nature was resilient;
- w) Need to hold polluters to account;
- x) Need to use the NMP status as leverage for improvement.

Mark Hinchliffe (Sea Swimmer) and Paul Montgomery (Sea Swimmer) spoke about their experience of water quality in relation to sea swimming and highlighted:

- y) Sea swimming was of huge benefit to mental health;
- z) It could impact sea swimmers negatively if they could not sea swim that day due to poor water quality;
- aa) Bathing areas would benefit from more signage on safety of the water, and of the location/provision of safety equipment;
- bb) Confusion and frustrations on accuracy of water quality levels.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- cc) There were a number of other sea swimming groups in Plymouth;
- dd) Misinterpretation of water quality data;
- ee) Request for previous years data on snorkelling sessions cancelled due to poor water quality from OCT;
- ff) Possibility of Water Quality Ambassadors;
- gg) Reliance on the Surfers Against Sewage app and the lack of clarity of data on whether it was a large storm overflow or

small;

hh) Need to reconnect people to the ocean and how their actions could improve water quality;

ii) Cost of water sampling;

jj) Need to look at how information on water quality was communicated and understood;

kk) Importance of the role of all stakeholders in improving water quality;

ll) Education of young people on water quality;

mm) Checking of safety features at sea swimming locations;

nn) Need for bins near to sea swimming areas;

oo) Education on disposal of waste.

4. **New Partnership Approach**

Councillor Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change), supported by Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning), introduced the new partnership approach, and highlighted:

- a) Importance of a high quality marine environment for all;
- b) Recognition of the issues increased rainfall presents to water quality;
- c) The memorandum of understanding (MOU) was a mechanism to push the boundaries of what could be achieved;
- d) The MOU provided the opportunity for:
 - i. Partnership collaboration;
 - ii. Community involvement;
 - iii. Innovative nature based solutions;
 - iv. Alignment of investment;
 - v. Multi-benefits (reduced flooding, improved water quality, improved nature, access, wellbeing etc);
- e) Importance of understanding past approaches and moving towards green solutions;

- f) Importance of enabling greater levels of community engagement, understanding and community co-design of solutions to water management;
- g) Delivery of investments and programmes in a more integrated way to maximise benefits, including wider social, environmental and economic benefits);
- h) MOU outlined an ambitious and action orientated plan for Plymouth.

In response to questions, and supported by Bruce Newport (Environment Agency) and Alan Burrows (South West Water), the following was explained further:

- i) Need to deal with the root cause, rather than just dealing with the issues caused;
- j) Importance of green first approaches and education needed;
- k) Central Park drainage improvements;
- l) Storm damage;
- m) Importance of new technologies in the future.

5. **Recommendations**

The Committee unanimously:

1. Accepted the conclusion in the report that the issues and challenges with water quality were complex, would increase with predicted climate change and needed an enhanced and urgent approach to delivery;
2. Supported the collaboration set out in the MoU, for a long term delivery focused relationship of Plymouth City Council with the Environment Agency and South West Water;

Recommended to South West Water

3. That they ensure existing investment identified for drainage infrastructure of the city is delivered in line with the ambition of the MoU where there were no legal constraints;

Recommended to the Environment Agency:

4. That they make sampling data from Firestone Bay taken over the winter available to the public at the earliest opportunity;
5. That they carry out winter pilots in the 3 bathing areas to improve water quality data, and make this available to the public;

Requested:

6. That trading standards to provide Committee Members with information on environmental enforcement in Plymouth.

In addition, the Committee recommend to Cabinet that:

7. Signage was increased and improved at the sea fronts when storm drains discharge;

8. SWW and EA work with PCC officers to increase education across the city on what communities can do to improve water quality;

9. The National Marine Park school engagement programme included education on improving water quality;

10. A water ambassador programme was developed with the National Marine Park;

11. The MoU was more specific on how other stakeholders would be engaged with when improving water quality;

12. They lobby government for Plymouth be a pilot for an area of water quality improvement;

13. They improve and increase facilities/infrastructure for sea swimmers, such as life rings, defibrillators, hot showers and bins, in consultation with local sea swimming groups;

14. Green jobs and growth opportunities in Plymouth for future generations are promoted;

15. The Cabinet writes to the relevant minister to ask when schedule 3 to The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is going to be enacted;

16. The Cabinet writes to the relevant minister to ask them to update bathing legislation.

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Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	17 July 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth Economic Intelligence and Insight
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Toby Hall and Lauren Paton
Contact Email:	Toby.Hall@plymouth.gov.uk or Lauren.Paton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide an update to members of the scrutiny panel on Plymouth's economic data and trends. Members are asked to note the report.

Recommendations and Reasons

To provide an update on economic trends for Plymouth, including key economic metrics linked to growth. Members are asked to note the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. No Alternative options considered and rejected; this is a paper for noting

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Economic insight and intelligence helps inform sound decisions. This report provides an update on key trends and economic insight. This will directly contribute to the corporate plan objective to drive:

Green Investment, Jobs, Skills and better education.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

A prosperous and functioning economy for the city impacts on the Council's business rates and associated income. By monitoring economic trends, it will help the Council make informed financial decisions

Financial Risks

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Some economic growth can have a negative carbon impact. Not all growth is good growth, so it is important we gather insight and intelligence. The Council is focused on well paid jobs with high

productivity which look to capitalise the economic growth in net zero opportunities. This report has no negative carbon foot print impacts.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.

The data provided includes data on equality and information on gender pay gap.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Plymouth Economic Intelligence and Insight							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	NA	HR	NA	Assets	NA	Strat Proc	NA
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 04/07/2024											

Plymouth Economic Intelligence Update



I.I.

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Plymouth Economic Intelligence Brief – July 2024



Lauren Paton
Economic Development Officer
Plymouth City Council

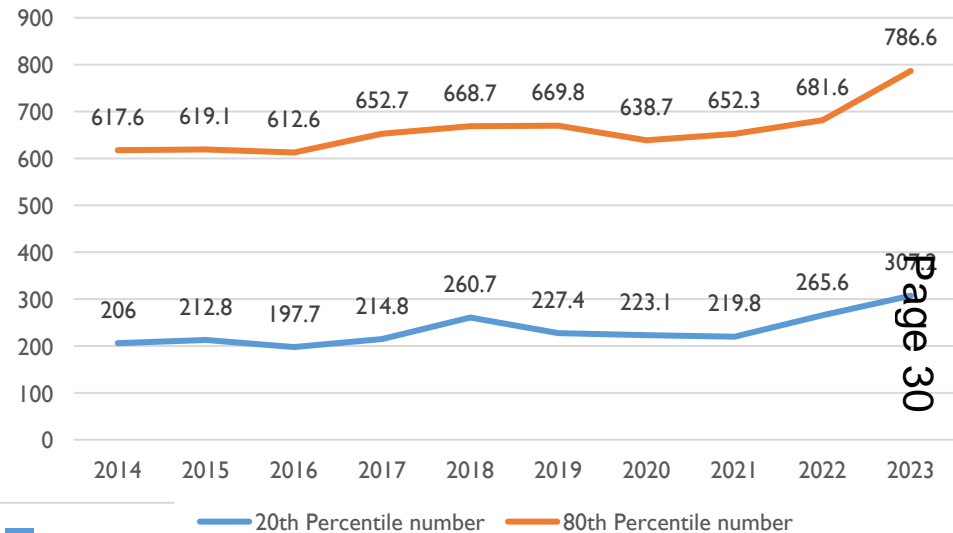
Toby Hall
Project Manager
Plymouth City Council

Labour Market: Wage Growth & Full-time vs Part-time

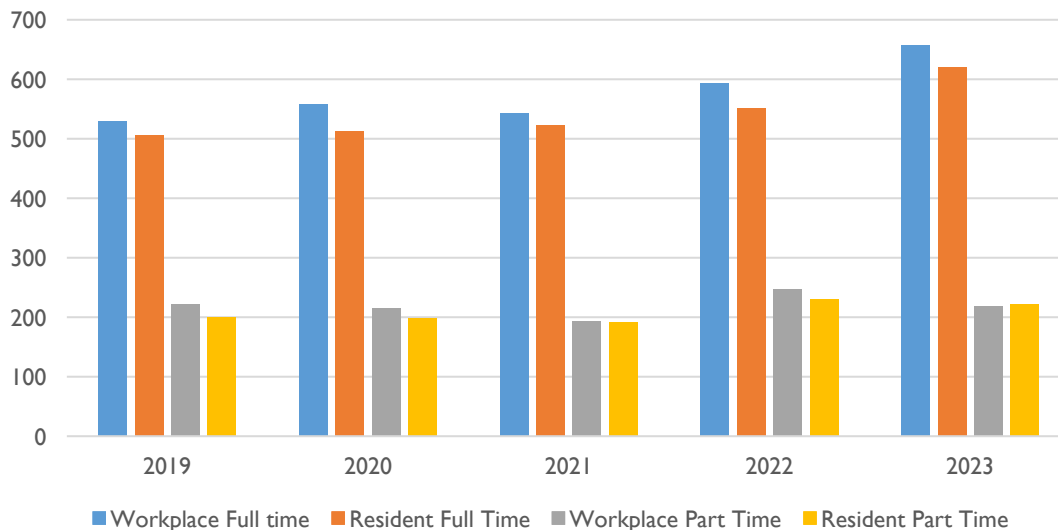


- Wage Growth has been seen for both the highest and lowest earners in the City.
- Despite impact of Covid, significant wage growth for both groups over the last 3 years.

Plymouth Weekly Pay - 20th vs 80th Percentile



Full-time vs Part-time wages
Plymouth Residents and Workplace

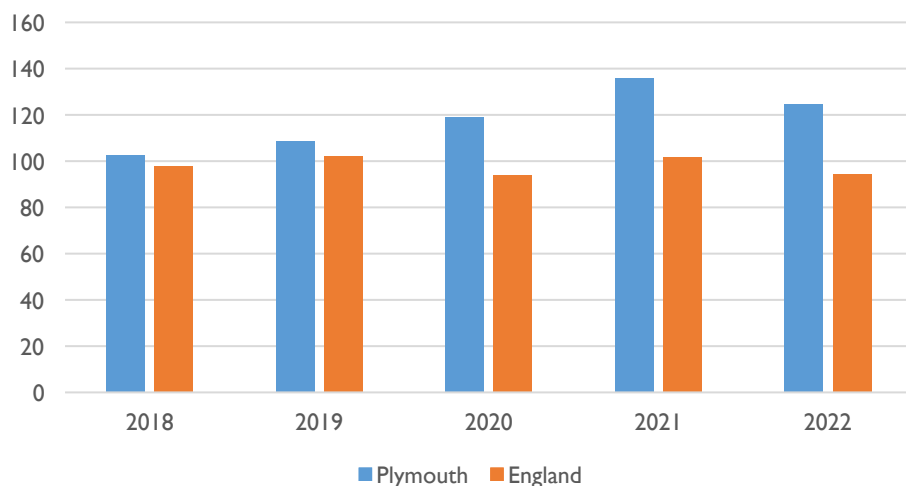


- Over the last 5 years, Plymouth has seen significant growth in full-time wages both for residents and workers.
- Part-time wages have not seen significant levels of growth over the same period though.

Business Environment: Business Survival and Start Ups



Births of Net Enterprises compared to 2017,
Plymouth vs England (2017=100)

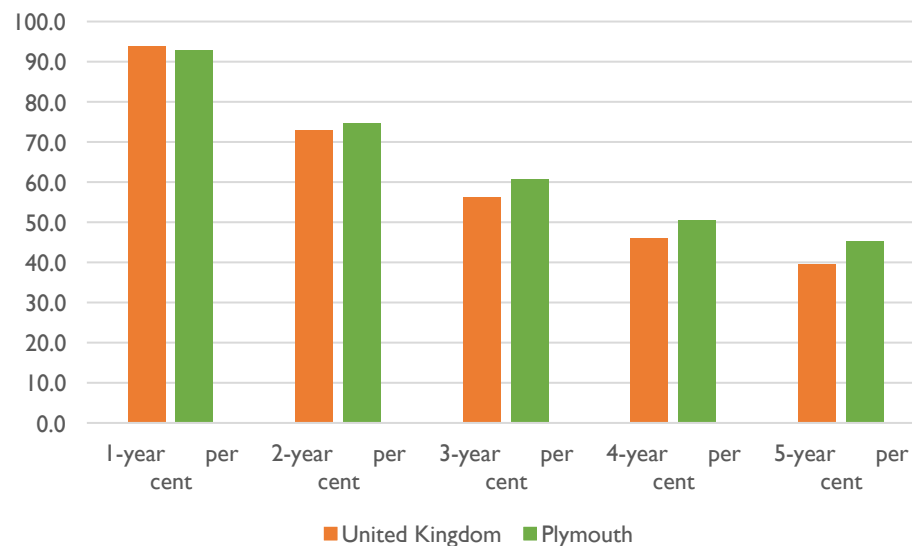


- The 5-year survival rate for new businesses is 45.1% in Plymouth, this is significantly higher than the UK average of 39.6% (SW: 45.0%)
- Despite lower business start-up rates per population, Plymouth provides better overall business survivability over 2, 3, 4 and 5 years.

