



Oversight and Governance

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NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 11 December 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. Apologies

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Councillors.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 14)

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2024.

4. Chair's Urgent Business

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

5. Economic Insight and Intelligence: (Pages 15 - 26)

6. Freeport Annual Update: (Pages 27 - 36)

7. National Marine Park Update: (Pages 37 - 66)

8. Culture Plan Annual Update: (Pages 67 - 76)

9. Work Programme: (Pages 77 - 80)

10. Tracking Decisions: (Pages 81 - 88)

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel

Tuesday 29 October 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Darcy, in the Chair.
Councillor Holloway, Vice Chair.
Councillors Allen, Bannerman, McCarty, McLay, Moore, Raynsford, Ricketts, M.Smith and Sproston.

Also in attendance: Councillors Briars-Delve, Coker and Evans OBE, Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Hannah Chandler-Whiting (Democratic Advisor), John Green (Net Zero Delivery Manager), Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth), Philip Heseltine (Head of Transport), Iain Mackelworth (Principal Surveyor), Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy, Enterprise and Employment), Jonathan Selman (Net Zero Delivery Officer), Rosemary Starr (Sustainable Transport Manager (via Microsoft Teams)), Matt Ward (Head of Regeneration and Growth) and Ben Mason (Mott Macdonald (via Microsoft Teams)).

The meeting started at 2.02 pm and finished at 5:02 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.

11. **Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Reason	Interest
Councillor Sproston	16	Bus Champion	Personal

12. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

13. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

14. **Plymouth Economic Strategy - Delivery Plans**

Councillor Ian Darcy joined the meeting during this item.

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) introduced the item by showing a video and then highlighting:

- a) Plymouth had a lot to be proud of but wasn't always supported, for example, by local media;
- b) PricewaterhouseCoopers Good Growth for Cities Index had named Plymouth as the UK's best place to live and work for 2024;
 - i. It assessed cities across 12 criteria including income, housing, health, skills and more;
 - ii. Plymouth's ranking was a recognition of its dedication to creating an environment where economic growth went hand in hand with balanced living;
 - iii. Plymouth had seen marked improvements in areas such as job creation, income distribution and housing accessibility;
- c) The plan would ensure the benefits of growth were felt across all the cities communities; raising living standards, improving the quality of life and health;
- d) The UK's first National Marine Park had been created in Plymouth and the city was home to one of the country's most important cultural attractions: The Box;
- e) Proud of one of the best Economic Development Team's in the country;
- f) Focus on high-value sectors such as defence, marine and manufacturing, whilst supporting new and emerging sectors such as floating offshore wind;
- g) The plan would ensure that the current and future workforce were equipped to benefit from new and higher paid jobs;
- h) The city centre and waterfront would continue to be improved;
- i) Challenges included:
 - i. A tight labour market and increased demand for skilled workers;
 - ii. Need to reimagine the city centre;
 - iii. Climate emergency;
- j) 70 year investment pipeline in the dockyard;
- k) The next stage in the economic strategy was to develop a 3 year delivery plan under four headings:
 - i. Heart of the City;
 - ii. Waterfront and Maritime;

- iii. Defence and Devonport;
- iv. North of the City.

Amanda Ratsey (Head of Economy and Investment) added:

- l) The Economic Strategy had been approved and data had been collected on all of the projects in development, speaking to a wide range of partners across the city;
- m) Four pillars of the economic strategy were:
 - i. High value jobs;
 - ii. Sustainable growth;
 - iii. Civic pride and regeneration;
 - iv. Inclusive growth;
- n) Housing target was likely going to be increased;
- o) £4.4 billion investment in the dockyard;
 - i. The investment at the dockyard would drive growth for the city with Babcock needing 5,500 new jobs to sustain the workforce and another 2,000 construction workers in the next 10 years;
 - ii. It had the potential to benefit the city, its travel to work area, local supply chain, local people and research and innovation;
- p) Existing projects needed to conclude, but a pipeline also needed to continue to be developed so this level of ambition could continue.

In response to questions, the following was discussed:

- q) Need to ensure that Plymouth residents would be able to access existing and future jobs from primary school, through to people getting jobs with career progression through the skills strategy;
- r) The Civic Centre building would be developed with City College to provide a blue/green skills hub;
- s) 5,500 homes were due to be delivered in the city centre and Homes England saw Plymouth as a place for accelerated housing growth and the improvement works in the city centre had attracted housing builders;
- t) Status of ongoing projects:

- i. Armada Way works were underway and would be completed in phases and a press release had detailed the completion dates, the link to which would be shared with Panel members;
 - ii. Civic Centre works were underway, waiting on information from Homes England on funding opportunities;
 - iii. Plymouth University had made significant investment in the building at the train station, and was a 10 year project;
 - iv. There had been delays with the Central Park ponds works, but there was confidence works would be completed in 2025;
- u) There had been difficulties in how to measure 'making the city more fun' and the team were open to suggestions on how to measure this;
 - v) There were approximately 100 vacant buildings in Plymouth City Centre in winter 2023/24 and the aim was to half this, but there were hopes this would be exceeded;
 - w) More information would be provided on the use of hydrogen at Langage to panel members;
 - x) 300 unique vacancies were advertised in Plymouth per month before the COVID19 pandemic and this had risen to 3,000 per month in 2024, with 7,000 new jobs generated in Plymouth from 2022-2024;
 - y) The previous economic strategy had focused on job creation, but now focused on having more people in Plymouth with the skills to fill these jobs;
 - z) The vision for the use of buildings in the city centre was to diversify and create a greater night-time economy, health use, education use, and more as well as retail, and this would all contribute to change the footfall in the city centre and this would contribute to a reduction in the number of vacant buildings;
- aa) Nationally only 6% of graduates want to live and work in the South West, however, 63% of graduates from Plymouth University wanted to live and work in the South West;
 - bb) Panel suggested the wording with engaging students was reviewed;
 - cc) A number of jobs created in Plymouth relating to STEM, were likely to be less diverse, and it was an area for improvement and employers would have to think differently about they adapted to get the right people into the right jobs;
 - dd) It was important to encourage businesses to be more inclusive in terms of their workforce;

- ee) The retention actuals data for Plymouth University graduates would be provided.

The Panel agreed to:

1. Endorse the approach and the titles of the 4 proposed delivery plans:
 - a. Heart of the City
 - b. The Waterfront and Maritime
 - c. The North of the City
 - d. Defence and Devonport;
2. Endorse the approach that these delivery plans would be refreshed every 3 years in order to accurately reflect the current investment priorities of the city;
3. Endorse that the approach for the delivery plans would prioritise projects already in train;
4. Endorse that we will develop a pipeline and bring forward new projects.

15. **Plymouth Ports Strategy**

Councillor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council) introduced the item and highlighted:

- a) Plymouth had four ports: Cattedown, Sutton Harbour, Millbay and Devonport;
- b) Plymouth employed more people in the maritime sector than any other local authority in the country, more than 20,000 people which made up 18% of the city's workforce;
- c) Devonport Dockyard was the largest naval base in western Europe and was the largest land-user in the city, covering 650 hectares with 14 dry docks, 25 tidal births and four miles of docks;
- d) There were 1,400 gold anchor births and 12 cruise ships had visited Plymouth in the past year;
- e) The ports were at the forefront of maritime technology and innovation including research organisations and companies who were working on autonomous vessels and support to floating offshore wind;
- f) Plymouth Sound was part of the National Marine Park and was home to over 1,000 species over 6,000 hectares, as well as being an area of special scientific interest;
- g) Plymouth's ports underpinned wider growth in the wider marine economy which had the potential to create an additional 2,600 jobs by 2030;

- h) Whilst the Council didn't play a direct role in port operations, it had commissioned a study because it believed that the ports had an important role to play in supporting future development of the city, and the Council would create a positive policy environment.

Iain Mackelworth (Principal Surveyor) added:

- i) The Council secured Shared Prosperity funding to undertake the research into understanding Plymouth's ports economic contribution to the city in detail and their potential to attract future investment, particularly in green jobs;
- j) Mott MacDonald had undertaken work elsewhere in the country on ports and were well positioned to give an insight in how Plymouth's ports compared to others across the country;
- k) An extensive review had been carried out with Port Operators and a variety of stakeholders;
- l) The ports were thriving, and whilst Devonport received most of the recognition because of its scale of operations, there was so much more going on in Plymouth's ports;
- m) The review had fed into the strategy which identified six areas of opportunities that aligned with the economic strategy;
- n) Ports were global operations and all had to continually invest to maintain a competitive advantage, especially with recent innovations in areas such as fuelling ships.

Ben Mason (Mott Macdonald) added:

- o) Aims of the study were to better understand the ecosystem of Plymouth's Ports, to identify opportunities to maximise their economic contribution to Plymouth, to support their transition to Net Zero and support creation of green jobs, as well as understanding their strengths, weaknesses and how the ports interacted with each other;
- p) A strategic vision statement had been included alongside some opportunities and initiatives that could help achieve it;
- q) There had been considerable stakeholder engagement to gain understanding;
- r) Plymouth is unique in the breadth of things it does well across its ports and the diversity was notable in the research;
- s) The core skills Plymouth was known for included vessel engineering, manufacturing, freight, technology, research and innovation with Plymouth University and training;

- t) Ports were nearing capacity in different ways;
- u) Nationally ports were seen as areas of opportunity for energy transition;
- v) Sustainability and inclusivity was central;
- w) Improvement initiatives underway had been mapped to demonstrate the activity already underway.

In response to questions, supported by Matt Ward (Head of Regeneration and Growth), it was further explained:

- x) Shore power at Millbay would go ahead in a timely manner because the French Government had introduced policies to only accept vessels in France that were able to be powered by green energy when they dock;
 - i. There would be considerable investment from ABP (Associated British Ports) into this project, and into decarbonising the port support services;
- y) Conversations were ongoing with the national grid in relation to upgrades and being prepared for changes to achieve net zero;
- z) Cattewater Harbour Commissioners were very keen to have shore power available as well and had already invested in electrification of their operations at Victoria Wharf;
- aa) Waterfront land needed to remain available to ports for use and expansion rather than being lost to use such as housing and dockside land would be protected by the Council as the planning authority;
- bb) Thematic partnerships had been built between different port authorities and the Council to work to find solutions to issues. Mott MacDonald highlighted this as a positive in their study and more should be done, but other stakeholders in the city should be engaged with this process, not just larger companies;
- cc) Bathing water quality remained a high priority and the water in Plymouth Sound needed to work for all users;
- dd) Projects, such as offshore wind, engaged places across the South West, and what Plymouth would be able to offer, would complement the offer of the wider South West;
 - i. The team had engaged with various stakeholder groups on offshore wind and other projects to ensure the city showcased to the Government and investors what it was able to do, but would complement what others were doing;

- ii. Plymouth worked with others across the South West to market the region nationally and internationally;
- ee) It was important to know what South West Water's plans were for the future to ensure the infrastructure was there to support future plans.

The Panel agreed to support the Plymouth Ports Strategy.

16. **Bus Services Improvement Plan 3**

Councillor Coker (Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport) introduced the item and highlighted:

- a) The update followed the publication of the Council's Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) 3 in Summer 2024 and precedes the updates of the associated enhanced partnership plan;
- b) The plan was underpinned by nine passengers priorities, identified through engagement with current and non-bus users, and ranked in order of priority from the results of the 2023 passenger priority survey;
- c) It aligned with the ambitions of the national Bus Strategy to boost bus patronage;
- d) The BSIP set out what the Plymouth Enhanced Bus Partnership would deliver to make buses easier and more convenient to use;
- e) Responding to Department for Transport (DfT) guidelines issued in January 2024, the BSIP 3 needed to be a delivery plan, rather than a bidding document;
- f) Statistics showed an improvement in service from the BSIP work;
 - i. Passenger satisfaction with bus journey times had increased by 7% compared to the same time in 2023 and was at 70%;
 - ii. Bus mileage operated had increased;
 - iii. Punctuality of buses had improved;
 - iv. Some areas of bus services had returned to pre-COVID19 pandemic levels, though other areas were still struggling;
- g) Government had announced the day before the meeting that the £3 bus fare cap, which he welcomed because the previous Government had said the previous £2 bus fare cap would end on 31 December 2024;
- h) In comparison to competitors of a similar size, Plymouth was doing well in protecting networks;

- i) BSIP funding had been used to enhance some routes in the city and it was partially funding commercial routes to ensure they continued;
- j) £1.6 million pounds had been received in the previous 2 years following a nurtured relationship with the DfT bus team;
- k) Plymouth's BSIP was going to be used by the DfT as a national exemplar for other authorities;
- l) The last 12 months proved that by working together with stakeholders, Government and the local public, a positive difference had been made to Plymouth's bus network.

Rosemary Starr (Sustainable Transport Manager) added:

- m) The need for a BSIP and a formal partnership for delivery was driven by the 2021 National Bus Strategy;
- n) The plan covered a time period of 2020-2034 in order to align with the Plymouth Plan because the BSIP was a delivery plan of the Plymouth Plan;
- o) The DfT wanted the emphasis of BSIP 3 to be what would be delivered by the end of 2023/24, what was programmed for delivery by the end of the financial year 2024/25, as well as the ambitions for future delivery in 2025 and beyond;
- p) In the past 12 months the team had been able to deliver measures against all nine of the passenger priorities through partnership working with partners, specialists and delivery groups;
- q) There were three delivery groups each looking at different areas:
 - i. Bus passenger chart and bus user group;
 - ii. Passenger information and publicity;
 - iii. Zero emission buses;
- r) Plymouth would be sharing best practice on the first two at the National Bus Forum in November 2024;
- s) BSIP 3 was based on feedback and the team wanted to stay in touch with passenger needs to ensure it was delivery the best for the people of Plymouth and the current measures were in place:
 - i. Chatterbus events;
 - ii. Bus User Panel;

- iii. Enhanced Partnership Forum;
- iv. Passenger Priority Survey;
- v. Complaints and Compliments;
- vi. National Highways and Transportation Survey;
- vii. Bus Champion;
- viii. And an intention for Ward Member Engagement.

In response to questions, with support from Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), the following was discussed:

- t) When the crematorium (The Park) had been granted planning permission there was no identified need for a bus service;
 - i. In the past there was a bus service between Plympton and Plymstock that was not sustainable for operators;
 - ii. The team and Councillor Coker were always looking at ways that a bus service to The Park could be integrated into the current system and it was on a work list for future developments;
- u) More details would be announced on the £3 bus fare cap and Councillor Coker was interested to hear from stakeholders on that announcement;
- v) Plans for Ward Member Engagement needed to be finalised;
- w) A bid for electric busses had been submitted for by Plymouth City Council with the Go Ahead Company. It was funded by Government, with the funds just held by Plymouth City Council;
 - i. The remainder of the money came from Cornwall Council and the community infrastructure levy, therefore there was no direct Council funding in the project;
 - ii. The report on electric buses from the Competition and Markets Authority was being considered before moving forward;
- x) The sub-regional transport board, Peninsula Transport, were working nationally with a supplier to explore a cross-ticketing system for the whole region with the full cooperation of bus suppliers;
 - i. There was a recognition to find a system for people who couldn't access tickets digitally;

- y) Plymotion was nationally recognised by Lilian Greenwood, when she was Chair of the Governments Transport Select Committee;
- z) Personalised travel needed to be adapted with a 5 year strategy in development;
- aa) There were no current plans to reintroduce night buses as they weren't well utilised;
- bb) There had been a reduction of 20% in over 75's travelling on public transport, this had been attributed to messaging during the COVID19 pandemic about possibly catching the illness when in confined public space;
- cc) Patronage trends were being monitored by the team alongside population forecasts to predict future needs of the bus service;
- dd) Tendered services were in place for non-commercial routes, some of which were due to end in March 2025, and the team would be analysing the cost of the service, cost per passenger, demographics of the area and investigating which subsidies the Government would make available;
- ee) The team always worked with operators to get the best possible value for tendered services;
- ff) Councillor Coker expected Councillors to lobby him for the services that were important in their areas;
- gg) The aspiration was to build on the ambition put forward for projects to help achieve net zero;
- hh) A considerable amount of work had been put into the relationship between Plymouth City Council and DfT;
- ii) Councillor Coker paid tribute to Councillor Kevin Sproston for all the work he had done to support the team as his role as Bus Champion.

