



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department

Plymouth City Council

Ballard House

Plymouth PL1 3BJ

T 01752 305155

www.plymouth.gov.uk/democracy

Published 04/03/26

Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Team by 4.30 pm on 11 March 2026. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at <https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx>
- on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/3hwmppzp>

The decisions detailed below may be implemented on 11 March 2026 if they are not called-in.

Delegated Decisions

1. Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council):

1.a. LI5 25/26 - Derriford District Centre – Completion of Scheme **(Pages 1 - 24)**

2. Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change):

2.a. ECC01 25-26 Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) 25 Year Plan **(Pages 25 - 92)**

2.b. ECC04 25/26 - Implementation of a sliding scale of Fixed Penalty Notice amounts for Environmental Offences, relating to littering, the unauthorised deposit of waste, household duty of care, graffiti and flyposting **(Pages 93 - 108)**

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a **Cabinet Member**



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L15 25/26

Decision				
1	Title of decision: Derriford District Centre – Completion of Scheme			
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)			
3	Report author and contact details: Sam Nicholson, sam.nicholson@plymouth.gov.uk 07471 146600			
4	Decision to be taken: It is recommended that the Leader of the Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the Business Case; • Allocates and additional £584,052 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing. 			
5	Reasons for decision: To pay the remaining capital costs to complete the scheme, which are now due for payment.			
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: 1. Not to increase the capital budget, there is not sufficient remaining funds to pay the remaining capital costs which are contractually payable, therefore this has been discounted.			
7	Financial implications and risk: As set out in the attached business case. The additional cost of borrowing can be covered within the net revenue produced by the scheme. Overall, when including the additional cost of capital, the scheme still produced a net surplus income for the Council.			
8	Legal Implications The Council is contracted to make the balancing payment to the contractor under the terms of the forward funding agreement. If the payment is not made the Council will be in breach of the agreement.			
9a	Is the decision a Key Decision? (Please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			x	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			x	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new

				commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million
			x	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A		
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	The proposal delivers the aspirations of Policy PLY38 of the Plymouth & South West Devon Joint Local Plan, whilst also creating new jobs, safeguarding existing jobs and providing an income for the Council.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	The proposal includes various measures to reduce carbon, including Biodiversity net gain delivered both on and off site, 12 electric vehicle charging points, with ability to double this in the future. Provision to promote sustainable transport and energy efficient buildings.		
Urgent decisions				
12	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	x	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	x	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?			

13	Date Cabinet member consulted c			
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Glenn Caplin-Grey	
		Job title	Strategic Director for Growth	
		Date consulted	11 November 2025	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS53 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.071	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/27/10/25	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	N/A	
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A	
Appendices				
17	Re f.	Title of appendix		
	A	Briefing report Part I		
	B	Briefing Report Part II		
	C	Business Case Change Request		
	D	Equalities Impact Assessment		
	E	Climate Impact Assessment		
Confidential/exempt information				
18 a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	x	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)
		No		
		Exemption Paragraph Number		

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:			X				
	Briefing Report Part II							
	Business Case Change Request			X				
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision	03/03/2026			
Print Name	Councillor Tudor Evans, Leader of Plymouth City Council							

EXECUTIVE DECISION

Derriford District Centre

Briefing Paper Part I



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 A Leader's executive decision was signed on 24 May 2023 approving a total capital funding of £18,896,196 to develop the new District Centre at Derriford.

1.2 The now award-winning District Centre is complete and includes an M&S foodstore, ALDI, Pure Gym, Costa Coffee with drive-through, Oggy Oggy cafe, Gridserve electric vehicle charging spaces and a new bus and pedestrian route connecting William Prance Road with Derriford Hospital via Derriford Business Park.

1.3 Approval is now sought to provide additional capital of £584,052 to allow the project to be closed out.

2.0 Purpose of the report

2.1 This report and Business Case (attached as an appendix to the Part II paper) seek approval to provide additional funding of £584,052 to complete the project and make the balancing payment.

3.0 Further information

3.1 In December 2021 the Council completed a forward funding agreement with developer, ADC Kimberley (Derriford) Ltd. As part of that agreement there was potential for the developer to receive an additional payment based on performance and how many tenants were secured prior to completion of the development. The development is now complete and the parties have agreed a balancing payment.

3.2 Due to the developer's success of securing tenants for all six retail units and allowing tenants early access to the properties, the developer has secured a beneficial payment when reconciling the project. This calculation was completed following the completion of the project and agreed in June 2025.

3.3 The additional capital required is £584,052, which will be financed by service borrowing. The additional cost of borrowing can be covered within the net revenue produced by the scheme. Overall, when including the additional cost of capital, the scheme still produced a net surplus income for the Council.

4.0 Decision required

4.1 The decision required is approval for the additional £584,052 capital required for the development.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:

- Approves the Business Case;
- Allocates an additional £584,052 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing.

This page is intentionally left blank

The following relates to exempt or confidential matters (Para(s) 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Govt Act 1972). Any breach of confidentiality could prejudice the Council/person/body concerned & might amount to a breach of the councillors /employees codes of conduct.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

The following relates to exempt or confidential matters (Para(s) 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Govt Act 1972). Any breach of confidentiality could prejudice the Council/person/body concerned & might amount to a breach of the councillors /employees codes of conduct.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – DERRIFORD DISTRICT CENTRE

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Sam Nicholson MRICS Principal Surveyor	Department and service:	Strategic Development Projects, Economic Development	Date of assessment:	22 September 2025
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Emma Wilson Head of Regeneration and Growth	Signature:	Emma Wilson	Approval date:	16 October 2025
Overview:	<p>A Leader’s executive decision was signed on 24 May 2023 with approval to develop the new District Centre at Derriford.</p> <p>The District Centre is complete and includes tenants, M&S food store, ALDI, Pure Gym, Costa Coffee with drive-through, Oggy Oggy cafe, Gridserve electric vehicle charging spaces and a new bus and pedestrian route connecting William Prance Road with Derriford Hospital via Derriford Business Park.</p>				
Decision required:	<p>It is recommended that the Leader of the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the Business Case; Allocates an additional £584,052 for the project into the Capital Programme funded by service borrowing. 				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	Yes	x	No	
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	x
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	Yes		No	x

If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.

The impacts have been considered in the previous business cases. The additional capital is required to complete the project.

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
Age	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>	No adverse impact.		

<p>Care experienced individuals</p> <p>(Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>	No adverse impact.		
<p>Disability</p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a lot’ because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a little’ because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>	No adverse impact.	The scheme includes the provision of disabled parking spaces. The design of the scheme has been carefully considered to ensure suitable options for disabled residents.	

Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).	No adverse impact.		
Marriage and civil partnership	40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married. 0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).	No adverse impact.		
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.	No adverse impact.		

<p>Race</p>	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth’s population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p>		
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth’s population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p>		
<p>Sex</p>	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p>		
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).</p>	<p>No adverse impact.</p>		

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
	None		

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
<p>Work together in partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion ▪ facilitate community cohesion ▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together 	Positive opportunities to promote diversity	The project and all of its constituent parts have created a welcoming environment for all	
<p>Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.</p>	Positive opportunities for care experience people for training and employment.	Opportunities for employment provided through the development and through the retailers staffing needs.	
<p>Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.</p>	Positive opportunities to provide a diverse workforce.	As part of the development the contractor provided roles and opportunities via its Employment Skills Plan.	
<p>Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.</p>	Positive opportunities to promote diversity	The project and all of its constituent parts have created a welcoming environment for all	

This page is intentionally left blank

Derriford District Centre

Project details

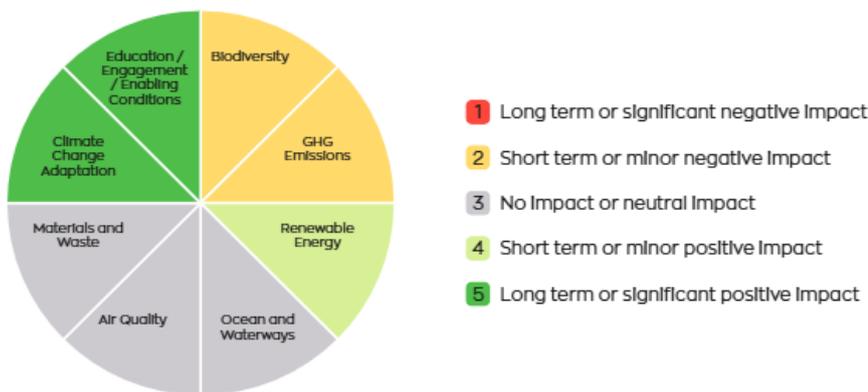
Assessment author

Sam Nicholson

Project summary

Increase capital allowance to complete project

Summary of assessment



Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

The site of the Derriford District Centre is on the former Smeaton Barracks site parade ground and consisted mostly of hard landscaping. During the development a significant amount of Coal tar was found and remediated on site and removed where not possible. The site increased the biodiversity onsite and an offsite contribution.

Mitigatory measures applied:

BNG calculation on and offsite mitigation through enhanced landscaping and offsite contributions.



GHG Emissions

Score

(2) Short term or limited negative impact

Score justification

Through the construction an increase in GHG from the creation of the development, however this has provided EPC a buildings, of which the project included 12 electric vehicle charging points and ability to increase this in the future.

Renewable Energy

Score

(4) Short term or limited positive impact

Score justification

The site includes 12 new electric vehicle charging bays which can be increased to 24. The site provides a new bus stop to serve the area. Aldi have included the use of a solar PV array on their roof.

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

The project has both surface water and foul connections to deal with the water flows from the project. sustainable drainage is in place to deal with surface water to reduce the impact on the foul connection. The site is likely to increase the amount of rubbish created. The project has mitigated this by installing public bins which have general and recyclable waste options. The site is also a no smoking site and no ashtray are provided.

Air Quality

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

Journeys are likely to reduce as the site provides more options for the north of Plymouth. The site includes car parking but also Beryl bikes and bus connection on both Tavistock Road and Bravo Way. The buildings EPC is A and they are very efficient compared to older buildings which don't benefit from the levels of insulation and airtightness these new buildings benefit from.

Materials and Waste

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification



The retailers are likely to create new waste, however this would be offset from reduction in waste from other retail developments as people would have more choice.

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Being a new development the site has benefited by design for the future allowing for the future effects of climate change such as suds design for increased rainfall quantities.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The development has many options to travel to the development including walk ways, cycle paths and bike parking, bus connection from Tavistock Road and Bravo Way and electric vehicle charging spaces.

This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – ECC01 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) 25 Year Plan
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
3	Report author and contact details: Peter Hawking-Sach (Natural infrastructure Officer) peter.hawking-sach@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: 1. To adopt the Community Forest 25 Year Plan
5	Reasons for decision: 1. To fulfil Defra requirements that Community Forest plans are approved and completed, as per Trees for Climate funding obligations; 2. To commit Plymouth City Council as lead partner in the PSDCF partnership to the objectives and targets in the PSDCF Plan; 3. To enable continued delivery of PSDCF activities at city, regional, and national scale inclusive future funding opportunities.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: 1. Do not adopt the plan – Exposes potential risk for PSDCF to return Trees for Climate monies as a failed duty agreed to in the funding agreement 2. Delay adoption until partner authorities have confirmed respective adoption – Presents reputational risk to Plymouth City Council as lead partner in the PSDCF partnership. Partner authorities are seeking adoption simultaneously, in good faith.
7	Financial implications and risks: There are no direct financial risks to adopting the PSDCF plan. There is an implicit assumption that adoption of the plan confirms commitment to seeking future funding through the partnership. However, PCC and other programme partners have no obligation to commit financially to the delivery of the objectives and targets.
8	Legal Implications: (For completion by Legal Officers) None arising from this report.

9	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million annually
			X	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A		
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	Making Plymouth a fairer, greener city Green Investment , jobs, skills and better education DEV27 – Natural Environment & Green Spaces GRO6 – Delivering Plymouth's Natural Network GRO7 - Reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climate change INT6 – Enhancing Plymouth's 'Green City' credentials		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	Adoption of the PSDCF Plan will enable opportunities to be realised regarding carbon mitigation, offset and climate adaptation		
Urgent decisions				
12a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			
12c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			

Consultation			
I 3 a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	
	Please type an X into the relevant box	No	X (If no go to section I4)
I 3 b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?		
I 3 c	Date Cabinet member consulted		
I 4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes	
	Please type an X into the relevant box	No	X If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
I 5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Glenn Caplin-Grey
		Job title	Strategic Director for Growth
		Date consulted	24 July 2025
Sign-off			
I 6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JM02 25/26
		Finance (mandatory)	ITG.25.26.053
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/13/8/25
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)	N/A
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A
Appendices			
I 7	Ref.	Title of appendix	
	A	Briefing report for publication – 250709 PSDCF 25 Year Plan	
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment – 250709 EqIA PSDCF 25 Year Plan	
	C	Climate Impact Assessment	
	D	PSDCF Plan 2025-2050	
Confidential/exempt information			
	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for

18a	Please type an X into the relevant box	No	X						publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)
		Exemption Paragraph Number							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:								
Background Papers									
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.								
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Cabinet Member Signature									
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.								
Signature			Date of decision			3 rd March 2026			
Print Name	Tom Briars-Delve								

PLYMOUTH AND SOUTH DEVON COMMUNITY FOREST 25 YEAR PLAN



Background

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest is a joint venture partnership programme consisting of Plymouth City Council (PCC), Devon County Council, Dartmoor National Park Authority, South Hams and West Devon, National Trust, and Woodland Trust. In 2020, a council project mandate was signed and the partnership submitted an expression of interest to England's Community Forests (ECF) team to access DEFRA's 'Trees for Climate' funding package to deliver new woodland and tree planting through March 2025. In 2021, DEFRA and ECF accepted Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest's (PSDCF) proposal, and PSDCF has since become England's 11th Community Forest with the vision:

A new 21st century woodland network created by young people to inspire and support future generations of Plymouth and SW Devon. PSDCF will create space for nature, encourage enterprise, deliver a positive transition to net zero and enable young people to influence their futures.

A requirement of DEFRA's Trees for Climate funding is that all Community Forests present an updated or new Forest Plan in 2025, aligned with objectives and targets locally through 2050.

Benefits of the plan

The PSDCF Community Forest plan provides a regional strategic link with existing and anticipated policy, inclusive the Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy (2024), and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy obligations for Devon County (2025).

The PSDCF Plan enables joined up delivery and shared ambitions and vision across the city of Plymouth, Dartmoor National Park, and the National Landscapes of South Devon and Tamar Valley respectively.

The plan has the opportunity to deliver landscape scale habitat restoration and enhancement, contributing to flood mitigation and management, climate resilience, biodiversity enhancement, tree equity, mitigation of the urban heat island effect, and improving air quality.

The delivery of the plan will directly contribute to a number of existing projects and areas of work across Plymouth inclusive:

- **Habitat Banking** – linked to the new approach to biodiversity net gain required by the Environment Act. Funding secured through the sale of 'biodiversity units' as part of a developing habitat banking market linked to the new requirements of the Environment Act 2021.
- **National Marine Park** – the Community Forest is the green arc of the strategic natural space encircling the city and complements the ambition of the NMP to have people at its heart.

- **Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs)** – potential payment scheme linked to a new approach to surface water management, delivering new SUDs features throughout the City.

