

# Cabinet



Date of meeting: 10 March 2020  
 Title of Report: **National Marine Park – Update**  
 Lead Member: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) & Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene)  
 Lead Strategic Director: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)  
 Author: Kathryn Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning)  
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 Your Reference: 200210 NMP Update Cabinet  
 Key Decision: No  
 Confidentiality: Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

Plymouth City Council took on the lead role in developing the UK's first National Marine Park in January 2019. Since the Council took on the role great progress has been made towards our ambition for Plymouth Sound to become the UK's first National Marine Park (NMP).

The first half of 2019 was used to engage extensively with individuals, businesses and organisations to gain further insight into the opportunities and challenges of developing and delivering the NMP concept and what people already valued about Plymouth Sound. This phase of work culminated in September 2019 with a NMP celebration on Plymouth Hoe, supported by UN Ambassador for the Oceans Lewis Pugh and the signing of the Plymouth Sound NMP Declaration of Intent. This provided formal recognition of the support and ambition from across the City and beyond to bring the NMP vision to life for the benefit of people, planet and place.

Since January 2019 funding has been secured to progress the translation of our NMP ambition into a reality that could be replicated across the country. National support and recognition for our proposition has been achieved from Government and through the Glover Landscape review. A bid to the new Heritage Horizons fund, within the National Lottery framework, has also been successful and the NMP has been shortlisted for the next round of the programme, which if successful would secure up to £9.7million to support the delivery of the Park.

This paper sets out the work completed to date, the national recognition the NMP proposition has received and the next steps for the project.

## Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- I. Acknowledge the significant progress to date on the creation of the UK's first National Marine Park within Plymouth Sound.

Reason: Developing the UK's first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound is a huge opportunity for Plymouth but is also a complex and challenging proposition. The work achieved since Plymouth

City Council took the lead role in the development work in January 2019 has been significant and includes wide city support for the proposition, national recognition and funding success.

2. Instruct officers to commence work on the bid for the lottery's Horizons Fund with partners for submission in November.

Reason: The Plymouth Sound National Marine Park project has been shortlisted for the Lottery Horizons award which if successful would secure up to £9.7million to support the delivery of the NMP. A partnership approach to the project will be essential to the success of the bid.

3. Instruct officers to commence the next phase of the stakeholder engagement to take place over Spring/Summer 2020 to inform the feasibility work and the business plan.

Reason: Wide stakeholder engagement in the next phase of the NMP development is vital to the success and sustainability of the NMP. By commencing in April stakeholders will be able to participate in the development of the feasibility study and business plan.

4. Instruct officers to complete the NMP feasibility work and a 5 year NMP Business Plan by the end of 2020.

Reason: We have already made great progress on the development of the NMP but it is important that we maintain momentum whilst allowing time to engage stakeholders with the process.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

Do Nothing – If nothing further was done to progress the NMP development work a huge opportunity for the city and its people would be lost.

### **Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan**

The development of the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park will support the aims of the Corporate Plan in the following ways:

Pioneering Plymouth – Plymouth will develop and deliver the first National Marine Park in the country and will set the standards and framework for how a network of NMPs could be delivered nationally. This will place Plymouth on the national and international stage and will allow the city to make best use of one of its greatest assets, Plymouth Sound.

Growing Plymouth – It will ensure the City is a great place to live for future generations and the marine environment is fully integrated as a valued part of the growth agenda.

Caring Plymouth – Creation of an NMP will ensure the significant health and well-being benefits of accessing and living near a high quality marine environment will be realised for our residents, workers and visitors.

Confident Plymouth – It will enable Plymouth to demonstrate to a national and international audience the benefits, to growth and communities, which can be derived from recognising the value and diversity of our marine environment

### **Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

The National Marine Park (NMP) will result in the city changing the way it values, interacts and develops opportunities around Plymouth Sound. Resources will be required to support the development of the NMP. Once designated the NMP will also require ongoing sustainable resourcing to enable it to deliver its functions.

One of the key areas of work during the next 10 months will be to produce a 5 year business plan that will establish how the NMP will operate and how it will be resourced.

We are also seeking external funding to support the development of the National Marine Park and have been shortlisted for the next round of the National Heritage Lottery Fund horizons programme.

### Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The NMP will also have an important role in responding to the climate emergency. A high quality marine environment promoted by the NMP will help to mitigate the climate emergency by sequestration of carbon within the habitats of the Sound, such as in the sea grass. The NMP will also support work to engage people with the role they can play in responding to the climate emergency and other environmental improvement programmes such as reduction of single use plastic.

As projects within the NMP start to be developed each of them will be reviewed to ensure that carbon is reduced as much as is possible. The NMP work will demonstrate best practice in how we develop new projects that support the climate emergency and our ambition to be net zero carbon by 2030.

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

*\* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The new National Marine Park (NMP) will provide positive benefits for our communities, workers and visitors. The NMP will be developed in a manner that is fully inclusive by democratising the waters and will support the city's ambition to enable everyone to enjoy a high quality of life. The objectives of the NMP will enable the social, economic and environmental benefits of Plymouth Sound to be maximised for the City and surrounding communities.

### Appendices

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

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

### Background papers:

*\*Add rows as required to box below*

*Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.*

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

**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 02/03/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: Approved by Councillor Evans OBE (Leader) and Councillor Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene. Date approved: 02/03/2020											