- The number of new Enterprise Births per year in Plymouth has grown considerably.
- There were 955 enterprise births in 2022.
- However, the total number of enterprise births per population remains lower than UK average.

Page 31

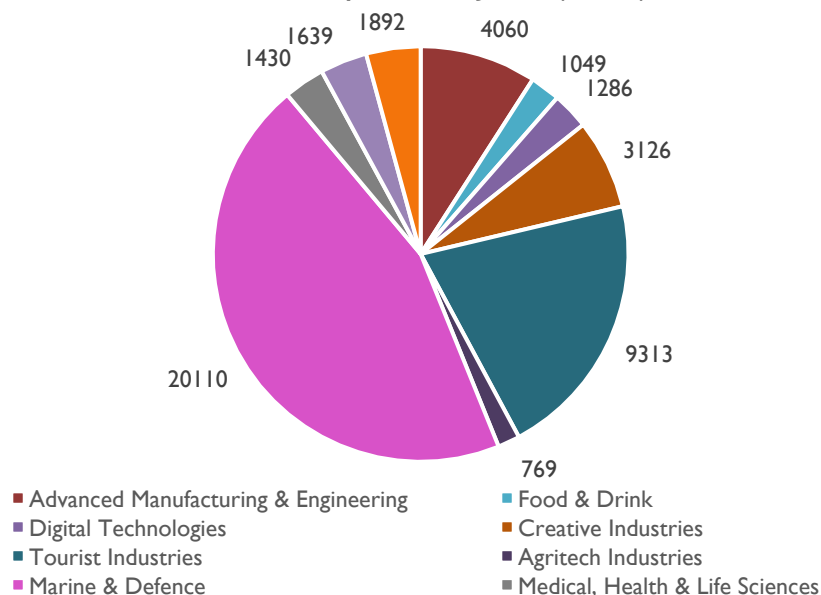
Business Survival Rate
Plymouth vs UK 5-year Survival



Plymouth Key Sectors: Creative Industries



Plymouth's Key Sectors
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs (2021)



Creative Industries Sector:

- 3,350 FTE jobs (2022)
- £150m GVA (2022)
- £43.1 GVA per FTE (2022)

This key sector has experienced significant growth:

- +10% more FTE jobs over the last 3 years

Pie chart of Plymouth's Key Sectors – these account for **40%** of the entire economy of the city.

- Creative Industries plan is currently being commissioned to build on the strengths and assets of the city.
- Creative UK have produced a national Creative Growth report which highlights the potential of the sector to contribute value and sustainable careers to the wider economy. Plymouth is well positioned to grow its Creative Industries sector.

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	17 July 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth City Centre Business Improvement District (2025-2030)
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Patrick Knight, Economy, Partnerships and Regeneration Manager Kezia Lock, Economic Development Officer Steve Hughes, Chief Executive, Plymouth City Centre Company
Contact Email:	patrick.knight@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PK/ KL 05.07.2024
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report provides Scrutiny with the opportunity for early consultation on the development of the City Centre Company business plan for the next City Centre Business Improvement District which will run from 2025 to 2030.

Plymouth City Centre is vital to the heart of the City; it is a place where investors, visitors and residents gravitate. It is the location for many of Plymouth's anchor institutions, such as the Theatre Royal, the Box, two universities, the arrival point by train. It is a key priority for Plymouth City Council (PCC), the Plymouth Plan and for the future success of the city overall. PCC will continue to give strong support to Plymouth City Centre Company's successful Business Improvement District and the 500+ businesses, organisations and occupiers it represents.

The report also sets out the Council's support for the CCC's City Centre BID going forwards and the ongoing partnership. Plymouth City Council has facilitated investment into flagship projects in the City Centre, ranging from the Box, Barcode, the first phase of Brunel Plaza, land assembly and the Heritage Action Zone. Alongside this, there has been significant investment by the University of Plymouth and its campus on the edge of the city centre. The value of these investments is over £250m with a £250m pipeline under development including

the Civic Centre, the Guildhall, public realm improvements, further phases of development at Brunel Plaza, a package of investment in the West End and a new Community Diagnostics Centre – all of which equates to additional investment of over £250m.

The CCC plays a vital role in supporting the City Centre, adding value to the flagship investments. Over the next 5 years the BID will generate £2.25 million, which will be supported by a further £590,000 of PCC support

CCC will provide leadership and management and be directly accountable to City Centre businesses for the delivery of the BID Business Plan, working in partnership with PCC, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, Destination Plymouth, Plymouth Culture, the Police Authority, and other public agencies to benefit businesses located within the City Centre area.

The full version of the Plymouth City Centre Company BID Business Plan (Proposal) will be available at: www.citycentrebid.co.uk ahead of the ballot.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Scrutiny:

1. Support the principles and overall approach of the Plymouth City Centre Company BID and its draft Business Plan for 2025 to 2030 (however the BID legislation does not require the Local Authority's endorsement).

Reason: To confirm the partnership approach to the Business Improvement District and to continue with a framework for service improvement mechanisms within the Business Improvement District area.

For Information – Cabinet will be asked to approve the following recommendations:

1. Endorse the principles and overall approach of the Plymouth City Centre Company BID and its draft Business Plan for 2025 to 2030 (however the BID legislation does not require the Local Authority's endorsement).

Reason: To confirm the partnership approach to the Business Improvement District and to continue with a framework for service improvement mechanisms within the Business Improvement District area.

2. Approve the City Council's financial and in-kind contributions as set out in this report (totalling £590,000) and to demonstrate its continued commitment to the City Centre Company BID at existing levels through the proposed BID Concordat and Contract for the provision of services within the Plymouth City Centre Business Improvement District area.

Reason: To enable the Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. to implement the Business Plan 2025 to 2030.

3. Authorise the Chief Executive as Ballot Holder to instruct a Ballot Holder to undertake a ballot of appropriate businesses within the City Centre Company Business Improvement District area.

Reason: To enable a ballot in the Business Improvement District area to be conducted in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004.

4. Delegate to the Service Director (Economic Development) the right to vote on behalf of the City Council in the Plymouth City Centre Company Business Improvement District ballot.

Reason: To discharge the City Council's responsibilities in relation to the ballot as an occupier within the Plymouth City Centre Business Improvement District area in a timely manner consistent with the Business Improvement District ballot programme and to achieve the City Council's wider economic and regeneration objectives for the city centre.

5. Delegate to the Service Director (Economic Development) approval of the Plymouth City Centre Company Business Improvement District Operating Agreement, provided it accords with the general principles set out in this report.

Reason: To allow the Business Improvement District Operating Agreement to be formally signed by both parties after the Business Improvement District ballot and in advance of the formal commencement of the new Business Improvement District for the period 2025 to 2030.

6. Request the Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel to review the Business Improvement District proposals.
7. To make a recommendation to City Council regarding the exercising its power of veto.

Reason: To meet the requirements of Regulation 12 of the Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004 in relation to the use of the power of veto and to provide independent scrutiny of the council's support for the Business Improvement District's proposal to go to ballot for a further five-year term.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Option 1: Progress city centre management through a different vehicle using a voluntary contribution approach

This has been rejected by the City Centre Company because the anticipated income and levels of commitment would be significantly reduced because of differential contributions from different businesses.

Option 1: Progress city centre management through a different vehicle using a voluntary contribution approach

This has been rejected by the City Centre Company because the anticipated income and levels of commitment would be significantly reduced because of differential contributions from different businesses.

Option 2: Amend some of the assumptions in the existing Business Improvement District Business Plan

This was rejected as the current level of service provision within the City Centre has to be met or enhanced above pre-Business Improvement District levels for the duration of the BID Business Plan in order to meet the requirements of the regulations. In addition, previous experience in delivering the City Centre BID Business Plans demonstrates the added value of a realistic but challenging programme of integrated initiatives in leveraging other sources of income above the basic Business Improvement District levy.

Further background information:

1.0 Introduction

This report sets out Plymouth City Council's rationale and support for the Plymouth City Centre Company's (CCC) Business Improvement District (BID) for Plymouth City Centre (2025-30).

Plymouth city centre's economic vibrancy is of vital importance to the city, hosting c.5% of Plymouth's business stock, c.6,200 employees (IDBR 2022) and is a key priority for this Council. Through the BID we have invested heavily in the city centre, matching the contribution of levy payers and prioritising city centre projects within our capital programme in line with the BID's ambitions. Over the last 5 years and going forwards, PCC has and will support the delivery of transformational investments, including:

The Box – new cultural hub, including a museum, gallery, archive spaces and café with a new public square for performances and events.

Barcode – new complex which houses a multi-screen cinema, major restaurant outlets and other leisure attractions.

Civic Square – restoring our listed park and garden, including the reflection pond and raised seating areas, replacement of the bowtie paving to match the historical style, new tree planting, benches, and lighting, as well as widening and upgrading existing footway outside of the Council House to enhance pedestrian and cyclist movement.

West End – improved public realm, including new planters, seating, building facades with West End brand / colours throughout the West End.

Community Diagnostics Centre (CDC) – 3,500sqm building being delivered over 3 floors in the City Centre. The CDC will carry out over 90,000 tests every year, bringing new footfall to the city centre to support local businesses.

Civic Centre and Guildhall – The Council secured £12m of grant funding through the Future High Streets Fund. This funding will allow the Guildhall to be refurbished and modernised, so that it can hold more events, attracting more visitors and helping to build Plymouth's night-time economy. Some of the funding will also go towards the refurbishment of the Civic Centre, which will deliver a new campus for City College Plymouth, focusing on marine and environmental skills, as well as providing up to 144 new homes in the heart of the city centre.

Brunel Plaza – This is the redevelopment of Plymouth railway station and the area around it, which has already seen over £40m of investment in concourse improvements, infrastructure upgrades, improvements to the public realm and the refurbishment of Intercity Place to provide new teaching facilities for the University of Plymouth's allied health professions.

Land Assembly – The Council has acquired a number of strategic assets in the city centre to allow regeneration to take place, including the land required for the CDC and land at Bath Street, where there are plans for 136 new homes on the edge of the city centre.

New George Street and Old Town Street – Further investment in public realm.

We recognise that the Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. (CCC) has been hugely successful in delivering significant achievements and improvements over the past 20 years and is major voice for many businesses, organisations and partnerships within the city. Representing more than 500 businesses within the Plymouth city centre area it has gained a national reputation for best practice and has transformed the city centre environment into a safer, more welcoming and more vibrant place for residents and visitors alike. The BID is about sustainable partnerships that help drive investment in the area.

The report defines the Council's financial support for the CCC's City Centre BID5 as well as its commitment to establish baseline agreements for the City Council's existing services within the BID area. Any business contributions through the BID that come from the private sector (BID levy c.£2.25m) are effectively additional investment over and above the support made by the City Council which totals c.£590,000 over the five years. This brings the total projected value of the City Centre BID to c.£2.8m.

The Plymouth Plan's 'Growing' and 'International' chapters highlight the importance of Plymouth City Centre as a primary economic node, which is being enhanced and regenerated as a vibrant modern mixed-use regional shopping centre of appropriate scale for prevalent retail patterns, with high

levels of Internet connectivity, high quality high density urban living, and a hub for culture and leisure to serve the wider city. It is also crucial in the delivery of the refreshed Plymouth Visitor Plan (2020-30) and Culture Plan (2021-2030), enabling Plymouth to build a vibrant cultural scene for visitors and residents alike to experience.

Major investment at Babcock, the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, plus other projected business growth, will drive demand for new housing, with potentially up to 5,000 new homes being provided in the city centre over the long-term.

1.1 The City Centre Company Vision

To create an outstanding, contemporary city centre in which to live, work or play, maximising the huge investment in its public spaces with events, festivals, and other cultural activities to attract residents and visitors all-year round by day and night to help our businesses to thrive.