Summary and Recommendations

Adoption of the PSDCF Plan by Plymouth City Council, along with respective partners, provides a platform upon which the 25 year objectives and targets can be communicated clearly and with appropriate support. This support will enable further funding to be secured, and for the significant benefits of the Community Forest programme to continue, affording enhancements and impact across a range of regional and local corporate objectives linked to social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate change:

Approves the adoption of the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest 25 Year Plan

Reason: To enable the Council and its partners to maintain the Community Forest's participation in the 'Trees for Climate' delivery programme and beyond through 2050, and ensures PCC continues its progress to achieving net zero by 2030.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – PSDCF 25 YEAR PLAN

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Peter Hawking-Sach	Department and service:	Growth, Street Services, Environmental Planning	Date of assessment:	09 July 2025
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Kat Deeney Head of Environmental Planning	Signature:		Approval date:	24 July 2025
Overview:	<p>Plymouth City Council is the lead partner in the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Joint Venture Partnership (PCC, Devon County Council, South Hams and West Devon District and Borough Councils, Dartmoor National Park Authority, Woodland Trust, National Trust).</p> <p>The partnership has delivered Defra’s Trees for Climate fund since 2022. As per Trees for Climate terms and conditions, all Community Forests must deliver an updated or new Community Forest Plan in 2025 with a commitment to objectives and targets through 2050.</p> <p>As lead partner, Plymouth City Council is required to adopt the plan, as are the JV partners.</p>				
Decision required:	To adopt the Community Forest 25 Year Plan				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?	Yes		No	X
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	X

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	Yes		No	X
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	There is no negative impact to service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics, nor any PCC employees. The outputs and benefits from an adopted plan are open to all, and those activities will contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and communities across Plymouth.			

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
---	---	-----------------------	------------------------------	---

Age	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>			
------------	---	--	--	--

<p>Care experienced individuals (Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>			
<p>Disability</p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a lot’ because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a little’ because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>			

Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).			
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).</p>			
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.			

<p>Race</p>	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth’s population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth’s population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Sex</p>	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).</p>			

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
<p>Work together in partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion ▪ facilitate community cohesion ▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together 			
<p>Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.</p>			
<p>Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.</p>			
<p>Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.</p>			

This page is intentionally left blank



Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest Plan 2025-2050

Project details

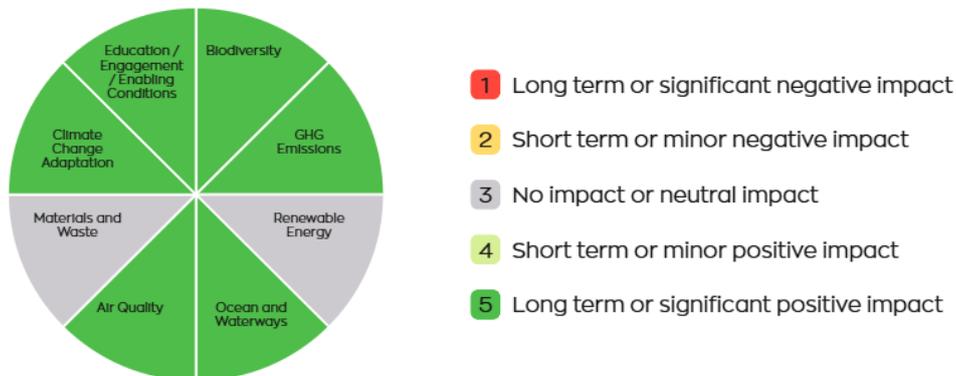
Assessment author

Peter Hawking-Sach

Project summary

The 25 year strategic plan for the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest partnership, led by Plymouth City Council. This document provides the context, objectives, targets and vision for woodland creation and associated activities across Plymouth, Dartmoor National Park, and South Devon through 2050

Summary of assessment



The PSDCF plan programme will deliver large scale climate, ecological, and environmental benefits to Plymouth through 2050 and beyond. The delivery of tree planting and woodland creation will create lasting benefit across a number of themes and variables within the Climate Impact Assessment tool, and its progress and impact will be monitored and reviewed regularly throughout the programme lifecycle.

Assessment scores

Biodiversity

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact



Score justification

The delivery of large scale woodland creation, tree planting, and habitat enhancement will contribute greatly to Biodiversity across South Devon

GHG Emissions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

This project has already contributed significantly to carbon sequestration across Plymouth and South Devon, through the planting of 500ha of woodland across the region between 2022-2025. This work will continue through the delivery plan and targets outlined within and from the PSDCF Plan

Renewable Energy

Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

This will have a neutral impact on renewable energy provision, but with potential support and benefit for any water based energy sources

Ocean and Waterways

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The strategic planting of trees across Plymouth and South Devon will actively work to enhance water quality, improve existing habitats, and positively mitigate flooding. Acute benefits will be felt across Plymouth with tree planting contributing to Suds scheme enhancements, and increased canopy cover in areas which experience greater surface water events

Air Quality

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

Tree planting and woodland creation will have a long lasting positive impact on air quality. The PSDCF plan targets and outcomes will enhance air quality in Plymouth and South Devon

Materials and Waste



Score

(3) No impact or neutral impact

Score justification

There will be consistent review of any materials used to deliver tree planting in Plymouth. The delivery of the plan includes a commitment to ensuring appropriate materials and methods are employed which deliver the least harm and detrimental impact and waste

Climate Change Adaptation

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

This project will contribute greatly to climate change adaptation. It will enhance air quality, it will reduce flood risk, it will reduce the impact of UHI effects in the city, it will sequester carbon.

Education / Engagement / Enabling Conditions

Score

(5) Long lasting or extensive positive impact

Score justification

The PSDCF plan includes a commitment to communities and ensuring that the delivery of the plan is done in collaboration and partnership with a number of stakeholders throughout the project. This will include continued intensive engagement with our communities

This page is intentionally left blank

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest

Forest Plan 2025-2050

Proud to be part of

England's
Community
Forests

Page 43



Plymouth and South Devon
Community Forest

Contents

Introduction	3
--------------	---

SECTION ONE

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest	7
---	---

Achievements to date	9
----------------------	---

SECTION TWO

The Plan

What this Plan will do	12
------------------------	----

Place Matters	16
---------------	----

Species Matter	18
----------------	----

Age Matters	19
-------------	----

Management Matters	20
--------------------	----

Access and Equity Matters	21
---------------------------	----

Pressures and Opportunities	22
-----------------------------	----

SECTION THREE

Vision and Objectives

Vision	25
--------	----

Objectives	26
------------	----

Principles	27
------------	----

The Boundary of the Forest	28
----------------------------	----

SECTION FOUR

Actions and Timelines

Expand	31
--------	----

Improve	33
---------	----

Value	34
-------	----

Deliver	35
---------	----

SECTION FIVE

Appendices

1. England Community Forests and the local story	37
--	----

2. Forest Rising and engagement with Young People	38
---	----

3. The National and Local policy context	39
--	----

4. Canopy Cover Calculation Methodology	42
---	----

5. Evidence and Rationale for actions	
---------------------------------------	--

5.1. Expand	44
-------------	----

5.2. Improve	45
--------------	----

5.3. Value	46
------------	----

5.4. Deliver	47
--------------	----

References	48
------------	----

Introduction

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) will increase the number and quality of trees and woods across Plymouth and South Devon – from the streets of Plymouth to the uplands of Dartmoor: for people, climate and nature.

This 25-year plan presents the rationale and activities that guide how PSDCF will achieve its vision, by working with residents and organisations to value and improve existing trees, and to plant new trees and create new woodlands. The benefits of doing so are myriad; enhancing biodiversity; mitigating impacts of climate change; increasing health and wellbeing of communities; preserving our historic environment; and connecting habitats across our landscape.

PSDCF is part of a network of 15 Community Forests across England – whose common aim is to see trees and woods at the heart of communities. PSDCF is no different, and the community forest encompasses every tree – from the single cherry in a park or street, through to the ancient oak forests of Dartmoor.

“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.”¹



Our vision

The Community Forest will be known for its thriving trees and woodlands, connecting the communities and landscapes of Plymouth, South Devon, West Devon and Dartmoor.

It will stretch from the streets and parks of Plymouth to the uplands of Dartmoor and be rich in wildlife; celebrated and cherished by all and delivering natural solutions to climate change.

The Community Forest will connect people to nature, drive equitable access to the benefits of trees and woods, and plant the seeds of a better future for all.



This plan establishes long term ambitions to 2050, as well as shorter-term actions for 2025 and 2030. Full details are outlined in the plan, but beyond the vision the plan is based around the following four key objectives:

1. VALUING OUR TREES AND WOODS, INSPIRING ACTION AND ENGAGING COMMUNITIES.

Ensuring the value of existing as well as new trees and woodlands is understood and inspiring action that places young people, equity and access for all at the heart of the forest.

2. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RESILIENCE OF TREES AND WOODLANDS.

Fostering and delivering thoughtful and high-quality management, increasing the natural services trees and woodlands can deliver.

3. EXPANDING TREES AND WOODLANDS.

Establishing more, and better connected, trees and woodlands delivering benefits for communities, nature, climate and place.

4. DELIVERING THROUGH CONNECTION AND CO-OPERATION.

Working together to deliver the greatest benefits through an inclusive and welcoming partnership.

The targets established in this plan to 2050 include

- Increasing tree cover by 3%: creating over 3,000 hectares of new woodland
- Strategic planting of thousands of impactful individual trees across the City of Plymouth to enhance tree equity and health and wellbeing benefits for residents
- Providing greater access to woodlands and the health benefits they bring
- Supporting landowners to bring all woodlands into informed management
- Working with over 3,000 local residents every year in their communities
- Supporting 1,000 woodland and forestry jobs
- Working in partnership with those who share our ambition and passion for trees

The plan is led by the 7 current PSDCF partners – and core to the delivery of this plan is the ambition to spread the benefits of the Community Forest to every resident, and as many organisations as possible.





SECTION ONE

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest 7

Achievements to date 9

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest

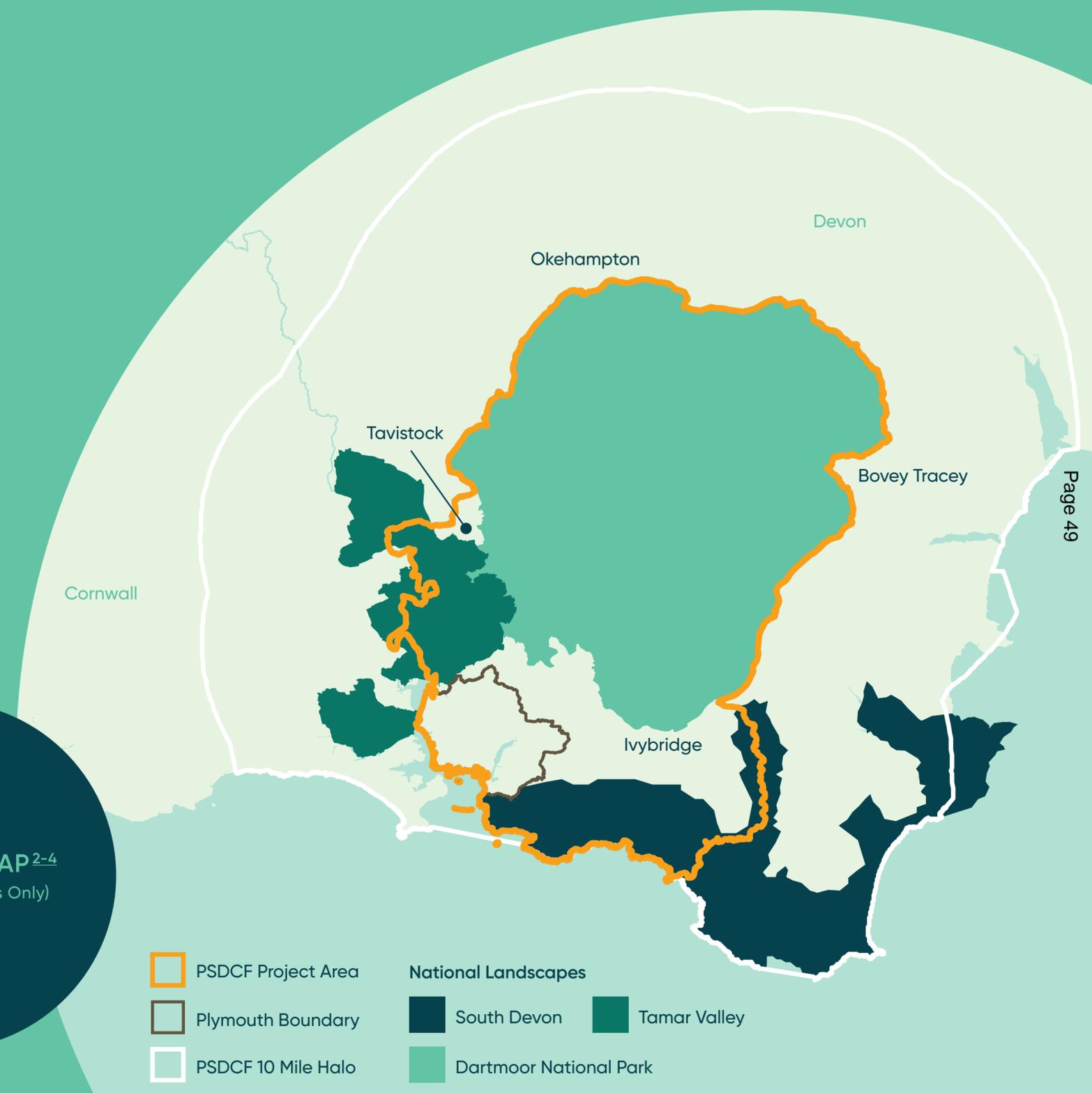
Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF) was established in 2021 with an ambition to significantly increase the benefits of trees and woodlands for people, nature, climate and place. It is one of 15 Community Forests that make up the network of England’s Community Forests*.

PSDCF brings together individuals, landowners, businesses, councils, charities, organisations and government bodies. They come together with a common aim to expand and celebrate the many benefits of trees and woodlands and to cascade those benefits to future generations.

However, PSDCF is not a dense forest of shady trees as we would traditionally know it. The community forest is a mosaic and includes every tree across an area – from individual garden trees to large scale forests. PSDCF delivers a network of trees and woods across its project area.

[*LEARN MORE](#)

BOUNDARY MAP²⁻⁴
(Illustrative Purposes Only)



Page 49



“A society grows great when old people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.”⁵

PSDCF has supported a rapid increase in woodland creation across Plymouth, South Hams, West Devon and Dartmoor. This work is driven forward by a partnership of Plymouth City Council, The National Trust and The Woodland Trust working alongside Dartmoor National Park Authority and South Hams, West Devon and Devon Councils. Working alongside organisations like the Forestry Commission and Environment Agency it is a partnership of the willing, acting for all.

The forest is a varied landscape, rich in heritage, where managed farmland and secluded valleys join rural lanes, towns and settlements among scenic and dramatic locations.