The Panel agreed to:

1. Note the changes to the 2024 Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan and endorse the subsequent requirement to refresh the Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan;
2. Endorse the proposed stakeholder engagement which would inform future Bus Service Improvement Plans.

17. **Heat Networks Delivery Approach**

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

- a) Most organisations produce heat as a bi-product of what they do, and in most cases it is either going into “thin air”, or in the case of South West Water, going into the sea;
- b) Heat Networks aimed to utilise waste heat from major source and redirect it through underground pipes in buildings;
- c) The technology had existed for decades, and there were small scale examples in Plymouth, but this was an opportunity to do something on a bigger scale;
- d) It was the first item on the new cross-party Sustainability Advisory Group so that different parties in Plymouth were aware of the scale of the opportunity, and were keen to bring the item for pre-decision scrutiny;
- e) In Plymouth, heating buildings accounted for around 28% of the city’s emissions, second only to transport, and therefore buildings were a key part to decarbonisation;
- f) The plans presented had the potential to decarbonise over 30,000 tons of emissions in Plymouth each year;
- g) Probability of over £400 million of green investment;
- h) It would kickstart Plymouth’s most significant opportunity to provide businesses and households with the lowest cost decarbonised heat available;
- i) 400 direct green jobs would be created;
- j) Improvement to air quality;
- k) Improvement to the Plymouth’s energy security and climate resilience;
- l) Plymouth City Council had already introduced these methods within its own estate which not only contributed to decarbonisation, but also saved the Council over £500,000 a year through retrofitting;
- m) Social value.

Jonathan Selman (Net Zero Delivery Officer) added:

- n) Plymouth had been selected as one of 17 cities under the Advanced Zoning Programme (AZP) with significant funding provided by Government;
- o) Plymouth was now in the shortlisted 6 cities;
- p) Heat Networks had been proposed in every CEAP/NZAP (Climate Emergency Action Plan/Net Zero Action Plan) for the Council since 2019;

- q) It was included in the Joint Local Plan with many developments 'connection ready';
- r) The delivery approach did not require any Plymouth City Council capital funding;
- s) There was strong market interest and Plymouth was a frontrunner;
- t) Heat represented the biggest energy use in the UK accounting for 46% of all the energy used in the UK and around 30% of UK emissions; 90% of emissions from gas;
- u) Energy Act 2023 provided powers for government to implement heat network zoning in England;
- v) Heat Network Regulations were anticipated for 2025;
- w) Being part of the AZP meant Plymouth was in a favourable position to secure grant funding from the Government's Green Heat Network Fund;
- x) There was potential for a scheme in Derriford;
- y) Cabinet had endorsed a Plymouth City Council (PCC) led procurement approach with limited risk and significant scope for rewards;
- z) The executive decision to go to procurement was expected to be made in November 2024 leading to the final decision for implementation expected to be in 2026.

In response to questions, with support from Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), the following was discussed:

- aa) South West Water had been involved in discussions for some time and their site at Cattedown would be included in the first phase;
- bb) Conversations with the Energy for Waste plant, and an incinerator in Derriford had also taken place;
- cc) Cabinet were working closely with South West Water to improve water quality, and this project would improve water quality by reducing ocean warming;
- dd) The city centre would be the focal point of the first phase;
- ee) People would be able to see work happening and being part of the AZP meant the Government was keen to get projects moving in cities involved, Plymouth included;

- ff) Other local authorities and legal experts had been consulted on the ownership structure;
- gg) The procurement led approach would give the Council more opportunities to increase the social value of the project;
- hh) The Cabinet Member was happy to bring the project back to scrutiny at a future meeting.

The Panel agreed to:

1. Note the changes to the 2024 Plymouth Bus Service Improvement Plan and endorse the subsequent requirement to refresh the Plymouth Enhanced Partnership Plan;
2. Endorse the proposed stakeholder engagement which would inform future Bus Service Improvement Plans.

18. **Tracking Decisions**

The Panel asked:

- a) If the actions from the Water Quality Select Committee could be chased again as many had passed their initial deadline.

The Panel agreed to note its tracking decisions document.

19. **Work Programme**

During a short discussion:

- a) Councillor McLay asked if Sustainable Transport could be considered to be scheduled for 2024/25;
- b) An additional meeting could be scheduled for April 2025 with a single item on South West Water's future plans.

The Panel agreed to note the work programme.

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	11 December 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth Economic Intelligence and Insight
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan, Interim Strategic Director for Growth
Author:	Anna Peachey
Contact Email:	Anna.Peachey@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	Scrutiny Committee
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendations and Reasons

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

Alternative options considered and rejected.

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

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Inclusive Growth focuses on fostering economic development that benefits all residents, especially those in underserved or marginalized communities. It aims to create a balanced and sustainable economy where everyone has access to economic opportunities, affordable housing, quality education, healthcare, and secure jobs. Inclusive Growth will directly contribute to the corporative plan objective to drive: Green Investment, Jobs, Skills, and better education.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Inclusive growth requires a balance of public investment and strategic planning to ensure sustainable economic and social benefits for all. By monitoring data, it will support the Council to make informed financial and strategic decisions.

Financial Risks

None

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Whilst expanding infrastructure, housing, and services to promote inclusivity can initially raise emissions. Strategic planning, such as environmental impact studies, can help to ensure that growth does not lead to unintended carbon increases.

This report has no negative carbon footprint 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 Inclusive Economy Intelligence 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	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 29/11/2024											
Cabinet Member approval:											
Date approved: 22/11/2024											

Plymouth Inclusive Economy Intelligence Insight

Update – December 2024



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1. Introduction

This paper sets out the detailed economic intelligence around the Indices of Multiple Deprivation that Economic Development is particularly concerned with, and a spotlight on data about women in Plymouth's economy.

Inclusive Growth is one of the 4 pillars of the Economic Strategy 2024 – alongside High Value Jobs, Sustainable Growth and Civic Pride and Regeneration.

The Aim of the Strategy is:

Delivering increased prosperity through sustainable and inclusive growth

2. What are we trying to achieve?

The Economic Strategy presents 16 Aspirations for 2034. They are presented here in a proposed order of priority for inclusive growth.

1. Lift 3000 people out of living in most deprived decile in England
2. Get 5000 people into work (from those economically inactive)
3. Attract or upskill 20,000 people with RQT level 4+ qualifications
4. Help 5000 People achieve their first qualification
5. 1000 new businesses
6. 8000 new jobs
7. Increase the value and number of business investments in Partnerships with arts organisations, museums and libraries, and local communities.
8. Become a net zero carbon city by 2030
9. 5000 new homes
10. 50 vacant buildings back into use
11. £1bn more gross value added
12. Gross value added per job increased from £44,930 to £55,000

3. Understanding Deprivation

The Strategy presents the economic intelligence to target our focus on 3 groups

- 28 Lower-super Output areas in the most deprived 10% in England. Home to 46,075 residents (17.6% of the population)
- People with caring responsibilities (baseline of 6700 looking after family and home who are economically inactive in 2023, approximately 90% of whom are women)
- People with Work Limiting Health Challenges (baseline of 15,900 long term sick who are economically inactive in 2023)

Deprivation is measured for each Lower Super Output Area every 5 years using the indices of multiple deprivation. There are 7 domains which are weighted.

Income (22.5%)

Employment (22.5%)

Education (13.5%)

Health (13.5%)

Crime (9.3%)

Barriers to Housing and Services (9.3%)

Living Environment (9.3%)

The Inclusive Economy team is particularly interested in the first two and as a local authority, we have colleagues that we collaborate with on the others, as well as external partners.

The Income Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the population in an area experiencing deprivation relating to low income. The definition of low income used includes both those people that are out-of-work, and those that are in work but who have low earnings (and who satisfy the respective means tests). This is measured through benefits take up. Sub-domains monitor under 15 year olds and over 60's.

The Employment Deprivation Domain measures the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market. This includes people who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities. This is also measured through benefits take up – non-overlapping criteria)

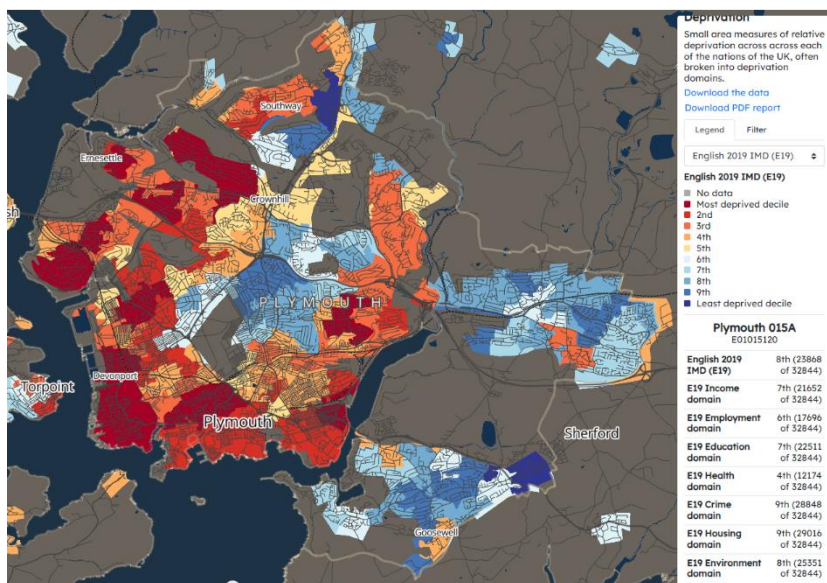


Figure 1. Map of the Indices of Deprivation for Plymouth 2019.

<https://mapmaker.cdrc.ac.uk>

Figure 2. Domain Scores for the 28 Plymouth Neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% in England

Lower Super Output Area	Plymouth Neighbourhood	Score	Income	Employment	Education, Skills and Training	Health Deprivation and Disability	Crime	Barriers to Housing and Services	Living Environment
Plymouth 029C	Stonehouse	163	1	1	1	1	2	6	5
Plymouth 029B	Stonehouse	321	1	1	1	1	1	6	5
Plymouth 029A	Stonehouse	1384	1	1	2	1	1	6	2
Plymouth 026C	Devonport, Mount Wise & Morice Town	448	1	1	1	1	2	6	6
Plymouth 026A	Devonport, Mount Wise & Morice Town	1196	1	1	2	1	2	6	3
Plymouth 026D	Devonport, Mount Wise & Morice Town	2529	1	1	1	2	1	5	5
Plymouth 026B	Devonport, Mount Wise & Morice Town	2657	2	1	1	1	1	5	5
Plymouth 026E	Devonport, Mount Wise & Morice Town	2847	1	1	1	1	6	5	4
Plymouth 014E	Keyham	1049	1	1	1	1	2	3	9
Plymouth 014B	Keyham	2142	1	1	1	1	3	6	2
Plymouth 013C	North Prospect	1070	1	1	1	1	4	6	3
Plymouth 013D	North Prospect	1590	1	1	1	2	2	4	3
Plymouth 027C	City Centre, Barbican & Sutton Harbour	1229	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
Plymouth 009F	St Budeaux	1379	1	1	1	1	3	7	6
Plymouth 009D	St Budeaux	2943	2	1	2	1	3	7	1
Plymouth 009E	St Budeaux	3208	1	1	1	2	2	4	9

Plymouth 006C	King's Tamerton & West Park	1955	1	1	1	1	3	5	8
Plymouth 006B	King's Tamerton & West Park	2656	2	1	1	1	2	6	6
Plymouth 003C	Tamerton Foliot	2063	1	1	1	1	2	4	8
Plymouth 003A	Tamerton Foliot	3025	2	1	2	1	1	4	5
Plymouth 003B	Tamerton Foliot	3064	2	1	1	1	2	2	6
Plymouth 004C	Ernesettle	2077	1	1	2	1	2	6	7
Plymouth 007A	Honicknowle & Manadon	2190	2	1	2	1	1	6	8
Plymouth 007D	Honicknowle & Manadon	2712	2	1	1	1	1	4	6
Plymouth 028C	Cattedown & Prince Rock	2315	1	1	3	1	1	6	1
Plymouth 021C	Efford, Laira & Crabtree	2491	1	1	2	1	3	7	5
Plymouth 012C	Higher Compton & Eggbuckland	3145	1	1	1	1	3	7	5
Plymouth 020B	Ford & Blockhouse Park	3211	2	1	5	2	1	6	1

4. National Policy Developments

Employment Rights Bill 2024

The Employment Rights Bill 2024, published on October 10, represents a historic shift in protections for workers and employees.

It introduces enhanced family rights, building on current provisions for **maternity and paternity leave**. Key changes include:

Maternity Protections: Pregnant women, those on maternity leave, and those returning to work within six months will gain stronger protections against dismissal, except in specific cases.

Day-One Rights: Employees will gain immediate eligibility for paternity leave, unpaid parental leave, and paid bereavement leave, extending current entitlements to cover the death of close relatives.

Unfair Dismissal Claims: Employees who take family leave will have stronger rights to claim unfair dismissal post-leave.

These measures aim to provide broader and more immediate support for working families.

In addition, the Bill looks to strengthen **flexible working rights for employees**. Planned reforms include:

Employers will now be required to approve flexible working requests unless it is unreasonable to do so. Refusals must be based on specified grounds, such as additional costs or customer service impacts, and must include written explanations.

This creates a presumption in favour of granting flexible working requests where feasible.

An **Equality Action Plan** is also set to be introduced, the plan requires employers with over 250 employees (excluding public authorities) to publish plans addressing gender inequality. These plans aim to tackle gender pay gaps and support female employees, including those experiencing menopause, promoting inclusivity and diversity in the workforce.

Paternity Leave and Pay: Westminster Debate – October 2024

Called by Shaun Davies MP to debate paternity leave and pay, calling for urgent reform to paternity leave policies.

The debate highlighted the inadequacies of the current system (Currently: For fathers, 2 weeks of statutory paternity leave, paid at £184.03/week or 90% of average weekly earnings, whichever is lower). At present, only one in three fathers claim statutory paternity pay.

It was noted that the UK has the worst paternity pay policy in Europe and the government have been urged to collaborate with businesses to modernise the system.

The proposed reforms aim to; support co-parenting, close the gender pay gap, improve father's mental health and enable mothers to stay in the work force.

Case Study – Inspiring Dads [Inspiring Dads](#)

A company that looks to provide evidence and research to support Working Dads.

Parental Leave Database -Using data from over 270 UK organisations identifying organisations going beyond statutory duties to help solve gender inequalities.

Of the 270+ UK organisations:

123 offered Equal Parental Leave

171 offer 6 weeks full pay for Dads (ringfenced, not hidden within Shared Parental Leave)

E.g: **Balfour Beatty**, provides 28 weeks of fullpay maternity/adoption leave, four weeks of full-pay paternity/partners leave, and up to 28 weeks of paid shared parental time to all employees, regardless of when they start.

5. Women in Plymouth's Economy

Knowing that income, employment and skills are particularly important to lifting neighbourhoods out of deprivation, there are some clear demographic targets around women and people with disabilities and health conditions. The following section demonstrates areas of difference between men and women's economic activity.

Women have lower incomes for several reasons and these reasons are the same across the UK if not globally however, the proportion of people affected and the scale of the impact in Plymouth tends to be higher:

- The work that they do tends to be lower paid – such as health and education
- Caring responsibilities often force women to leave careers or accept lower-paying roles
- Pay discrimination is still an issue and particularly impacts intersectional communities such as black and disabled women.
- 56,000 women a year are made redundant during or soon after a pregnancy.

Overall Employment Rate

Plymouth’s employment rate for 2023/24 stands at 73%, this below the England average of 75.7% and regional average for the South West of 78.9%. Plymouth is the lowest in the region.