1.2 The City Centre BID5 Operation

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a private sector led management organisation for a precisely defined geographical area, where business rate payers have identified projects and services that will have a positive impact on their trading environment. Businesses located within the area vote to invest collectively in delivering these improvements, which are wholly additional to those already delivered by local, statutory bodies. Once a BID has been established, all businesses contribute a BID Levy based on the rateable value of their premises (hereditaments) to ensure fairness and equity. BIDs have a maximum duration of five years.

The Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. will be responsible for delivering the new City Centre BID Business Plan. PCCC is an independent, not for profit company limited by guarantee, which currently operates as a voluntary membership partnership with a Board of Directors representing the key business sectors in the BID area, run by and for local businesses.

PCCC will provide leadership and management and be directly accountable to City Centre businesses for the delivery of the BID Business Plan 2025-30, working in partnership with Plymouth City Council, Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, Destination Plymouth, and other public agencies to benefit businesses located within the City Centre area.

1.3 The City Centre Company Objectives

The City Centre Company's new BID business plan will include the following objectives:

Following the CCC's successful delivery of its projects in the 2020-25 BID Business Plan, the CCC's Board of Directors have taken the decision to proceed to a BID ballot for a further BID term (2025-30). Since October 2023, extensive consultation has taken place with the business community through a series of face-to-face meetings, surveys, networking events and 'open door' meetings.

Act as ONE BUSINESS VOICE for the city centre, influencing and working with partners, to:

- Create a vibrant, contemporary, mixed-use city centre to attract visitors, shoppers, residents and workers to enjoy the city centre all-year round by day and night.

- Work with the city council and other partners to maximise the newly improved public spaces and buildings with a focus on driving footfall.
- Re-invigorate the city centre by pro-actively seeking inward investment and facilitating development, especially housing for city centre community living, and finding new uses for empty buildings.
- Improve connectivity between the waterfront and city centre, giving visitors more reason to visit both locations.
- Improve accessibility to the city centre for all by working with partners to make the streets safer, cleaner, and more welcoming.
- Attract footfall and spend with a year-round programme of events and activities, including our flagship events, the three-day food and drink festival Flavour Fest, the West End Carnival and Christmas Lights-switch-on and market.
- Work with partners, including the city council, Destination Plymouth, Plymouth Culture, and the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership to maximise the potential of the Britain's Ocean City brand and to work with them on local, national and international marketing and PR campaigns.
- Support our businesses with a range of services to provide direct help or reduce business costs.
- Support our businesses to reduce carbon impacts and helping our businesses to be sustainable?

The new BID's projects are designed to enable the new-look city centre to thrive and to maximise the opportunities driven by a continuously changing consumer marketplace. Its objectives will include a commitment to working with partners to build on the recent success of attracting new retail brands e.g. Mango and Rituals and leisure opportunities and to attract and nurture new businesses, increasing footfall and reducing vacancy rates. Furthermore, the CCC will continue to work closely with Plymouth Culture, building on successful cultural projects and, in particular, to better support the evening and nighttime economy. In addition, the CCC will work with the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to identify and maximise benefits for city centre businesses.

1.4 The City Centre Targets

The City Centre BID will help Plymouth to deliver its new Economic Development Strategy (2024-2034), including support for its four pillars – Productive Growth, Sustainable Growth, Inclusive Growth and Civic Pride and Regeneration. In addition it will support Destination Plymouth to meet its Visitor Plan targets:

- To grow visitor spend by 30% from £337 million to £450 million in a decade
- To increase the total visitor numbers by 15% from 5.2 to 6 million by 2030
- To reposition the city as somewhere attractive to live and work with a high quality of life

Working with Destination Plymouth and Plymouth Culture the City Centre Company will help to position Plymouth as an 'urban base' through which to enjoy modern city centre living, shopping, leisure, cultural activities and evening and night-time experiences e.g. The Theatre Royal, The Barcode cinema and leisure complex, The Box, Royal William Yard and the Barbican- I see it is referenced at the bottom of S2. and Millbay.

2.0 How Will City Centre BID5 Be Managed?

The new City Centre BID will be managed by the Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. which will be directly accountable to City Centre businesses for the management of this area and the successful delivery of the BID Business Plan.

The BID's governance will be the responsibility of the PCCC Board, giving City Centre businesses and other stakeholders control in formulating strategy and overseeing BID project delivery. In addition, as a member of the CCC, businesses will also have a vote on major decisions.

The BID boundary area will cover the primary areas of the City Centre including the area to the North of Royal Parade and up Armada Way to North Cross, the area West of Armada Way across to Western Approach, the area to the East of Armada Way across to Charles Cross. The City Centre Company BID area will buffer up to the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership BID area ensuring joint working between the two areas and a seamlessly positive visitor experience.

3.0 The Costs to Businesses

The businesses will have to decide whether to vote Yes or No to fund delivery of the final City Centre BID Business Plan. If a majority of businesses vote Yes, then all businesses in the BID area will be required to contribute an annual BID Levy payment, based on the rateable value of the premises that the business occupies.

The proposed annual BID Levy is based on 1.75% of a business property's rateable value (RV). For example, if the RV is £30,000 a business will pay £525 per annum, that's £10 per week.

4.0 The Development of BID5

The BID Business Plan has been driven at every stage by business owners and managers seeking to improve their trading environment and profitability.

Building on from the previous four BID business plans, the CCC has listened to business concerns, ideas and priorities, evolving this BID Business Plan from a detailed, democratic consultation process, involving a number of key stages. Extensive consultation has taken place with the business community since October 2023 through a series of face-to-face meetings, surveys, and 'open door' meetings. The BID is about investment in the area and sustainable partnerships. Consequently, the Plymouth City Centre Company's Business Improvement District Business Plan and the proposed projects within it are the result of extensive consultation with City Centre businesses reflecting their priorities and aiming to deliver them over the 5-year BID period.

5.0 Value for Money

If the majority of businesses vote Yes, around 523 identified businesses (including City Council premises) within the City Centre BID area will be required to contribute through a Levy. The Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. will then aim to secure match funding which could further increase the five-year investment.

Based upon rateable value, the average city centre business will pay an annual levy of £911 a year (£17.51 a week) in return for significantly higher benefits in terms of visitor spend and other advantages.

Based upon existing rateable values within the BID area:

264 businesses will pay between £100 and £500 a year - 50% of businesses
118 businesses will pay between £500 and £1,000 a year - 23% of businesses
130 businesses will pay between £1,000 and £5,000 a year - 25% of businesses
9 businesses will pay more than £5,000 a year - 1.7% of businesses

It is proposed that a minimum rateable value threshold of £6,500 is set within this new BID term, below which no additional BID levy is made. This will help support those very small businesses within the independent retail areas which add distinctiveness, diversity and character to the city. They will not be excluded from BID benefits or services.

6.0 Projected Funding/Budget over 5 Years

Total estimated BID Levy income from City Centre businesses/organisations £2.25m (inc. PCC BID Levy)

Total projected other private sector funding £75,000 (inc. British Land voluntary contributions)

Total projected PCC cash and in-kind contributions £590,000

(PCC Christmas Illuminations contribution - £187,500

PCC Voluntary Landlord's contribution - £190,000 (subject to annual agreement by the Assistant Director of Economic Development)

PCC 'In kind' contribution - c.£72,500)

Total value of existing City Council Services, BID Levy, and Match Funding c.£854,500

(PCC Services – c.£642,000

PCC BID Levy payments - £140,000

PCC In Kind/Match funding – c.£72,500)

Total 5 Year joint PCC enabled investment and BID funding*

*Based upon current projected budgets which could be subject to change.

Planned funding breakdown over 5 years:

Planned Funding	Value £	Cash or in kind?
PCC - Capital Programme (OTS/NGS/Civic Centre/West End)	49,500,000	Cash, subject to funding and business cases
PCC - Christmas lights installation	187,500	cash
PCC - BID levy payment	140,000	cash
PCC - Levy collection (admin and legal)	72,500	In kind
Total planned PCC contribution	49,900,000	Cash/in kind
CCC - BID levy income (projected)	2,250,000	Cash
CCC - Landlords - BID voluntary subscriptions	190,000	Cash
CCC - Commercial Trading Income (estimate)	100,000	Cash

CCC - PARC: MRS – Security radios / PARC – Trading income	200,000	Cash
Total planned CCC BID contribution	2,740,000	Cash
Total planned funding PCC and CCC	52,640,000	Cash/in kind

7.0 Why Continue with the City Centre BID?

The continuation of the BID will result in continuing delivery of significant improvements, providing a private sector-led approach to managing the City Centre area by working with Destination Plymouth and Plymouth Culture to make the city more attractive, vibrant and commercially successful.

8.0 How will the City Centre BID maximise its impact?

The BID Levy will be paid by every business and ring-fenced for projects identified in the final BID Business Plan.

The BID Levy is match funded by Plymouth City Council and other partners to generate further funds from additional sources to maximise the delivery of capital, project and service improvements.

9.0 City Centre Service Baselines

The proposed BID projects and services will be entirely additional to any services already delivered by Plymouth City Council. CCC will establish a contractual agreement with Plymouth City Council to regularly review Council services delivered within the BID area. Once the BID has been established, the Council will be contractually obliged to maintain agreed standards to conform to baseline service level agreements for the following services:

- **Safety**
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

- **Street Services**
- Graffiti and fly posting removal
- Power washing, e.g. planters/litter bins
- Street cleansing (inc. bin emptying/washing)
- Waste collection (Trade and Domestic)
- Trees and landscaping

- **Events and Marketing**
- Attractions
- Events
- Visitor information provision
- Marketing and promotion, including Visit Plymouth, City Centre BID and West End Plymouth websites
- Social media and PR
- Supporting the work of Destination Plymouth and Plymouth Culture

- **Planning**

- **Facilities Management**
- **Other Services** (we don't have baseline agreements, however the services below are mentioned in the Concordat):
 - Administrative support
 - ICT provision and office space

9.0 City Centre BID Ballot

All non-domestic rate paying businesses within the proposed BID area will be eligible to vote on the final City Centre BID Business Plan (Proposal), apart from those excluded (see exemptions in Section 10). A four-week postal ballot will be held at a date to be announced.

Each person entitled to vote in the City Centre BID ballot shall have one vote in respect of each hereditament in the geographical area of the BID on which non-domestic rates are payable.

The ballot will have to meet two tests. First, a simple majority (above 50%) of those voting must vote in favour. Second, those voting in favour must represent a majority of the aggregate rateable value of hereditaments voting.

The ballot papers will be forwarded to those ratepayers who are eligible to vote.

10.0 The City Centre BID Levy, Liability and Collection

The City Centre BID Levy will be payable by all businesses located within the boundary of the defined City Centre BID area with the following exemptions:

- Those with a rateable value of less than £6,500
- Car parking spaces that are rated separately

The City Centre BID Levy will be set on the 1st April 2025, based on the rateable value shown in the 2023 Local Non-Domestic Rating list, updated for any changes in ratepayer appeals, additions and removals from the list, and will last for the duration of the BID.

There will be no refunds given for retrospective years because of successful appeals, however changes in values will be reflected by a corresponding change to the levy for the year in which notification is received and for subsequent years.

For new assessment, splits and mergers (of rateable values) brought into the list between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2030, the rateable value used will be that as shown in the Non-Domestic Rating 2023 at the date the new or amended assessment is brought into that list. In addition, any "Taken out of Rating" cases will be deleted from the effective date as advised by the Valuation Office Agency to the City Council's Non-Domestic Rates section.

The City Centre BID Levy will not be reduced where the ratepayer is a charity or non-profit making organisation. The BID levy will also not be affected by the Government's Small Business Rate Relief Scheme which came into effect on 1st April 2005. The City Centre BID Levy is payable on the whole rating assessment irrespective if part or all of it is empty. In the case of empty properties, the City Centre BID levy will be collected at 100% from either the owner or leaseholder (if an occupational lease exists).

The BID levy will be collected by Plymouth City Council annually on 1st April. The Council will reimburse the CCC with BID Levies on a quarterly basis. The average BID Levy collection rate for the last five years has been greater than 95%.

11.0 Governance and Management

The current CCC Board of Directors will represent the key business sectors currently operating in Plymouth City Centre. The Board will meet at least quarterly.

The new BID will be managed by Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd (CCC). As an independent, not-for-profit company, the Plymouth City Centre Company will continue to be directly accountable to retailers for the management of the city centre and the successful delivery of the BID. The Plymouth City Centre Company is responsible for one wholly owned subsidiary company - Plymouth Against Retail Crime Limited.

