

FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY

Pledge 9 – Help businesses and social enterprises to grow

What we said we would do: Many local businesses work hard for the good of Plymouth, going the extra mile to help meet the city's needs and working for inclusive growth. We will explore ways in which we can help businesses and social enterprises that go further than a standard corporate social responsibility programme to grow.

What we wanted to achieve: The long term ambition is to see the economy truly serve the wellbeing of all the people of Plymouth by shifting behaviours and culture in support of long term inclusive economic growth. We will create a recognisable brand that tells people what Inclusive Growth is, which is open to everyone and embraces the values of fairness, equality, honesty, trustworthiness, respect and meaningfulness.

We also wanted to:

- Integrate Inclusive Growth in policy
- Ensure recruitment, retention and development of all sections of society
- Embed Inclusive Growth in procurement and commissioning across the city
- Ensure that leadership for Inclusive Growth is embedded across the city and Inclusive Growth is integrated with strategic projects in the city, in their planning, design, delivery and legacy.

What we have done: Through the Plymouth Growth Board (PGB) Flagship Inclusive Growth Group we have developed activity to promote Inclusive Growth. This has included dovetailing Inclusive Growth with the Plymouth Plan and our Social Value Policy. A Charter has been developed for businesses to demonstrate and increase their Inclusive Growth activities. Businesses will be able to apply for a Chartermark through signing up to four mandatory pledges. The PGB approved the Charter in February 2020.

What's next: The Council will support the Growth Board to finalise and promote the Charter and Chartermark, and will apply for the Chartermark as soon as it is available. We intend to get 50 businesses as Founding Supporters ready for a full launch in the summer using a website and other resources.

Find out more!

Look out for new stories about our work to deliver this pledge at <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom>



FOR KEEPING PLYMOUTH ON THE MOVE

Pledge 15 – Install more electric car charging points

What we said we would do: Electric cars are increasingly popular. We will install more electric car charging points in Plymouth, including in residential areas.

What we wanted to achieve: Promote the use of electric vehicles by installing more electric car charging points in Plymouth.

What we have done: Electric vehicle charge points have started to pop up at business premises all over Plymouth, thanks to grant funding won by Plymouth City Council. The Council has been awarded £7.6 million from the Transforming Cities Fund to help change how people travel in and around Plymouth. The grant could see as many as 100 charge points installed and is aimed at work places with vehicle fleets and their staff who have an electric car or who are thinking of getting one by ensuring they can charge up while at work. Installing electric charge points will help businesses to reduce running costs from fuel and maintenance, cut pollution, improve air quality and enable businesses to take part in the development of new technology.

The Council has so far installed 14 charge points in its car parks and there are a further 32 public points across the city. It also has four charge points at major Council offices for the organisation's electric pool cars.

Plymouth City Council will trial pop-up electric vehicle charging points in nine residential areas across the city as part of a successful Innovate UK grant bid. The charging points are part of a partnership with smart city consultancy Urban Foresight, who were awarded £3 million from the government's Innovate UK scheme for tests into low-cost charging solutions for electric vehicle users without off street parking. Other partners include Dundee City Council, Duku and Co-wheels Car Club.

The Council published its Climate Emergency Action Plan in December 2020, and the promotion of electric vehicles and reducing carbon emissions in transport is a key part of working towards becoming climate neutral by 2030.

What's next: Plymouth City Council is stepping up the fight against climate change with a further 54 new electric vehicle charging points across the city as part of their Innovate UK project and by bidding for further funds as part of a second Transforming Cities bid. This will include charging points in nine separate hubs across residential areas with on street parking.

Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/even-charging-points-plymouth/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plugging-great-idea-electric-vehicle-charge-points-business>



FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Pledge 3 I – Stop as many people as possible becoming homeless

What we said we would do: We will prioritise stopping as many people as possible becoming homeless, and we will end the practice of families with children being housed in bed and breakfasts (B&Bs).