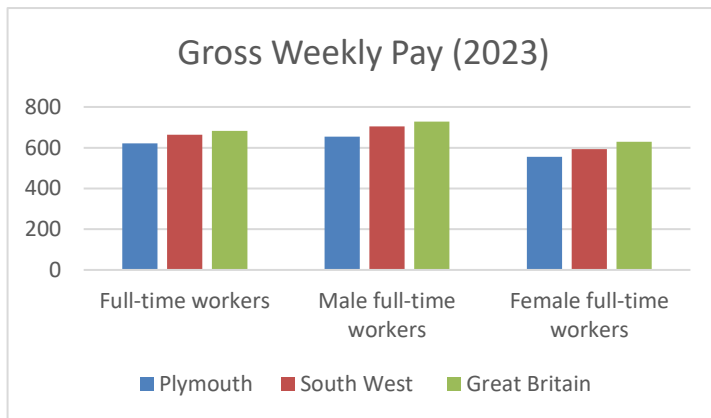
Plymouth’s economic activity (those with or currently looking for jobs) varies between female and male populations. For those aged 16 or over, 78.8% of males and 74.2% of females are currently registered as economically active. Females in Plymouth are less likely to be economically active than the regional average of 77.5% respectively.

Self Employment

Female self employment has tended to be several percentage points lower than the regional figure which in turn is several percentage points lower than the national figure. In Plymouth, it has fluctuated considerably since the pandemic. Currently 3.7% of working-age females are self-employed in Plymouth, this is considerably lower than the average for the South West of 9% and nationally 6.6%.

Income and Wage disparities

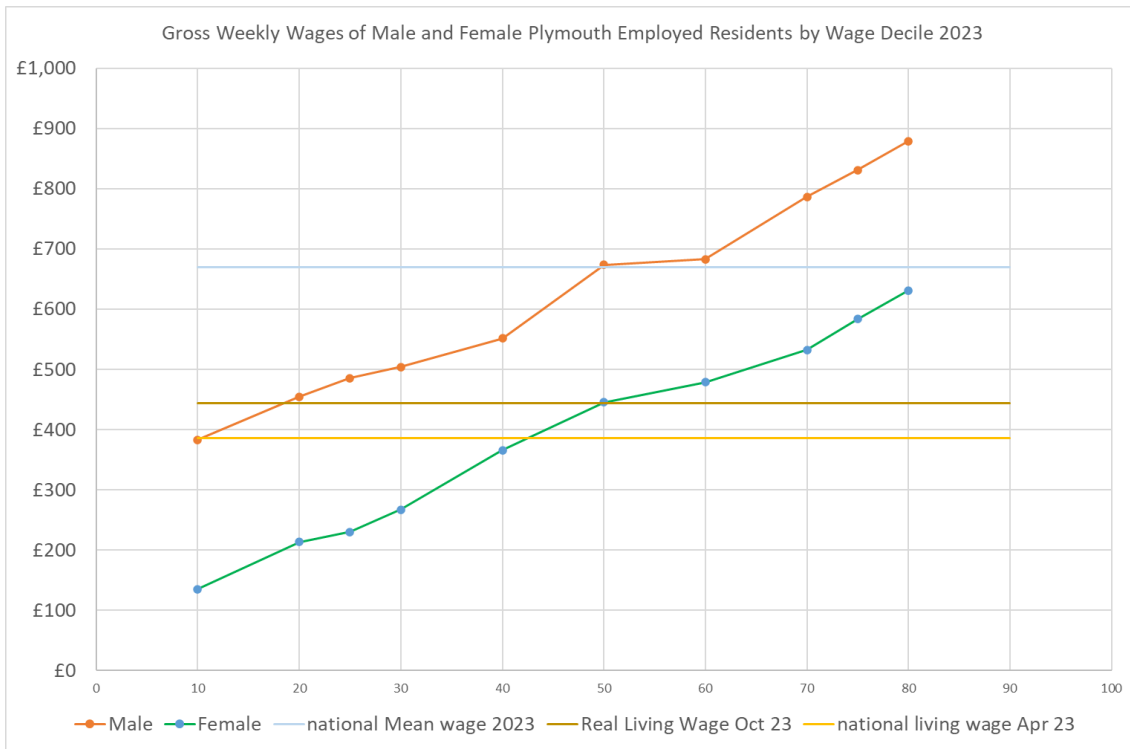
Figure 4 Gross Weekly Pay



Plymouth’s average weekly wage for residents currently stands at £620.5; this is significantly lower than the GB average of £682.60 and the regional average for the South West of £663.70. Full-time male workers earn £653.60 a week on average compared to £555.90 for female workers.

In 2023, weekly pay of the 20% lowest paid workers increased by 4% or less. By contrast, if you were in the top 20% of earners, your pay increased by at least 18.12%.

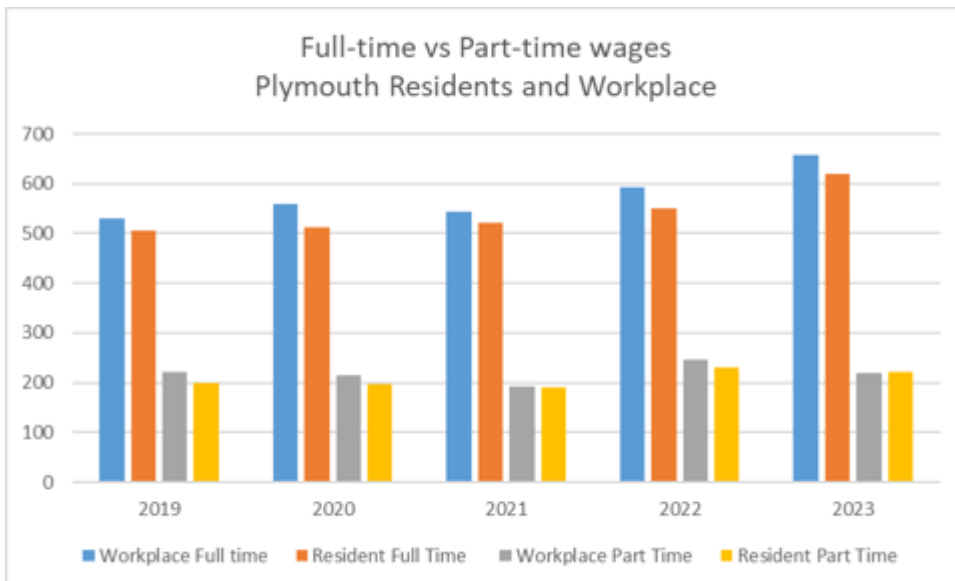
Figure 5. Gross weekly wages by gender



Comparing weekly wages of employed men and women, with benchmarks such as the national mean wage, Real Living Wage and National Living Wage demonstrates that half of employed women in the city do not earn enough to cover their basic living expenses without external support.

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.

Figure 6. Full time and part time weekly wages – residents and all workers



Gender Pay Gap

The median hourly pay (excluding overtime) is £16.08 for men and £13.10 for women. This is a gender pay gap of 18.53% compared to 13.1% nationally.

There is considerable difference in female employment rates and pay gap as published in gender pay gap reporting of Plymouth-based employers. The table shows our biggest sectors of manufacturing and health and education, each with 8 large employers based in Plymouth.

Figure 7. Gender Pay Gap Information

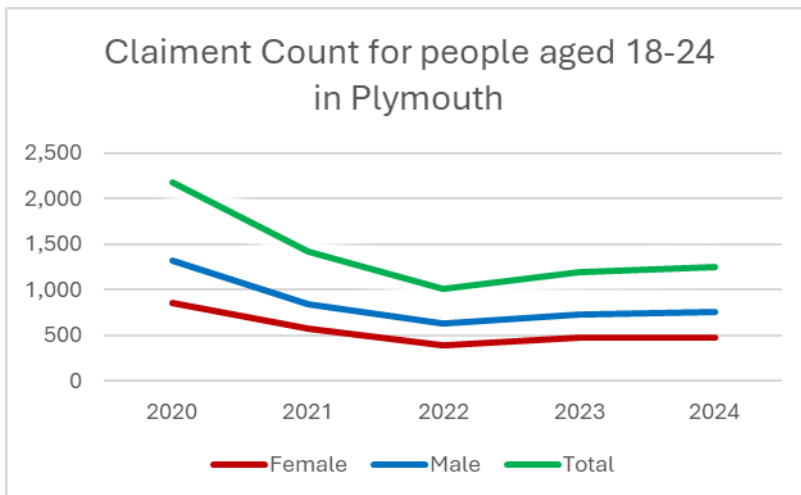
	Female Employment rate	Pay gap
Manufacturers (8)	Average 22% Range 9-35%	Average £6.8 Range -£27 to £19.9
Human Health and Social Work and Education (8)	Average 74% Range 62-89%	Average £10.46 Range -£0.30 to £22.6
30 Plymouth employers above 250 employees	47%	£6.90

Unemployment rate

Unemployment in Plymouth is currently low, at just 3.5% in September. There are consistently fewer 25-50 year old unemployed females than males. Under 25 and over 50, the numbers of males and females are more equal and make up 80% of the total.

Youth Unemployment

Figure 8. Claimant Count



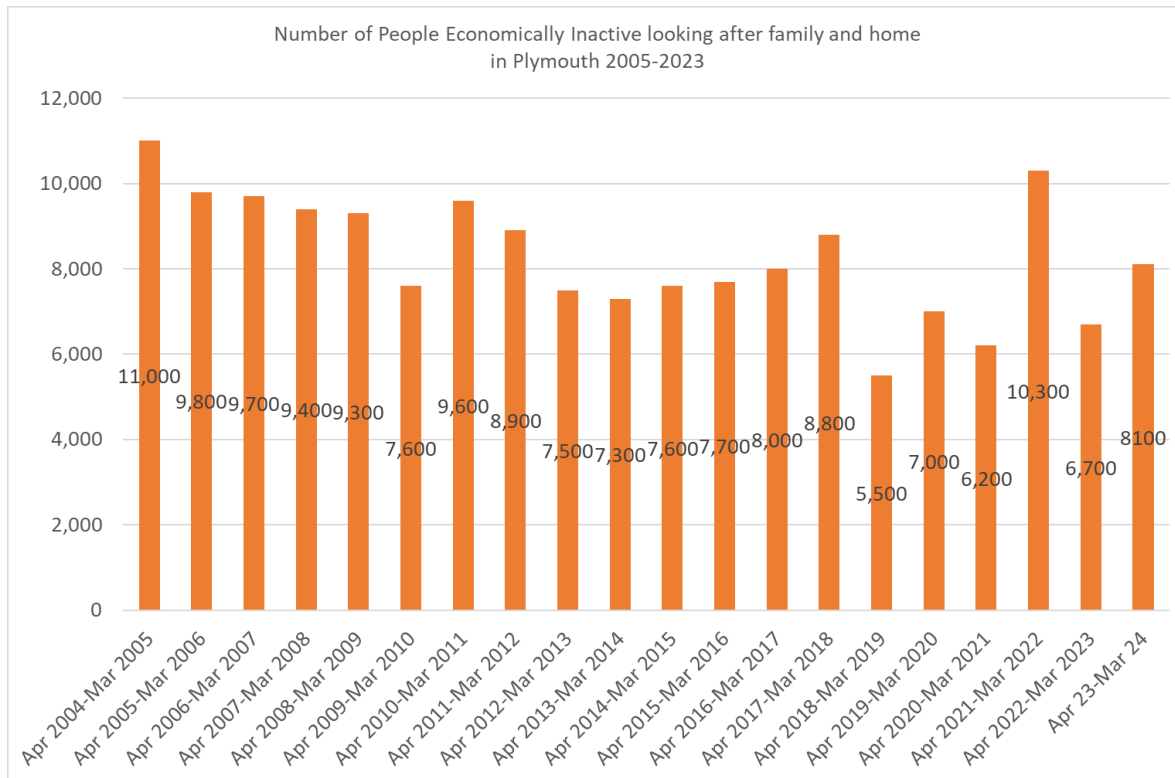
The graph shows the claimant count figures for people aged 18-24 in Plymouth. The graph shows that the numerical number of unemployed females has remained lower than the number of unemployed males for the past 5 years.

The total claimant count decreased from over 2,000 in 2020 to around 1,200 in 2024; showing a decrease in total claimant count numbers of 43%.

Economic Inactivity- Looking after Family and Home

The number of people in Plymouth who are economically inactive due to looking after family and home fluctuates considerably with the changing economy. It tends to be a lower proportion of the working age population compared to Great Britain (3.90% compared to 4.17% respectively in 2023). Census data suggests that this is particularly high in Barne Barton and Devonport (6.6% and 6.9% respectively)

Figure 9. Economically Inactive, looking after family and home



Education Attainment

33.4% of Plymouth residents aged 16-64 have qualifications at RQF level 4 and above.; this is lower than both the national average of Great Britain at 47.3% and the South West regional average of 43.8%.

The proportion of residents who hold no qualifications in Plymouth is also higher than the national and regional averages, with Plymouth seeing rates of 9.4%, the South West 5.1% and Great Britain 6.5%. Census data suggests that Ernesettle, North Prospect, Efford and Barne Barton are particularly high (25.6%, 23.6%, 22.9%, 22.8% respectively)

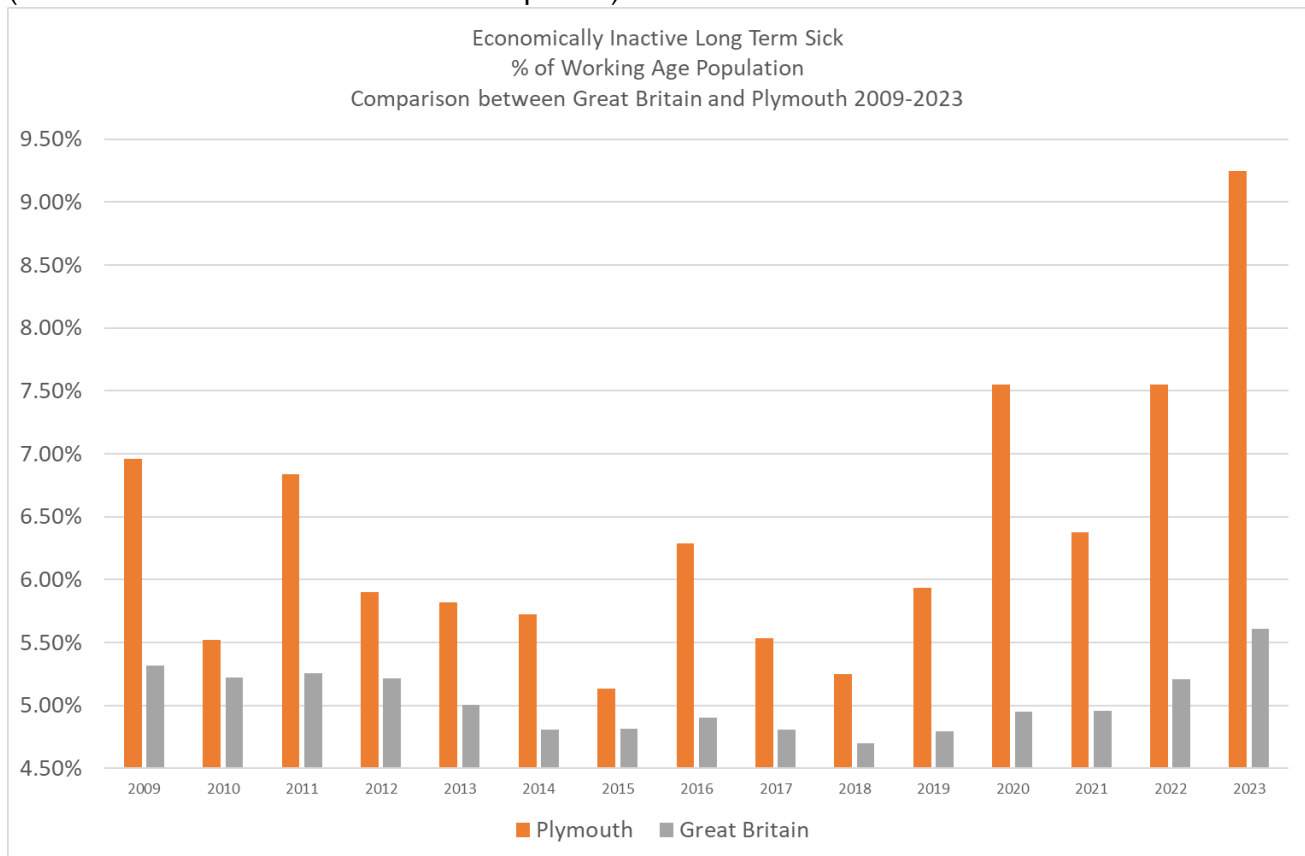
6. Disability and Sickness in Plymouth’s Economy

There is less information available for people who are disabled or who have long terms health conditions.