The new BID's governance and management arrangements will support:

- individual city centre businesses engaging directly with the Plymouth City Centre Company Board
- grouping city centre businesses together to enable collective discussions
- establishment of an appropriate forum for individual businesses and/or groups to present their views to the Board, and
- creation of a Board structure that allows direct representation of city centre businesses on the Board.

It is anticipated that the Board will be constituted with up to fifteen directors drawn from a cross-section of BID levy-paying businesses and stakeholders. One seat will be allocated to a Plymouth City Councillor. The Board structure is designed to give city centre businesses the opportunity to have a real say on project development, delivery and day to day issues. 2

Plymouth City Centre Company will continue to work closely with Destination Plymouth (DP) and Plymouth Culture, which respectively hold strategic oversight for delivery of the city's Visitor Plan and Culture Plan.

12.0 Alteration of BID Arrangements

The City Centre BID area and the BID Levy percentage cannot be altered within the five-year lifetime without an Alteration Ballot.

The City Centre BID projects, headings, costs and timescales can be altered by the Board, within the constraints of BID income - providing that the City Centre BID's aims are adhered to.

13.0 Commencement and Duration of the BID

The City Centre BID's fifth term will start on 1st April 2025 and will operate for five years.

A postal ballot of business ratepayers in the City Centre BID area, based on the list of non-domestic ratepayers, will take place at a date to be confirmed.

If the City Centre BID proposal is approved, it will operate for five years from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2030. At or before the end of this period, the Board may choose to seek renewal of the City Centre BID's mandate.

14.0 Projects Identified by City Centre Businesses

The priorities identified in the draft BID Business Plan (2025-2030) have been drawn up following extensive consultation with businesses and stakeholders in the BID area. The BID is in constant dialogue with its BID levy payers through face-to-face meetings, monthly newsletters, networking events and its BID website and social media channels.

Consultation on the new business plan began in October 2023 and included three surveys of BID levy-paying businesses, regular BID business meetings, visitor and business surveys at two of the BID's major events Flavour Fest and the West End Carnival. The City Centre Company's objectives within this summary document are the result of the priorities identified by businesses:

- **Permanent and Dedicated Management**

Establish a City Centre management structure accountable to businesses to prioritise and deliver benefits for all users. Taking control of the trading environment by co-ordinating and championing business and partner efforts to regenerate the area, whilst working in partnership with and holding the City Council to account for delivery of existing services.

- **Marketing & PR**

The BID will leverage Plymouth marketing and promotional activities by developing three interrelated brands: Britain's Ocean City, City Centre, and West End brands. In addition, CCC will continue to develop hyper-local marketing activities for traders who are new to digital marketing. This will benefit the overall city centre and the unique character of our independent shops in the West End.

CCC will retain and target new markets, using the 'Britain's Ocean City' brand and supported by exciting campaigns that drive peak trading, local and regional spend whilst supporting the positioning of Plymouth as a leading UK destination to live, work, visit and study. This will include activity in the cruise, international and UK domestic trade market as well as PR and consumer marketing. The new BID will seek to maximise the opportunities created by new cultural and leisure attractions, including The Box and the Barcode. CCC will also support and promote the growing night-time economy.

- **Major Events**

CCC will increase the city centre's share of the regional tourism spend measured by day visitor numbers and the new Data Hub insights. The CCC will drive footfall year-round, particularly at Christmas, through the provision of new attractions and a city-wide approach to marketing.

The CCC new West End marketing and events such as The West End Carnival will reinforce the distinctive West End brand. CCC signature events (e.g. Flavour Fest, Switch-On / Christmas in Plymouth) will also be scaled

up and better commercialised; whilst designed to drive and better distribute footfall. All will provide exciting animation, supported by community events and national campaigns, to distinguish the city centre from clone towns.

CCC will also look to maximise the potential of the newly improved public spaces at Civic Square and in New George Street and Old Town Street as extra events spaces and will continually seek to improve the city centre experience by adding to the events programme. It will also look to maximise the huge potential of the revised plans for Armada Way.. This will enable the CCC and partners to make a step-change in the type and number of events that can be staged in the city centre.

- **Cleaner City Centre**

Ensure that the City Council's cleansing standards are maintained and improved via a new service level agreement to include performance measures, including regular walk rounds.

The BID will continue with its successful free trade waste recycling scheme for small and medium-sized businesses.

- **Safer City Centre**

The new BID will build on PARC's (Plymouth Against Retail Crime) outstanding success to date. PARC will be responsible for delivering Safer projects. In addition, PARC will use new technologies to share intelligence with the Police, Safer Plymouth, Pubwatch, Best Bar None, and other groups to better coordinate and address issues in the day and evening economy. PARC will continue to be a full subsidiary company of the City Centre Company.

CCC supported the city's successful bid for Purple Flag accreditation, recognising that Plymouth has a safe and welcoming night-time economy.

CCC will work closely with partners to develop and promote the city as an evening and night-time destination.

- **Inward Investment and Regeneration**

The BID will help the City Council to establish an agreed vision for development of key city centre sites and seek funding for targeted improvements. A new approach has been taken with the establishment of a city centre regeneration group and a new public realm board will be set up to help deliver continued improvement of the city centre's public spaces. The council will provide a dedicated resource to assist the BID to proactively address the changing nature of the High Street with a particular emphasis on trying to find new uses for empty retail units and add to the diversity of the city centre by attracting housing, office, hotel accommodation and leisure investment.

The BID will also work with Plymouth City Council and Destination Plymouth, encouraging strong retail brands, accommodation providers and new businesses to invest.

- **BID Member Benefits**

Gain increased networking and advertising opportunities through free membership for BID Members of Destination Plymouth providing a listing on the Visit Plymouth and City Centre Company websites.

All BID levy payers in the visitor sector will have free access to the new South West Data Hub which will provide real time and advance information on footfall, visitor spend and forward bookings to help support planning and business growth.

The BID has created a brand and new identity for the West End, plus set up a dedicated website and social media channels to promote the area. All West End businesses can upload news and information about their individual business to the website and use the social media channels for further marketing.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Working with the Police to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour	CCC work with Plymouth Against Retail Crime, whose officers assist businesses with incidences of crime and anti-social behaviour. CCC are part of multi-agency community safety partnerships which include the police, PARC, the PCC Community Connections Team and other PCC departments. In line with the Safer Plymouth Plan.
Fewer potholes, cleaner, greener streets and transport	CCC supports public realm improvements in the City Centre, including bus service improvement works that aim to increase the accessibility and capacity of public transport. CCC also gives an additional annual contribution to Street Cleansing operations.
Build more homes – for social rent and affordable ownership	CCC supports the vision for more homes in the City and Centre and works closely with Plymouth Community Homes and PCC.
Green investment, jobs, skills and better education	CCC offers business support, supports Skills Launchpad and is in support of PCC's Heat Network Infrastructure Programme.
Working with the NHS to provide better access to health, care and dentistry	CCC supports the plans for the Community Diagnostic Centre in the West End, bringing needed health facilities to the City Centre.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Over the 5 years, Plymouth City Council plans to support the BID with cash contributions of £187,500 (contribution to Christmas Illuminations), an estimated £140,000 in BID levy payments, and a £190,000 voluntary landlord's contribution (subject to annual agreement by the Assistant Director of Economic Development) and an 'in kind' contribution amounting to the value of c.£72,500.

Total value of support, cash, in kind commitments and BID levy payments over 5 years is therefore estimated at £590,000.

This represents a potential return of investment of 3:1 for the City Council during the BID period, which does not include the wider economic impact of supporting the Plymouth Plan (including Plymouth Visitor Plan) and the less tangible benefits gained through supporting the small businesses which provide jobs in the city, enlivening the city centre and keeping it welcoming and safe.

The City Council has already committed a total of c.£63.5m expenditure from its capital programme over the next 5 years subject to funding and business cases.

The Plymouth BID provides exceptional value for money. Plymouth's BID will be based on a BID levy of 1.75% of the rateable value of every business in the BID area representing an investment of £2.25m over 5 years (taking into account collection rates and estimated Small Business Rates Relief).

Financial Risks

BID Ballot does not go through – this exposes the Council to additional financial and reputational risks, the exposure is £2,000,000 of income for direct delivery across the time frame. The council would either have to step in and pick up the delivery or face the reputational risk of delivery not happening (e.g Christmas lights)

Cost inflation – salaries have continued to rise and the bid contributions have remained static, to date this has been absorbed through increased productivity and efficiency. Going forward there is an option for inflationary increases.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No new carbon footprint implications are implied by the BID renewal.

However, with work on the City Council's Climate Action Plan progressing there is an opportunity for the CCC and PCC to work together to promote action to reduce carbon emissions relating to the City Centre.

It is noted that many street traders using on-street electricity supplies have been encouraged to source their electricity through renewable electricity suppliers/ contracts and are doing so. This could be taken further with the range of retailers/traders that the Council has contractual arrangements with. The CCC also works closely with Destination Plymouth which operates and promotes a 'Green Tourism Scheme' to businesses in the tourism, hospitality, and wider visitor sector with the aim of reducing carbon impacts providing training, advice and guidance to small businesses.

In addition, the CCC could look at the potential for delivery of a wider business advice scheme regarding low energy equipment (low energy lightbulbs, heat pumps etc.) and using renewables. Furthermore, CCC is committed to supporting the development of the proposed heat networks for city centre businesses/organisations in the city centre.

Early action on establishing a portfolio of City Centre action is therefore envisaged.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.*

None. Plymouth City Centre Company Ltd. will continue to ensure that its activities support these objectives.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report title							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment (if applicable)							
C	Climate Impact Assessment (if applicable)							

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – CITY CENTRE BID

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Kezia Lock/ Patrick Knight	Department and service:	Place – Economic Development	Date of assessment:	21/06/2024
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Amanda Ratsey	Signature:	AMANDA RATSEY	Approval date:	03.07.2024
Overview:	Proposal to continue the operation of the Plymouth City Centre Business Improvement District (BID) and support for the City Centre Company to deliver its Business Plan covering objectives outlined including The Plymouth Welcome (cleaner), Safer Streets, Events and Marketing, and Business Support.				

Decision required:	Approval of this EIA.
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SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics? 	Yes	X	No	
Potential internal impacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 three)	Yes	X	No	
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	All the proposals aim to improve the experience for all users, communities and residents, including those with protected characteristics.			

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	Plymouth <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. South West	Customers of the City Centre Company and BID activities include a fully cross-sectional workforce and most of the population of the City and its retail catchment area and travel-to-work area. No significant adverse impacts are considered to exist although it is recognised that	None proposed	N/A

	<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. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>	<p>some individual elements of the programme of activities in the City Centre are from time to time focussed on particular population groups (e.g. families with children).</p>		
<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per</p>	<p>No adverse impacts</p>	<p>None proposed</p>	<p>N/A</p>

	<p>cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>			
Disability	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a lot' because of a physical or mental health problem. 12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited 'a little' because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>	<p>Disability access issues are raised and addressed from time to time e.g. lifts in buildings being out of action and greater disabled access to shops.</p>	<p>CCC can, does and will continue to provide a useful route to addressing issues with relevant businesses in the City Centre.</p>	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender reassignment 	<p>0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).</p>	<p>Such groups are expected to be proportionately represented amongst City Centre users – no adverse impacts</p>	<p>None proposed</p>	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent of residents are, or were,</p>	<p>Such groups are expected to be proportionately represented amongst City Centre users – no adverse impacts</p>	<p>None proposed</p>	N/A

	married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).			
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.	Such groups are expected to be proportionately represented amongst City Centre users – no adverse impacts	None proposed	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Race 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth's population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census) People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census) 92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census). 	Such groups are expected to be proportionately represented amongst City Centre users – no adverse impacts	None proposed	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religion or belief 	48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census). Those who identified as Muslim account for	Some activities supported by the CCC can be seen to support some faith/religious groups more than others (e.g. Christmas events) and could be seen	No change in action proposed	Ongoing

	1.3 per cent of Plymouth's population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).	as adverse but can bring people of different faiths together.		
▪ Sex	51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).	No adverse impacts	None proposed	N/A
▪ Sexual orientation	88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).	Relevant events, such as Gay Pride, are and will be supported by the CCC.	No change in action proposed	N/A

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

▪ Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	No implications	None proposed	N/A

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
Work together in partnership to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion ▪ facilitate community cohesion 	It is expected that the wide-ranging events supported by CCC will on the whole support good relations between Plymouth's communities.	Ongoing support of wide-ranging events including food markets with a wide-ranging offer to include businesses/offer that reflect the diversity of our resident population.	PCC Events Team and City Centre Company over 5 years of the BID term.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together 			
Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.	Not a direct City Centre Company responsibility.	CCC will work with PCC to directly support care experienced people wherever appropriate and feasible.	Over 5 years of the BID term.
Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.	CCC is committed to being an equal opportunities employer and will ensure its Board is representative of its key stakeholders.	CCC supports PCC's Skills Launchpad.	Over 5 years of the BID term.
Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.	CCC's events and other activities attract diverse communities to the city centre, and its subsidiary company, PARC, employs trained security staff to help tackle ASB and other crime in the city centre.	<p>PARC works closely with the Police, PCC Community Connections team, Violence Against Women and Girls partnership and others to help people report incidents.</p> <p>CCC also supported introduction of Help Points across the city centre, plus improved lighting and CCTV.</p> <p>It was also responsible for setting up quarterly Safer Plymouth meetings, with the Police, PARC, PCC's Community Connections team and business owners/managers.</p>	Over 5 years of the BID term.