What we wanted to achieve: We wanted to significantly increase the number of homelessness preventions achieved and at the same time reduce the number of families with children being accommodated in B&Bs, as well as reducing the amount of time these families spent in a B&B to a brief stay that did not mean they were left as feeling they were being 'housed' in a B&B without clear expectations to move on to more appropriate temporary accommodation quite quickly.

What we have done: We have improved our early intervention/prevention response to homeless households and significantly increased the number of households we have supported to remain in their existing homes or into alternative homes prior to them becoming homeless. Between 1 April 2019 and 31 January 2020, 237 households were prevented from becoming homeless. This is already a 33% increase on the number of households (178) prevented from becoming homeless in the whole of 2018/19. In addition, working differently in partnership with The Plymouth Alliance means there is more support and accommodation across the complex needs system to prevent households becoming homeless. Rough sleeping has decreased in the city over the last year, with the official centrally registered number of rough sleepers decreasing from 23 in November 2018 to 19 in November 2019. Since November 2019, daily recorded outreach numbers have dropped further to only three at the end of February 2020.

Working differently as a team and with partners under the Homelessness Reduction Act, Community Connections have improved move on from all types of temporary accommodation to ensure more availability of alternatives to B&B are available when families become homeless. We have significantly reduced both the number of families with children placed in B&Bs as emergency accommodation and the average length of their stay. In 2018/19, an average of 14 families per month were placed in B&Bs for an average of just over two weeks. Between 1 April 2019 and 31 January 2020, the average number of families with children has reduced by 43% to only eight per month and the average number of days spent in B&Bs by families with children has reduced by 47% to eight days.

What's next: Work continues with both commissioned and statutory partners to ensure the right support is in place at the earliest opportunity possible to prevent households from becoming homeless. Examples from a broad range of work include:

- The Rough Sleeping Initiative funding awarded to the city will allow the continuation of dedicated prevention and relief of homelessness and rough sleeping for some of the most vulnerable and complex individuals.
- Working in partnership with The Plymouth Alliance, there is a review of all accommodation available to inform the use of existing and the commissioning of additional accommodation to meet the needs of those requiring emergency, supported and move on accommodation on their journey towards their own suitable, affordable and sustainable accommodation. This includes families with children, young people, couples and individuals.
- Work with social landlords in the city continues to ensure partnership working and early intervention protocols are in place to prevent some of the most vulnerable from becoming homeless and to identify opportunities for those in need of extra support through joint work to help them access and sustain tenancies in the social housing sector.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge: <http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/make-change-plymouths-homeless/>



FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Pledge 33 – Toughen up enforcement of housing in the private rented sector to drive up standards for renters

What we said we would do: The vast majority of landlords in Plymouth are good and take care of their properties, but there are far too many poor-quality homes. We will toughen up enforcement of housing in the private rented sector to drive up standards for renters. If, within 12 months, the private rented sector has not taken substantial steps to improve standards, we will begin the process of introducing a licensing scheme for the private rented sector.

What we wanted to achieve: We will work to drive up the standards of private rented sector housing by maximising the local authority's influence by developing knowledge, powers and work with partners. We will implement or enhance policies, standards and practices to target the reduction in the number of properties with deficiencies. We will encourage good landlords and target those that are poor whilst working with partners to drive an enriched standard of housing across the city.

What we have done: Between September 2018 and 2019, the number of properties known to the local authority with defects has reduced by more than 50%. We have enhanced the housing improvement process through the review of policies and provision of training, strengthening the enforcement approach taken in addressing housing conditions and hazard related matters in the private rented sector. Specifically, we have reviewed, amended and implemented the Housing Improvement Policy 2018, Civil Penalty Policy 2018 and Standard of Licensed HMOs 2018. We have also increased and trained resources working in the field and updated delegations permitting the use of powers under the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which allow the use of civil penalties and banning orders, and access to the Rogue Landlord Database, Rental Repayment Orders and tenancy deposit information.