Economic Inactivity- Long term sickness

A notable difference between Plymouth and Great Britain is the proportion of the working age population who are economically inactive due to long terms sickness. In 2023 this was 9.24% for Plymouth compared to 5.61% for Great Britain. Census data suggests that this is particularly high in Devonport, Stonehouse and Ernesettle (9.4%, 8.9%, 8.7%)

Figure 10. Economically Inactive, long term sick (note vertical axis starts at 4.5% to aid comparison)



Employment Rate gaps for those with health conditions

B08a - Gap in the employment rate between those with a physical or mental long term health condition (aged 16 to 64) and the overall employment rate is 14.7% in Plymouth compared to 10.7% for England. Plymouth has the biggest gap in the Region.

The percentage of the population with a long term physical or mental health condition who are in employment is in Plymouth 58.8% compared to for England 65.3%. Plymouth is the lowest in the Region.

The gap in employment rate for those of working age who are in contact with secondary mental health services and on the Care Plan approach, is 69.7% for Plymouth compared to 66.1% in England. 7% are in employment compared to 9% nationally.

Sickness Absence

The percentage of working days lost to sickness absence (in the previous week) is low in Plymouth – 0.8 compared to 1.1 nationally. Only Wiltshire had a lower sickness rate in the Region (0.7).

Similarly, only 1.4% of employees had at least one day off in the previous week compared to 2.0% for England

7. Understanding Lived Experience

Our 30 Voices videos introduce individuals from a range of protected characteristics narrating their experiences of working in Plymouth.

[30Voices](#)

They are particularly accessible through our Instagram account.

<https://www.instagram.com/plymouthcharter/reel/CvZM7xkgbs0/>

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	11 December 2024
Title of Report:	Freeport Annual Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Ian Cooper
Contact Email:	ian.cooper@pasdfreeport.com
Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide an annual update on the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport, focusing on policy, net zero, seed capital programme, and trade and investment.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Panel is recommended to note the Freeport Annual Update report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

N/A

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

N/A

Financial Risks

N/A

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

N/A

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.*

N/A

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	Freeport Annual Update							

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)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 29/11/2024

Cabinet Member approval: 

Date approved: 29/11/2024

APPENDIX A

**PLYMOUTH AND
SOUTH DEVON
FREEPORT**

Freeport Annual Update

**Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel,
11 December 2024**

This annual update is an agreed output of the service level agreement in place between Plymouth and South Devon Freeport and Plymouth City Council. Its purpose is to provide an overview of progress in areas of key strategic importance to the Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel.

The strategic areas covered by this annual update are:

- Policy
- Net zero
- Seed capital programme
- Trade and investment

Policy

In September PASD Freeport received notification from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government of the outcome of its 2023/24 Annual Performance Review. MHCLG noted they are 'pleased to see the maturity of the organisation and governance processes.' We were also notified that PASD Freeport had met the requirements of the Security Audit Review, which formed part of the APR. This is a key milestone that reflects the hard work of the PASD Freeport company and Plymouth City Council in its capacity as Accountable Body in ensuring that all core policies and procedures have been put in place in adherence with the Nolan principles. Furthermore, Advisory Boards for skills, innovation and trade and investment are now established, meeting quarterly to provide programme delivery support to the Freeport Board of Directors. Processes have also been put in place for bi-annual reporting to MHCLG with all returns having been successfully delivered across the year.

The English Freeport tax benefits extension became law in May. the previously agreed five-year window now extends until September 2031. This extension provides businesses with greater certainty and extended time to capitalise on the Freeport's tax benefits and reliefs, available to eligible new businesses or those demonstrating high growth.

The tax reliefs available for eligible businesses are:

- 100% Stamp Duty Land Tax relief.
- 5 years Business Rates relief.
- Enhanced structures and buildings allowances.
- Enhanced capital allowances for plant and machinery.
- Secondary Class 1 National Insurance contributions relief for eligible employers on the earnings of eligible new employees up to £25,000 per annum for up to 3 years.

Alongside the tax window extension, PASD Freeport also obtained Government agreement to broaden its gateway criteria to allow eligible businesses operating in advanced manufacturing, engineering and net zero technology sectors to invest in the Freeport, alongside businesses aligned with the Freeport's original core sectors of marine, defence and space.

Following the General Election in the summer, the new UK Government has confirmed continued funding for the Freeports Programme across the UK in its Autumn 2024 Budget, while also announcing that it will work with partners to align the Programme with its policy priorities. The Chancellor also confirmed that tax sites will be designated in Celtic Freeport, and five new customs sites will shortly be designated across three of the existing Freeports.

The Freeports Programme will drive the government's growth mission by promoting new investment in sectors that are vital to the national Industrial Strategy, creating good, highly skilled jobs in areas which

have underperformed economically in the past. Freeports have already attracted £6.4 billion of investment, much of which has been in green energy sectors. This investment is expected to create more than 7,200 jobs. This continued focus and support will ensure UK Freeports align with the Government's planned broader Industrial Strategy, and their key policy priorities.

(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

The Government intend to publish a 10-year Industrial Strategy in spring 2025. Eight growth-driving sectors have been identified, including: Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries and Defence (all PASD Freeport gateway sectors). The Industrial Strategy will bring forward coordinated sector-specific and cross-cutting policies that support businesses to overcome barriers and invest. A consultation period is now underway. By considering and listening to businesses and experts, the Government can identify the most effective levers for our sectors and geographical clusters across the country. PASD Freeport has responded to the Green Paper, outlining how the Freeport policy can deliver against the Industrial Strategy at pace when it is published in the spring.

Net zero

In September, the strengthening of Associated British Ports' West Wharf at Millbay Docks completed – this part of ABP's ambitious infrastructure project for the Docks received £1.3m of funding from the PASD Freeport's seed capital programme. This is a tangible example of Plymouth City Council delivering on the commitment it made to ABP and Brittany Ferries in August 2023 when the three parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to ensure Millbay Docks enjoys a sustained era of clean, green and good growth.

"The strengthening of the West Wharf is a critical component of ABP's ongoing £23m investment in upgrading infrastructure at Millbay, which will help secure the long-term future of the Ferry Terminal, strengthen the port's freight capability, increase the port's green credentials and grow the offering to the cruise market."

(Associated British Ports)



Figure 1: West Wharf, Millbay, following reinforcement works carried out between December 2023 and September 2024. © ABP

Construction began in December 2023 and involved the installation of 30 steel tubular piles, which means that the West Wharf now has a 60-metre section capable of accommodating 100-tonne cranes, and therefore significantly increasing the load capacity of the berth. The enhancement will enable the

port to handle a greater volume of cargo, thereby increasing the capacity for Plymouth to receive short-sea shipping freight which is a cleaner mode of carriage compared to HGV road freight.

PASD Freeport has also worked closely with Cattewater Harbour Commissioners over the past year in support of a port optimisation project to provide safe navigational channels for slightly larger hulls, supporting commitments set out in the Freeport's Full Business Case to futureproof port facilities for new markets and support further development of more regular short sea shipping routes.



Figure 2: Section of the Cattewater channel to be widened to accommodate larger, greener vessels.

The project forms part of a package of improvements designed to attract more cargo and bigger, greener vessels. Plymouth City Council, as the Accountable Body for the PASD Freeport, awarded Cattewater Harbour Commissioners a grant of £381,713.32 earlier in the year as part of the Freeport's seed capital programme. This money has been used alongside match funding to contract the work, that will see navigational safety improved to allow the next generation of hybrid ships to visit Plymouth.

Elsewhere, at Langage, Carlton Power, one of the UK's leading independent energy infrastructure development companies, discovered in December 2023 it had been successful in Round One of the UK Government's Hydrogen Allocation Round (HAR1). The company's three projects – at Trafford in Greater Manchester, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria) and Langage, near Plymouth (on Freeport Tax Site land) – were each awarded financial contracts from the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ). Subject to reaching Financial Investment Decisions, these projects should enter commercial operation within the next 2-3 years.

Carlton Power is working with Schrodgers Greencoat LLP, the specialist investment manager dedicated to the renewable energy infrastructure sector, to finance, build and operate the three projects via their joint venture – Green Hydrogen Energy Company Ltd (“GHECO”). The JV, announced in May 2023, aims to build a hydrogen project portfolio in the UK of 500 MW by 2030.

Seed capital programme

Following its designation in 2022, PASD Freeport was awarded £25m of seed capital funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (now, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government). The purpose of the seed capital is to address infrastructure gaps in Freeport locations and create the right physical conditions to encourage private sector investment.

Plymouth City Council as the Accountable Body of the PASD Freeport ensured the £25m became fully allocated this year across a range of projects all designed to create jobs, support innovation and facilitate workforce development across the Freeport's key sectors of marine, defence, advanced manufacturing, engineering and net zero tech.

Area	Investment	Detail	Allocated Funding	Lead
Tax Site 1: South Yard	Innovation Units	The project will deliver two buildings of innovation industrial units and mezzanine office space at South Yard.	3.556	Plymouth City Council
	Princess Yachts Factory Extension	Land remediation to facilitate the extension of an existing factory.	0.315	Princess Yachts
Port of Plymouth	Millbay Port Improvements	Enhancing freight capability at the port by replacement of the Western Wharf and introduction of new fenders.	1.300	Associated British Ports
	Cattewater Channel Widening	Widening the channel in/out of port to accommodate larger vessels and promote greater volume of short sea shipping.	0.382	Cattewater Harbour Commissioners
Tax Site 2: Langage	Spine Road 1a	Delivery of a spine road extension which will unlock phase 1a of the Langage tax site.	4.000	Devon County Council
	Core Infrastructure	Supply of power to Plot 2 and Plot 3 of Carlton Power's development.	0.925	Carlton Power
	Access Road	Access road off Holland Road to Plots 1 and 2, leading to Plot 5.	0.800	Carlton Power
	Beaumont Way	Development of circa. 4,615sq.m (50,000sqft) of flexible, high quality, sustainable workspace split across four different units.	4.000	Plymouth City Council
Tax Site 3: Sherford	Land Assembly	SHDC to acquire the land at Sherford identified as PASD Freeport Tax Site 3, on a temporary basis, from the landowner. Plus master planning.	3.700	South Hams District Council
	Access Road	The road will provide access to the Sherford site.	0.984	Sherford Consortium
	Core Infrastructure	Core infrastructure will enable the site to be developed.	0.216	Sherford Consortium
Enabling Infra: Langage and Sherford	Ped/Cycle Bridge	A bridge across the A38 to enable pedestrian and cycle access to the Langage and Sherford Tax Sites from both communities.	4.519	Devon County Council
N/A	Grant to Freeport Company	For delivery of the capital assets.	0.303	PASD Freeport

25.000

Table 1: PASD Freeport seed capital funded investments as of December 2024.

These investments include the net zero enabling projects at Millbay and Cattewater outlined above, and Plymouth City Council's direct developments at Oceansgate (South Yard Freeport Tax Site) and Beaumont Way (Langage Freeport Tax Site).

Plymouth City Council's next phase of Oceansgate development will deliver a place for marine businesses to innovate and collaborate. A planning application was submitted in September proposing the construction of two buildings providing over 1,700m² of high-quality workspace within eight units expanding the existing Oceansgate complex, which is already home to 14 industrial units and 12 offices.



Figure 3: Proposed innovation units to be built at Oceansgate, Devonport, by Plymouth City Council. © Plymouth City Council

The next phase promises to be even greener and built to the latest low carbon building specifications. Features include renewable energy systems, the use of lower carbon materials – such as sustainably

sourced timber, stone, and recycled building materials, orientation of the buildings for heat/shade, efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. There will also be cycle parking and EV charge facilities.

(Plymouth City Council)

The PASD Freeport partnership has allocated seed capital grant of £3.256m, and Plymouth City Council is matching this with service borrowing of £3.274m to fund this direct development which will accommodate circa 49 FTE jobs when completed at the end of next year, subject to planning approval.

A seed capital grant of £4m has also been allocated to Plymouth City Council for a second construction project. This direct development of a Plymouth City Council owned plot of approximately 1.6 hectares (4 acres) is located on part of the PASD Freeport's Langage Tax Site. The scheme has full planning consent (South Hams District Council ref no. 4441/21/ARM) for the development of approximately 4,615m² (50,000ft²) of sustainable, high quality employment accommodation for medium and large sized businesses to occupy.



Figure 4: Architectural rendering of Unit 3, Beaumont Way, Langage. © Plymouth City Council

In terms of supporting employment opportunities, the development is expected to create / support circa 138 FTE jobs (in addition to promoting construction related jobs and supply chain links during the build period). All four units are targeting EPC A ratings and will also be targeting BREEAM Excellent and Net Zero Carbon.

Project milestones include the following:

- Devon Contractors Ltd recently appointed as main contractor to construct the scheme.
- Detailed pre-construction design work progressing.
- Start on site due early December 2024.
- Marketing brochure prepared and uploaded to PCC, Freeport and Rightmove websites.
- New year will see main construction works progressing.
- Completion Autumn 2025.

The Freeport's seed capital programme is also supporting several transport infrastructure projects, including:

- Spine Road 1a – the Kingsway Road stops just south of the Power Station on the eastern side of the Langage Business Park. Devon County Council's Spine Road 1a project will utilise £4m of seed capital funding to extend the road so that it unlocks Carlton Power's plots 7 and 8 within the Freeport Tax Site. Full planning permission has been granted, with construction beginning in the spring for completion by the end of 2025. The road will be delivered in such a way that it will allow developers to deliver access points to the site in the future as individual plots receive full planning permission.

- Ped/Cycle Bridge – Devon Council Council is also leading on the Pedestrian/Cycle Bridge project, which is receiving £4.519m of Freeport seed capital funding. This project supports the decarbonisation of transport by improving active travel options for short to medium distance journeys in the local area. The bridge will connect the new community of Sherford and the Freeport's Langage Tax Site, providing safer access for active travel across the busy A38 Deep Lane junction. Construction is planned for 2025.
- Sherford Road and Core Infrastructure – the Sherford Consortium is receiving £1.2m of Freeport seed capital to support the installation of a new highway junction and the construction of a new road with associated infrastructure (drainage and utilities) from the new junction to the Freeport's Sherford Tax Site. Construction is planned to start in 2025, with full planning permission already secured.

Trade and investment

In March, Babcock and Supacat officially launched production of 70 High Mobility Transporter (HMT) 'Jackal 3' vehicles for the British Army. A purpose-built manufacturing facility was established within a disused building in the Freeport's South Yard Tax Site to deliver this initial contract.

The facility is future-proofed and is ready for subsequent build programmes. Transformational innovation and technology have been optimised throughout the production line and includes the use of bespoke 'Pulse' software which maximises efficiency during vehicle assembly. It is anticipated that the advantages of being located in the Plymouth and South Devon Freeport will benefit the future throughput of this production facility for years to come.