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)
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	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 24.2 5.03 7	Leg	LS/00 0013 12/2/ AC/3/ 7/24	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 05/07/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Tudor Evans, agreed verbally Date approved: 13/06/2024											

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Plymouth City Centre Company

Supporting paper for Scrutiny Committee July 17, 2024

Introduction

The Plymouth City Centre Company intends to ballot city centre businesses later this year on proposals for a further 5-year term for the city centre's Business Improvement District.

The BID was set up in 2005 and was one of the first in the UK outside London. This would be its fifth term.

As a well-established BID, it has a track record of successful investment in the city centre and strong partnership working to create a more vibrant and diverse city centre so that its businesses can thrive.

Our objectives are closely aligned with those of the council as set out in the full report.

The city centre is being transformed into a safer, more welcoming, and vibrant place to attract more visitors and investment and up to 4,000 homes. With a newly revamped Civic Square, the clean-up of historic buildings and the £17m of improvements to New George Street and Old Town Street almost complete, the vision for a new-look city centre is starting to take shape. We are currently drafting the next business plan for April 1 2025 to March 31 2030 in consultation with businesses and stakeholders.

Below is a draft of our vision and objectives:

Vision and objectives

CREATING A BETTER CITY CENTRE FOR EVERYONE

Our Mission

To create an outstanding, safe and welcoming city centre, maximising the huge investment in our public spaces with events and other cultural activities to attract residents and visitors all-year round by day and night to help our businesses to thrive.

We will deliver our mission through four main themes:

- 1 The Plymouth Welcome
- 2 Safer Streets
- 3 Events and Marketing
- 4 Business Support

RAISING THE BAR

We will be the BUSINESS VOICE for the city centre, working with partners to achieve the following objectives:

- Realise the potential of our new public spaces with events and festivals across the city centre to attract more visitors
- Re-invigorate the city centre by seeking inward investment and facilitating the development of up to 4,000 homes
- Improve the look and feel of the city centre and ensure it is clean and well-maintained
- Use culture and the arts to drive economic growth, including the evening and night-time economy
- Build on the success of our Plymouth Against Retail Crime (PARC) initiative with extra funding and more patrols
- Market and promote the city centre at every opportunity as a top retail, leisure and visitor destination
- Support our businesses with a range of services to provide direct help or reduce business costs

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	17 July 2024
Title of Report:	Update: The Box and its performance
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture, Events and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Victoria Pomery
Contact Email:	Victoria.pomery@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The Box is now in its fourth year of operation and is building its profile and reputation. After an initially challenging opening due to Covid restrictions, it has welcomed more than 800,000 visits, nearly 60% of whom are Plymouth residents.

This report is to update the committee on progress and performance in the 2023/24 financial year and to date in 2024/25.

Recommendations and Reasons

The committee is asked to note the report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The input and overview of the relevant scrutiny committee is essential to maintain openness and transparency in relation to the work of the Council.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Box supports multiple agendas within the Plymouth Plan, including positioning Plymouth as a major UK destination; delivering a distinctive, dynamic cultural centre of regional, national and international renown; creating the conditions for economic growth; delivering skills and talent development; implementing Britain's Ocean City; celebrating diverse communities; enhancing Plymouth's green city credentials and delivering best outcomes for children, young people and families.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications

The City Council's support for The Box levers significant additional funding from Arts Council England and major trusts and foundations, in addition to facilitating commercial income generation. Considerable fundraising is undertaken and staff have ambitious targets for generating earned income. In 2023/4, 56% of The Box's budget was generated from sources other than Plymouth City Council. Ongoing running costs have been factored into the annual budget.

Financial Risks

The current NPO funding lasts through until 2026/27. There will be a competitive process to bid for further NPO funding in 2026.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The Box Green Group oversees a rolling programme of carbon reduction projects and maintains our Gold Accreditation (the highest level available) in the Green Tourism Awards.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.*

H&S issues and risks are scrutinised and addressed on an ongoing basis. In July 2023, The Box HSW systems, processes and practice were audited by the PCC HSW team and received an all-green rating, with no significant concerns reported.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A								

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	CH.24. 25.014	Leg	LS/0000 3611/1/ LB/04/0 7/24	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 4 July 2024											
Cabinet Member approval: <i>Councillor Jemima Laing approved via email.</i>											
Date approved: 5 July 2024											

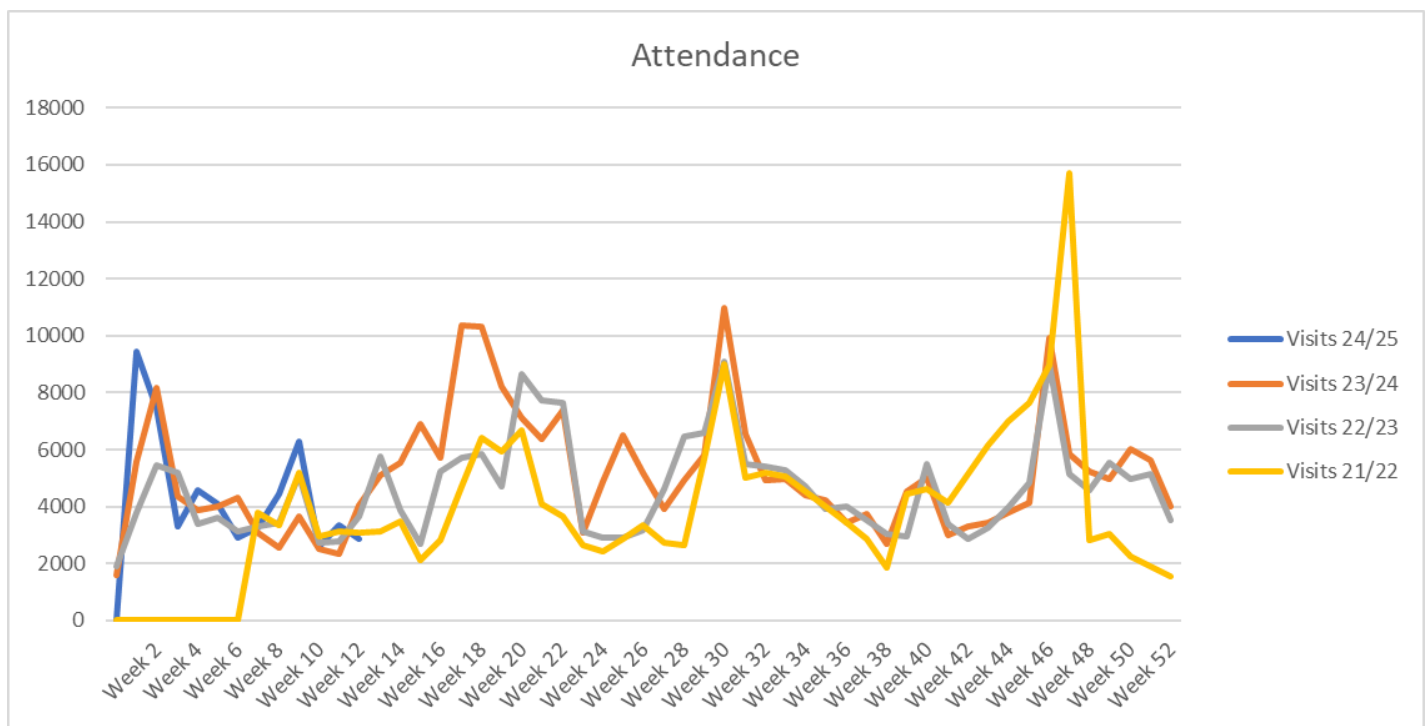
The Box

Since the last Scrutiny meeting in September 2023, The Box has grown its profile and impact. The Box is meeting its mission to be a social space for people, art, ideas and experiences; to preserve the city’s cultural collections and share extraordinary stories to explore the pressing issues of our age.

Inspired by our determination to be connected, progressive, curious and relevant, we increased attendances by 10% on the previous year to 272k in 2023/4, welcoming more than three times as many visitors as the former City Museum and Art Gallery. We are currently developing a new, three-year marketing and audience strategy and are working hard to both grow and widen attendance. The Box offer changes on a regular basis with new displays, temporary exhibitions and a wealth of talks, workshops and events targeted at a broad range of audiences including children and young people, schools, families and local community groups.

Significant work has been undertaken to put in place a distinctive programme for each of three defined seasons per annum. In 2023/4, The Box delivered an ambitious Summer of Light and Colour whilst the autumn programme focused on a theme of Re-visiting History. The exhibitions and displays are carefully considered to provide artistic excellence and be relevant to our context. We plan our programme two to three years ahead. Our vision, *Reimagining the future through the past*, drives all aspects of our work.

Engaging with the city and beyond



To date (1/7/24), we have welcomed 811k visits to The Box. As mentioned above, The Box had 272k visits in 2023/24. In 2024/25, visits to date are 59k against an annual target of 275k, compared with 55k during the same period last year.

Our ability to analyse visit patterns and understand the profile of our audiences has developed significantly since the introduction of the Illuminate audience intelligence system, through which our visitor services team now gather and analyse a statistically relevant sample of exit surveys each year. Findings from 2023/4 are informing our new marketing and audience strategy. Early insights include:

Visiting patterns

- Summer holidays and spring/autumn half terms are our busiest periods, with summer footfall growing year on year

- We have quieter 'shoulder' periods in May/June and Jan/Feb
- Attendance spikes at the beginning of each new exhibition
- An average 25% of visitors go into St Lukes and 89% engage with at least one exhibition or display

Visitor profile

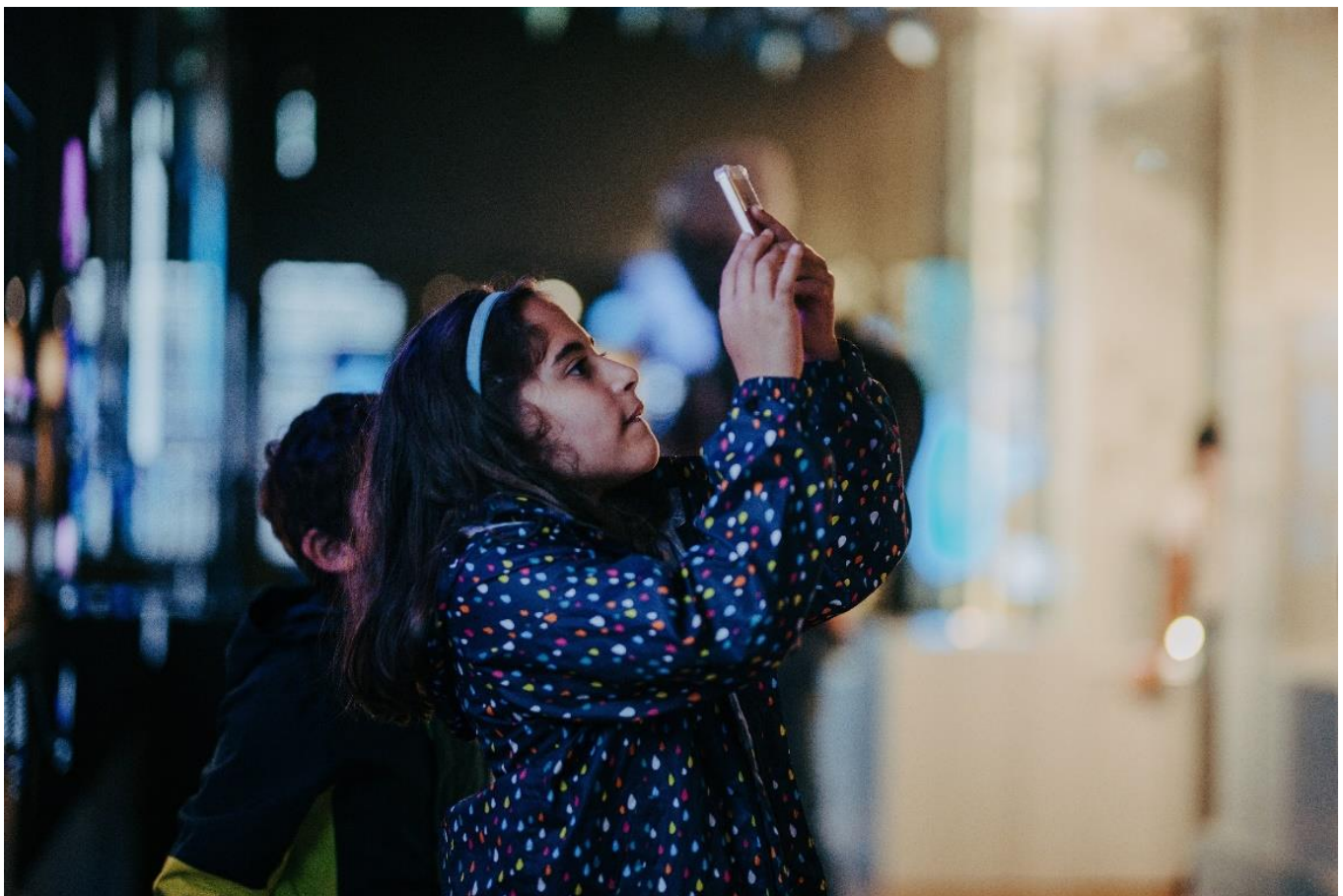
- 56% are Plymouth residents and we have welcomed visitors from every single Plymouth ward, especially those wards closest to The Box
- We have a broad spread of ages, but our largest groups are under 25s and 65+, the former quite unusually high for the sector
- 18% are retired and 15% in full time education
- 8% of our visitors have access needs, 13% identify as neurodivergent
- We have a high number of adult-only visitors (77%)