In the application of these powers since the start of April 2018 (to 31.12.19), Plymouth City Council has: improved 1,705 dwellings; removed 350 category 1 hazards; served 211 formal notices; removed management breaches in 269 houses of multiple occupation (HMOs); and issued 17 civil penalties for landlords' failed compliance, equating to £89,099 of fines. Since 2018, Trading Standards have inspected 64 letting agents and have issued £5,500 of financial penalties against landlords. Fines issued were for advertising properties without its EPC rating, not belonging to a redress scheme, not displaying fees and failing to have client money protection. As a result of the introduction of the Tenants Fees Act 2019, Trading Standards wrote to all known Plymouth letting agents advising them of the requirements of this new legislation.

Working with partners, we have increased information flow and working practices to provide better support, guidance and, when required, action for residents. Finally, we have supported and delivered training and guidance to the South West Landlords Association, Private Investment Group, and many more. In supporting the South West Landlords Association, who educate and inform landlords about their responsibilities, we have assisted in the delivery of five accreditation courses with 115 people in attendance and have a further two courses arranged.

What's next: We will continue to develop the Private Rented Partnership Group to drive a consistent and equitable approach in the private rented sector. We will work to implement a two stage payment for HMO licensing, consider HMO licensing of purpose built accommodation blocks throughout the city, develop an approach to Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards addressing properties that receive either an F or G EPC rating, and progress works surrounding Electrical Safety Standards. Finally, we will work with partners to increase private rented sector intelligence, ensuring that resources are directed correctly and residents are supported. We will be using the money we raise for further enforcement action and to support continued improvement in the private rented sector.

Find out more!

Look out for new stories about our work to deliver this pledge at <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom>



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Pledge 42 – Introduce a fair system so families can take children on holiday in term time

What we said we would do: We think the current system of fining parents for taking their children on holiday in term time can hurt families on a budget. We will work with schools and parents to introduce a fair system so families can take an annual holiday without penalty.

What we wanted to achieve: We know that children need to be in school as much as possible to learn and that is the law. We also know that holiday times for families can be a really good learning experience as well as enjoyable and sometimes parents cannot take leave during the published school holiday periods. We wanted to make sure that we got the right balance between family time and school time.

What we have done: We consulted with schools and the Police, who are our statutory partners. In addition we asked parents and stakeholders for their views. Following many comments and ideas we decided to change our Code of Conduct so that families can take 11 sessions of unauthorised absence for a holiday and we won't apply a Penalty Notice. This gives families the opportunity to have a week away in term time if they cannot take a holiday during the school holiday.

What's next: We will start the transition process so that the Code of Conduct is implemented. We will continue the communication work with schools and families so that they know that attendance is important and we can see what impact the new policy has.

Find out more!

Look out for new stories about our work to deliver this pledge at <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom>



FOR SPORT, CULTURE AND LEISURE

Pledge 86 – Deliver the upgrade of Central Park and Seaton (Derriford Community) Park

What we said we would do: We will deliver the upgrade of Central Park, ensuring it remains the city's green lung and a community asset we can all be proud of. We will not allow house-building on parkland to protect Central Park. The new park at Seaton will be as important to the north of Plymouth as Central Park is to the south of the city. This new park will open in the next few years and we will ensure it delivers for local people.

What we wanted to achieve: To deliver a programme of upgrades to the existing Central Park and open a new park in the north of the city in Seaton.

What we have done: In July 2019 the new Central Park café and four new tennis courts were opened, marking a significant step towards completion of the programme of improvements to Central Park, which included exciting features such as a brand new play area and upgrade of the existing one, an extension to the skate park, new seating, and path improvements. Named the Meadow Café, it has a wildflower roof with 34 different varieties of wildflower and the grass blanket will become a haven for bees and other pollinating insects, whilst adding heating benefits to the café below. Operated by Council partners FullyCATERed, the brand new, purpose-built eatery is the flagship project of the Central Park improvements project. The café promotes a healthy menu and uses produce sourced from local suppliers, seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables, organic milk, with no fried food. Overlooking the play space, surplus funds from the café will be invested back into Central Park and other educational projects so as well as enjoying the food and drink, customers will know they are also supporting great projects. The café will host a new water refill station – the first to be delivered as part of the Council pledge to help reduce single use plastic. The Meadow Café and tennis courts opened just in time to be the prime attractions at the Plymouth Parks Matter event, which saw thousands of people enjoying the park at a family nature festival.