(Babcock)



Figure 5: Inside the Jackal 3 purpose-built manufacturing facility, South Yard, Devonport. © Babcock

Alongside the development of an underutilised facility in the Freeport was the recognition of the need for additional staff to support the production of the work. This has been underscored by the skills-based work academy programme (SWAP) led by Babcock in conjunction with the Department for Work and Pensions and Plymouth City Council. The objective of the five-day programme is to support

local people back into employment, through health and safety qualifications, mindset coaching, wellbeing in the workplace and support in finding employment.

The contract partnership between Babcock and Supacat has created 90 new jobs at Babcock's Devonport facility at South Yard, as well as 40 roles at Supacat's design, engineering and manufacturing site at Dunkeswell in Devon. The SWAP has proven to be a success. 11 people have been offered roles within the project, whilst those who were unsuccessful received valuable careers advice supported by Plymouth City Council, readying them for future career opportunities.

The Babcock/Supacat partnership is a real illustration of how the Freeport offer can help support high quality jobs for the people of Plymouth, provide a canvas for innovative and technologically advanced facilities located in our tax sites, and with our defence speciality, help create sovereign capability for the UK.

The Jackal 3 programme is also directly contributing to the economic potential of the wider South West with nearly all the programme's supply chain sourced in the UK and 50% specifically from the region.

In September it was announced that Babcock, in partnership with Supacat, has been awarded a contract to build an additional 53 HMT Jackal 3s for the British Army.

This success story, and the great progress that is being made on the seed capital programme, is building awareness of the Freeport opportunity amongst businesses. Since joining the Freeport in November 2023, the Business Growth and Investment Director has led on marketing the investment opportunities via a range of initiatives, including:

- Two Unlocking Growth events in April (at Plymouth Albion RFC) and November (Holne House, Ashburton), highlighting the tax/ customs offer and the skills, net zero and innovation support. Combined events attended by >120.
- Briefings of Department for Business & Trade teams in Australia, Singapore, Europe and the US. Very positive feedback from participants and several calls with Australian businesses held off the back of this and one prospective lead in Germany.
- Hosting the SW Regional Defence & Security Cluster event in Devonport's Market Hall in November, attended by >90 businesses, academia, Armed Forces and other staff.
- Regular speaking slots at local Chambers events.
- Attendance at high profile trade and investment conventions, including UK Real Estate, Investment and Infrastructure Forum in Leeds, Global Offshore Wind in Manchester and Farnborough Airshow.
- Refreshed business-facing website for launch Jan 25 along with sustained LinkedIn output.

There is more to come in 2025, but throughout the last year we have received a consistent flow of new leads joining the Freeport pipeline each quarter with a proportion of these enquiries firming into more serious interest in South Yard (including the new Oceansgate units) and Langage (including the new Beaumont Way units). South Hams District Council is also in the process of buying the Sherford Tax Site which will secure it for Freeport purposes. On completion of this land deal SHDC will enter an Option to Buy Agreement with a defence sector end user to create an Integrated Logistics Hub as outlined in the Freeport's Full Business Case.

The Freeport's innovation workstream is also developing to help crystallise investment. Following a workshop facilitated by the Connected Places Catapult, the Freeport's Innovation Advisory Board has established a working group to develop a prospectus for an innovation fund to strengthen our trade and investment offer. Directionally this would be targeted at private sector funders with a focus on commercialisation of advanced technologies within our target sectors. In addition, the Freeport is working with Tech SW to pilot a MarineTech Accelerator in 25/26 which will see 15 businesses in the area go through Tech SW's Growth Forge programme, accelerating their growth through working

with companies such as Microsoft, sector mentors and accessing investment from a range of private sector funders.

2025 look ahead highlights

- Continued collaboration with Plymouth City Council, Ministry of Defence, University of Plymouth and other key stakeholders to develop the city's Defence and Floating Offshore Wind propositions, particularly in relation to innovation.
- Continued collaboration with MHCLG, Department for Business and Trade, and other Government departments to embed the PASD Freeport programme into the new 10-year Industrial Strategy, focussing on Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries and Defence sectors, plus sub-sectors to be identified as part of the Green Paper.
- Construction and completion of Plymouth City Council's direct developments at Oceansgate and Langage South (Beaumont Way).
- Firming up the Freeport trade and investment pipeline to secure pre-lets for Plymouth City Council's direct developments, along with Carlton Power's plots at Langage.
- Construction and completion of key transport infrastructure investments to unlock areas of the Freeport's Tax Sites at Langage and Sherford, including Devon County Council's Spine Road 1a and Ped/Cycle Bridge projects, plus the Sherford Consortium's road and core infrastructure scheme.

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	11 December 2024
Title of Report:	Plymouth Sound National Marine Park – Update Report 2024
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Kat Deeney
Contact Email:	Kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	241211 NI&G Scrutiny - PSNMP Update Report 2024 Draft
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The last update to the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in July 2023, when the framework for the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid was presented and endorsement for the bid was sought. In September 2023 the bid was submitted and in December 2023 we were awarded the grant. Since the funding award, the project has rapidly gained momentum and has commenced delivery against the multiple project outcomes.

This report provides an update on all aspects of the PSNMP Horizons project including:

- Nature Boost
- Activity Plan
- Digital Park
- Capital Restoration and Repurposing
- Evaluation

Within all the programmes of work there is a focus on building a new relationship between people and the ocean ensuring we provide a strong legacy beyond the life of the project. To support the legacy of the project, there has also been work developing the Park entity to ensure once the project completes the outcomes and ambition continues. Work on this key development area is also explored in the report. The report concludes with some insight into the 2025 work programme.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. **Recommendation** – It is recommended that the committee note the PSNMP update and support the ongoing delivery as set out in the report.
Reason – The Horizons project is progressing well against its ambitions and the Park development work is well underway and support for both is still required.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. The ongoing work of the PSNMP Horizons project and the development of the Park could not receive support in its ongoing delivery. This was discounted as the PSNMP is a key strategic priority for the Council.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The NLHF Heritage Horizons funding will deliver the City ambition to unlock the transformational 'big idea' of delivering the UK's first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound and lead a new generation of Parks. This project will deliver a vital change by, through and with people. It is a paradigm shift in thinking that recognises that we cannot save our planet without everyone being part of the solution. PSNMP will enable a grassroots movement, delivered through engaged marine citizens, changing long term behaviours and outcomes.

The programme will deliver against policies within the Plymouth Plan including policy 'INT1 - Implementing Britain's Ocean City'. The NMP has been designed to support the City Vision as well as Plymouth City Council priorities: 'unlocking the City's potential' by making more of one of our greatest assets and due to the focus on engagement and inclusion it will also support the priorities within 'Caring for People and Communities', particularly reducing health inequalities, by providing more opportunities for a wider group of people to access the health and wellbeing benefits the NMP can offer.

The project will be delivered on the ground through an integrated and collaborative programme. The different areas will work holistically together to bring the PSNMP to life. The project includes:

An inclusive Activity Plan, driving the marine citizenship programme, providing diverse opportunities to engage with the Park, discover and learn more about the PSNMP and support activities to help enhance and care for the PSNMP.

Sensitive Capital enhancements to key our key Gateways along the waterfront; gateways to the PSNMP. Centres of intensive engagement and outreach focused on the development of new audiences.

- Tinside Lido
- Mount Batten Peninsula
- Mount Edgcumbe
- Ernesettle Creek – the community have co-designed the sensitive interventions proposed at Ernesettle creek. Enabling better access, enhancement of the nature of the site and interpretation helping the community create a deeper connection to Plymouth Sound.
- Firestone Bay – also co-designed with the community, including interventions to support access to and activities in the water.

Pioneering Nature Boost restoration initiatives; re-building species and habitats and enhancing climate resilience.

An innovative Digital Park to ensure the heritage beneath the waves is visible, accessible and inspirational.

An Interpretation Plan that will tell the stories of the PSNMP, the past, present and future. Features will be located at the capital hubs, gateways and areas away from the waterfront, linking the stories of the Sound throughout the City.

The programme will deliver against policies within the Plymouth Plan including policy 'INT1 - Implementing Britain's Ocean City'. The NMP has been designed to support the City Vision as well as Plymouth City Council priorities: 'unlocking the City's potential' by making more of one of our greatest assets and due to the focus on engagement and inclusion it will also support the priorities within 'Caring for People and Communities', particularly reducing health inequalities, by providing more opportunities for a wider group of people to access the health and wellbeing benefits the NMP can offer.

The way the project will be delivered, with a focus on people and environment, will also support the protection and enhancement of the natural environment and contributing to net zero. The NLHF was the first large scale funding secured to support the NMP development.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The implications for the PSNMP Horizons project were set out in the Business Case submitted and approved in March 2024.

Financial Risks

This report does not identify any new financial risks.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The PSNMP work has a core focus on the improvement of the environment directly through the nature boost programme and through all aspects of the project as a result of the key focus on developing a new positive relationship between people and the ocean.

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.*

There are no new implications raised as a result of this work.

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	241211 NI&G Scrutiny - PSNMP Update Report 2024 FINAL							

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	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Karime Hassan											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 28/11/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: 											
Date approved: 02/12/2024											

PLYMOUTH SOUND NATIONAL MARINE PARK



Update Report 2024

Executive Summary

The last update to the Natural Environment and Growth Scrutiny Committee was in July 2023, when the framework for the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid was presented and endorsement for the bid was sought. In September 2023, the bid was submitted and in December 2023 we were awarded the grant. Since the funding award, the project has rapidly gained momentum and has commenced delivery against the multiple project outcomes.

Over the last year there has been significant activity happen across many areas of the Park which will be detailed in this report including:

- **Team Development** – we have recruited the full team for the delivery phase which has included four new Rangers and two new members in the project management function within Plymouth City Council. There has also been staff recruited and embedded within our partner organisation, the new officers leading the Sea in Our School programme and Meet the Marine Park have been employed by the Ocean Conservation Trust and a new Senior Creative Producer has been employed by Plymouth Culture to support the Digital work for the PSNMP.
- **Nature Boost** – The PSNMP is classed as a landscape and nature project by the NLHF, and we have therefore embedded nature in all aspects of the Horizons work. There is, however, also a specific programme of work, Nature Boost, where the aim is to engage people in the wonder of the Park's wildlife but also innovate and be a pathfinder of how NMPs can deliver new ways to enhance nature with people. This year the focus has been on developing species and habitat projects as well as developing the model around seagrass tokens.
- **Heritage Restoration and Repurposing** - In the funding bid we front loaded the capital improvements as the works were needed to support the delivery of the wider project. There has therefore been a significant focus at our Gateway sites to get the construction work underway.

- **Activity Plan** – The activity plan includes a diversity of programmes aimed at getting a more diverse group of people in, on, under and next to the Park in a manner that provides benefits for people and nature. It includes the school programme, volunteering, activities at the Gateways, and Meet the Marine Park which takes the sea to the people. Many areas of the Plan are well underway whilst others are under development.
- **Digital Park** – The focus has been on developing the relationship with Plymouth Culture, ensuring our digital infrastructure is in place to support the ambitions of the programme and developing the proposals for the first digital project that will commence in 2025.
- **Evaluation** – Continuous review, reflection, learning, and adaption is fundamental as we are delivering the UK’s first National Marine Park. Our evaluation work is underway and will sit alongside delivery over the next four and a half years to ensure we continually adapt to the needs and ambitions of the communities we will be working with.

Through all areas of the project people are at the heart of the PSNMP Horizons project and there is a constant focus on engagement and enabling activities. Since the Delivery Phase of the projects has commenced, we have:

- Recruited 30 schools as part of the SIOS programme – enabling over 950 students to take part this year.
- Supported the fantastic PSNMP volunteers to spend over 700-hours working with us to improve the Park.
- Engaged with nearly 6000 people through the roving Meet the Marine Park offer, where we take the Park to the communities across Plymouth
- Activated our Gateways enabling over 1560 people to get in, on, under and next to the park in new ways.
- Seen a 65% increase in engagement with our website.

Within all the programmes of work there is a focus on building a new relationship between people and the ocean ensuring we provide a strong legacy beyond the life of the project. To

support the legacy of the project, there has also been work developing the Park entity to ensure once the project completes the outcomes and ambition continues.

This report provides a more detailed update on all the points above and an insight into the 2025 work programme.

I. Nature Boost

The aim of the Nature Boost programme is to deliver a transformative project for people, place and planet. This work stream purpose is to trial and develop innovative approaches to nature-based interventions that will have long term impacts in the Sound and beyond and ensure communities can be actively engaged and inspired by the work. There are four components to the nature boost programme: Species boost, Habitat boost, Sea grass token, Carbon positive.

The Nature Boost Projects will:

- Work within the Marine Protected Area and across the existing wildlife designations within the PSNMP boundary.
- Build on existing projects, research and nature recovery innovation.
- Work within existing policy and management plans including the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF) management plan.
- Support the iconic species of Plymouth Sound through pathfinding novel approaches to supporting their recovery.
- Encourage people to:
 - Experience and engage – through sharing fun and excitement about what they can see in their PSNMP.
 - Discover and learn – understand the species and habitats of the Sound and how they can be supported to thrive.
 - Connect and act - getting involved with practical activities and outreach, join citizen science initiatives and create drivers for people to make real change.

In addition, there are the delivery of the statutory nature requirements of the project through the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Strategic Mitigation Plan (SMP).

Species Boost

This first project is designed to share the awe and wonder of a group of species found in the Sound that are an important part of our local wildlife. Skates and rays are coastal species vulnerable to fishing due to their size and shape. They are also slow to mature, so large sexually mature specimens are particularly important. The common skate is one of the most endangered species in the UK!

Our project focuses on breeding spotted rays (a confusing name since they are a skate – major difference is rays are live bearers whereas skate lay eggs). We caught a small number of female rays who lay their fertilised eggs in the research aquarium at the Marine Biological Association (MBA). The females were then returned to the sea, mimicking natural behavior of moving on once the eggs are laid.

The eggs are being cared for in the aquarium enabling them to develop and hatch. We are filming each stage of the process so we can share and explain their development. To date we have hatched over 25 baby spotted rays and there are a series of engagement points planned to enable people to experience the wonder of what happens within the PSNMP without getting wet. By being part of this experience, we hope people feel a greater connection to the wildlife of the PSNMP and are more likely to participate in positive actions for the Park.



(Image of one the hatched rays)

Linked to this work and to enable even more community participation, PSNMP have teamed up with Sharks Trust who developed and deliver the Great Egg Case Hunt each year. We are aiming to encourage and support more people to participate in hunting for and recording egg case finds on the foreshore to support the Sharks Trust initiative. Our amazing volunteers will be trained to identify different eggs and include egg case hunts as part of the routine beach cleans.

Habitat Boost

This work focuses on identifying and enhancing the habitats that support our iconic species and explores how key habitats can be boosted through restoration programmes, landscape improvements and community engagement.

This year two studies were commissioned to ensure we maximised the positive impact on habitats and where to prioritise action. The two studies focused on biogenic reefs and mudflats. They have provided clear recommendations on a direction of travel for the next phase of the delivery and the interventions will include measures that contribute to the direct restoration of habitats within the PSNMP, support people in Plymouth to be involved through citizen science programmes and align with the species work.

Seagrass Tokens

Work has continued from the development phase with the Ocean Conservation Trust (OCT), Finance Earth and the University of Plymouth to develop a financial model and approach to enable investment into seagrass restoration, taking advantage of the emerging nature-based investment markets. The partnership meets regularly to update on the different work packages and work on the model and potential investment opportunities. This has included an agreement on financial structures such as the delivery vehicle for the seagrass tokens. The model will look to be delivered locally but have national potential. Good progress has been made and there has been interest from national organisations in the seagrass token approach.

Carbon Positive

This year work has focused on ensuring our carbon and environmental impacts are avoided or reduced across the programme. We have been working with our contractor teams to look at carbon tracking and how to reduce waste. We have also been investigating the best way to track environmental impacts and benefits across a complex multifaceted project. Moving to a carbon and nature positive project is a key ambition for the project and this work will be a focus for 2025. The element of work has secured support as part of a resourcing offer linked to the Levelling Up Funding so will start in January.