Visitor frequency

- 1/3 (100k) are first timers, 25k of whom are new to any cultural attraction
- 1/3 (100k) are core repeaters, mainly retired, culturally active

Visitor motivations

- Spending time with family and friends is highest (19%) but enjoyment, curiosity, intellectual stimulation and learning is also high, chiming well with The Box's vision, mission and values



23k people visited The Box's sister venues Smeaton's Tower and Elizabethan House in 2023/4 whilst Mount Edgcombe welcomed more than 250k people.

The Box drove £5.5m of positive media coverage in 2023/4, a reach of more than 247 million. Features have appeared in key nationals including The Financial Times, The Telegraph, The Times, The Guardian and The Independent and there has been regular coverage on BBC Spotlight, ITV West Country and BBC Radio.

The Box's Gus Honeybun starred in Sky TV's popular *Hold The Front Page* earlier this year, with viewing

figures of 3 million. The Bomb Book at The Box was featured on national BBC News and BBC World Service during the finding of the unexploded WWII bomb in Plymouth, giving us further national and international reach. CEO Victoria Pomery and featured artists John Akomfrah and Yinka Shonibare were in ArtLyst's Power 100. *Planet Ocean* and our family activities were no.1 in a feature on The Times Online.

We launched the Bloomberg Connects app on 13 May 2024, giving us enhanced international reach across 22 countries and access to 2.7 million users. The app has the technology to enable us to offer audio/video tours of our spaces in multiple languages physically onsite and in a completely digital space.

Recent visitor feedback includes:

- *I was impressed by the willingness of the curation to write of issues that matter and relate to the current world.*
- *Wonderful facility and lots of learning fun for children. Confronting serious issues facing humanity. Great rooms to inspire. Needs as much community support as possible as quality genuine public space is disappearing fast. This is quality with enthusiasm. Nice cafe too!*
- *Latest exhibition is awe inspiring. A great place to spend a couple of hours in an exhilarating environment.*

The Box is a 2024 Travellers' Choice Award winner with Tripadvisor, meaning we're in the top 10% of attractions/businesses on Tripadvisor based on reviews and ratings over the last 12 months.

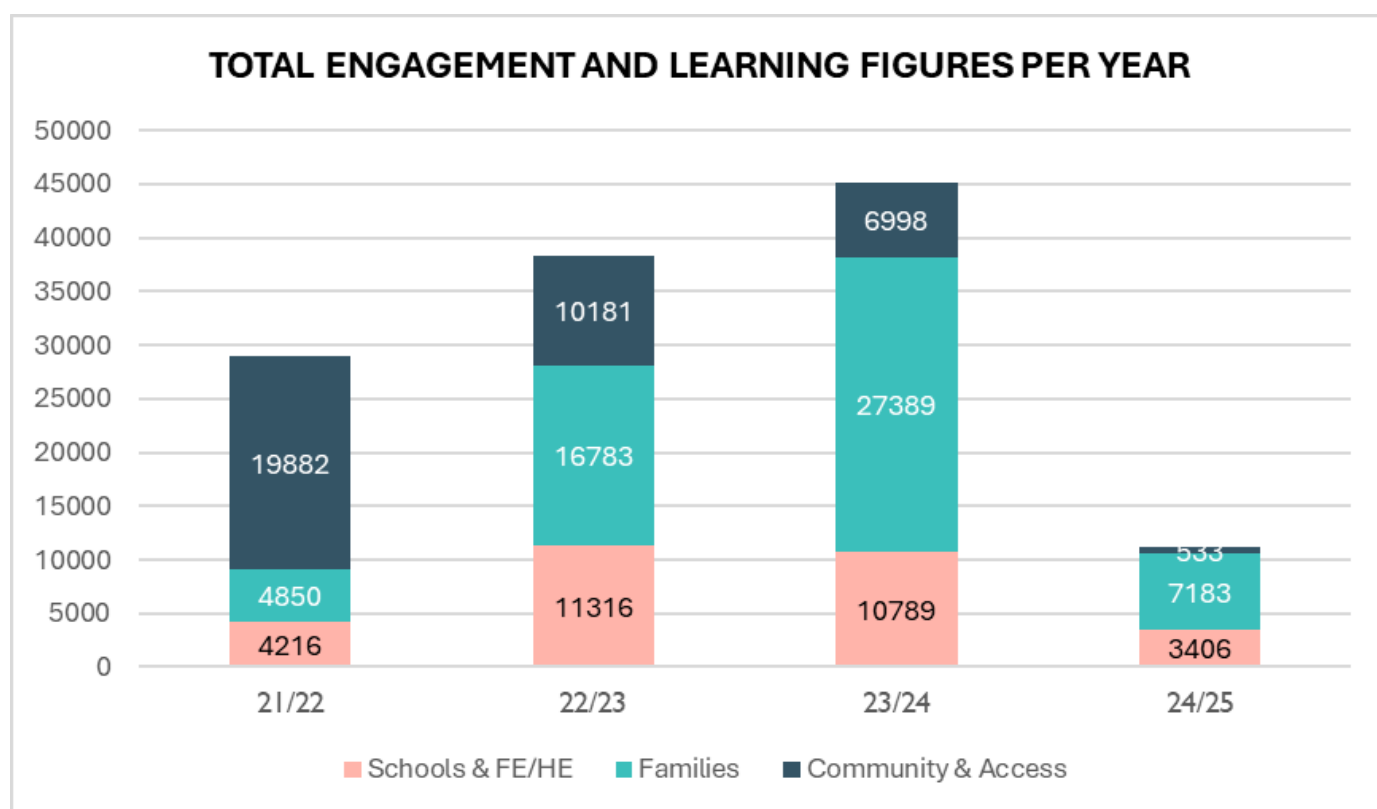
The Box creates impact in many ways, some of which aren't easy to quantify. The impact of a visit to The Box may not be realised for years. We support the development of individuals and their health and well-being. As the next section demonstrates, our learning and engagement programme provides significant impact for participants.



Engagement, Learning and Education

Learning and Education is at the heart of our vision and our cohesive and impactful learning and engagement programme engages with children and young people in formal education, families, community groups and students in Further and Higher Education. We support people to connect with, and be curious about, the world around them and drive change within arts, heritage and culture to reach new audiences and develop longer lasting and more impactful relationships with communities.

To do this, we ignite imaginations through creativity and learning, with a particular focus on audiences who are new to The Box. We are ambitious in nurturing more equitable and inclusive opportunities for those who face barriers to participation and aim to support people to live empowered cultural lives; where the freedom to speak, to be heard, to express, to experience, to make, to build, to contest and to create are a right, not a privilege.



Since opening, we've supported 26,321 visits (10,789 in 23/24) from children and young people through our schools' programme, as well as activities tailored to everyone from early years to older people to underserved communities which have reached 86,803 people (34,387 in 23/24). We run a regular programme of free family activities, including special sessions for Early Years, and free workshops during the school holidays. As you can see from the chart above, the first quarter of 24/25 suggests that we are on target to reach similar levels this year.

Our curriculum-linked schools programme offers sessions from Early Years Foundation Studies to FE/HE, including bespoke projects in partnership with national institutions such as the V&A, enabling Plymouth schools to make visits to The Box, Princess Yachts, Arts University Plymouth's FabLab and to the V&A in London, with 100% of the travel costs covered. 93% of teachers surveyed rated the school sessions as Excellent or Good. We asked teachers "Would you recommend or visit The Box again? If so, why?" They told us:

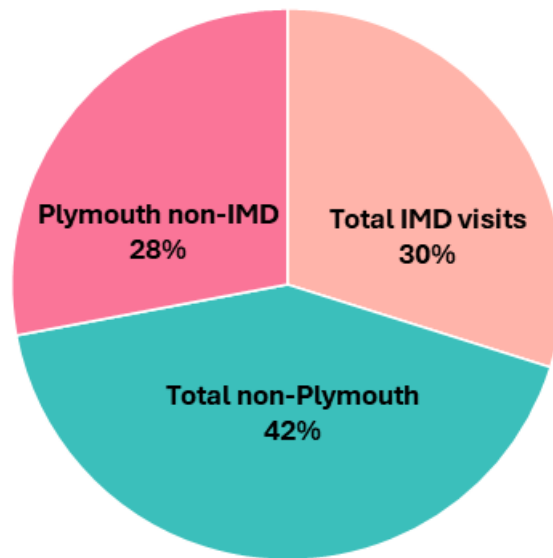
- Yes. The workshop was fantastic and it was also great to have time to look at the other exhibitions.
- I certainly would. The attention our class received was wonderful, we have been very well looked after.
- Yes, it covers a lot of our National Curriculum objectives and allows children to think about the local area.
- Yes, definitely a brilliant hands-on learning experience.

- *Yes, beautiful building, friendly staff, great service and amazing workshops.*
- *Very well organised, completely relevant to our History enquiry, helpful and very well-informed educators.*
- *Absolutely! We came for four hours but it just wasn't enough time to see everything. A huge amount on offer and the pupils absolutely loved it!*



Our school workshops have reached 74% of all schools in Plymouth by the end of 23/24, including a significant number of sessions delivered for schools within the ten highest wards on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Noticeably, visits from non-Plymouth schools increased from 36% in 22/23 to 42% in 23/24. We will continue to monitor this in 24/25.

ALL SCHOOL VISITS - IMD, OTHER PLYMOUTH WARDS AND NON-PLYMOUTH 2023 / 2024



■ Total IMD visits ■ Total non-Plymouth ■ Plymouth non-IMD

Our family workshops and I Wonder activities for under 5's reached 27,389 in 23/24, our highest participation in our programmes to date. Our work in 23/24 saw the programme win the prestigious Muddy Stilettos' award for 'Best Family Attraction in Devon' at their 2024 awards. Our free creative drop-in activities saw us connect to the Art Fund's The Wild Escape, a UK-wide project, inspiring young people to find creatures in art and natural history collections, our Summer of Light and Colour, with workshops connected to Sir Joshua Reynolds and Rana Begum's work, and climate-focused workshops with Art and Energy and connected to the Planet Ocean exhibition. We welcomed a visit to our workshops from Whizz Kidz, the national children's wheelchair charity and they told us:

Thank you so much for having us yesterday. The young people (and adults!) all had a fantastic time and have said that they would come to other events at The Box. Hopefully you will see some of them at future workshops.

The Whizz Kidz families were all really impressed with the accessibility of the whole museum and I think their feedback reflected that. I don't think they could come up with anything critical to tell you, which I know isn't very helpful in terms of constructive feedback but hopefully it shows that you're doing a great job already!