To date, as part of England’s Community Forests network, PSDCF has delivered Defra’s Trees for Climate fund and has been supported to deliver the following:

- Establishing a team of advisors and woodland managers working with anyone wanting to plant trees and expand woodlands. The PSDCF team provides advice and support, and facilitates funding for tree planting and woodland creation schemes across its programme boundary
- Funding land acquisition to create woodlands

Along with the other 14 Community Forests across England PSDCF is preparing its own Community Forest Plan for the 2025–2050 period. Collectively the plans will set out an ambitious aim to place trees and woods at the heart of communities across England.⁶

In Plymouth and across South Devon, the plan will set out a local vision, objectives, principles and measures of success. The initial focus is on the rapid action needed to establish 500 hectares of woodland well ahead of 2030 but with an eye on the longer-term changes needed to 2050.

Our achievements to date in Plymouth and South Devon

PSDCF has had a rapid lift off since 2021.

Planting has been delivered with a wide range of landowners and communities, increasing canopy cover in Plymouth and across South Devon, enabling new access to woodland, engaging many schools and mobilising a large number of volunteers.

The organisations who established the community forest recognise the importance of trees and woods for future generations and that trees planted now are a gift to the future. Therefore the engagement of young people, and their ownership of the forest, sit central to the ambitions of the PSDCF.

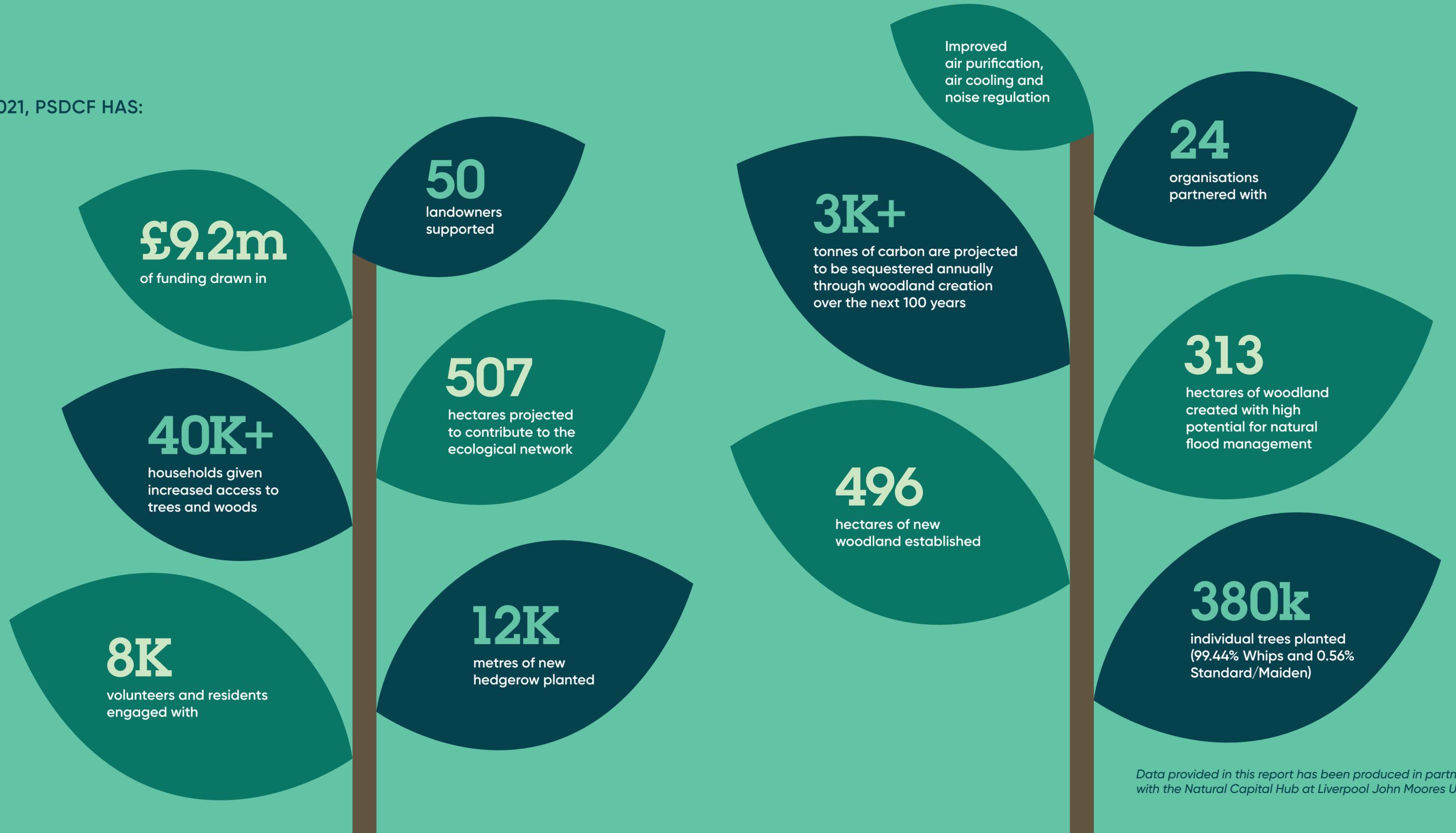
[*LEARN MORE](#)

To reflect these ambitions, PSDCF quickly established the groundbreaking 'Forest Rising' programme supporting young people into the community forestry sector and encouraging and enabling them to become part of the Forest's future. Within the first two years of Forest Rising, three Forest Risers have since found full time employment in the sector*.

“Since 2022, over 50 Forest Risers have developed green skills, received a comprehensive introduction to trees, woodland creation and other conservation concepts, as well as green finance, landscape design, woodland management.”



SINCE 2021, PSDCF HAS:



Data provided in this report has been produced in partnership with the Natural Capital Hub at Liverpool John Moores University.

SECTION TWO

The Plan

What this Plan will do and who it is for	12
Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest – what is it?	15
Place Matters	16
Species Matter	18
Age Matters	19
Management Matters	20
Access and Equity Matters	21
Pressures and Opportunities	22





What this Plan will do and who it is for?

This is the first PSDCF plan. It sets out what the PSDCF partners will achieve for people, nature, climate and place. It shows local communities, businesses, partners and funders what PSDCF has achieved to date and what it will deliver in the future.

The Community Forest Plan is not a statutory plan (required by law) and is not seeking to develop new land use policy. The primary purpose of the plan is to facilitate tree planting and woodland creation ambitions across the PSDCF area, engage communities in this work, and deliver the benefits of trees and woods through partnership working. The PSDCF area of activity is administratively complex and it's crucial this PSDCF plan recognises this complexity. There are 5 local authorities and 3 nationally protected landscapes working together within the current PSDCF boundary.

The Plan will deliver two main outcomes;

- Where it is most appropriate this plan will establish targets and actions for the community forest to deliver directly
- Where it is most appropriate the plan will support and embed targets and activities being delivered by others

It is intended that this plan will also provide a framework to support and align with emerging and existing statutory plans such as Local Plans and Local Nature Recovery Strategies, as well as organisational plans such as Climate Emergency and Economic Development Plans*.

[*LEARN MORE](#)

The delivery of the PSDCF Plan will largely lie with the organisations, communities, businesses and landowners who share the passion for a future forest and embrace the aims of the plan. This plan will join and support those sources aimed specifically at:

FARMERS, FORESTERS, AND LANDOWNERS

Those who control the land and can make decisions over where the community forest can grow and thrive. Alongside the support and finance offered by PSDCF there are other policies and funding sources that support the creation and management of the community forest and support their involvement. This plan will join and support those sources, to facilitate best practice and options for landowners to undertake woodland creation and management across the PSDCF programme area.

TREES BENEFIT LAND AND FARMING

Research from Dartmoor shows that the establishment of native woodland improves water retention of soils in upland catchments and improves flash-flood mitigation.⁷

Other studies found significant positive effects for trees planted on farmland (agroforestry) as compared to treeless pasture. There are benefits for water control, water quality and soil erosion.⁸

COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

To succeed and offer real value the community forest needs to be embraced and championed by local organisations. This plan lays the foundations to a wider community-based movement across the forest and the opportunity for partnerships with organisations that work with communities to deliver social, economic, and environmental benefit.

BUSINESSES AND ENTERPRISE

Trees and woods are attractive for funding and sponsorship and PSDCF will work with local enterprises for mutual benefit, to build momentum and support for the forest. Tree planting will be an increasing area of interest for businesses looking to credibly mitigate their carbon impact and PSDCF will work with the sector to develop high integrity opportunities.

There are 394,000 trees in Plymouth, and they have a public amenity asset value of £3.4 billion based on the benefits delivered from their size, condition, public visibility and life expectancy. Oak contributes 17% of this value, Sycamore contributes 12% and Beech contributes 10%.⁹

Within Plymouth the 394,000 trees deliver 4,291 tonnes per year of net carbon sequestration, valued at £1.1 million. They store a total 152,780 tonnes of carbon worth £38.7 million.¹⁰

There is significant potential to develop local timber markets that support all sectors of society across the PSDCF area and drive employment and opportunity.¹¹

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SECTOR

Trees and woods, especially in public spaces, offer demonstrable benefits for health and wellbeing. There is obvious common ground between the benefits trees for nature and benefits for local residents. PSDCF will harness these shared benefits by actively seeking opportunities for joined up working and collaboration with partners in the health and wellbeing sector, inclusive Green social prescribing opportunities locally and with NHS England.

Studies in London showed that the rate of antidepressant prescriptions decreased with increasing density of street trees, independently of socioeconomic factors.¹²

A study in Leeds found that doubling canopy coverage across the city could reduce the mean land surface temperature by around 2.5°C during the warmest summer months – with linked benefits for health and wellbeing.¹³

INDIVIDUALS

Everyone and anyone can be involved. This plan establishes opportunities for all – whether directly planting and managing trees or volunteering to collect seed and grow on trees in the community forest nursery.

To ensure the involvement of all, this plan is subject to wide consultation across the forest area and with a full range of organisations, landowners, communities and individuals.

A UK study identifies the mental health benefits of being physically active in forests, with participants mentioning stress relief from being active, the forest as a calming place and the enjoyment associated with being in a forest.¹⁶

Studies show that higher daily exposure rates to natural space and particularly woodland was associated with enhanced cognitive development and mental health, for 3,568 adolescents in London.¹⁵

Five studies found that trees reduced harmful exposure to ultraviolet rays, particularly in school grounds, and where there were large trees with dense foliage.¹⁴

EDUCATION SECTOR

Whether its woodland creation in school grounds or academic research assessing the best techniques to create new woodland, the involvement of the education sector is central to the successful delivery of this plan.



Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest – what is it?

10,000 years ago the land on which we exist would have been dominated by wildwood. This wildwood would have spread from the shores of the Tamar to the highest tors on Dartmoor - the original rainforest. There would have been areas of dense, impenetrable tangled woodland, along with open areas of grazed grassland with more widely spread trees and shrubs. An intricate, varied, dynamic and vibrant mix of trees, shrubs, light, shade and water – loud with the noise of nature.¹⁷

Human impact over the last 10,000 years has been significant and there is now a much reduced, but still vibrant, network of woods and trees across the forest. It is this network of trees and woods that PSDCF will value, improve and expand. Overall tree cover across PSDCF is now 17.8%.¹⁸

To help shape the actions of PSDCF it is important to understand the characteristics of the community forest so we can plan well for the future.

This understanding of the current condition of the Community Forest, and the pressures and opportunities, shape the rest of the plan.



Place Matters

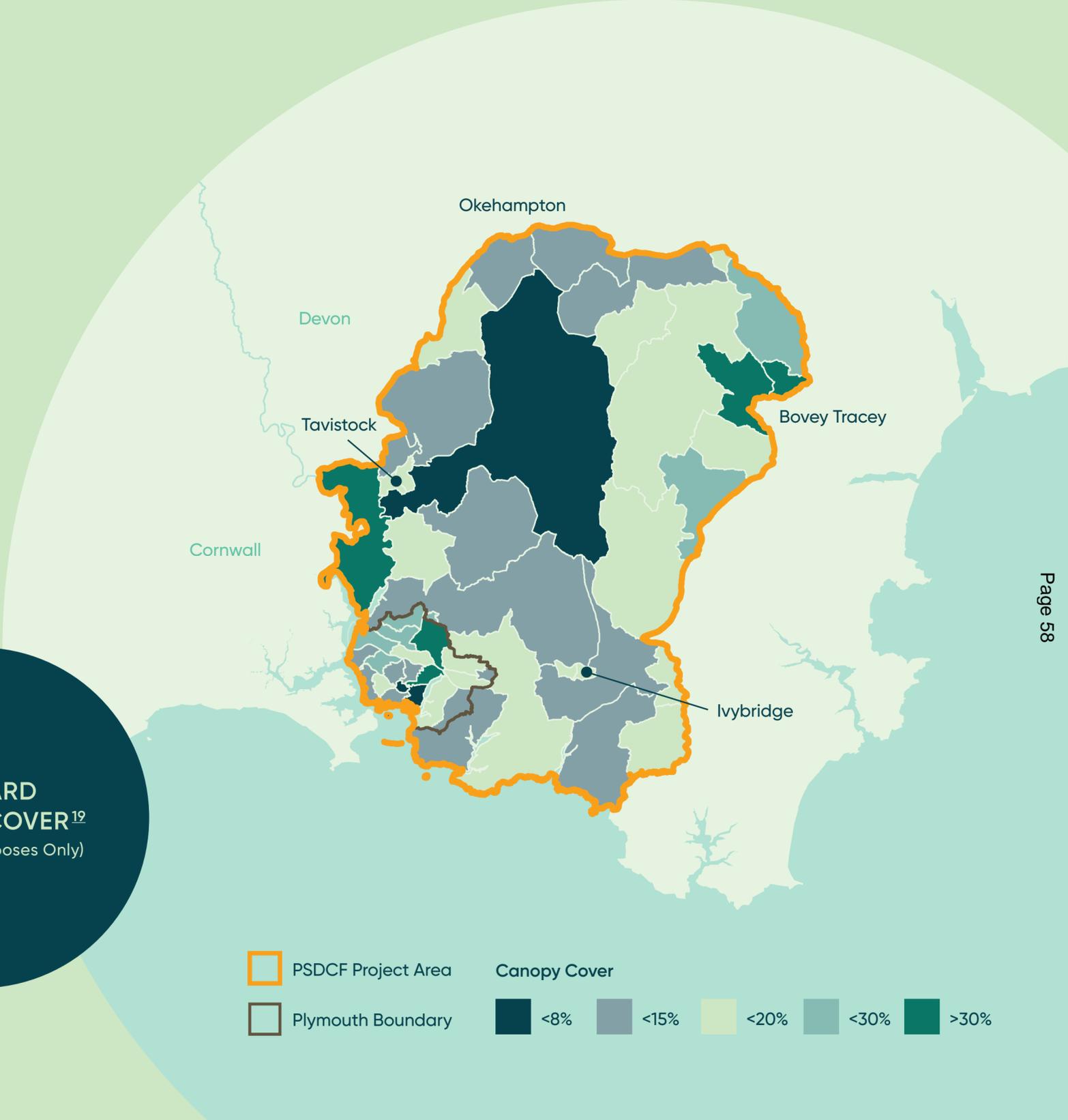
PLYMOUTH, TOWNS, VILLAGES AND COUNTRYSIDE

PSDCF has landscapes as diverse as any community forest in England – ranging from dense urban street networks to rich and intensely managed farmland through to remote, moorland dominated, wilderness.