Strategic Mitigation Plan (SMP)

The SMP is a requirement for the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the project and has an agreed series of mitigation and monitoring measures including all parts of the project (from Capital work building controls, ecological surveys, marine communities). The SMP has been analysed and being built into work programmes for the next 4 years. The SMP for the National Marine Park complements existing HRA requirements for the Sound and we are looking at common delivery across PCC and working with Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum (TECF).

2. Capital Restoration and Repurposing

The capital restoration projects are essential in enabling more people to benefit from accessing the PSNMP. The works will remove some of the barriers to access that were identified from the Development Phase and enable the infrastructure that will see them transformed into gateway sites that activate and welcome people to the park. As this part of the project was front loaded there has been a huge amount of activity across the sites since the Delivery Phase commenced. A summary of the work at each of the 3 physical gateway sites is detailed below:

Tinside Lido

- The Tinside works will improve its inclusive welcome and enhance the site to become a key gateway for the PSNMP. Works include reimagining the upper terrace to make the most of one of the best views of the PSNMP. The first floor will provide a flexible space that

supports youth activities and commercial events and the building on the edge of the pool will act as a hub for young people to support them accessing the Park.

- Works commenced at the Lido prior to opening for the summer swim season at the end of May 2024. Enabling works were able to run through the summer, primarily on the re-roofing and waterproofing of the upper terrace whilst surveys were completed to establish the overall condition of the buildings and the scope of repairs required. This is a highly complex project on a Listed Building with difficult access to the works from road level. The main contract works were agreed and awarded to Nevada Construction in October 2024. Works are progressing well, with contingency measures in place to enable work during the winter period. Works are scheduled to be completed before the new 2025 swim season.



(CGI of Tinside Roof Terrace)

Mount Batten Peninsula

- The Peninsula will undergo a series of improvement works from enabling better access to the historic Mt Batten Tower, to transforming the Mt Batten Centre to enable it to support more diverse groups to get onto, in and next to the PSNMP. The works have been

competitively tendered, and the Council has awarded the main contractor contract to Classic Builders. Work is now underway reviewing the phasing and timelines of the work.



Mount Batten Pontoon

- The Council is working with the Cattewater Harbour Commissioners as technical advisors over the design of a new pontoon and access bridge to enable more inclusive access to the water and activities. Detailed investigations are currently being carried out on the sea walls and seabed to inform the final design. Until this work is completed and the work is tendered, a completion date for the works cannot be specified.

Mount Edgumbe Garden Battery

- The Mount Edgumbe works will enable people to access the amazing heritage of the battery. Detailed design works are planned for the winter of 2024/25 with a view to works commencing after bat emergence in May 2025.

3. The Activity Plan Delivery

The Activity Plan drives the community engagement and experience work of the PSNMP. In the first year of delivery there was a significant level of activity across many aspects of the Park. A key part of the project is a continual learning approach that allows the project to adapt and

evolve to meet the needs and ambitions of the communities we are working with. This year's work will therefore be reviewed over the winter and the learning used to better align the activities with what we learnt from communities this year. A summary of this year's work is as follows.

Sea in the City – The part that takes the Sea to the People.

- Meet the Marine Park: our roving outreach programme. By the end of the year, Meet the Marine Park will have delivered 39 events across the City, taking the PSNMP to the people. The roaming PSNMP gateway has been popping up at a range of community events from smaller events like Patna Park Fun Day and Four Greens fun day to larger public events including Pirates Weekend, West End Carnival and Seafest. The delivery team spent 2 days in Drakes Circus in the run up to Seafest to help promote the many activities being offered. By the end of September, Meet the Marine Park had engaged with nearly 6000 people.
- Pathways to the Sea: This element looks to increase the accessibility of the PSNMP by delivering new sustainable routes from communities to the sea. This year focused on fact finding and assessing the current position. Opportunity meetings within Plymouth City Council (i.e. public health, active travel) as well as external stakeholders such as Ramblers, walking group networks and the National Trust have been held. Site visits have also been conducted to various locations across City to assess current pathways access and suitability.
- Rockpool encounters: PSNMP rangers have run rock pooling events for specific groups (e.g., Out Youth group) as an introduction to the PSNMP. Throughout the summer Blue Youth Workers (community youth) have introduced 43 young people to rock pooling with help from PSNMP and OCT rangers. Our biggest rock pooling event this year, was the hugely successful 'Coastal Connections' Bioblitz, delivered with our partner, The Rock Pool Project. This took place on the Mount Batten Peninsula, one of our PSNMP gateways. There was a great turnout of 192 participants over the day and lots of incredibly positive feedback about the range of specialised knowledge available to them.



- Community coastal cleans: Delivered using the Marine Conservation Society methodology we conducted coastal cleans once a month in various locations with community members. Delivering a clean once a month allows a more targeted approach for community groups and their members whilst PSNMP rangers build those relationships in those places.
- PSNMP Sea Fest: Working with Plymouth Waterfront Partnership we expanded the annual event across our PSNMP Gateways and provide more activities:

An estimated 25,000 daytime visitors attended the Sea Fest event, spanning the Barbican and Sutton Harbour, Tinside Lido, West Hoe, Royal William Yard, Mount Batten and Mount Edgcombe. The PSNMP activities included 20 different activities (at a reduced price or free) which enabled 2,258 people to enjoy the PSNMP in new and different ways. One of the most successful interventions made by PSNMP was providing subsidised travel options. The offer covered a 'Shark and Ride' shuttle bus and Beryl bikes (waterfront areas) and the use of ferries. Over the weekend 3,497 journeys were enabled by the subsidised travel options.



Sea in our school – Our Formal School Offer



We have two cohorts within the school's programme. For Cohort A we will be working with every year for 4 school years. For Cohort B we will be working with new schools each academic year. The SIOS is seeking the maximum impact and to test how impactful short term engagement programmes (1-year) compared to more continued engagement (4 years). Schools across Plymouth were assessed using nationally recognised data sets such as the number of free school meals provided and numbers of children with Special Educational Needs (SEND). This data was used to help determine which schools would be invited onto the 1-year programme or the 4-year programme. All primary schools will be offered the opportunity to participate before the end of the project.

Cohort A has 15 schools (including two SEND schools) totaling 460 key stage 2 pupils from within the City of Plymouth boundary. Cohort B has 15 schools for the 24/25 academic year, (including one south-east Cornwall school) totaling 510 pupils. These 970 children have received an initial visit into the school by the Sea in our School lead collating baseline evaluation data. The first schools have now embarked on the first of their three activities within the

programme. This is a visit to the NMA. Next term's activity is a virtual interactive tour of an interesting location and in the summer term a visit from an external stakeholder to the school.

PSNMP Volunteers

- This year, the volunteer programme has been focused on keeping the development phase volunteers invested aligning work with the activity and nature plans. Activities have included beach cleans, supporting PSNMP events engaging with communities and improving the heritage of the park. Between April and September, over 7,000 hours of volunteer time was achieved. We have also been incredibly pleased with not just the number of hours supported by volunteers but the fact that we are reaching our priority audiences, detailed in the bid as follows:
 - 48 % of current cohorts are aged between 18-24.
 - 18% of recent active volunteer survey are not a 'White' ethnicity, Plymouth 2021 census 5.4% are not 'white'.
 - 6.8% of development phase survey replied 'No' or 'prefer not to say' to disability question.
 - 27% of delivery phase survey replied 'No' or 'prefer not to say' to 'Do you consider yourself to have a disability?'.

PSNMP Gateways Activation

PSNMP Swim Safe Plymouth Active Leisure (PAL) – PAL have been delivering the PSNMP Swim Safe which started in Plymouth Life Centre until Tinside Lido opened on 26th May. The Swim Safe programme takes into consideration the sustainability of being able to swim in the sea for free, so this is essential a sea safety programme that will enable more people to engage with and enjoy the PSNMP. The PSNMP Swim Safe programme, (up to September 24) has delivered session to 1,229 people. It allows confidence building within the boundaries of swimming lessons in a pool, then enables pathways to experience snorkeling, scuba diving, SUP, kayaking and sailing. A programme of engagement led by detached youth workers across the waterfront has resulted in an increased use of Tinside Lido by young people with a dedicated youth session

being run every Tuesday night. These 15 youth sessions had a total attendance of 859 young people (aged 11-18).

Activate @ Mount Batten: Throughout the summer period the Mount Batten Centre provided free activity sessions to community groups working with young people and people with long term health conditions or disabilities, enabling them to experience the Park in new ways. The groups and number sessions delivered are detailed below:

- Plymouth Enrichment Games (YMCA): 96 half day sessions in July
- PCC Community Youth/PCC SEND groups: 120 half day sessions across late June/ July
- Marine Citizenship weeks: across late July / August delivered
- PCC Community Youth : 120 half day sessions
- Pembroke Street: 96 half day sessions
- Wolseley Trust: 112 half day sessions
- Connecting Youth CIC: 112 half day sessions
- Friends and Families: 120 half day sessions



Growing Ernesettle co-created communities: The project has been building on existing relationships with local community groups including the scouts and 'Friends of' groups that were established during the development phase. Our Ranger team have been attending events, gaining a greater understanding of the communities' ambition and working on future events. This has involved

linking up with the school's programme, joining wellbeing walks to learn what activities might interest people and planning small improvements such as steps down to the beach for improved access and the installation of benches.

Growing Firestone Bay co-created communities: This area is in its early stages of engagement, focusing on relationship building with the local stakeholders, by attending local events, connecting with community builders and planning some appreciative enquiry to learn more about how the community engages with Firestone Bay and what would encourage more engagement if not. The Rangers are also putting on small scale open events including small citizen science style activities on the foreshore led by the volunteers, with an open invite to the community to come and have a chat to the Rangers about the project. These are more 'drop in' type events which allow the Rangers to have a regular presence in the community.

Marine Citizenship within Activity Plan

One of the PSNMP main aims is to create active citizens and encourage "Marine Citizenship". It aims to engage residents and visitors to reconnect with and explore the ocean in exciting ways. It will provide opportunities for people to enjoy the landscape, nature, and community heritage of the area.

The activity plan has been designed to encourage personal behaviour change in support of generating marine citizens and a move towards nature positive actions.

The marine citizenship behavioural change pathway is as follows

- Connect Experience & participate - Through awareness. Emotional outcome
- Discover & Learn - Through education. Learning outcome
- Connect & Act - Through behaviour change/outcome

PSNMP will monitor, evaluate and research people's engagement and behavioural change along the pathway through evaluation incorporating case studies; tracking and evaluating the engagement of participant. This will include both individuals and communities, on their journey along the marine citizenship pathway. Reflective practice by the project team, delivery partners,

collaborators and volunteer leaders will also be an important method of evaluating behaviour change.

The Activity Plan provides programmes of activities designed to support and encourage behaviour change in four themed programmes:

- Sea in the City – activities designed to inspire and engage including Activate, community archaeology, PSNMP Seafest, PSNMP Swim Safe, PSNMP Activate, coastal cleans and cultural engagement.
- Sea in Our School – activities designed to enable formal learning.
- PSNMP Volunteers – activities to enable people to connect with PSNMP and to enable positive action.
- Gateways to PSNMP – place-based activities centered on geographic communities to develop what they want from connecting with PSNMP.

The activity plan identifies a series of benefits for each of the proposed programmes and their activities, aligned with the marine citizenship pathways and NLHF outcomes.

4. 2024 Marcomms Overview

Our Marcomms covers many media channels and progress has been made across each of them and we have been building our audiences.

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Website

Between 1 January 2024 and 31 October 2024, we have seen a 65% increase in engagement and a 57% increase in returning users to the site.

Most of our traffic is from search and social – this is the (unpaid) search traffic from google and social media. Google traffic is up 53% and social 31%.

Aside from the Homepage our most popular pages have been Events, Blogs, Summer Campaign, Seafest and Scenes of the Sound.

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park Socials

During the same period (1.01.2024 - 31.10.2024) we saw a spike in our cross channel social growth (mostly Facebook and LinkedIn) during the Launch period. Most of our engagement growth has been through LinkedIn where we have seen a 97% increase year on year. Our highest performing channel is Facebook with 77,000 engagements and over 2.5m impressions. In terms of content trends, we have noticed a 40% increase in video views with over half (260,000) of the audience share on Instagram followed closely by Facebook (154,000). The top 3 performing posts during the reporting period were:


The image displays three screenshots of Facebook posts from Plymouth Sound National Marine Park, each showing engagement statistics. The first post, dated Thu 1/2/2024 2:57 pm GMT, features a group photo and has 5,393 total engagements. The second post, dated Wed 3/4/2024 6:08 pm BST, features a photo of a pontoon and has 5,042 total engagements. The third post, dated Fri 28/6/2024 5:10 pm BST, features a photo of a beach and has 4,303 total engagements.

Metric	Post 1 (1/2/2024)	Post 2 (3/4/2024)	Post 3 (28/6/2024)
Total Engagements	5,393	5,042	4,303
Reactions	2,095	911	294
Comments	168	214	47
Shares	144	61	10
Post Link Clicks	192	13	2
Other Post Clicks	2,794	3,843	3,950

The top 3 performing video posts during the reporting period were:

plymsoundnmp
Fri 10/5/2024 4:06 pm BST


Here's a super-satisfying time-lapse from our Tidy-up Tinside volunteer day ❤️ We have worked hard with: @oceanconservationtrust @plymouthnaturalgrid...



Total Engagements	1,341
Likes	1,311
Comments	16
Shares	2
Saves	12

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park
Sun 4/2/2024 5:17 pm GMT


A fly through of what's in store for 2024 🌊🌊 Ocean Conservation Trust Plymouth Active Mount Batten Watersports & Activities Centre Mount Edgcombe House...



Total Engagements	887
Reactions	250
Comments	20
Shares	38
Post Link Clicks	—
Other Post Clicks	579

plymsoundnmp
Thu 1/2/2024 6:14 pm GMT

🎉 We did it! 🎉 We've been awarded £11.6m from The National Lottery Heritage Fund @heritagefunduk to deliver the UK's first National Marine Park!...



Total Engagements	420
Likes	370
Comments	13
Shares	30
Saves	7

Year 1 Summer Campaign: Your Summer Your Sound.

An 8-week digital first campaign targeted at Plymouth and surrounding areas was launched on 22 July to raise awareness of Plymouth Sound National Marine Park whilst showcasing what people could do in, on, under and beside the park.

During the campaign period the website received 4,200 new visitors, a 62% increase with dwell time increased by 73%, improving overall website engagement by 34% during the campaign.

The Sky Adsmart advert had 94,000 impressions and reached 14,200 households (in Plymouth and surrounding areas). The same advert was run on social media (paid ads) and reached 109,000 people.



5. Digital Park

Plymouth Culture has formed a partnership with the Horizon project to develop a Digital Cultural Programme for the PSNMP that delivers against the Digital Park ambitions. Plymouth Culture, on behalf of a city partnership, has applied for £751,216 of funding from the Arts Council Place Partnership programme, which will be matched by Horizon digital funding (NLHF) of £844,203.

The four-year programme, titled 'Sea for Yourself' has the ambition to harness the full potential of arts and culture to engage audiences and reconnect communities with place, nature and their cultural identity. Delivered as a series of digital cultural commissions, we will reconnect audiences to their natural environment through a more relevant and inclusive cultural offer.

The four large scale commissions will each span 1 year with an embedded community engagement programme to facilitate audience development and co-created artistic outputs. Commissions will explore the role of digital, testing digital technologies, content and environments to enhance audience engagement. The commissions will be informed by data-insights, but we anticipate they will focus on four thematic:

- making the underwater world visible through the activation of citywide screen-based infrastructure.

- exploration of archives and heritage through a co-creation project with communities leading to a digital exhibition.
- inspiring engagement through the creation of an immersive nature-based experience.
- blending digital and physical locations through outdoor AR/VR enabled installations.

The programme is available to all, but we will focus on several target groups within Plymouth which have been identified through the PSNMP development stage and included in the NLHF bid.