Additional activity for families includes work with the Fit and Fed programme as well as, in partnership with Take A Part, supporting families experiencing food insecurity. We also delivered an activity day for LGBTQIA+ families with the Intercom Trust, including a performance of sea shanties by local LGBTQIA+ choir *Seaweed in the Fruit Locker*.

Our learning programme supported people experiencing challenges in their lives with tailored wellbeing activities. We were successful with an application to the Claire Milne Trust for financial support for our Arts and Minds programme for people living with dementia and their carers, enabling us to work with artists Alice Robinson-Carter, Sue Lewry, Christina Peters, Abimbola Alao, Nicole Redfern and Joe Lyward, reaching 203 participants as part of this programme. We were also able to document the creative workshops through photography and film, with Fotonow CIC, Dom Moore and Soundview Media commissioned to undertake this, with our film receiving around 7,857 plays across all media.



Alongside this work, we continued to work with older people with multiple needs through the Craft Collective, engaging 1,240 participants in 23/24. Their major project for the year was to respond to the *Rana Begum: Dappled Light* exhibition (summer 2023), creating a beautiful and considered display in the Simmons Learning Room display case. They continue to produce items for donation to local charities and for sale in our shop for the benefit of The Box. In addition, we delivered a range of regular activities to support wellbeing including mindfulness sessions and craft activities for people experiencing isolation and loneliness.

We are committed to amplifying marginalised voices and breaking down barriers to access and inclusion. We are currently working with a group drawn from the Global Majority as part of our Culture Club programme to consider how we open up The Box to a more diverse audience, with some of the results of this work included in both our events and exhibition programmes in 24/25. Alongside this, we welcomed Devon and Cornwall Refugee Support's Art Club for a weekly residency in The Box, resulting in a display in our Simmons Learning Room display case and a commitment to continue this in 24/25.



We continue to welcome underrepresented groups for creative activities each month as part of our *Making Home* programme, including groups from deaf and hearing loss groups from Improving Lives Plymouth, global majority visitors from Plymouth & Devon Racial Equality Council and residents from Plymouth Community Homes. Our exhibition launch events now have a BSL interpreter to support those with deafness and hearing loss. 30 of our staff attended Deaf and Disability Awareness training through our access programmes, each temporary exhibition now has a comprehensive set of large print labels available, neurodivergent visitors are supported with our resources available from our website and series two of our popular *The Box on Screen* films on YouTube now have BSL and Captions and Audio Description versions available.

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community for LGBT+ History Month in February 2024 curated the Simmons Learning Room display case and six Active Archives display cases, drawing objects from both *The Box* collections and from the community.

Earned and fundraised income

The Box has ambitious earned and fundraised income targets and has worked hard to diversify our funding base during this period, generating more than £500k in commercial income and £230k in fundraised income 2023/4.

The shop generated the highest proportion of commercial income, having developed the retail offer to ensure it reflects our mission, vision and values and the needs of visitors. We have benchmarked performance against other high performing museum and gallery shops, invited peer reviews from experts at other cultural venues and completed significant in-depth sales analysis to understand our strengths, weaknesses and the opportunities for areas of development.

Venue hire and catering also contribute to earned income targets and *The Box Kitchen + Bar* often features in positive visitor feedback. In January 2024, our contracted caterers *Fosters Rooms Ltd* went into administration. Through collaborative working with colleagues across the Council, we managed to bring the catering offer in-house, with only two days' loss of service. The loss of income was managed

within last year's budget and we generated approximately £20k profit between January and March.

The public programme is another area of development. Over the coming year we are moving this forward, diversifying our public programme with increased workshops, talks and special evening events.

The partnership with Diversity Business Incubator in 2023 was a huge success and has returned for 2024. At the heart of The Bazaar is a commitment to providing a platform for local businesses to shine. This monthly celebration showcases the unique products and services offered by Plymouth entrepreneurs, aiming to boost their visibility and encourage the community to support homegrown initiatives. By bringing together vendors from various cultural backgrounds, the event creates an inclusive and welcoming space where everyone feels valued and represented. The vibrant atmosphere mirrors the diverse cultures, backgrounds and traditions within the local business community. Within the five events that took place, we featured 27 different vendors and at least 36 different countries were represented.



The Box continues to receive funding from Arts Council England of £1.2m per annum as a National Portfolio Organisation. In addition, we have secured significant funding from the British Film Institute and several other trusts and foundations including the National Art Collections Fund, Contemporary Art Society, National Gallery Trust and Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. The Box Foundation, chaired by Hamish Anderson, supports the work of The Box.

Sustainability

We seek to be a sustainable cultural organisation for the 21st century.

In 2023/4, The Box Green Group's activities included biodiversity improvements to Tavistock Place and a wider roll out of Carbon Literacy training in 2023/4.

The *Planet Ocean* exhibition is attracting significant audiences, which alongside the programmed public and family activity is highlighting not only the impact of plastic pollution, but the rise in sea temperatures and acidity as a result of increased carbon dioxide levels.

Work commenced on isolating and monitoring high energy use areas such as the large collections freezer. All the collections & art works require environmentally controlled spaces to preserve them for future generations and so much usage is unavoidable. However, heat recovery from cooling and humidity systems is being investigated as a potential efficiency. We are continuing our work with lenders and peers in the sector to reduce our carbon footprint. The transportation of art works/museum objects/artists has an impact as does that of our audiences. Off-setting for unavoidable carbon emissions is something being considered in the next budget cycle.

Beryl Bikes have now been installed on Tavistock Place and we encourage visitors to make use of public transport via our website. Environmental implications are being mitigated in exhibition design and installation by using materials that can be recycled following an exhibition.

Partnerships and collaborations

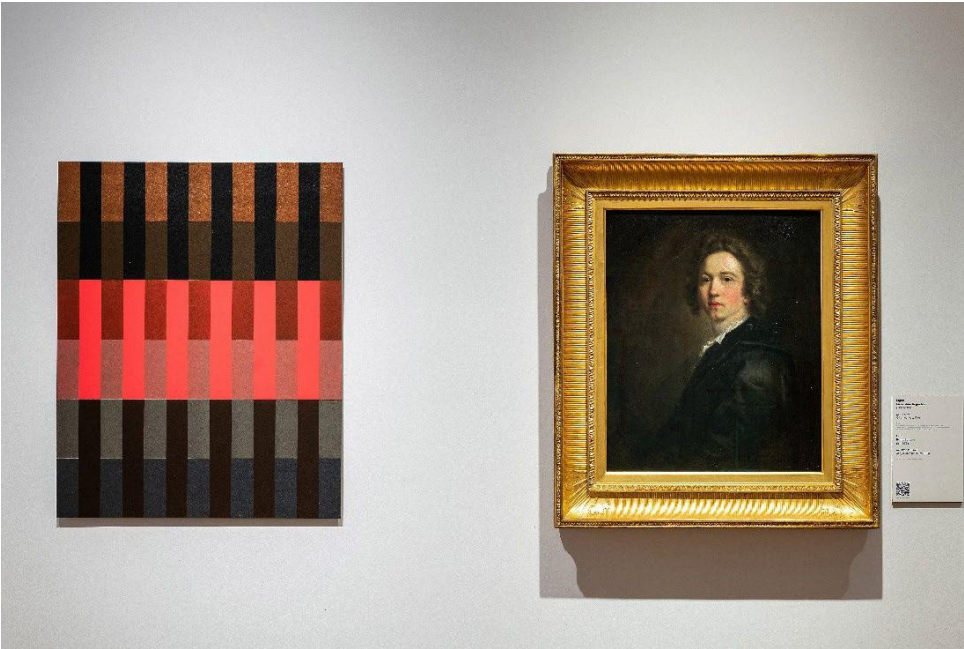
Partnership and collaboration is vital for our long-term sustainability and profile. The Box has a number of significant strategic partnerships in place locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

To support the 23/24 programme, we developed partnerships with a range of partners. The Reynolds exhibition, for example, had academic input from staff at the University of Plymouth. We also built a partnership with the Plympton St Maurice Civic Society to mark the 300th anniversary of Reynolds in July 2023. The Weston Loan fund supported the costs of transporting some of the major loans including works from the National Trust, Tate, Barber Institute and National Maritime Museum. We worked with the Mead Gallery at the University of Warwick to bring the Dappled Light exhibition to The Box and the first ever female President of the Royal Academy, Rebecca Salter, came to Plymouth to open the summer season.

Other notable partnerships include our relationship with Jeremy Deller and the National Gallery's project, *The Triumph of Art* for 2025; British Council & British Council Poland for autumn 2025; MK Gallery, Tate and National Portrait Gallery.

A dynamic and connected programme at The Box

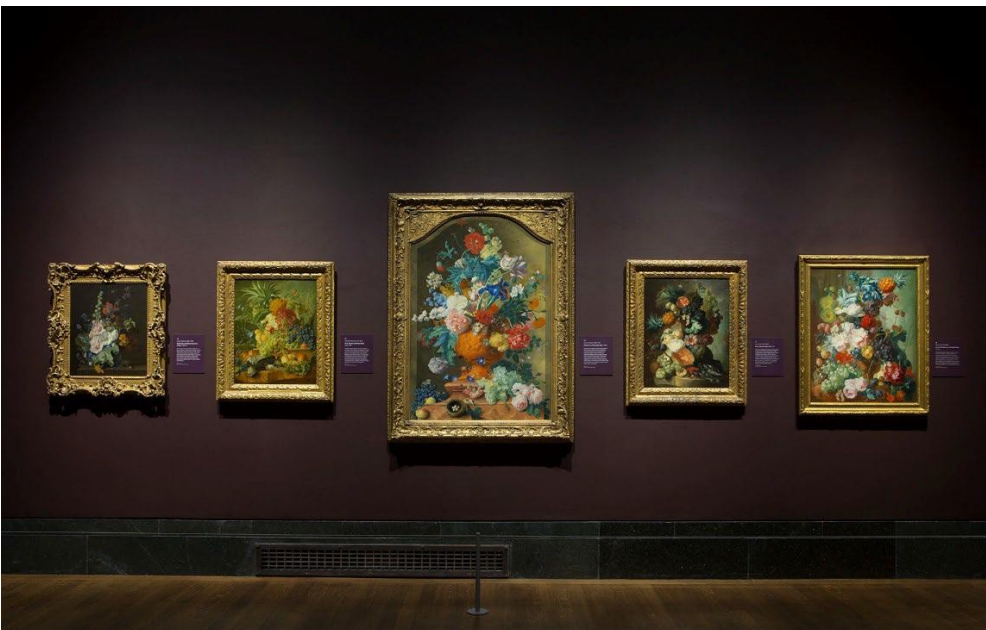
The 23/24 programme was ambitious, with a series of seasons in place starting with the Summer of Light and Colour in June 2023 comprising an exhibition of Reynolds and work by Rana Begum. Reynolds was born in Plympton 300 years ago and was instrumental in the establishment of the Royal Academy, he went onto be its first President. Rana Begum (b1977) became a Royal Academician in 2019. She was asked to respond to Reynolds' work and rose to the challenge, creating three new paintings inspired by three Reynolds portraits in The Box collection. These were installed side by side and offered new interpretations on both artists.



In the autumn, the focus shifted to notions of revisiting history. In 2018, The Box commissioned John Akomfrah to make a new film work. The resulting research culminated in *Arcadia*, a five-screen projection which was shown for a period of six months at The Box. In addition, we showed Yinka Shonibare's sculptural installation *End of Empire*, 2016 in the North Hall of The Box.

A highlight of autumn 2023 was the conservation-in-action programme. The large-scale Solomon Hart painting, *Lady Jane Grey at the Place of her Execution* in the city's collection, was unrolled in front of visitors. Subsequently, the painting's condition was assessed before being rolled up and returned to storage. Solomon Hart (1806 – 1881) was a Plymouth born artist. He was the first Jewish artist to be made a Royal Academician. We are now seeking to find the funding to pay for the work to be conserved and displayed.

Dutch Flowers, on loan from the National Gallery in their 200th^a anniversary year, was shown in St Luke's. This exquisite exhibition explored the development of Dutch flower painting from its beginnings in the early 17th century to its blossoming in the late 18th century, featuring some of the finest examples of Dutch flower paintings from the National Gallery's collection. It included works by Ambrosius Bosschaert the Elder, Rachel Ruysch and Jan van Huysum. At the same time, we presented contemporary artist Kedisha Coakley's new works made in response to the dutch flower paintings which she first saw many years ago and inspired her to become an artist. Coakley's work investigated the relationships between horticulture, the slave trade and colonialism.