At scale, the variations in tree cover are reflected across the PSDCF landscape.

However tree cover at this scale itself doesn't tell the whole story. Within the city of Plymouth there are strong fluctuations of tree cover from ward to ward with high density development meaning some areas have tree cover below 4% - significantly limiting people's ability to access the benefits of trees.

UK WARD CANOPY COVER¹⁹
(Illustrative Purposes Only)



IN PLYMOUTH, TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Trees are predominantly in small woods, parks, gardens and streets within developed areas.

Similarly, in the countryside canopy cover at local (parish) level can also be as low as 4%.²⁰ This reflects land use and management practices (both past and present) upon farmland and moorland. These often limit woodland and tree establishment. Both the city and the countryside would benefit from more trees and woods but delivery requires very different solutions.

Whilst this plan will have the same underpinning objectives and principles across the whole plan area, there will be distinct approaches to delivery across two geographies. This recognises that the types of trees and woodlands are often quite different, needing different approaches and solutions.

Throughout the whole community forest there will be a focus on engaging local communities, creating additional access to trees and woodlands and generating the benefits of trees for all. However, to recognise the different local circumstances there will be distinct delivery approaches for PSDCF activity.

In Plymouth, Towns, and Villages the primary focus will be:

- The care and management of existing individual trees
- New planting of individual street, park and garden trees
- Focus on tree equity for residents at a local level
- Delivering in partnership with health, business and social enterprise sectors

In the Countryside the primary focus will be to:

- The management of existing forests, woodlands and hedgerows
- Planting and establishment of new resilient woodlands
- Delivering in partnership with the forestry and farming sectors
- Maximum environmental benefit at scale, such as carbon capture and flood alleviation
- Ensuring trees and small woodlands are well integrated into farming landscape and farming business

IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Trees are predominantly in forests, woodlands and hedgerows within farmed land and moorland.

Species Matter

WILDWOOD, TIMBER AND EXOTIC SPECIES

The PSDCF plan needs to drive planting and creation using a rich combination of native wildwood species, productive timber species and exotic specimen species. All have a role to play.

The vibrant mix of plants, lichens, mosses, insects, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds that are found in the community forest have evolved alongside the mix of native broadleaf tree and shrub species on which they live. It's important that these species, such as Oak, Elm, Alder, Lime, Aspen, Rowan, Birch, Hazel and Holly (all from the original wildwood) are retained in existing woods and used, wherever possible, where new woodlands are being created and where nature recovery is a leading objective. These native species can also be planted to very good effect, as specimens, in Plymouth, towns and villages.

The United Kingdom is the largest net importer of timber in the world after China and USA – importing over 80% of the timber we use.²¹

We use significant amounts of timber and are predicted to use even more as we move to more sustainable forms of building construction. The PSDCF area is renowned for its ability to produce highly productive timber in planted forests using

productive timber species such as Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock and Spruce species. When planted and managed well timber forests deliver multiple benefits and should be encouraged in the PSDCF area.

Since Roman times²² tree species have been introduced and planted in town and country. These trees, often planted as individual specimens or in avenues or clumps, bring variety, colour and diversity to our landscapes. These exotic species, such as sweet chestnut, horse chestnut, cherries, planes, cypresses and pines frame many views in PSDCF and are very well suited to new and replacement planting in Plymouth and the towns and villages.

Whatever trees are being selected for planting in the PSDCF area it is important to consider the suitability of the species to the site under consideration and the potential impacts of pests, diseases and climate change.

BEAVER LOOKOUT

Locally sourced timber from Totnes and Fingle (Larch and Douglas Fir grown on north facing valleys = slow growth, tighter ring structure, higher tensile strength)





Age Matters

OUR ANCIENTS AND VETERANS

The most important woodlands in PSDCF are the Ancient Woodlands – those which have been in existence since at least 1600. At over 400 years old these woodlands provide a continuity of species, habitats and soils potentially back to the original wildwood.

All Ancient Woodlands have been subject to management and change under human influence with two types of Ancient Woodland now occurring in PSDCF

- Ancient Semi Natural Woodland is woodland that retains its native trees and shrubs
- Planted Ancient Woodlands are the ancient woodlands where the native trees and shrubs have been cleared and replaced with other species – notably introduced conifer species but also species such as Beech. Often original soils, seed banks and features (such as ancient trees), remain. Where this is the case, restoration is possible and a priority for action

The PSDCF area also hosts a range of internationally important Ancient and Veteran Trees. These are the oldest living beings in the PSDCF area. They are fantastic, fascinating and some of the most important parts of our natural heritage still surviving. They need valuing and careful management. We need to be thinking to the future and planting our future ancients now.

It is often beneficial to wrap new planting and other semi natural habitats around existing ancient woodlands and trees so that they are protected from harmful impacts, expanded in size and better linked to other habitats.

Management Matters

HEALTHY, RESILIENT WOODLANDS AND INDIVIDUAL TREES

The wildwood would have looked after itself. It would have been subject to storms and the impact of grazing herbivores such as mammoths, bison and beavers.

Although many woods in the PSDCF area contain the echoes of the wildwood they have all been managed by humans – for fuel, timber, farming and food. Where this management replicates natural woodland processes the woodlands can retain their importance for nature. For example felling for timber, but retaining a mix of species with varied structure, age and height, incorporating deadwood and areas of light, shade, wetland and open space will benefit nature. Continuous Cover Forestry is an example of this type of management as it retains a strong, nature rich structure.

All woodlands in the PSDCF boundary, from the ancient rainforests on Dartmoor to commercial conifer forest in the Plym Valley, can deliver nature recovery and public benefit when managed sustainably. There is added community benefit where public access is provided and managed.

The management of woodlands is known as silviculture – the practice of managing a woodland to take into account the whole ecosystem.²⁴

The UK Forestry Standard sets the benchmark for high quality silvicultural management – delivering benefits for nature, climate, people and timber.²⁵

Where individual trees grow in isolation (for example in fields or hedgerows) or are planted as specimens (in parks and gardens) they may need management to ensure they can be retained safely and in suitable condition, ensuring a continuation of the benefits and services they provide. Pollarding of street trees in Plymouth (where the crowns are cut back and allowed to regrow) is an example.

Management of individual trees should only be undertaken where needed, but when done needs to be carefully planned and undertaken to ensure the long term health of the tree. This practice of caring for the individual tree is known as arboriculture.²⁶

PSDCF encourages the sustainable management of all woodlands and trees.



Access and Equity Matters

PEOPLE NEED TREES

Trees and Woods deliver demonstrable benefits to people – supporting an individual's physical and mental well being. The evidence supporting these benefits is significant and well understood*.

The challenge is ensuring there are enough trees for people, that they are in the places that most need them, and that people can access the benefits.

In Plymouth the story is quite complex. Some wards have very high levels of tree cover (up to 37%) with high levels of access to woodlands and parks – other areas have very low levels of tree cover (as low as 4%) with low levels of access. To identify where more trees can have greatest impact PSDCF will use the Woodland Trust's Tree Equity Score UK mapping²⁸ to identify those areas where tree planting can have greatest benefit for residents where they live. Tree equity mapping shows a very clear link between areas of low tree cover and high social deprivation. Providing more trees and access to greenspace in these areas of low tree equity delivers the highest opportunities for improving people's health and wellbeing

In towns, villages and countryside the story is different. Despite a feel that there is more woodland nearby, and more accessibility, the picture can be very different at a local level with some villages having low accessible woodlands within, or around villages. People often travel

significant distances, by car, to visit woodlands. PSDCF will use available data on access to Green Infrastructure²⁹ to identify areas where new woodland creation will have most benefit for people across the whole PSDCF.

The Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust have also issued detailed canopy cover information at local ward level that can be found on the UK Ward Canopy Cover Map.³⁰

Whether in the city or the countryside the work of the community forest will place a particular focus on delivering benefits for future generations to support a resilient future for communities. This will be done by delivering more trees and woodlands in the places where they can have most impact. Be it planting an individual tree on a Plymouth street, or a large scale woodland on the edges of Dartmoor, the work of PSDCF is central to developing a healthy environment for future generations.

Core to this is the involvement of young people who can bring the voice of future generations central to the work of PSDCF.

[*LEARN MORE ²⁷](#)

Pressures and Opportunities

Trees and woodlands are under a wide range of pressures. To help ensure the targets and actions set out in this plan are as robust as possible it's helpful to identify these pressures alongside opportunities and potential solutions

PRESSURE

Securing land for woodland creation and tree planting. Availability of land is a key constraint to delivering the ambitions of the Community Forest. High land prices, competing land uses, concerns over food security and a long-held belief that woodland creation devalues land can all hold back action. An increased focus on house building will inevitably increase pressure on land availability.

OPPORTUNITY

The launch of the Community Forest plan provides an **opportunity** to make the case for trees and woods complementing varied land uses, promote the benefits, build the funding available and address the concerns that many have. Trees and woodlands are increasingly providing a financially secure use of land delivering a range of funded benefits.

PRESSURE

Isolation and fragmentation of woodlands as the habitat networks that join them together (hedgerows, watercourses and rivers) are reduced in extent or degraded in condition.

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to extend, and join, existing woodlands and use other habitats (such as hedgerows, grasslands and habitat mosaics) to connect woodlands across large scale landscapes.



PRESSURE

Impacts of climate change will be significant. Increased drought, waterlogging, temperatures and storm events will all impact where trees can be planted and the species that will thrive. The impacts are so diverse and unpredictable that's its impossible to plan with certainty.

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to plant individual trees and create woodland using a mix of species that have the greatest likelihood of adapting to climate change.³¹ There is also clear opportunity to plant woodland and individual trees that will mitigate the impact of climate change – from slowing flood flow through to lowering temperatures.

PRESSURE**Securing Trees for woodland creation.**

For PSDCF to meet its ambitions it needs to ensure a supply of trees across a wide range of species, sizes and types (from small “whips” suitable for high density woodland planting) through to large standard trees suitable for planting in streets and public spaces.

OPPORTUNITY

There is an **opportunity** to support the growth and capacity of the local tree nursery economy to ensure a wide range of supply across all necessary tree types and from a range of sources. PSDCF support to increased woodland creation will provide incentive and finance to tree nursery capacity. There is also opportunity to make use of natural regeneration and natural colonisation to sustain native species.

PRESSURE**Securing access to trees and woods.**

Changes in land management and development pressures may reduce the presence of trees and people's ability to enjoy the benefits. There is a need to ensure that there are enough trees, that they are in the right place, and that access is available (which involves residents of all ability being able to get to sites where the trees are, and around those sites).

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to use Tree Equity and Access to Green Infrastructure information to identify where tree planting and woodland creation can have greatest impact and to plan for that.

PRESSURE**Poor quality management or lack of woodland management.**

Inappropriate management can be detrimental to nature recovery, as can neglect, inconsistency and the loss of natural processes. Management activities that are particularly beneficial include

- Retaining and managing ancient features in a woodland
- Creating a mixed tree age structure with different heights in the canopy
- Ensuring a mix of species controlling dominance of single species, such as holly
- Retaining deadwood in tree crowns and on the ground
- Creating, and maintaining, wide rides and glades within woodlands
- Appropriate levels of grazing (introduced stock or managed deer population) to maintain open areas, but allowing natural regeneration to take place
- Establishing and maintaining public access

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to ensure that the ecological condition of all woodlands is understood and that they are under informed, active management to UK Forestry Standard. This can be bolstered by supporting local timber markets and the timber processing and supply chains

PRESSURE**Continuing impacts of historic conversion of Ancient Woodland**

to commercial woodland (PAWS) –This is now stopped with national measures in place to reverse the impacts caused by this widespread practice. However, there are still extensive areas of planted ancient woodland yet to come under management back to semi natural composition. The UK government has a published policy approach to this issue.³²

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to bring all PAWs under active management with nature recovery as a priority. The adoption of management systems that mimic natural processes, such as Continuous Cover Forestry (rather than clear cut felling), can produce very nature rich woodlands that are also commercially productive – a shared benefit for nature and economy. There is a need to act with urgency based on detailed assessment and a thorough understanding of the historic features in these ancient woodlands – not least their soils and ancient trees.

PRESSURE**Impact of non-native invasive species.**

Ornamental species (such as Rhododendron and Himalayan balsam) along with regenerating non-native timber species (such as Western hemlock and Spruce) can spread rapidly in woodlands and suppress native trees, shrubs and ground flora.

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to include measures for the control of non-native species into management plans.

PRESSURE

Impact of pests and diseases. There is a rapid increase in the accidental introduction of pests and diseases. Two of Devon's most prolific native woodland trees, Elm and Ash, have (or will be) largely lost from the Devon landscape.

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is to ensure strong biosecurity measures are in place during woodland management and woodland creation work. Sourcing stock from Plant Healthy or United Kingdom Sourced and Grown supplies will ensure adherence to strict biosecurity measures – as will support to developing the local tree nursery sector in the PSDCF area.

PRESSURE

Impact of Deer and Squirrels. Grey squirrels can have a particularly negative impact on the early establishment of woodlands, woodland structure, composition and native hardwood timber production – deer can have equally negative effects on the ability of woodlands to regenerate. Both species are significantly affecting the ability to create and regenerate woodlands in Devon.

OPPORTUNITY

The **opportunity** is for implementing control measures. To be effective these must be co-ordinated and adopted across wider landscapes and not just at a site level.

SECTION THREE

Vision and Objectives

Vision	25
Objectives	26
Principles	27
The Boundary of the Forest	28



Vision

A vision establishes purpose, direction and inspiration. It's a guiding star and a point to come back to check progress.

Given the importance of the community forest for current residents and future generations the proposed vision paints a picture of what could be.

The Community Forest will be known for its thriving trees and woodlands, connecting the communities and landscapes of Plymouth, South Devon, West Devon and Dartmoor.

It will stretch from the streets and parks of Plymouth to the uplands of Dartmoor and be rich in wildlife; celebrated and cherished by all and delivering natural solutions to climate change.

The Community Forest will connect people to nature, drive equitable access to the benefits of trees and woods, and plant the seeds of a better future for all.

This vision underpins all the actions set out in this plan, and all the activity that takes place on the ground.

Objectives

To ensure that actions deliver success the community forest partners are using this plan to establish objectives to guide and drive its activity. The objectives are;

VALUING OUR TREES AND WOODS, INSPIRING ACTION AND ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

Ensuring the value of existing as well as new trees and woodlands is understood and inspiring action that places young people, equity and access for all at the heart of the forest.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF TREES AND WOODLANDS

Fostering and delivering thoughtful and high-quality management, increasing the natural services trees and woodlands can deliver.

EXPANDING TREES AND WOODLANDS

Establishing more, and better connected, trees and woodlands delivering benefits for communities, nature, climate and place.

DELIVERING THROUGH CONNECTION AND CO-OPERATION

Working together to deliver the greatest benefits through an inclusive and welcoming partnership.

At its very best the activities of PSDCF, particularly the creation of new woodlands, would deliver against all these objectives at the same time, delivering shared benefits for people, nature, climate and place.

The objectives set the structure of this plan and underpin the targets against which success will be measured.