The commissions will sit alongside two interconnected strands of work:

- A data-insights strand. This will create a step change in the sector's approach to combining and analysing available data, giving invaluable insights to drive more effective interventions. This element of the work will be supported by 4 PhD students.
- A talent development programme supporting people, organisations and ideas that bridge the creative/digital and environmental sector within the blue/green economy.

The project aims to deliver 4 transformational outcomes:

1. **Artists** – enhanced practice in community engagement, co-creation and nature-based interventions, using digital and in-person approaches.
2. **Audiences** – more sophisticated audience engagement and retention strategies. Using data-insights as a strategic and collective planning tool for cultural activity, diversifying audiences and engaging underrepresented communities by making the cultural offer more relevant and accessible;
3. **Residents** – drive a behavioral shift in residents to become more active marine citizens and cultural participants, with a sense of connection to place and pride in their cultural identity;
4. **Partnerships and the Culture sector** – strengthen the sector by building new capabilities, related to nature and digital solutions, and establish the partnerships and infrastructures required to sustain culture-led place-making.

We have successfully recruited a Senior Creative Producer to lead the project as this is possible with the NLHF funding. If we successfully secure the Arts Council funding efforts will

be focused on establishing the formal governance for the project and recruiting further staff. We anticipate that the commission process will be announced in early 2025 with delivery of the first creative digital output by December 2025.

Digital infrastructure has also been a focus this year with the procurement of systems to support volunteer management as well as upgrading the PSNMP website.

5. The Development of the Park – Legacy

This section provides an update on the work being undertaken to formalise the governance and operation of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park to provide the structure and entity that is needed to enable the PSNMP to grow and develop.

Structure

As the National Marine Park is permissive, not legislative, there is not a prescribed structure that has to be adhered to when establishing the governance arrangements.

Last year the Cabinet agreed to establish a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to help support fundraising and project delivery within the National Marine Park. These will include projects that are outside the scope of the NLHF Horizons Project. The CIO also offers the opportunity to seek funding from a wider range of funders to deliver projects. This was the first phase of the development of the governance.

Whilst the CIO provides the opportunity to deliver projects that have a clear public benefit; there is a need within the PSNMP to be able to deliver projects that may be beyond the scope of the objects of the CIO. In addition, we need to ensure that the geography and the necessary skills to deliver the vision for the PSNMP are contained within the organisational structure.

Subject to Cabinet approval, it is proposed to establish a company to deliver the breadth of scope of the PSNMP and this will sit alongside the CIO. This will be the second phase.

The third phase will include a skills audit against an agreed PSNMP skillset. Board development and training.

Funding

The wider PSNMP is currently funded through some residual project funding. This funding ceases this month. The role then has 12 months' funding through the Horizons project.

It is not sustainable for the PSNMP to function through project funding. There needs to be a fundraising plan and a long-term financial model to ensure the long-term growth and development of the PSNMP. This will be the focus of attention through the next 6 months alongside the development of the governance model.

One of the great benefits of the PSNMP is the opportunity to inspire people and organisations and to connect individuals and projects as well as the development of new and innovative projects across Plymouth Sound and more widely in the City.

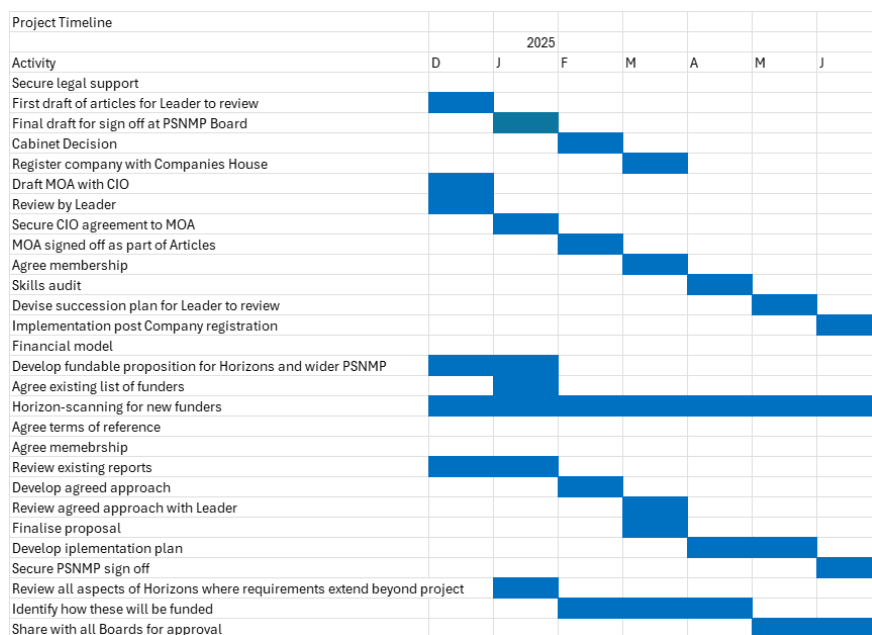
The table below includes all the projects either delivered or currently in train. Note these are all outside of the Horizons project delivery.

Project Title	Project Value	Partners	Status	Comments
Rewilding the foreshore I	20,000	PCC TECF	Complete	
Rivers as citizens	60000	Barbican theatre Devon Wildlife Trust	Complete	Stage 2, awaiting confirmation
Knowledge transfer network	300000	University of Plymouth	Ongoing	
NMP National Advocacy	90000	CNP , Blue		
Plymouth Gansey	20000	Conscious Sisters	Ongoing	

Ocean City Influencers	5000	Take a part	Just started	
NMP Minecraft	TBC	Marjon	In development	
Food Sequel project	> 1m	Multi-partner	Ongoing	
CFISSHI	TBC	Multiple partners. University	Submitted	Fish Innovations to tackle Systemic Social Health Inequalities

Forward Plan

Detailed below is the scope of work for the PSNMP for the next 6 months. Note this does not include the project delivery and is focused on governance and funding arrangements.



6. Plans for 2025

The plans for 2025 are already in the planning stage and an extremely exciting programme is being developed, building and evolving from the learning during 2024. Highlights for 2025 include:

Activity Plan

- Another year of volunteering including a recruitment drive for new volunteers early in the year.
- Completing the first year of SIOS and starting to work with the new cohort in Sept.
- Activation ramping up at all the PSNMP Gateways site
- Initiation of the Inspire Programme – to engage and inspire skills and career development in blue jobs.
- Start a new 'pathway to the sea'.
- Identify 3 new community access points.

Nature Boost

- A focus on seahorses and how we can best support populations in Plymouth Sound.
- Developing and commencing delivery on community engaged habitat interventions for biogenic reefs and mudflats.
- Develop and launch a two-year targeted campaign to enable new positive nature relationships across PSNMP. Encouraging and inspiring behaviour that supports high quality nature and improves the lives of people.

Capital Restoration and Repurposing

- Completion of the Tinside works in spring ready for a grand launch at the beginning of the new swim season.
- Completion of the Mount Batten Peninsula works over the summer ready for an exciting reopening.
- Works commencing on the Mount Edgumbe project, sensitive timing due to the bats already residing within the battery.
- Commencement of planning of works at the Community Access Points at Firestone and Ernesettle.

Digital Park

- Commissioning and launching the first 'Sea for Yourself' digital project.

- Launch of the new website.

Interpretation

- Commence phase I of the interpretation installation at the PSNMP gateway hubs focused on orientation.
- Conduct work with communities to develop the stories and priorities for a wider programme of interpretation.

2024 was our first year of the delivery year and it has been brilliant and impactful, but also full of insights and greater understanding of our communities' needs and ambitions. Next year will no doubt be another busy year, with plans developed on the learning from this year, to ensure every year we continuously improve. We will therefore do even more to move towards our ambitions and show again why Plymouth is the UK's first National Marine Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation – It is recommended that the committee note the PSNMP update and support the ongoing delivery as set out in the report.

Reason – The Horizons project is progressing well against its ambitions and the Park development work is well underway and support for both is still required.

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Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	11 December 2024
Title of Report:	Culture Plan Annual Update
Lead Member:	Councillor Jemima Laing (Deputy Leader, and Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, Culture and Communications)
Lead Strategic Director:	Karime Hassan (Interim Strategic Director for Growth)
Author:	Hannah Harris
Contact Email:	hannah@plymouthculture.co.uk
Your Reference:	Culture Report 2024
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The Culture Plan was formally adopted by Plymouth City Council in March 2021. As part of our annual reporting process this report provides a snapshot of cultural activity in the city, how activity aligns with the objectives set out in the Culture Plan and what the priorities are for the coming 12 months.

Recommendations and Reasons

Recommendation – to note the report

Reason - to ensure that the committee is kept up to date with progress on the Culture Plan and contributes to setting annual priorities

Alternative options considered and rejected

Update report only, no alternatives required.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This supports the City Vision to be one of Europe's most vibrant waterfront cities and the City Council priority of a vibrant cultural offer.

The Plymouth Plan remains the City's overarching strategic plan, looking ahead to 2034. The Plan sets out a shared direction of travel for its long-term future bringing together a number of strategic planning processes into one place. The Plan sets out the aspiration to be a healthy and prosperous city with a rich arts and cultural environment and we see the Culture Plan sitting alongside this as a mechanism for achieving the strategic objectives.

Policy INT4 is of particular relevance as it seeks to delivering a distinctive, dynamic, cultural centre of regional, national and international renown and sets out how the city will support a thriving arts and cultural sector.

The arts and cultural sector have the ability to have a positive impact across a wide range of topic areas ensuring this Culture Plan also contributes to the following policies:

- Policy HEA1 Addressing health inequalities, improving health literacy;
- Policy HEA2 Delivering the best outcomes for children, young people and families;
- Policy HEA4 Playing an active role in the community;
- Policy HEA7 Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment;
- Policy GRO1 Creating the conditions for economic growth;
- Policy GRO2 Delivering skills and talent development;
- Policy INT3 Positioning Plymouth as a major UK destination;
- Policy INT6 Enhancing Plymouth's 'green city' credentials;
- Policy INT8 Celebrating diverse communities.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

None identified directly connected to this report.

Financial Risks

None identified directly connected to this report although it is important to note that the Culture Plan is not supported with a delivery budget and instead works on a distributed partnership model and a number of work programmes are subject to grant funding or external investment.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Whilst this report has no identifiable environmental implications, being produced in digital format only, the Culture Plan has the environment as a key driver stating, 'We will be a city of culture with green credentials, using culture and creativity to tackle the climate emergency'. As such this will be a key criteria for decision-making as projects develop, to ensure the sector acts responsibly and facilitates others to do the same.

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.*

No other implications identified

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	Culture Plan Annual Update							

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)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	CH.2 4.25.0 47	Leg	LS/29 60(29)JP/2 7112 4	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Draffan (Service Director Economic Development)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 25/11/2024											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Jemima Laing approved by email Date approved: 25/11/2024											

Culture Plan Annual Update

1.0 Background

The Culture Plan (https://plymouthculture.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Plymouth-Culture-Strategy_REV_P08_fulldraft.pdf) was adopted by PCC in March 2021 and published in May 2021. The Plan is the culmination of extensive consultation with stakeholders and part of a robust process to co-design the ten-year strategy for Culture. The Culture Plan has at its core a focus on people, place and planet and is a direct response to the Arts Council Let's Create Strategy (<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/lets-create/strategy-2020-2030>) and is aligned with the Plymouth Plan.

The Culture Plan provides a framework for decision-making and helps to direct resources to identified priorities. The Plan outlines how we grow and sustain a thriving cultural sector in order to positively impact the lives of individuals and the economic and social prosperity of the city. It has been compiled by the sector and key stakeholders to ensure that it is collectively owned and that individuals and organisations understand the contribution they can make towards achieving our long-term ambitions. Ultimately this ensures that we have a strong, collective sector voice within the city and that culture in Plymouth remains an investable proposition to partners external to the city. Our job now is to create the conditions for culture to thrive.

2.0 The Case for Culture

The Creative and Cultural Sector is a high-value, growth sector for the UK. The sector expanded twice as fast as the UK economy as a whole between 2010 and 2022. Latest figures (2022) show that the sector contributed 5.7 percent of all UK GVA, equating to £124.6 billion, in 2022. The spillover effect of the sector is also significant, and somewhat unique. Reports show that on average, each creative job in a locality generates 1.9 jobs in leisure and retail, because creative workers spend their money locally. Data shows that for every 10 jobs in creative industries, a further seven are supported in other sectors and for every £1 contributed in GVA, a further £0.50 is generated in other sectors.

Aside from the obvious economic benefits the sector brings, Culture is an essential part of society. Culture supports the wider place-making agenda, achieving social impact as well as economic output. A strong and authentic cultural offer makes a place more attractive helping to attract and retain students/graduates and the wider workforce. Access to this offer for all can help to support improved mental and physical health outcomes for individuals, community cohesion and educational attainment.

The cultural sector is uniquely positioned to contribute to economic and social outcomes and requires continued and enhanced investment in order to meet the wider objectives of the city and in turn the UK. It is encouraging to see Culture and the Creative Industries identified within the Labour Missions and Industrial Strategy but further and continued alignment is needed to make the case for culture in a holistic way.

3.0 Local & National Context

The sector has been heavily impacted by economic instability over recent years and faces real challenges associated with the cost of living crisis, real time funding cuts and inflationary rises. As a sector and region dominated by micro businesses and freelancers, this impact is often disproportionate, creating a vulnerable ecosystem.

However, Plymouth continues to deliver exceptional culture, working with world-class artists and national/international partnerships. The city continues to build a reputation as a cultural destination and this is highly valued by Plymouth audiences who recognise the quality of cultural programming in the city. The retention of the Arts Council's National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) investment last year is a testament to the hard work of cultural organisations in the city and the strategic relationships that

have built. We will need to continue to champion and value culture locally if we are to retain and grow national investment opportunities in the coming years.

4.0 2024 Strategic Cultural Highlights

The Culture Plan identified a series of Key Actions and workstreams as priorities, designed to create the conditions for the sector to thrive and grow. Below we have highlighted a number of the strategic activities that have been achieved in 2024, contributing to our overall ambitions.

4.1 Sea for Yourself (Place Partnership)

Plymouth Culture has formed a partnership with PCC via the Horizon programme to develop a Cultural Programme for the newly established Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (PSNMP), reconnecting communities with place. Plymouth Culture, on behalf of a city partnership, has applied for funding from the Arts Council Place Partnership programme requesting £751,216 which will be matched by Horizon digital funding (NLHF) of £844,203. The announcement about the funding outcome will be received shortly.

The four-year programme, titled 'Sea for Yourself', has the ambition to harness the full potential of arts and culture to engage audiences and reconnect communities with place, nature and their cultural identity. Delivered as a series of cultural commissions, we will reconnect audiences to their natural environment through a more relevant and inclusive cultural offer. The four large scale commissions will each span 1 year with an embedded community engagement programme to facilitate audience development and co-created artistic outputs.

Commissions will explore the role of digital, testing digital technologies, content and environments to enhance audience engagement. The commissions will be informed by data-insights but we anticipate they will focus on four thematics 1) making visible the underwater world through the activation of citywide screen-based infrastructure 2) exploration of archive & heritage through a co-creation project with communities leading to a digital exhibition 3) inspiring engagement through the creation of an immersive nature-based experience and 4) blending digital and physical locations through outdoor AR/VR enabled installations.

The programme is available to all, but we will focus on a number of target groups within Plymouth which have been identified through baseline segmentation research and the PSNMP pilot programme:

- families with school age children from lower income neighbourhoods;
- Over 55s from lower income neighbourhoods
- Students (HE & FE)
- People with a health condition or impairment
- People from ethnic minority backgrounds

The commissions will sit alongside two interconnected strands of work; 1) a data-insights strand will create a step change in the sectors approach to combining and analysing available data, giving invaluable insights to drive more effective interventions supported by 4 PhD students and 2) a talent development programme supporting people, organisations and ideas that bridge the creative/digital and environmental sector within the blue/green economy.