At Derriford Community Park the project secured £1.7 million funding for the first phase of access network from the Transforming Cities Fund to install cycle and footpaths connecting local communities. Construction will begin in 2020 and will be completed by the summer. The project has continued to deliver biodiversity improvements to the site working with community volunteers and partners. Operating from Poole Farm, the project has continued to deliver events, volunteering and training to local community members and has completed renovations to the farmhouse to provide increased meeting and training space and offices allowing further engagement and activity from project partners, with the Farm Open Day attracting over 400 visitors.

What's next: Central Park improvements continue, with the new Community Sports Hub opening with a public event on Saturday 14 March 2019. With wet and dry changing rooms and a community hall and kitchen for hire, it provides facilities to support park sports including football, bowling, running groups and cricket as well as opportunities for community and business use. Sustainable drainage works to improve access and enhance biodiversity are also being developed for delivery, as well as additional footpath and cycle improvements, new signage and interpretation.

At Derriford Community Park, as well as installation of the paths, work to renovate the hayloft will be progressed providing more activity space for local social enterprises and continued work to enhance the value of the natural environment. This will involve the release of beavers into an enclosed site in the Bircham Valley.

Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/central-park-play-space-update/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/work-begins-central-park-events-park/>



FOR A GREENER, CLEANER PLYMOUTH

Pledge 90 – Review bulky waste collection policy and increase use of community bins

What we said we would do: We will review the current policy of charging for bulky waste collections and re-introduce community skips where practical. We will increase the use of community bins to cut down the number of wheelie bins in some residential streets.

What we wanted to achieve: Make our city cleaner by reducing the incidents of fly-tipping by offering a fairer, affordable and more accessible system for charging and collecting bulky waste that can be applied consistently.

What we have done: Following a review we are continuing to offer a low cost collection service for bulky waste items, along with a concession for some. We have increased the number of community recycling bins within the city with new specialised containers with lids that help prevent contaminated recycling. Whilst the city is well-served by two household waste recycling centres, we are planning to work with Plymouth Community Homes to trial the effectiveness and practicality of community skips in some communities.

What's next: We will continue to roll out the new specialised communal recycling containers to high-rises. We will agree locations for community skip events and conduct a review of further locations of trial communal bins.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/binsrecyclingandwaste/gettingridlargewasteitems>



FOR A GREENER, CLEANER PLYMOUTH

Pledge 9I – Trial all-electric road sweepers

What we said we would do: We will trial all-electric road sweepers, which can reduce both air pollution and operating costs.

What we wanted to achieve: Electric road sweepers with a payload of 1200kg can save up to 22 tonnes of CO₂ per year. Our aim is to reduce our carbon footprint, emissions and noise pollution.

What we have done: In September 2019, we conducted a trial of a compact 3.2 tonne road sweeper, with a payload of 700kg. This was followed up in January 2020 with the trial of a larger road sweeper with a payload of 1200kg – similar to some of our diesel equivalents. The trial concluded that the current model does not have sufficient power to cope with some of Plymouth's hills! However it could be deployed specifically in our city centre and waterfront areas to reduce both CO₂ and noise emissions.

What's next: An outline business case to secure funding for our first electric road sweeper to deploy in our city centre and waterfront areas in order to start us on the journey of reducing CO₂ and noise emissions from street cleansing works. With technology improving all the time, we expect to conduct further trials this summer and you might see some cleaning up after our events. The further trials will inform a larger business case with a view to replacing the diesel sweeping fleet with electric where we can.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/newsroom>