Principles

The following principles will underpin the plan and its delivery. These establish how the community forest partners and delivery team will approach the delivery of the plan. The principles are;

- Enable inclusive **community involvement and engagement** in all forest work
- Actively involve, and support, **young people in the delivery of the plan**
- Deliver **equitable access** to the health and wellbeing benefits of trees
- Establish the **right tree in the right place using the right technique (or for the right purpose)**
- Deliver **nature recovery, climate adaptation and resilience in all activity**
- Drive a **sustainable woodland economy** that embeds the many benefits of trees
- Adopt **sustainable management**, to industry best practice, for woodlands and trees
- Drive **partnership working** to grow the impacts and benefits of the forest
- Deliver **connections and solutions** across the whole forest area.



The Boundary of the Forest

During the consultation process for the Forest Plan in 2024/25, PSDCF proposed the realignment of the Community Forest boundary to maximise the potential of its work. This proposal received very positive feedback from respondents and was supported throughout the consultation process. From 2025, a pilot period has been implemented for an updated boundary, which if successful will be made permanent in Summer 2026. The proposal was delivered to ensure that PSDCF's work aligns seamlessly with neighbouring woodland creation initiatives to offer the very best service and support to landowners.

The pilot boundary will provide comprehensive coverage of woodland creation offers to landowners in Devon and Cornwall – with no overlap and no-one missing out on a locally managed woodland creation offer. The current boundary is shown on page 7, and is enhanced by a 10 mile “halo” within which the community forest offers are also available.

Having consulted with neighbouring organisations the amendments to the boundary offer are as follows.

- To the west. Where the PSDCF halo stretches into Cornwall landowners will be directed to the Forest for Cornwall team for support, advice and funding.

- To the north. Where the PSDCF halo stretches into the North Devon Biosphere landowners will be directed to the North Devon Biosphere and Forestry Commission teams for support, advice and funding.
- To the south and east the boundary is redrawn to align the boundary to the Exe itself and bring all of Teignbridge into the Community Forest. This would create a consistent offer across Teignbridge.

The pilot boundary is shown in the map on the right-hand side of this page, and both the current and proposed boundary are compared on the following page.

PILOT PSDCF BOUNDARY³³
(Illustrative Purposes Only)



- Pilot PSDCF Boundary
- Plymouth Boundary





SECTION FOUR

Actions and Timelines

Expand	31
Improve	33
Value	34
Deliver	35

Expand

TARGETS, TASKS, AND TIMELINE

OBJECTIVE

Expanding our Trees, Woods, and Hedgerows

Establishing more, and better connected, trees and wooded habitats, delivering benefits for communities, nature, climate and place

TARGET

To offer advice, support and financial assistance to enable landowners to:

- Increase tree canopy cover by 3% across the overall PSDCF area by 2050
- An increase of cover in the city of Plymouth to achieve a Tree Equity score of at least 75 in all neighbourhoods by 2050, with a focus on neighbourhoods significantly below this level

HOW

- Creating 3,000 ha's of woodland across the whole PSDCF area by 2050
- Planting 5,885 medium size trees in streets, parks and gardens in Plymouth by 2050

Prioritise creation and planting that addresses current challenges by providing nature-based solutions, such as

- Giving greater equity of trees
- Giving households increased access to trees and woods
- Providing natural flood management
- Adding woodland and hedgerow to the nature recovery network
- Sequestering and storing carbon
- Improving air purification, air cooling, and noise regulation
- Integrating trees and small woodlands into the farmed landscape

During 2025

Review, promote and continue the PSDCF Woodland Creation grant programme.

Continue to provide the PSDCF woodland creation advisory service.

Undertake research with The Woodland Trust and Oxford University to fine tune the approach to measuring benefits of trees and greenspace for individuals and communities in Plymouth.

TREE PLANTING AND WOODLAND CREATION

In Plymouth, tree planting and woodland creation will be prioritised towards

- Wards and Lower Super Output Areas where the Tree Equity Score is below 75
- Delivering urban nature recovery and climate resilience in line with Plymouth's strategic plans, including Plymouth Plan for Nature and People and Net Zero Action Plan

Around Towns and Villages and in the Countryside woodland creation will be prioritised towards

- Areas identified in the Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Areas identified in the Dartmoor, South Devon and Tamar Valley Protected Landscapes Target and Outcome Frameworks



By 2030

Create 500 ha's of new woodland across the whole PSDCF including in Plymouth, towns and villages.

Plant 1,000 individual trees in Plymouth, towns and villages.

Give households increased access to woodlands.



**SUSTAINABLY
MANAGED
WOODLAND³⁶**

(Illustrative Purposes Only)



During 2025

Seek funds to implement a woodland management advisory and grant aid programme that offers support to woodland owners.

Assess Woodland Economy opportunities. Review how best PSDCF can support the growth of a robust woodland economy across the PSDCF area through a review of opportunities.

By 2030

Support the Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy target to see 70% of woodland in active management.

Directly bring 500 ha's of woodland into sustainable management.

All trees and woods owned and managed by the Community Forest partners are under management to the following standards.

- British Standard 3998 for individual trees
- United Kingdom Forest Standard for woodland management

Improve

TARGETS, TASKS, AND TIMELINE

OBJECTIVE

Improving the quality of trees and woodlands.

Fostering and delivering thoughtful and high-quality management, increasing the natural services trees and woodlands can deliver.

TARGET

To offer advice, support and financial assistance to assist landowners to:

- See all woodlands under sustainable management by 2050 delivering benefits for nature, climate, people and place

HOW

Prioritise support of management that

- Targets Planted Ancient Woodlands (PAWS) and Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW)
- Gives households increased access to trees and woods

Value

TARGETS, TASKS, AND TIMELINE

OBJECTIVE

Valuing our trees and woods, inspiring action and engaging communities.

Ensuring the value of existing as well as new trees and woodlands is understood and inspiring action that places young people, equity and access for all at the heart of the forest.

TARGET

PSDCF collaborating to engage 3,000 people annually.

From 2025 to 2030

Continue growing the Forest Rising initiative.

Promote the benefits of woods and trees to individuals, communities, organisations, landowners and businesses.

Run a series of activity events with a focus on hands on planting and management.

Work with existing greenspace initiatives to deliver locally based projects at park and street level.

Support the Plymouth Urban Tree Festival.

Support the Tree Warden, Threat Detector and Observatree network.



Deliver

TARGETS, TASKS, AND TIMELINE

OBJECTIVE

Delivering through Connection and Co-operation.

Working together to deliver the greatest benefits through an inclusive and welcoming partnership

TARGET

- Support and facilitate 1000 woodland and forestry job years by 2050
- Develop impactful collaborative partnerships across sectors to maximise benefits of PSDCF delivery

HOW

The PSDCF partnership itself will look at how it might become broader and more inclusive in terms of direct membership and those who advise and support its work.

To further drive growth of the forest PSDCF will develop a network of the willing – individuals, landowners, businesses and organisations who want to join PSDCF in delivering its aims and joining it in partnership. Partners will be expected to share the PSDCF vision and embrace the objectives to expand, improve and inspire.

There will be a particular focus on developing partnerships that drive the local woodland economy with specific aim on supporting

- Tree propagation and supply
- Timber harvesting and processing
- Wood products
- Woodland advisory services



By 2030

Work with partners to support delivery of an accredited training and apprenticeship programme.

Work with partners to introduce annual woodland economy measures across local and regional areas.

Work with partners to implement Woodland Economy review and delivery programme.

During 2025

Develop standard “easy start up” partnership programme. Targets for 2025 to include outreach and partnerships with;

- Public Health organisations
- Youth organisations
- Social Enterprises
- Farming groups
- Forestry groups

SECTION FIVE

Appendices

1. England Community Forests and the local story	37
2. Forest Rising and engagement with Young People	38
3. The National and Local policy context	39
4. Canopy Cover Calculation Methodology	42
5. Evidence and Rationale for actions	
5.1. Expand	44
5.2. Improve	45
5.3. Value	46
5.4. Deliver	47
6. Consultation	48
References	53

1. England's Community Forests and the local story

In 1991 the first Community Forests were established in England – on Merseyside and in Manchester. These Forests had their roots in the Garden Cities initiatives of the 1980s and sought to bring woods and trees into towns and cities – with people central to the process.

Through gradual growth there are now 15 Community Forests – all individual organisations but working together as England's Community.³⁷

In 2020 the government sought to grow the Community Forest family. This involved the creation of 2 new forests, alongside around £100m of Nature for Climate funds being allocated to accelerate woodland creation with community benefit. The government support for additional Community Forests reflects government confidence in how well the community forests have delivered nature, economic, and community benefits since the 1990's.

Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, West Devon Borough Council, the National Trust and the Woodland Trust created a proposal for PSDCF and were successful in getting government support. PSDCF came into being in June 2021 with initial PSDCF information on the ECF website.³⁸

It had an initial target of delivering 250 hectares of tree planting, but an ambition to plant 500 hectares of woodland by April 2025.

The 250-hectare target will be achieved this year, with the likelihood that over 400 hectares will have been planted in total by the end of this planting season.

The original boundary took in all of Plymouth and parts of South Hams, West Devon and Dartmoor. In 2022, to increase its impact, the Forest was extended to take in all of Dartmoor. It is also general practice that in delivering its work Community Forests work to a 10 mile "halo", enabling it in some circumstances to deliver funding and support beyond its boundary in agreement with partners.

The original five partners have been joined by Devon County Council and Dartmoor National Park Authority. PSDCF is an informal partnership and, unlike some other community forests not (at least yet) an independent organisation.

The development and success of the PSDCF has had significant support from a wide range of organisations – not least Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and Natural England – ensuring the development of the community forest locally incorporates the decades of learning and experience across England.

2. Forest Rising and engagement with Young People

Forest Rising is PSDCF's flagship programme for young people, providing a collaborative space for them to gain essential practical and theoretical skills, whilst contributing to the long-term development of the Community Forest programme.

Over the course of the workshops, they have been part of designing a Plymouth-based tree planting scheme for next winter, learning about woodland habitats and essential tree skills, as well as helping to plant 530 trees at New Barton Farm, Wembury.

Additional Forest Rising sessions have also offered young people an opportunity to learn from and work with other organisations and projects working with trees including Parklife CIC, National Trust, Woodland Trust, Dartmoor Dynamic Landscapes, Building Resilience In Communities and the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park.

Sessions have focused on green skill development and introductions to trees, woodland creation and other conservation concepts such as green finance, landscape design, woodland management, and ancient and veteran trees. Forest Risers are also included and invited to associated events, conferences, and training opportunities across themes such as environmental education, permaculture, hydromorphology, tree species ID and river fly monitoring training.

The Forest Risers are currently exploring the development of a Youth Forum that will continue to work alongside the project to inform decision making, empower young people and allow co-design of the next winter programme.

FOREST RISING IN NUMBERS 23/24

- 37 sessions.
- 5 training/ upskilling opportunities
- 6 young people on the Youth Forum including a strategy lead, a communications representative, chairperson, social media and marketing rep
- 530 trees planted at one of PSDCF's planting scheme sites, New Barton Farm
- 45 Forest Risers
- 2 planned residential weeks in 2025 for tree planting and upskilling

FOREST RISING TESTIMONIALS

Zahra, 16 at time of joining, Forest Rising Youth Forum member, social media and marketing representative

Forest Rising has opened my world view and given me memories forever! It really has inspired me. What I'm looking forward to on the forum is creating a programme by young people for young people. We want to inspire other young people to get involved in the community forest and nature in the city.

Cindy, 24 at time of joining, Forest Rising Youth Forum, Chairperson

The Forest Rising course was an incredible opportunity to network with local experts within woodland restoration and conservation, as well as learn about their career journey. The workshops also provided us with a feel for management of urban and wild areas, threats to natural resources, and solutions. This was especially insightful to me, as a marine biology student; such knowledge gave me the confidence to win the Igniting Innovation challenge set by the Woodland Trust, taking me to lead my own educational project. Finally, the Forest Rising team has been incredibly supportive and has been invaluable connection throughout my journey. I have a better understanding of how green spaces are viewed by society vs how I perceive them. And how they can be managed/ what we can do to improve their management.

Heidi, 23 at time of joining, Forest Rising cohort 1,

I believe that the scheme has provided an excellent opportunity for young people in Plymouth to explore their connections with nature. It has given people the time and space to think and reflect and strengthen those connections. There has been a good mixture of natural and social science during the activities allowing a holistic introduction to green industry. Fantastic scheme! All in all, I just really love and care about nature. I want to ensure everyone has this opportunity if they want to too. The current disconnect from nature in the UK shocking and if more people care about the natural world then we are more likely to be able to successfully co-habit with it, helping both people and nature thrive. I want to focus on this in the Youth Forum.

Jeff, 28 at time of joining, Forest Rising cohort 3

Participating in the Forest Rising program has been incredibly transformative for me professionally. The program provided the opportunity to engage with green skilled professionals who sign-posted potential career pathways that I could follow. Through this program, I have gained hands on experience designing woodland habitats and had the opportunity to present my ideas to decision makers. The networking opportunities and skills learnt at Forest Rising directly contributed towards securing a placement with the PSDCF team, where I am currently sharpening my GIS technical skills. This placement, integral to my master's degree in environmental consultancy and my dissertation on Dartmoor's Rainforests, has not only advanced my technical skills but also opened further career opportunities as I am now pursuing roles in GIS. Overall, Forest Rising has been instrumental in shaping my professional journey and personal growth. And one final point, the program's inclusive age range was particularly valuable, as it allowed me to join at 28 and still benefitted me immensely!

3. The National and Local policy context

The Community Forest plans are being delivered within a broader national context of existing legislation and policy directly engaged with environmental protection and improvement. They will interact with other associated policies and plans that inform woodland management and creation in the wider context of socio-economic, cultural, and ecological conditions and needs.

The Environment Act (2021) contains 13 environmental targets aimed to improve air and water quality, halt the decline of species, and improve our natural environment. Of those targets, a number require direct engagement from Community Forests, inclusive; “to deliver net zero ambitions and boost nature recover by increasing tree and woodland cover to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050” and “halt the decline in species populations by 2030, and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2042”.³⁹

The Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) contains goals that will be achieved by sustainable, proactive management and creation of trees and woodlands, broadly related to provision of sustainable timber

resources, investment in skills and capacity, provision of clean and sustainable water, nature-based solutions as a way to mitigate flooding and pollutants, enhancement of species rich habitats, and increased access to greenspace. The vision, objectives, and activities of PSDCF as laid out within this plan will contribute to these goals, with the ambition to support partners and collaborators with their own associated aims and targets.⁴⁰

Supporting the UK government and the targets and goals of the Environment Act (2021) and Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) is a broader set of policies and directives being delivered by national government, regulatory bodies, and large partner organisations. England’s Community Forests, being located in 15 strategic and populous areas across England, are placed to support the delivery of these plans, aiding continuity and success through collaboration across the;⁴¹⁻⁴⁵

- Forestry Act 1967
- Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework (2024)
- NFU Tree Strategy (2021)
- National Trust’s Tree Planting targets (2020),
- Forestry Commission Strategy (2023)

and others.

Those targets, and others, are used in the coming sections as evidence and reference to support PSDCF’s own ambitions through its first Community Forest Plan 2025-2050.

LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

The PSDCF Plan has a strong focus on galvanising a collaborative effort on expanding tree planting and woodland creation and securing the good management of existing trees and woods.