The project aims to deliver 4 transformational outcomes:

1. Artists – enhanced practice in community engagement, co-creation and nature-based interventions, using digital and in-person approaches;
2. Audiences – more sophisticated audience engagement and retention strategies, using data-insights as a strategic and collective planning tool for cultural activity, diversify audiences and engaging underrepresented communities by making the cultural offer more relevant and accessible;

3. Residents – drive a behavioral shift in residents to become more active marine citizens and cultural participants, with a sense of connection to place and pride in their cultural identity;

4. Partnerships and the Culture sector – strengthen the sector by building new capabilities, related to nature and digital solutions, and establish the partnerships and infrastructures required to sustain culture-led place-making.

We have successfully recruited an experienced Senior Creative Producer to lead the programme and are now focusing efforts on establishing the formal governance for the project and recruiting further staff. We anticipate that the commission process will be announced in early 2025 with delivery of the first creative digital output by December 2025.

4.2 Cultural Education

Plymouth Cultural Education Partnership is overseen by a strategic Steering Group formed of partners from across the city who share a vision to improve access to high-quality arts and cultural education for every child and young person in Plymouth. Membership includes:

Chair - Cllr Jemima Laing, Deputy Leader PCC

Emma Hewitt, PCC Skills Lead

Gem Smith, TAP Head of Engagement Programme

Adam Milford, The Box Senior Engagement and Learning Officer

Lisa Linscott, PCC Service Director for Education, Participation and Skills

Jane Pawson, TRP Head of Artistic Planning and Projects

Steven Forsyth, AUP Head of Pre-Degree

Sarah Holt, Principle Brooke Green School

The steering group has evolved out of many years of work with partners to test, deliver and advocate for cultural education across the city. The 2023 With Flying Colours evaluation, the culmination of a four-year programme of work to deliver play writing skills and co-created performances into schools, made a number of recommendations which have formed the basis of the steering groups strategic plans. Strategic objectives include:

1. Improve the quantity, quality and access to cultural education for children and young people
2. Use our collective power to advocate for curriculum reform ensuring high-quality cultural education is a right of every child and young person
3. Increase pathways for children and young people into the creative and cultural industries
4. Improve the perception of the value, importance and career opportunities in the arts, culture and creative economy
5. Reduce the inequality gap for children and young people living in our poorest neighbourhoods by providing early and repeated arts and cultural interventions
6. Enable all children and young people to reach their full potential through the provision of a diverse, accessible and high-quality cultural education offer

With funding support from PCC we have recently initiated a piece of work to map cultural education provision across the city to better understand impact, access, barriers and need. This mapping will provide evidence for the development of future initiatives co-created with young people.

4.3 Creative Industries Plan

Plymouth Culture has commissioned the development of a Creative Industries Plan with funding from PCC. This is in recognition of the fact that we have been successful as a city in developing the cultural sector and securing external investment, but the same strategic approach has not been developed for the creative industries. The plan is intended to be practical, identifying the current scale and growth of the sector, making comparisons between other UK cities, identifying gaps and opportunities and making recommendations for interventions that have been proven to support sector growth.

The full report is still being finalised but early highlights and recommendations are emerging. It is evident that the size and value of the sector in Plymouth is underperforming compared to other cities of this size. However, Plymouth has significant cultural and creative assets that could be built upon to make a step-change in the sectors development. A strategic development plan for the sector would help to underpin other priority sectors and fulfil the city's ambition to attract talent and to repopulate and regenerate areas of the city. The creative industries bring highly productive, highly skilled jobs, and can also support urban regeneration: research shows creative industries workers and businesses are more likely to move into deprived areas.¹ On average, each creative job in a locality generates 1.9 jobs in leisure and retail, because creative workers spend their money locally.² Oxford Economics³ estimated that the contribution of the creative industries is larger than its direct employment and GVA contribution through procurement and supply chain impacts. Their report states that for every 10 jobs in creative industries, a further seven are supported in other sectors. For every £1 contributed in GVA, a further £0.50 is generated in other sectors.

The plan is therefore recommending the prioritisation of the sector due to its latent potential to thrive and creative positive spillover. Recommendations focus on implementing policies and investment programmes specifically designed to create the conditions for growth. These recommendations include:

1. Embed the creative industries across all policy areas.
2. Activate plans for culture and creative zones as the foundation for supporting tech, music and performance subsectors, clustering and regeneration. These should be situated around existing anchor institutions including The Box, TRP, TR2 and Real Ideas.
3. Establish an immersive training production and training facility in Devonport as part of a Createch Quarter.
4. Increase capacity at TR2 with a view to developing a production park. Further support music, performing and visual arts by delivering on the Plymouth Culture Strategy⁴ and Music Action Plan.⁵
5. Stimulate the tech sector with mechanisms to double the number of businesses and IT professionals in Plymouth over the next 3 years.
6. Nurture pan-regional partnerships to amplify the impact of the creative industries in Plymouth and the Peninsula and attract investment.

The plan will be reviewed by key stakeholders and PCC colleagues with a view to recommending adoption in Cabinet in early 2025.

4.4 Creative Leadership Programme

The Creative Leadership programme was delivered by Plymouth Culture as a pilot to explore and build a new model of distributed leadership, challenging dominant models of hierarchical leadership in ways that support the development of Plymouth's cultural ecology. The programme was funded through Arts Council England regional funds at a cost of £38,900.

The programme achieved its planned objectives by delivering five streams of activity:

- Convening a Focus Group to shape and steer the programme
- Creating Mentorship pairings between Creative Leaders and Mentors

¹ [Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre discussion paper \(August 2023\): Creative Destruction? Creative firms, workers and residential gentrification.](#)

² Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre (PEC): [Do Creative Industries generate multiplier effects? Evidence from UK Cities, 1997-2019.](#) Published July 2021.

³ Oxford Economics: [The UK Creative Industries: Unleashing the power and potential of creativity.](#) Published July 2021.

⁴ [Plymouth Culture Strategy](#)

⁵ Plymouth Culture [Music Action Plan](#)

- Awarding Bursaries to Creative Leaders
- Convening Action Learning Sets
- Delivering Events.

Overall, the Creative Leadership programme reached:
40 Creative Leaders and 36 primary stakeholders together representing 46 organisations and 7 independent freelancers.

This was broken down across the streams of activity as follows:

- 7 Focus group members meeting 3 times across the programme and participating in 4 selection panels.
- 20 mentorships pairing creative leaders from 15 organisations with mentors from 16 organisations
- 10 bursary recipients sharing a total of £5224
- 11 creative leaders attending two action learning sets
- A total of 128 people attending the programme events

There are many learning points from the programme and the impact at an individual and collective level has been impressive. We are now disseminating the learning and seeking ways to embed best practice and extend the programme for further cohorts.

4.5 Plymouth Art Weekender

This year we saw the return of the Plymouth Art Weekender (PAW) for the first time since 2020. This important cultural initiative not only activates city spaces but also provides an important platform for artists to showcase their work. Between 18th – 20th October 2024 PAW celebrated the rich and diverse creative community in Plymouth, this year with the theme of ‘do it yourself, help each other out’, capturing the collaborative spirit that flourishes among artists in the city. More than 100 artists exhibited and performed at over 60 venues across the city⁶. This year saw sponsorship from new partners including Plymouth City Centre Company and Drake Circus, helping to match funds from Arts Council England. Effort and support is now required to ensure this becomes and remains a regular feature within the cultural calendar.

4.6 Summer Sessions

The Summer Sessions will be back next June for 4 nights (12-15) delivered in Partnership with Live Nation and sponsored by TK Maxx. This is the next series within our 5 year deal.

Confirmed artists include: Snow Patrol, Pendulum and James. The Saturday night headliner will be announced shortly. Other support acts will be released over the next few months.

PCC’s events team will be facilitating the event alongside the promoters and marketing are supporting Live Nations’ team sharing announcements and advising on local opportunities. The event site will be similar to last year with the set-up and derig currently planned to take place between the 2nd June and 22nd June.

The Plymouth Summer Sessions complies with the Live Nation Environmental Sustainability Charter. This includes commitments to not using single use plastics and prioritising waste reduction, energy recover and disposal. Live Nation/Cuffe and Taylor work closely with The Plymouth City Council’s Events team and towards our shared sustainability goals.

The Summer Sessions set of events across the UK have signed up to the industry recognised Attitude is Everything Live Events Access Charter and have committed to all of their events receiving a

⁶ <https://plymouthartweekender.com/listings/>

minimum standard of SILVER. The Live Events Access Charter is an industry standard designed to help event organisers build disability equality into all aspects of an event. The Plymouth City Council Events team have already adopted the Charter for their own signature events such as Armed Forces Day and The British Firework Championships.

We have a contractual agreement in place regarding free tickets -

- 100 of the 300 tickets must go to the residents around the Hoe, this is distributed via the Hoe resident forum and it worked really well last year.
- The bulk of the remaining tickets should go to disadvantaged groups and first offer to potentially children's services and/or Adult social care which we also facilitated last year via PCC
- We will hold back 50 tickets for councillors and their guests which can be booked through Catherine Gledhill.

The Plymouth City Council Events team have been working closely with the promoters to facilitate local grassroots performance slots on stage which have been offered if and when they become available. Plymouth Culture and the Plymouth Music CIC have requested a number of other interventions that would ensure this event brings tangible benefits to the local grassroots music sector. These requests include a levy on tickets to create a local music fund, internship and apprenticeship opportunities for aspiring musicians and pre and afterparty collaborations with local venues. These opportunities have not been secured for the 2025 event but we will continue conversations with all parties in the hope that they might be achieved for 2026.

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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/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

	Freeport Annual Update	(4)	Annual Update	The Leader/Richard May/Ian Cooper
	National Marine Park Update		Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2023 meeting.	The Leader/Cllr Briars-Delve/Kat Deeney/Elaine Hayes
	Culture Plan Annual Update		Annual Update	Councillor Laing/Hannah Harris/Victoria Pomery
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
TBC April 2024	South West Water Future Plans		Identified for consideration at the 29 October 2024 Panel meeting.	
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 in February 2023.	Councillor Briars-Delve/Kat Deeney
2024/25	Adaptation Plan and Mitigation Plan	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2023 meeting.	Kat Deeney
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	Sustainable Transport	TBC	Identified for consideration by the Committee at the July 2024 meeting.	Councillor Coker/Paul Barnard
Items to be scheduled for 2025/26				
2025/26	Heat Networks		Identified for consideration by Panel at the October 2024 meeting.	Councillor Briars-Delve/John Green/Jon Selman
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

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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: 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. Conclusion expected by end of 2024.
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. Update requested 31 October 2024.
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: February 2025 Officer: Paul Barnard / Holly Golden Progress: Formal request made on 15 February 2024. New weighting factor to be rolled out in February 2025 in line with the introduction of the new Procurement Act. It will be shared with all Councillors by Councillor Briars-Delve.

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<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: 31 July 2024</p> <p>Officers: Nicola Horne</p> <p>Progress: Previously 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>During Tracking Decisions item at the 17 July 2024 meeting, it was asked if Public Health would be collecting this data? Chased 25 September 2024 and 31 October 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 signage was increased and improved at the sea fronts when storm drains discharge.</p>	<p>Date Due: 5 July 2024</p> <p>Officer: Katharine O’Connor</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, 18 July 2024, 25 September 2024 and 31 October 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 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: COMPLETE.</p> <p>The Cabinet will direct officers to present the proposal to the NMP partners for discussion and development of a way forward. Chased 25 September 2024, 30 October 2024 & 18 November 2024.</p>

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		<p>It has been concluded that without a sustainable funding stream a water quality focussed ambassador programme would not be possible. At a meeting of the EA, SWW and PCC on the 20th November it was discussed how we could integrate community engagement and action into the WQ programme. This would build on the pioneering work of the BRIC (Building Resilience in Communities) which already works with communities. This will remain an ambition of the partnership and an action on all partners is to seek funding to support this area of work.</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: January 2025</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney</p> <p>Progress: Chased 25 September 2024, 30 October 2024 & 18 November 2024. December 2024 update below:</p> <p>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>Work has progressed with EA and SWW to develop our Plan for Water. This plan will look at our approach to working together to deliver a transformational change as well as priority areas of focus.</p>

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		<p>Steve Reed, the new secretary of state for the environment, food and rural affairs has now set out his 5 priorities and 2 relate to water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning up rivers, lakes and seas • Protecting communities from flooding <p>It is proposed to further develop the Plan for Water and then present this as a credible and deliverable pioneering opportunity to address these two water priorities to have the greatest impact.</p> <p>An approach to the SoS will be made in the Spring, but a note to the work we are doing will be included in the letter on the Flood and Water Management Act.</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 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: 31 July 2024.</p> <p>Officer: Kat Deeney</p> <p>Progress: Previously 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>During the Tracking Decisions item at the 17 July 2024 meeting, a request was made for information</p>

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		<p>on what improvements had been carried out before the beginning of the 2024 bathing season. Formal request made 18 July 2024. Chased 25 September 2024, 30 October 2024 & 18 November 2024.</p> <p>December 2024 Update: The facilities available at Tinside Cove are as follows: Defibrator, hot shower and life rings. Before the start of the swim season we also held a Tinside Tidy Up the details of which can be found here Tidy Up Tinside: Community Spirit Shines in Plymouth - Plymouth Sound National Marine Park</p>
<p>Minute 5</p> <p>Water Quality Select Committee</p> <p>–</p> <p>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: September 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. Chased 25 September 2024.</p> <p>Letter will be written following the outcome of the general election on 4 July 2024. The team are aiming for September 2024 to make the most impact with their letter. Chased 25 September 2024, 30 October 2024 & 18 November 2024.</p> <p>December 2024 update: COMPLETE. Government announced in Jan 10th 2023: “Following today’s publication of the review, regulations and processes for the creation of sustainable drainage systems at new developments will now be devised, through the</p>

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		<p>implementation of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Implementation of the new approach is expected during 2024.”</p> <p>With a change in Government a letter was sent to Steve Reed MP in December to ask for an update on enacting schedule 3.</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 write to the relevant minister to ask them to update bathing legislation.</p>	<p>Date Due: September 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. The team are aiming for September 2024 to make the most impact with their letter. Chased 25 September 2024, 30 October 2024 & 18 November 2024.</p> <p>December 2024 Update: COMPLETE The new government has a focus on improving water quality and has recently launched a new consultation on proposed reforms and technical amendments to the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.</p> <p>The consultation has a focus on key areas of the legislation that we would like to see change, They are seeking views on:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • removal of automatic de-designation after 5 years of ‘poor’ water quality • changes to the designation criteria of bathing sites • removing the fixed dates of the bathing season from regulations • the definition of ‘bathers’ • the introduction of multiple monitoring points at bathing sites <p>The consultation closes on 23 December 2024 and we will be submitting a response as it provides a formal avenue to meet the Select Committee’s recommendation.</p>
Minute 14ti Plymouth Economic Strategy – Delivery Plans 29 October 2024	Armada Way works were underway and would be completed in phases and a press release had detailed the completion dates, the link to which would be shared with Panel members.	<p>Date Due: 1 November 2024</p> <p>Officer: Hannah Chandler-Whiting</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. Details and link shared with all members of the Panel via email on 30 October 2024.</p>
Minute 14w Plymouth Economic Strategy – Delivery Plans 29 October 2024	More information would be provided on the use of hydrogen at Langage to panel members.	<p>Date Due: 13 November 2024</p> <p>Officer: Amanda Ratsey</p> <p>Progress: COMPLETE. Formal request made on 30 October 2024. Response circulated via email on 11 November 2024.</p>
Minute 14ee Plymouth Economic Strategy – Delivery Plans	The retention actuals data for Plymouth University graduates would be provided.	<p>Date Due: 13 November 2024</p> <p>Officer: Amanda Ratsey</p>

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

29 October 2024		Progress: COMPLETE. Formal request made on 30 October 2024. Information shared with panel via email on 31 October 2024.
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