In spring 2024, we presented *Beyond The Page: South Asian Miniature Painting and Britain 1600 to Now*. This exhibition, developed in collaboration with MK Gallery, brought together a selection of historical and contemporary works and looked at the legacy of the South Asian miniature tradition on contemporary practice.

A new display of items from the Collection, *Planet Ocean*, opened in March 24 and runs through until spring 2025. This considers issues around the climate crisis and Plymouth's leading role in marine sciences. The display has captivated the imagination of visitors and a series of events have been programmed alongside it.

In summer 2024, we are showcasing the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition, *The Time is Always Now*. Curated by writer and broadcaster, Ekow Eshun, it brings together the work of 22 international artists. This is an extraordinary exhibition which has had rave reviews in London and will be in Plymouth over the summer before touring in the US. The Box is the only venue outside London in the UK and the only one to offer free entry to all visitors. To coincide with the exhibition, we organised a portraiture competition in partnership with Arts University Plymouth. Winning entries are on display in the Bridge Gallery over the summer.

This autumn, the focus is on landscape and observations of nature. We are working with Tate who have agreed to lend artworks by Vija Celmins and JMW Turner to be shown alongside recent work by Ingrid Pollard. St Luke's will host a solo exhibition by Osman Yousefzada from November. Turner tried to capture the essence of our experience of land and sea in the 19th century, before the invention of photography. Celmins' highly detailed approach in her prints and drawings made using found photographs considers themes of time and memory whilst Pollard's work, often involving photography, looks at issues of ownership and identity aligned to landscape. Yousefzada's practice also considers issues of identity, time and memory.

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

Minute No.	Resolution	Target Date, Officer Responsible and Progress
Minute 63 City Centre Update 10 October 2022	Full report regarding for the aborted start to the Old Town Street and New George Street project.	Date: On Hold Officer: Anthony Payne/David Draffan Progress: Agreed with Chair and Vice Chair at Agenda Setting meeting (31 October 2022) that committee would wait for conclusion of ongoing issues before report can be created.
Minute 90 Tracking Decisions 1 March 2023	Request for regular updates on the Habitat Banking Vehicle. Agree on regularity of updates.	Date Due: Ongoing Officer: Chris Avent Progress: Agreement to provide updates to Committee Members via Democratic Support at suitable milestones for the project. Latest update shared with members for September 2023.
Minute 33 NZAP 2024-27 14 February 2024	Request that once a weighting factor for environmental impact when tendering contracts, had been agreed with procurement, that it was shared with the Committee.	Date Due: Ongoing Officer: Paul Barnard / Emmanuelle Marshall Progress: Formal request made on 15 February 2024. Meeting to be held between Councillor Briars-Delve and relevant officers.
Minute 33 NZAP 2024-27 14 February 2024	Request that the word 'new' be included in T5F.	Date Due: 11 March 2024 Officer: Emmanuelle Marshall Progress: Confirmed complete via email 19 February 2024.

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 35</p> <p>Economic Intelligence and Insight</p> <p>14 February 2024</p>	<p>A half page report was to be provided with more detail on why there had been a continual decline in productivity from 2017 onwards.</p>	<p>Date Due: 1 March 2024</p> <p>Officer: Lauren Paton</p> <p>Progress: Complete. Report circulated to members on 22 February 2024.</p>
<p>Minute 36</p> <p>Plan for Economic Growth Refresh</p> <p>14 February 2024</p>	<p>Add the 4 delivery plans to the work programme for the Committee.</p>	<p>Date Due: 20 February 2024</p> <p>Officer: Hannah Whiting</p> <p>Progress: Completed 15 February 2024.</p>
<p>Minute 37</p> <p>Tracking Decisions</p> <p>14 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee asked to follow up on the letter sent to Rt Hon John Whittingdale OBE MP on 6 November 2023, regarding increasing utility costs for organisations in the cultural sector, as no reply had been received by the date of the meeting.</p>	<p>Date Due: 6 March 2024</p> <p>Officers: Lucy Davis/Hannah Whiting</p> <p>Progress: Letter resent on 6 March 2024. Response received and circulated to members of the Committee on 10 April 2024.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>Recommended to South West Water that they ensure existing investment identified for drainage infrastructure of the city is delivered in line with the ambition of the MoU where there were no legal constraints.</p>	<p>Date Due: Ongoing.</p> <p>Officer: South West Water</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. Will be ongoing work. Meetings and workshops in place to progress.</p>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>Recommended to the Environment Agency that they make sampling data from Firestone Bay taken over the winter available to the public at the earliest opportunity.</p>	<p>Date Due: 22 March 2024</p> <p>Officers: Environment Agency</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. All data is available on the .GOV website.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>Recommended to the Environment Agency that they carry out winter pilots in the 3 bathing areas to improve water quality data, and make this available to the public.</p>	<p>Date Due: 22 March 2024</p> <p>Officers: Environment Agency</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. The Environment Agency do not have the directive or remit to collect this data. Suggested that PCC’s Public Health department could collect the data.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>Requested that trading standards to provide Committee Members with information on environmental enforcement in Plymouth.</p>	<p>Date Due: 5 July 2024</p> <p>Officer: Nicola Horne</p> <p>Progress: The Cabinet will direct officers within trading standards to provide Committee Members with a briefing note on any environmental enforcement in Plymouth relating to water quality. This had originally been designated to Trading Standards but we were informed it was better suited to another department in June 2024.</p>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that signage was increased and improved at the sea fronts when storm drains discharge.</p>	<p>Date Due: 5 July 2024</p> <p>Officer: TBC - Public Protection.</p> <p>Progress: Cabinet will direct officers to investigate options for improving signage in consultation with Environment Agency, seeking best practice from other areas. Chased 6 June 2024.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that SWW and EA work with PCC officers to increase education across the city on what communities can do to improve water quality.</p>	<p>Date Due: 11 March 2024.</p> <p>Officers: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. The Cabinet supports the delivery of this recommendation by approving the final drafting and signing of the MoU.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that the National Marine Park school engagement programme included education on improving water quality;</p>	<p>Date Due: 1 May 2024.</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. The Cabinet supports the delivery of this recommendation and directs officers to raise with the PSNMP Horizons Board and the schools programme working group.</p> <p>This will be included in the engagement programmes with schools.</p>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that a water ambassador programme was developed with the National Marine Park.</p>	<p>Date Due: August 2024</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: The Cabinet will direct officers to present the proposal to the NMP partners for discussion and development of a way forward.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that the MoU was more specific on how other stakeholders would be engaged with when improving water quality.</p>	<p>Date Due: 11 March 2024</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. Cabinet will ensure the final drafting of the MoU under the direction of Councillor Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, will include an amendment to make it clear how other stakeholders, beyond the three signatories to the MoU, will be engaged.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that they lobby government for Plymouth be a pilot for an area of water quality improvement.</p>	<p>Date Due: August 2024</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: Councillor Briars-Delve will write to the DEFRA Minister responsible for water quality to set out the opportunity in Plymouth. Officers will also be directed to engage with DEFRA officials to determine how this pilot could be established.</p> <p>Letter will be written following the outcome of the general election on 4 July 2024.</p>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that they improve and increase facilities/infrastructure for sea swimmers, such as life rings, defibrillators, hot showers and bins, in consultation with local sea swimming groups.</p>	<p>Date Due: Ongoing.</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. This recommendation is already underway through existing programmes of work (National Lottery Heritage Fund NMP Horizons project) approved by the Cabinet.</p> <p>Some improvements were carried out before the start of bathing season 2024. Infrastructure will continue to be reviewed and maintained.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that green jobs and growth opportunities in Plymouth for future generations are promoted.</p>	<p>Date Due: 11 March 2024</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: The Cabinet supports the delivery of this recommendation by approving the final drafting and signing of the MoU.</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that the Cabinet writes to the relevant minister to ask when schedule 3 to The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was going to be enacted.</p>	<p>Date Due: August 2024.</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: The Cabinet supports the delivery of this recommendation and will write the relevant minister asking when Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will be enacted. This matter will form part of the letter detailed in recommendation 11.</p> <p>Letter will be written following the outcome of the general election on 4 July 2024.</p>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel – Tracking Decisions 2024/25

<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee – Recommendations</p> <p>22 February 2024</p>	<p>The Committee recommend to Cabinet that they write to the relevant minister to ask them to update bathing legislation.</p>	<p>Date Due: August 2024.</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney.</p> <p>Progress: The Cabinet supports the delivery of this recommendation and will write to the relevant minister asking them to update bathing legislation. This matter will form part of the letter detailed in recommendations 11 and 14.</p> <p>Letter will be written following the outcome of the general election on 4 July 2024.</p>
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Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel

Work Programme 2024/25



Please note that the work programme is a 'live' document and subject to change at short notice. The information in this work programme is intended to be of strategic relevance.

For general enquiries relating to the Council's Scrutiny function, including this Committee's work programme, please contact Hannah Chandler-Whiting (Democratic Advisor) on 01752 305155.

Date of Meeting	Agenda Item	Prioritisation Score	Reason for Consideration	Responsible Cabinet Member/Lead Officer
17 July 2024	Economic Intelligence and Insight	Standing Item	Standing Item	David Draffan/Amanda Ratsey/Lauren Paton/Toby Hall
	Plymouth City Centre Company BID (2025-30)		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	The Leader/Cllr Lowry/Matt Ward/Patrick Knight/Steve Hughes
	The Box Annual Performance Review		Annual Update	Cllr Laing/Victoria Pomery
29 October 2024	Economic Plan		Agreed via recommendation at the 14 February 2024 meeting.	The Leader/Cllr Laing/Cllr Briars-Delve/Cllr Penberthy/Amanda Ratsey
	Port Strategy		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	The Leader/Matt Ward/Iain Mackelworth
	Bus Services Improvement Plan 3		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	Cllr Coker/Paul Barnard/Rosie Starr
	District Heating		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	Cllr Tom Briars-Delve/Jonathan Selman
11 December 2024	Economic Intelligence and Insight	Standing Item	Standing Item	David Draffan/Amanda

				Ratsey/Lauren Paton/Toby Hall
	Culture Plan Annual Update		Annual Update	Councillor Laing/Hannah Harris/Victoria Pomery
	National Marine Park Update (to include Place Partnership)		Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2023 meeting.	The Leader/Cllr Briars-Delve/Kat Deeney/Elaine Hayes
	Freeport Annual Update	(4)	Annual Update	The Leader/Richard May/Ian Cooper
12 February 2024	Draft NZAP 25-28 and NZAP 24-27 Final Progress Report		Annual Update/Report	Cllr Briars-Delve/Paul Barnard
	Visitor Plan/Branding Annual Update		Annual Update	Cllr Laing/Amanda Lumley
	Co-op Strategy		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	Cllr Penberthy/Anna Peachey/Amanda Ratsey
	Creative Industries Plan		Added prior to pre meet on 10 June 2024	Cllr Laing/Hannah Harris/Victoria Pomery
Items to be scheduled for 2024/25				
2024/25	Chelson Meadow Solar Farm Annual Review	(4)	Agreed via recommendation at the March 2023 meeting.	Councillor Briars-Delve/Kat Deeney
2024/25	Plymouth Plan Review (To ensure that play was embedded into the plan and that it then set a framework a play delivery plan with targeted interventions)	TBC	Action from City Council 18 September 2023.	Paul Barnard
2024/25	Habitat Banking Vehicle Update	TBC	Identified for consideration at briefing session	Councillor Briars-Delve/Kat Deeney

			in February 2023.	
2024/25	Adaptation Plan and Mitigation Plan	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2023 meeting.	Paul Barnard
2024/25	Future Skills Strategy	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the November 2023 meeting.	Tina Brinkworth
2024/25	Commercial Estate	(5)	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the February 2022 meeting.	David Draffan
2024/25	Transportation Provision in Plymouth (to connect with Strategic Transport Board)	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2023 meeting.	Councillor Coker/Paul Barnard
2024/25	Environment Act 2021	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2021 meeting.	Councillor Briars-Delve/Philip Robinson
Items to be scheduled for 2025/26				
Items Identified for Select Committee Reviews				

Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool

		Yes (=1)	Evidence
Public Interest	Is it an issue of concern to partners, stakeholders and/or the community?		

A bility	Could Scrutiny have an influence?		
P erformance	Is this an area of underperformance?		
E xtent	Does the topic affect people living, working, or studying in more than one electoral ward of Plymouth?		
R eplication	Will this be the only opportunity for public scrutiny?		
	Is the topic due planned to be the subject of an Executive Decision?		
Total:			High/Medium/Low

Priority	Score
High	5-6
Medium	3-4
Low	1-2