Much of this ambition is based on the goodwill and enthusiasm of landowners, individuals and communities. However, there are also a range of local policies and measures that provide a formal backdrop to the work of PSDCF and greatly assist in the Community Forest delivering its ambitions.

It is important that PSDCF understand where these policies are, how they can be influenced by PSDCF and how the work of PSDCF can help to deliver them.

The following table summarises the key plans and policies that set the local framework to the delivery ambitions of PSDCF. In summary these plans, strategies and policies provide

- A comprehensive backdrop of tree protection, management and creation in the statutory Local Plans
- An emerging backdrop of ambitious woodland creation targets across all the Protected Landscape plans sitting within the PSDCF
- A Devon wide adopted Tree Strategy and emerging Nature Recovery Strategy that underpins PSDCF

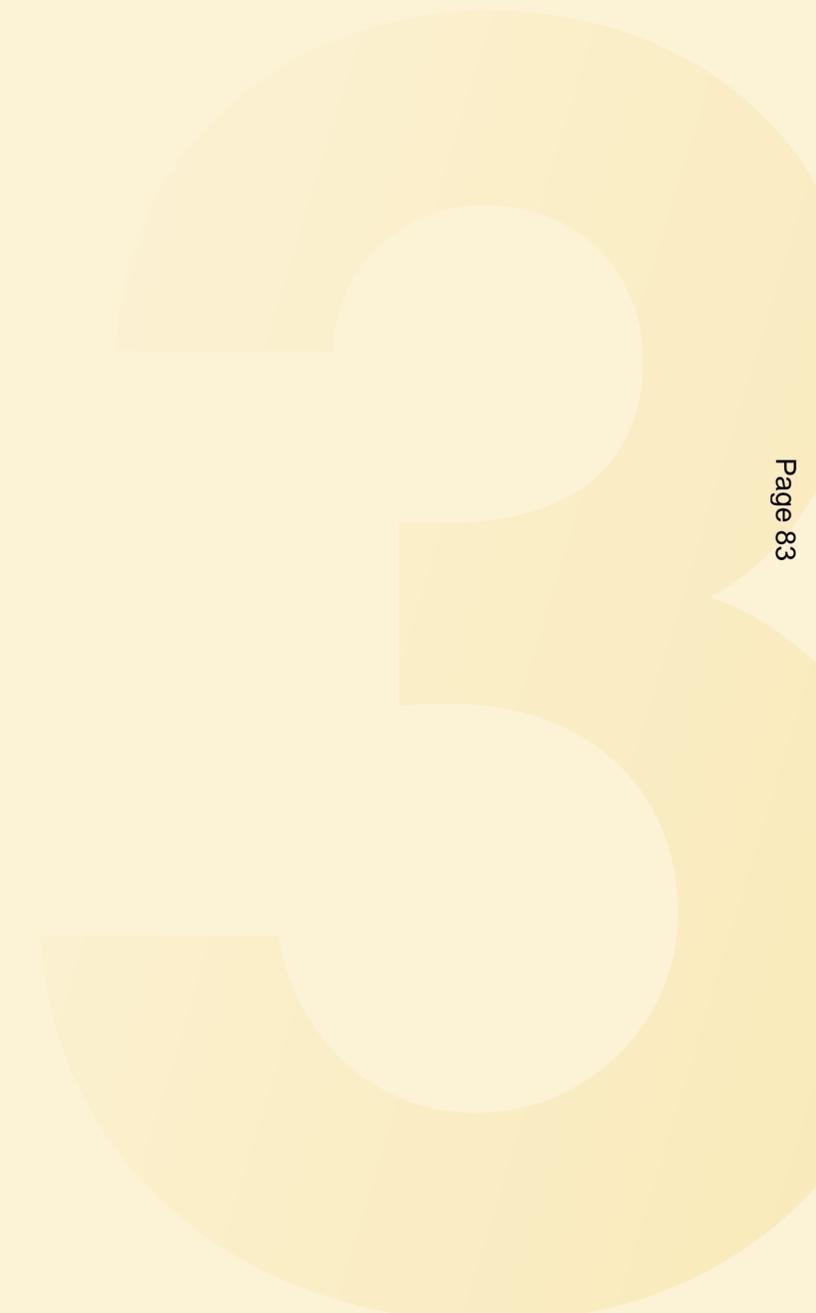
- A range of other non-statutory plans and strategies that align with, and support, the ambitions of PSDCF

Taken together these plans, strategies and targets set a strong and comprehensive foundation to the PSDCF plan. The great strength of PSDCF is that it can pick up and deliver – truly turning strategy into delivery.

It is worth making particular note of the Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy published in 2024.⁴⁶ This sets a particularly strong backdrop for the work of PSDCF and its emerging plan. In particular it establishes a comprehensive case for the benefits of trees and woods, and the evidence specific to Devon, that PSDCF relies upon, but doesn’t seek to repeat.

Plan, Strategy, Policy	What does it provide?	What does it mean for PSDCF?
<p>Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2019⁴⁷</p> <p>Dartmoor Local Plan 2021⁴⁸</p>	<p>Statutory Plans and Policies that Local Councils must adopt and deliver.</p> <p>Includes policies for tree retention, protection and planting in relation to new development and growth of places.</p>	<p>Ensures that all tree and woodland matters related to new development are dealt with by the Local Planning Authorities (Plymouth, Dartmoor, South Hams and West Devon).</p> <p>Current gov. planning review might give PSDCF plan an increased importance in LPA decisions related to development.</p> <p>PSDCF should contribute to Plan reviews.</p>
<p>Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2020⁴⁹</p> <p>Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2019⁵⁰</p> <p>South Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2019⁵¹</p>	<p>Policies and targets for woodland management and creation that must be adopted by the Protected Landscapes partnerships.</p> <p>Delivery lies with partners and landowners.</p> <p>All are likely to adopt a 3% increase in canopy cover by 2050.</p>	<p>These plans bring into effect government targets to increase woodland cover by 3% by 2050.</p> <p>In combination these plans set a framework for the work of PSDCF across the protected landscapes, which cover 81.8% of PSDCF.</p> <p>PSDCF can be the primary delivery partner for the National Landscape Targets within its boundary.</p> <p>PSDCF should contribute to plan creation and review.</p>
<p>Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework 2024, (PLTOF)⁵²</p>	<p>DNPA, SDNL and TVNL all have to deliver apportioned targets for woodland creation to meet the Environmental Improvement Plan and 30x30 targets and beyond</p>	<p>PSDCF will focus its delivery efforts to support the targets established by the Protected Landscapes.</p>
<p>Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy In preparation⁵³</p>	<p>This is an emerging statutory plan that will establish tree and woodlands at the heart of nature recovery.</p> <p>It will set out priorities, measures, targets and mechanisms for delivery of nature recovery and feed into a national Nature Recovery Network.</p>	<p>At final adoption PSDCF Plan will want to align with, and embrace, the targets and delivery mechanisms in the Devon LNRS.</p> <p>Devon LNRS likely to assist the delivery and funding of PSDCF Plan actions</p> <p>PSDCF should contribute to LNRS.</p>

Plan, Strategy, Policy	What does it provide?	What does it mean for PSDCF?
<p>Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy⁵⁴</p> <p>Devon: Right Place, Right Tree 2021⁵⁵</p> <p>Plymouth Nature Recovery Network. In preparation.</p> <p>Plymouth Plan for Trees 2019⁵⁶</p> <p>South Hams Tree Strategy In preparation</p> <p>Plymouth Tree Management Principles 2019⁵⁷</p> <p>South West Rainforest Alliance Action Plan In preparation</p>	<p>A non-statutory plan, and guidance note, that establish a county wide ambition (including Plymouth) to expand, improve, inspire and deliver action for trees and woods.</p> <p>Target to plant 3,000 ha's by 2030 and increase canopy cover to 16.5% by 2050</p> <p>A series of adopted, and emerging, plans that set out approaches to tree and woodland management and creation within the PSDCF area.</p> <p>Include targets for woodland creation and expansion that align with other statutory targets.</p>	<p>All PSDCF partners support the strategy, which sets a strong framework for the PSDCF Plan.</p> <p>Very strong alignment and support to accelerating PSDCF work.</p> <p>PSDCF should take full account of the contents of this strategy.</p> <p>These plans and strategies provide additional policies, targets and delivery mechanisms that underpin the adoption of the PSDCF Plan and subsequent delivery.</p> <p>PSDCF should contribute to the creation, adoption and delivery of these plans.</p>
<p>Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Adaptation Plan 2023⁵⁸</p> <p>Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan 2019⁵⁹</p> <p>Dartmoor Climate Action Plan 2020⁶⁰</p> <p>South Hams and West Devon Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2019⁶¹</p>	<p>Plans for climate mitigation and adaptation that include the importance of trees and woods for carbon sequestration.</p>	<p>Plans create a mandate for woodland creation as part of climate adaptation, supporting PSDCF activity.</p> <p>PSDCF should contribute to the delivery and review of these plans.</p>



4. Canopy Cover Calculation Methodology

DATA SOURCES:

- **National Forest Inventory (NFI) Woodland category** (Forestry Commission). © Crown copyright and database rights
- Forest Research, 2024. NCEA: **National Trees Outside Woodland Map** (pre-publication dataset). [Version 4 – Nov 2024]

PROCESS:

1. **Data Preparation:** NFI.shp and ToW.shp (downloaded 19/12/2024) were corrected for geometry errors and clipped to the PSDCF project boundary. Non-woodland features were removed.
2. **Data Integration:** The NFI and ToW datasets were spatially joined using QGIS.
3. **Exclusion of Traditional Orchards:** Traditional Orchards, initially included, were excluded due to overlap with NFI data, avoiding double-counting of canopy cover.
4. **Feature Identification and Area Calculation:** Each woodland feature was assigned a unique ID and its area (in hectares) was calculated using the QGIS field calculator.
5. **Area Calculation:** The total area of the PSDCF project area was determined.
6. **Canopy Cover Calculation:**

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Unplantable Areas:** No adjustments were made for unplantable areas, such as hardscapes or water bodies, which may affect the accuracy of canopy cover in specific regions
- **Trees Outside Woodland (ToW)** is an unreleased dataset which was provided by the Forestry Commission upon special request
- The averaged canopy cover from the UK Ward Canopy Cover dataset (p16) for the PSDCF project area is 17.3%. However, discrepancies exist in the methodology for calculating canopy cover across different datasets. The approach outlined here represents the best possible estimate based on available data and the specific limitations of the PSDCF project, acknowledging that variations in data sources and calculation methods may influence the final value

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

- **GIS Platform:** QGIS 3.16.7
- **Area Projection:** Cartesian
- **Coordinate System:** EPSG: 27700 British National Grid

$$\left(\frac{\text{(Total Canopy Area (ToW+NFI (Woodland Only)))(Ha)}{\text{PSDCF Project Area (Ha)}} \right) \times 100 = \text{Canopy Cover (\%)}$$

Table 1. Canopy Cover Area Classification by National Forest Inventory (NFI) and Trees Outside Woodland (ToW).

Source	Type	Area (Ha)
National Forest Inventory (Woodland Only)	Assumed Woodland	234.99
	Broadleaved	10794.96
	Conifer	3742.53
	Coppice	7.49
	Failed	14.27
	Felled	1144.33
	Ground Prep	20.31
	Low Density	46.45
	Mixed mainly broadleaved	262.91
	Mixed mainly conifer	283.56
	Shrub	67.73
	Young Trees	561.86
	Trees Outside of Woodland	Group of Trees (ToW)
Lone Tree (Tow)		802.68
NFI OHC		1346.55
Small Woodland		4257.18

Table 2. Canopy Cover Summary for PSDCF Project Area by National Forest Inventory (Woodland Only) and Trees Outside of Woodlands.

	Area (Ha)	NFI (Ha)	NFI Canopy Cover of PSDCF Project Area (%)	ToW (Ha)	ToW Canopy Cover of PSDCF Project Area (%)	NFI + ToW (Ha)	Total Canopy Cover (%)
PSDCF Project Area	141615.58	17181.41	12.13	8061.7	5.69	25243.11	17.83

5.1. Expand Objective: Evidence and Rationale

Expansion of existing woodlands, creation of new wooded habitats and planting of individual trees is a core objective of the Community Forest.

The activities below assume that, in the main, other statutory plans and processes will establish targets and locations for woodland expansion. This will include any %/ha's targets and any identified locations that emerge during 2025 in the:

- Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- The Dartmoor National Park, South Devon National Landscape and Tamar Valley National Landscape "Target and Outcomes Framework"

This PSDCF plan will embrace and embed these targets with a primary focus on the work of the CF driving forward delivery.

There will be a strong and positive focus on two key elements

- In Plymouth, Towns and Villages undertaking planting where there are benefits for the health and wellbeing of local residents
- In the countryside, woodland creation and agroforestry that supports farming

A wide range of techniques and approaches will be used by PSDCF to ensure successful establishment. These will include

- Planting of individual trees (or groups of trees) in pits with guards – more suited to Plymouth, towns and villages
- Woodland planting using young saplings (known as whips) where they grow close together mimicking natural woodlands
- Allowing the natural regeneration of saplings from seed in the ground

The planting of individual trees in Plymouth, Towns and Villages needs to be carefully undertaken with the Trees in hard landscapes guidance a good starting point.⁶²

Guidance on woodland creation includes

Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Guidance⁶³

Woodland Trust Woodland Creation Guidance⁶⁴

Agroforestry (the integration of trees with farming) has multiple benefits and will be actively encouraged as a way of supporting farmers.

Guidance includes

Forestry Commission Agroforestry Guidance⁶⁵

Soil Association Handbook⁶⁶

Species selection is important and will be guided by the site conditions and the aims of the landowner.

Native (wildwood) species will be more likely to be used where nature recovery and landscape character are the priorities

Other species are more likely to be used where they need to be resilient to hard landscape conditions in Plymouth, towns and villages and where timber production is an aim.

In all cases species should be selected, and managed, with a clear understanding of how best to optimise carbon sequestration and to prepare for future climate conditions.

The National Forest Inventory provides very detailed information on the extent of current woodland and tree canopy cover.

There are a range of tools for identifying the best place to create new woodland and plant new trees. PSDCF will use the most appropriate blend of tools to ensure that we deliver against the Right Tree, Right Place principle.

Areas most suitable for creation, based on sensitivity of land, identified in England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map v4.0: variant 2 | Forestry Commission⁶⁷

Areas where there are opportunities that deliver benefits and nature-based solutions targeted in the CF Plan.⁶⁸⁻⁷¹

- Woodland Access Implementation Plan - GOV.UK
- EWCO - NfC Social | Forestry Commission
- Urban Tree Challenge Fund Trees Close To People For England | Forestry Commission
- EWCO - Flood Risk Management | Forestry Commission

Existing level of tree equity in Plymouth identifies those areas with the greatest opportunity to deliver benefits are shown at Tree Equity Score UK.⁷²

5.2 Improve Objective: Evidence and Rationale

Woodlands and individual Trees deliver the widest range of benefits when they are under well planned management.

There are a range of standards for the management of woodlands and trees that are endorsed and used by the Community Forest, and which will assist owners.

Guidance on the management of individual trees is covered in Tree Works British Standard (BS 3998).⁷³

Generally individual trees should be left alone unless there are over-riding reasons to undertake management.

Where there is an identified need to manage an individual tree careful tree surgery should

- Maintain a strong and stable tree structure
- Minimise any safety and nuisance issues
- Manage the long term size of the tree to allow retention

Examples of how the PSDCF partners undertake management include

Plymouth Tree Management Principles⁷⁴

Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy⁷⁵

Guidance on the management of Ancient and Veteran Trees is available from The Ancient Tree Forum⁷⁶

- Ensure the tree is stable and risk of collapse is minimised
- Deadwood is retained in, and around, the tree
- Compaction and damage to surrounding land is minimised

Standards for the management of woodlands are set in the UK Forestry Standard⁷⁷

Differing types of woodland require individual approaches but overall the aims should include

- Ensuring a diversity of age, height, species and structure
- Retaining historic features, other habitats, wet areas and deadwood
- Controlling invasive species, pests, disease, grey squirrels and deer
- Managing for timber through methods that reflect natural processes – continuous cover forestry is a good example
- Create safe and accessible routes for public use

Woodlands. The Forestry Commission surveys woodlands and identifies those under management

Sustainably Managed Woodland England - Headline Key Performance Indicator 31 March 2023 | Forestry Commission.⁷⁸

There is no evidence of the overall condition or management of individual trees or Ancient and Veteran Trees

Woodland Trust Woodland Creation Guidance⁷⁹

Agroforestry (the integration of trees with farming) has multiple benefits and will be actively encouraged as a way of supporting farmers.

5.3 Value Objective: Evidence and Rationale

People are at the heart of the Community Forest. Since 2021 the forest has encouraged over 5,000 individuals to come along and play their part – not with least the introduction of the Forest Rising initiative that recruits and supports young people to help shape and deliver the CF.

PSDCF collaborates to support a wide range of longer established volunteer networks that the Community Forest aims to increase support to – in particular;⁸⁰⁻⁸³

- Tree Wardens
- Observatree Volunteers
- Threat Detectors
- West Devon Wildlife Wardens

The overall objective is to increase awareness of the importance and benefits of trees. This will ensure public support for the retention, management and planting of new trees and woods and their active involvement in planting and managing trees.

Individuals and communities need to be inspired to take action.

All individuals and communities across PSDCF are encouraged to become involved – but the work of PSDCF (and partners) will look to use Tree Equity and Green Infrastructure Accessibility work to identify where there are greatest opportunities for community engagement and action to have highest impact.

Young people, equity and access for all sit at the heart of the work.

There are a wide range of sources of information on the benefits of trees including;

Plant your future - the case for Trees⁸⁴

Health and wellbeing benefits⁸⁵

Forest Research Evidence.

5.4 Deliver Objective: Evidence and Rationale

It takes a community to nurture a forest and the success of PSDCF will only be as strong as the communities that support it and the connections and partnerships that bring them together.

Some of these will be communities of place – so the wards of Plymouth and the parishes of the countryside – where neighbours come together to plant trees and celebrate the places they live in.

Others are communities of likeminded individuals across the whole PSDCF – from Farmers, Businesses and Social Enterprises to Tree Wardens. These groups have key roles to play in shaping and delivering the Forest and a key role for PSDCF is to establish connections with these groups.

At the heart of PSDCF is the partnership of the current 7 organisations that have shaped the forest so far. These are

- Dartmoor National Park Authority
- Devon County Council
- National Trust
- Plymouth City Council
- South Hams District Council
- The Woodland Trust
- West Devon Borough Council

All 7 see the significant benefits in expanding the range of partnerships that are involved.

PSDCF focus on employment builds on the Dartmoor Future Forests work pioneered by the Woodland Trust and funded by the Forestry Commission aimed at understanding, and then developing, the woodland economy on Dartmoor and its hinterland.

The delivery of job years, as a driver for the local woodland economy, was a target/metric announced with launch of Community Forest (350 job years in first ten years). Through the training and apprenticeship routes it places young people as the focus.

Currently within overall Community Forest activity there are close to 20 job years a year being delivered already. There are also a mix of ranger and volunteer opportunities that create opportunities across the partners.

Alongside the partnerships and shared work on job creation there is a much wider ambition to create a connected network of partners across the PSDCF area. The aim is to create easy to Partnership Agreements that aren't legally binding – but set out simply and concisely how PSDCF can work with the other organisation to mutual benefit to share their ambition and resources for the Forest.

References

- 1 “The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now.” (Chinese Proverb)
- 2 Counties and Unitary Authorities (December 2023) Boundaries UK BFC. Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right [2025].
- 3 National Parks (December 2022) Boundaries GB BFC (V2). Source: Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right [2025].
- 4 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England). Contains public sector information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0.
- 5 “A society grows great when old people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.” (Greek proverb).
- 6 [Location of England’s Community Forests. ECF Website.](#)
- 7 [Murphy, T. R., Hanley, M. E., Ellis, J. S., & Lunt, P. H. \(2021\). Native woodland establishment improves soil hydrological functioning in UK upland pastoral catchments. Land Degradation and Development, 32\(2\), 1034–1045.](#)
- 8 The benefits of trees and woodlands for people, climate and environment: a review of recent evidence. Forest Research. 2025.
- 9 Valuing Plymouth’s Urban Forest. Treeconomics. 2019 (check date).
- 10 Valuing Plymouth’s Urban Forest. Treeconomics. 2019 (check date).
- 11 Dartmoor Forest Futures. Woodland Trust. 2023.
- 12 [Taylor, M. S., Wheeler, B. W., White, M. P., Economou, T., & Osborne, N. J. \(2015\). Research note: Urban street tree density and antidepressant prescription rates-A cross-sectional study in London, UK. Landscape and Urban Planning, 136, 174–179.](#)
- 13 [Wang, X., Scott, C. E., & Dallimer, M. \(2023\). High summer land surface temperatures in a temperate city are mitigated by tree canopy cover. Urban Climate, 51.](#)
- 14 The benefits of trees and woodlands for people, climate and environment: a review of recent evidence. Forest Research. 2025.
- 15 The benefits of trees and woodlands for people, climate and environment: a review of recent evidence. Forest Research. 2025.
- 16 [O’Brien, L. \(2019\). Carrying out physical activity as part of the active forests programme in england: What encourages, supports and sustains activity?—A qualitative study. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 16\(24\).](#)
- 17 The History of the Countryside. Oliver Rackham. Phoenix Press. 1986.
- 18 “The canopy cover data presented combines the National Forest Inventory (Woodland Only) and Trees Outside Woodland (Unreleased) datasets, clipped to the PSDCF project boundary. The area of woodland and trees outside woodland was calculated and validated through multiple trials. No adjustments were made for unplanted areas. The final canopy cover percentage represents the ratio of total canopy area to the total area of PSDCF, including both rural and Plymouth Planning Project Area.”
Full method found in Appendix 4.
- 19 Contains Forestry Commission information licensed under the Open Government Licence v3.0. [UK Ward Canopy Cover - data.gov.uk.](#)
- 20 [Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy.](#) Devon Local Nature Partnership (2024).
- 21 [UK Forestry Facts and Figures 2024.](#)
- 22 The History of the Countryside. Oliver Rackham. Phoenix Press. 1986.
- 23 © Natural England [2025]; © Crown Copyright and database rights [2025]. Ordnance Survey AC0000851168; © 2015 Getmapping plc and Bluesky International Ltd; © Woodland Trust; © Forest Commission; Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right [2025] Ordnance Survey [100021242]; © and database right Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Ltd. All rights reserved [2025]; © Ancient Tree Hunt
- 24 [Forest Research definition of Silviculture.](#)
- 25 [The UK Forestry Standard.](#)
- 26 [Arboricultural Association definition of Arboriculture.](#)
- 27 The benefits of trees and woodlands for people, climate and environment: a review of recent evidence. Forest Research. 2025.
- 28 [Woodland Trust Tree Equity.](#)
- 29 [Natural England Green Infrastructure Maps.](#)
- 30 [UK Ward Canopy Cover Map.](#)
- 31 [Forest Research \(2021\).](#) Ecological Site Classification. © Crown Copyright 2025.
- 32 [Keepers of Time.](#) UK Government. 2022.
- 33 Page 31 Image of either FC boundary suggestion or PSDCF own with exe extension.
- 34 England woodland creation low sensitivity map version 4.0 variant 2. Contains, or is based on, information supplied by the Forestry Commission. © Crown copyright and database right (2025) Ordnance Survey [100021242]. © Natural England copyright [2019], reproduced with the permission of Natural England, www.gov.uk/natural-england © Crown Copyright and database right [2025]. Ordnance Survey licence number 100022021. Derived from 1:50 000 scale BGS Digital Data under Licence 2006/072 British Geological Survey. © NERC. National Soils map © Cranfield University (NSRI) © Crown Copyright and database rights [2025]. Data reproduced with the permission of RSPB. © Crown Copyright. Ordnance Survey licence number 100021787 (2025). Data reproduced with the permission of ARCH AI.
- 35 Page 36 Data reference for accessible woodland map.
- 36 [Sustainably Managed Woodland England map.](#)

- 37 [England Community Forests website.](#)
- 38 [PSDCF information on the ECF website.](#)
- 39 [Environment Act 2021.](#)
- 40 [Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.](#)
- 41 [Forestry Act 1967.](#) HM Government.
- 42 [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework \(2024\).](#) HM Government.
- 43 [NFU Tree Strategy \(2021\).](#) National Farmers Union.
- 44 [National Trust's Tree Planting targets \(2020\).](#) National Trust.
- 45 [Forestry Commission Strategy. \(2023\).](#) HM Government.
- 46 [Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy.](#) Devon Local Nature Partnership (2024).
- 47 [Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan \(2019\).](#) Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council.
- 48 [Dartmoor Local Plan 2021.](#) Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- 49 [Dartmoor National Park Management Plan 2020.](#) Dartmoor National Park Authority.
- 50 [Tamar Valley National Landscape Management Plan 2019.](#) Tamar AONB (now National Landscape) Partnership.
- 51 [South Devon National Landscape Management Plan 2019.](#) South Devon AONB (now National Landscape) Partnership.
- 52 [Protected Landscapes Targets and Outcomes Framework \(2024\).](#) HM Government.
- 53 [Devon Local Nature Recovery Strategy.](#) In preparation. Devon County Council.
- 54 [Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy.](#) Devon Local Nature Partnership (2024).
- 55 [Devon: Right Place, Right Tree.](#) Devon Local Nature Partnership (2021).
- 56 [Plymouth Plan for Trees.](#) Plymouth Tree Partnership (2019).
- 57 [Plymouth Tree Management Principles.](#) Plymouth City Council (2019).
- 58 [Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Climate Adaptation Plan.](#) Devon , Cornwall and Isles of Scillies Councils (2023).
- 59 [Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan.](#) Plymouth City Council (2019).
- 60 [Dartmoor Climate Action Plan.](#) Dartmoor National Park Authority (2020).
- 61 [South Hams and West Devon Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.](#) South Hams and West Devon Councils (2019).
- 62 [Trees in hard landscapes.](#) Trees and Design Action Group (2014).
- 63 [Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Guidance.](#) Forestry Commission (2021).
- 64 [Woodland Trust Woodland Creation Guidance.](#) Woodland Trust (2021).
- 65 [Forestry Commission Agroforestry Guidance.](#) Forestry Commission (2024).
- 66 [Soil Association Handbook.](#) Soil Association (2019).
- 67 [England Woodland Creation Low Sensitivity Map v4.0: variant 2 | Forestry Commission.](#)
- 68 [Woodland Access Implementation Plan - GOV.UK.](#) Updated map set.
- 69 [EWCO - NfC Social | Forestry Commission.](#) Updated map set.
- 70 [Urban Tree Challenge Fund Trees Close To People For England | Forestry Commission.](#) Updated map set.
- 71 [EWCO - Flood Risk Management | Forestry Commission.](#) Updated map set.
- 72 [Tree Equity Score UK.](#) Woodland Trust. Updated map set.
- 73 [Tree Works British Standard \(BS 3998\).](#) British Standards Institute 2010).
- 74 [Plymouth Tree Management Principles.](#) Plymouth City Council (2019).
- 75 [Devon Tree and Woodland Strategy.](#) Devon Local Nature Partnership (2024).
- 76 [The Ancient Tree Forum.](#) Website. Updated.
- 77 [UK Forestry Standard.](#) Forestry Commission (2024).
- 78 [Sustainably Managed Woodland England - Headline Key Performance Indicator 31 March 2023 | Forestry Commission.](#) Updated annually.
- 79 [Woodland Trust Woodland Creation Guidance.](#) Woodland Trust (2021).
- 80 [Tree Wardens.](#) Tree Council website.
- 81 [Observatree Volunteers.](#) Observatree website.
- 82 [Threat Detectors.](#) Woodland Trust website.
- 83 [West Devon Wildlife Wardens.](#) West Devon Borough Council website.
- 84 [Plant your future - the case for Trees.](#) Forestry Commission website.
- 85 [Health and wellbeing benefits.](#) Woodland Trust website.

psdcf.com
psdcf@plymouth.gov.uk

Lead author

Ross Kennerley
betulacollective.co.uk

Photography

All photos used in this report are taken by Christopher Parkes unless otherwise stated.

chrisparkes.photography

Design

danny-osborne.co.uk



EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – ECC04 25/26

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Implementation of a sliding scale of Fixed Penalty Notice amounts for Environmental Offences, relating to littering, the unauthorised deposit of waste, household duty of care, graffiti and flyposting.
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tom Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
3	Report author and contact details: Nicola Horne, 01752 304556 nicola.horne@plymouth.gov.uk
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <p>1. To increase the maximum amounts that can be charged for Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) for environmental offences in line with the Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023, as set out in the report;</p> <p>2. To introduce a sliding scale of charges for environmental offences as set out in the report.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>1. The Council is committed to ensuring our streets and open spaces are clean and tidy, and to this end, officers issue FPN's for environmental offences such as littering, fly tipping, household waste offences graffiti and flyposting. New legislation has increased the maximum amount that can be charged for an FPN for an environmental offence and this report seeks to introduce a sliding scale of charges based on the size/frequency/type of the offence. This would allow the most appropriate penalty to be applied, following a set way to determine the category of offence and the relevant charge.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>1. Do nothing-Environmental offence FPN's could remain the same, but the Government set a clear view that the FPN amount should increase as part of their approach to tackle anti-social behaviour;</p> <p>2. Setting each FPN at the maximum amount- this does not take into account the size and scale of the offence or the size of the deposited waste.</p>
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>There is a risk that with higher levels of FPN amounts, fewer offenders will pay the FPN. This will mean that more cases could proceed to prosecution. The Government states that the Council should pursue cases where no payment is received. Only the costs of taking the case to court will be borne by the Local Authority, at the discretion of the Court, as any fine would be payable to the Courts.</p>
8	<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>None anticipated.</p>

9	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) Please type an X into the relevant boxes	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million annually
		X		is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions	N/A		
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	Corporate Plan : Keeping adults, children and communities safe & Working with the police to tackle crime and anti - social behaviour. Environmental crimes such as littering and fly tipping are criminal offences. Where we live has an impact on health and mental wellbeing and we want our communities to be well looked after and not affected by litter and refuse. By tackling environmental crimes using FPN's for low level environmental offences, will encourage residents and businesses to ensure they dispose of their waste appropriately.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	There are no direct environmental implications from this activity. Staff patrolling areas use electric vehicles or are on foot.		
Urgent decisions				
12a	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12b	Reason for urgency:			
12c	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	

	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
I3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes	X	
		No		(If no go to section I4)
I3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Sally Haydon (Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Libraries, Events Cemeteries and Crematoria)		
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	09 September 2025		
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	X	
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Professor Steve Maddern	
		Job title	Director of Public Health	
		Date consulted	18 September 2025	
Sign-off				
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS79 25/26	
		Finance (mandatory)	OW.25.26.125	
		Legal (mandatory)	26.01.29.IW.6769	
		Procurement (if applicable)	N/A	
		Corporate property (decisions involving Council owned land or facilities) (if applicable)	N/A	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	N/A	
Appendices				
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix		
	A	Briefing report		
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment		
Confidential/exempt information				

18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? Please type an X into the relevant box	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	X					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act (2010) and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature			Date of decision	24 February 2026				
Print Name	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve							

Appendix A - Briefing Report



1. Executive Summary

The purposes of this report are:

- To inform the Cabinet Member of the revised fixed penalty notice (FPN) levels for environmental crimes, namely fly-tipping, littering, household waste duty of care, graffiti, and flyposting, effective from 31st July 2023 under The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (England) Regulations 2023 (“the Regulations”).
- To seek authority to revise the current FPN’s for offences related to environmental enforcement, namely, littering, fly-tipping, household waste duty of care, graffiti and flyposting to new levels; and to introduce a sliding scale of Fixed Penalty charges, based on criteria of amount/type of waste deposited or whether there is a repeated offence.

2. Background

2.1. Littering, graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping blight communities, impose avoidable costs on the public purse and can harm the environment, with fly-tipping being aggravated by householders giving waste to unauthorised carriers. Fixed penalty notices (FPN’s) provide the relevant enforcing authorities with an effective and visible way of responding to these environmental crimes and a lower-cost alternative to prosecution. For some time, the Council have taken a firm approach to enforcement and have issued FPN’s for various offences.

2.2 In the 2023 Anti-social Behaviour Action Plan, the Government explained that it wanted to see councils take a much tougher approach to these forms of anti-social behaviour and set out new upper limits for FPN’s. This instrument increases the upper limit for the fixed penalties that can be issued for these offences.

2.3. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA90) is the primary legislation dealing with waste on land (fly-tipping and littering) and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 for dealing with anti-social behaviour, including graffiti and fly-posting, both providing prosecutions for breaches of the legislation. FPN’s were introduced in specific cases as an alternative to prosecution, dealing with situations where liability was accepted from the perpetrator thus saving Local Authorities time and money prosecuting.

2.4 The powers to increase the upper limits for these offences are derived from specific legislative provisions. For littering offences, the authority is granted under section 97A of the EPA 1990, while for graffiti and fly-posting offences, the relevant powers are found in section 43A of the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003. For fly-tipping and breaches of

household waste duty of care, the powers were introduced through amendments to section 34ZA(9A) and (10A) of the EPA 1990 by the Environment Act 2021. It is for the Local Authority to decide the levels of its FPNs within a minimum and maximum range, and if no fee is set, then it will remain at a default level. The revised maximum FPN levels available are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

Offence	Current FPN in Plymouth	New Maximum
Littering	£150	£500
Fly tipping	£400	£1000
Household Duty of Care	£400	£600
Graffiti	£150	£500
Flyposting	£150	£500

2.5. The Council previously adopted upper limit levels for FPN's prior to this change in regulations, however it is proposed to introduce a sliding scale of charges to reflect the size/scale/type of the deposited litter/waste, with the maximum level of FPN being applied to the more serious cases/larger volumes for both littering and fly tipping. The information within Table 2 will dictate how the amount of FPN will be decided. As with all FPN's if the recipient chooses not to discharge their liability for the offence by paying the FPN, the case will be reviewed for prosecution and the Court will have jurisdiction to set an appropriate fine, if the offender is found guilty. There is no legal route of appeal for an FPN.

2.6 The amounts proposed have been considered carefully to draw a distinction between the size/type of waste/litter deposited, and in relation to graffiti and flyposting, the frequency of the event in determining the level of FPN that is applicable. Alternatives considered having one set amount for each offence but the sliding scale reflects the scale of the offence. The amounts also act as a deterrent, and encourage everyone to dispose of waste appropriately, or act in a way that does not have an impact on the local environment.

2.7 In relation to littering, it is proposed to implement different levels of FPN amounts dependent on the size of the litter deposited, meaning smaller single items will be subject to a £200 FPN, whereas large and or hazardous/ deposits of litter will be subject to the maximum of £500.

2.8 In relation to the unauthorised deposit of waste, (commonly referred to as fly tipping), the range of FPN varies between £600 to £1000, dependent on the size of the deposit. The local authority can decide not to issue an FPN in more serious cases and refer the matter straight to prosecution.

2.9 The household duty of care legislation requires occupiers of domestic properties to take all reasonable measures that are available to them in the circumstances, to make sure that they only transfer household waste produced on their property to an authorised person. This reduces the chance of waste ending up in the hands of those who would fly-tip it.

Whilst this is set at a maximum level of £600 in the new regulations, it is proposed to keep this at £400 for smaller quantities of waste that are subsequently found fly tipped or £600 for larger amounts of deposited waste.

2.10 For fly-posting and graffiti, it is intended to issue a lower FPN for one off instances, or a higher FPN where multiple instances have occurred or there are repeated occurrences.

Table 2.

Offence	Proposed FPN
Litter (scale to max £500)	
Single small item – for example, cigarette butt, chewing gum, vape, fast food wrapper, litter from vehicles, a single cardboard box	£200
Single larger item- for example a bin bag	£300
2-4 bin bags or equivalent,	£400
Multiple items (either in one or multiple locations) - for example 5-10 bin bags or equivalent, or waste clearly not for household waste collections, for example small item of furniture (office chair, bedside table, TV stand)	£500
Repeat Offender (previous FPN)	£500
Fly-tipping (scale to max £1000)	
Large items/car boot load (larger single item of furniture (eg bed, sofa, gate) or 10 or more bin bags) deposited by an individual	£600
Any business waste that is deposited of any size or van load or requires special disposal deposited by an individual (for example fridge, or suspected asbestos/chemicals)	£1000
Repeat offender (previous FPN)	£1000
Duty of Care (scale to £600)	
Household waste duty of care- individual item	£400
Household waste duty of care -multiple items	£600
Graffiti (up to £500)	
Single location	£250
Repeat offender/ multiple locations	£500
Flyposting (up to £500)	
Single location	£250

Repeat Offender/ multiple location	£500
------------------------------------	------

Top of Form

2.11 The local authority can decide not to issue an FPN in more serious cases and refer the matter straight to prosecution. Each case will be considered on an individual basis including any previous history, the environmental impact of the waste or location of dumped waste. FPNs are offered to offenders as a means of discharging liability for the offence. There is no legal appeal to being issued an FPN, but if a person chooses not to pay the FPN, Councils should take steps to prosecute for the offence committed.

3. Financial Implications and risks

3.1. There is a risk that with higher amounts of FPN's, that recipients will be unable to pay the FPN within the specified timescale of 14 days.

3.2 Where offenders cannot afford to pay, it is for the Court to consider their financial means in any subsequent prosecution, and if the person is found guilty, the court can consider any relevant penalty applicable taking into account their financial status.

3.3 Income from FPNs must be spent on specified enforcement functions related to litter, and fly-tipping. Enforcement functions include employing officers authorised to issue FPNs for littering, fly-tipping and breach of household waste duty of care.

4.0 Timescales

4.1 It is intended that should the report be approved, (subject to any democratic process) the changes will be implemented within one month of sign off.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – IMPLEMENTATION OF A SLIDING SCALE OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICE AMOUNTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES, RELATING TO LITTERING, THE UNAUTHORISED DEPOSIT OF WASTE, HOUSEHOLD DUTY OF CARE, GRAFFITI AND FLYPOSTING.

SECTION ONE: INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Author(s): The person completing the EIA template.	Nicola Horne	Department and service:	Environmental Health and Licensing	Date of assessment:	02/10/25
Lead Officer: Head of Service, Service Director, or Strategic Director.	Professor Steve Maddern	Signature:		Approval date:	09/01/26
Overview:	<p>The Corporate Plan sets out a clear aim to ensure that Plymouth is a clean and tidy city. Unfortunately, there is evidence that achievement towards this is affected by a small proportion of people breaking the law, through environmental offences such as littering and the unauthorised deposit of waste. The enforcement of laws around environmental protection is therefore a necessary step to meet this aim. The Council has authority to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for various environmental crimes and can set the amount payable to discharge liability for the offence between amounts specified by Government. The maximum fine available for some offences was increased in 2023 by legislation. The decision seeks to implement a sliding scale for the Fixed Penalty Notice, dependent on the size/frequency/location of the litter/ waste deposited/graffiti or flyposting that occurred.</p> <p>The income generated by Fixed Penalty Notices must be spent on enforcement of relevant activities. The increase in income generated from the Fixed Penalty Notices will ensure that resources are targeted to continue to ensure our streets and open spaces are kept clean with action targeted at the few who act irresponsibly.</p> <p>The impact of this decision will be to increase the cleanliness of the city, improving areas that are currently experienced as untidy through activities such as fly tipping, littering/graffiti or flyposting. This will therefore have a positive impact on the vast majority of people; those people who are currently acting unlawfully will be fined for this activity and therefore strongly dissuaded from doing so in future.</p>				
Decision required:	Implementation of a sliding scale of Fixed Penalty Notice amounts for Environmental Offences, relating to littering, the unauthorised deposit of waste, household duty of care, graffiti and flyposting.				

SECTION TWO: EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING TOOL

Potential external impacts:	Yes		No	x
------------------------------------	------------	--	-----------	---

Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact service users, communities or residents with protected characteristics?				
Potential internal impacts: Does the proposal have the potential to negatively impact Plymouth City Council employees?	Yes		No	x
Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (if you have answered yes to either of the questions above then a full impact assessment is required and you must complete section three)	Yes		No	
If you do not agree that a full equality impact assessment is required, please set out your justification for why not.	FPN's are issued to offenders over the age of 18, as was previously agreed when FPN's were introduced within Plymouth. This does not affect that decision, and implements a sliding scale of FPN amounts only. FPN's are only issued on those who commit a criminal offences, and does not have any impact on any protected characteristics as specified in the EIA.			

SECTION THREE: FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Protected characteristics (Equality Act, 2010)	Evidence and information (e.g. data and consultation feedback)	Adverse impact	Mitigation activities	Timescale and responsible department
--	--	----------------	-----------------------	--------------------------------------

Age	<p>Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.4 per cent of people in Plymouth are children aged under 15. • 65.1 per cent are adults aged 15 to 64. • 18.5 percent are adults aged 65 and over. • 2.4 percent of the resident population are 85 and over. <p>South West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.9 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14, 61.8 per cent are aged 15 to 64. • 22.3 per cent are aged 65 and over. <p>England</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.4 per cent of people are aged 0 to 14. • 64.2 per cent of people are aged 15 to 64. • 18.4 per cent of people are aged 65 and over. <p>(2021 Census)</p>			
------------	---	--	--	--

<p>Care experienced individuals (Note that as per the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care recommendations, Plymouth City Council is treating care experience as though it is a protected characteristic).</p>	<p>It is estimated that 26 per cent of the homeless population in the UK have care experience. In Plymouth there are currently 7 per cent of care leavers open to the service (6 per cent aged 18-20 and 12 per cent of those aged 21+) who are in unsuitable accommodation.</p> <p>The Care Review reported that 41 per cent of 19-21 year old care leavers are not in education, employment or training (NEET) compared to 12 per cent of all other young people in the same age group.</p> <p>In Plymouth there are currently 50 per cent of care leavers aged 18-21 Not in Education Training or Employment (54 per cent of all those care leavers aged 18-24 who are open to the service).</p> <p>There are currently 195 care leavers aged 18 to 20 (statutory service) and 58 aged 21 to 24 (extended offer). There are more care leavers aged 21 to 24 who could return for support from services if they wished to.</p>			
<p>Disability</p>	<p>9.4 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a lot’ because of a physical or mental health problem.</p> <p>12.2 per cent of residents in Plymouth have their activities limited ‘a little’ because of a physical or mental health problem (2021 Census)</p>			

Gender reassignment	0.5 per cent of residents in Plymouth have a gender identity that is different from their sex registered at birth. 0.1 per cent of residents identify as a trans man, 0.1 per cent identify as non-binary and, 0.1 per cent identify as a trans women (2021 Census).			
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>40.1 per cent of residents have never married and never registered a civil partnership. 10 per cent are divorced, 6 percent are widowed, with 2.5 per cent are separated but still married.</p> <p>0.49 per cent of residents are, or were, married or in a civil partnerships of the same sex. 0.06 per cent of residents are in a civil partnerships with the opposite sex (2021 Census).</p>			
Pregnancy and maternity	The total fertility rate (TFR) for England was 1.62 children per woman in 2021. The total fertility rate (TFR) for Plymouth in 2021 was 1.5.			

<p>Race</p>	<p>In 2021, 94.9 per cent of Plymouth’s population identified their ethnicity as White, 2.3 per cent as Asian and 1.1 per cent as Black (2021 Census)</p> <p>People with a mixed ethnic background comprised 1.8 per cent of the population. 1 per cent of the population use a different term to describe their ethnicity (2021 Census)</p> <p>92.7 per cent of residents speak English as their main language. 2021 Census data shows that after English, Polish, Romanian, Chinese, Portuguese, and Arabic are the most spoken languages in Plymouth (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Religion or belief</p>	<p>48.9 per cent of the Plymouth population stated they had no religion. 42.5 per cent of the population identified as Christian (2021 Census).</p> <p>Those who identified as Muslim account for 1.3 per cent of Plymouth’s population while Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish or Sikh combined totalled less than 1 per cent (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Sex</p>	<p>51 per cent of our population are women and 49 per cent are men (2021 Census).</p>			
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<p>88.95 per cent of residents aged 16 years and over in Plymouth describe their sexual orientation as straight or heterosexual. 2.06 per cent describe their sexuality as bisexual, 1.97 per cent of people describe their sexual orientation as gay or lesbian. 0.42 per cent of residents describe their sexual orientation using a different term (2021 Census).</p>			

SECTION FOUR: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

Human Rights	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department

SECTION FIVE: OUR EQUALITY OBJECTIVES

Equality objectives	Implications	Mitigation Actions	Timescale and responsible department
<p>Work together in partnership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ promote equality, diversity and inclusion ▪ facilitate community cohesion ▪ support people with different backgrounds and lived experiences to get on well together 			
<p>Give specific consideration to care experienced people to improve their life outcomes, including access to training, employment and housing.</p>			
<p>Build and develop a diverse workforce that represents the community and citizens it serves.</p>			
<p>Support diverse communities to feel confident to report crime and anti-social behaviour, including hate crime and hate incidents, and work with partners to ensure Plymouth is a city where everybody feels safe and welcome.</p>			

This page is intentionally left blank