

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L06 20/21


| Decision | | | | |
|----------|--|-----|----|--|
| 1 | Title of decision: SmartSound Connect Project | | | |
| 2 | Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) | | | |
| 3 | Report author and contact details: Richard May 07866210121 | | | |
| 4 | Decisions to be taken: 1. To accept capital grant funding of £1.8M for the Council's SmartSound Connect project. The project will provide digital connectivity over Plymouth Sound and coastal waters 2. To authorise David Draffan, the Service Director for Economic Development, to take any necessary decision related to the capital grant funding and award contracts for this project; subject to a final business case being approved by CCIB and the funding being added to the capital programme. | | | |
| 5 | Reasons for decisions: Plymouth is the home to Smart Sound Plymouth (SSP), which is a trials and proving area for advanced marine and maritime technologies and autonomy. PCC have bid for capital grant funding to allow it, and its SSP partners of Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Marine Biological Association, University of Plymouth, and University of Exeter, to install high-speed mobile data network connectivity over Plymouth Sound and coastal waters up to 12 miles offshore. This essential connectivity will be freely available under license to any qualifying business or organisation engaged in Research & Development and prototype testing. It will enable SSP to become the UK's Centre of Excellence for advanced marine prototyping, testing and certification. This testing facility will support the Council's Resurgam COVID recovery programme providing up to 100 high-value jobs and developing local technical skills for tomorrow. This programme will provide growth and sustainability of the marine and maritime sectors. Any capital grant with no cash investment match required by the Council will be a good deal for Plymouth and the local economy. We are also requesting that the Service Director for Economic Development be authorised to take any necessary decisions and carry out any functions related to this project as it may have further stages that may need timely decisions. | | | |
| 6 | Alternative options considered and rejected: No other alternative has been considered. | | | |
| 7 | Financial implications: None we are seeking pure capital grant. No cash match from PCC. | | | |
| 8 | Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice) | Yes | No | Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which: |
| | | | No | in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new |

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| | | | | commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total |
| | | | No | in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million |
| | | | No | 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 | | |
| 9 | 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: | <p>Plymouth Plan</p> <p>The Plymouth Plan is a ground-breaking plan which looks ahead to 2034. It sets a shared direction of travel for the long term future of the city bringing together a number of strategic planning processes into one place. It talks about the future of the city's economy; it plans for the city's transport and housing needs; it looks at how the city can improve the lives of children and young people and address the issues which lead to child poverty and it sets out the aspiration to be a healthy and prosperous city with a rich arts and cultural environment; and it sets out the city's spatial strategy, incorporating the Plymouth-specific elements of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.</p> <p>The Plan covers all the policies for the city under three strategic themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plymouth as a healthy city; • Plymouth as a growing city; • Plymouth as an international city. <p>Policies are grouped under these themes and SmartSound Connect contributes to a number of these including:</p> <p>Creating the conditions for economic growth – the city's overall goal is to create the conditions for driving productivity and prosperity for all. As part of this goal, there are commitments to: develop a transformational economic infrastructure that includes the city's world class marine / defence technology assets alongside encouraging business growth and investment that includes improving digital connectivity and cyber security. The Plan specifically identifies the opportunities arising out of marine autonomy alongside the development of technologies in a marine testing ground;</p> <p>Plymouth in the global marketplace – the city is fully committed to promoting Plymouth's position in the global marketplace building on existing strengths, particularly in relation to defence, marine sciences, high technology manufacturing and maritime location;</p> <p>Supporting world class universities and research institution</p> | | |

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| | | <p>– the city’s support for the continued growth of the higher education and research institutions includes providing the physical space, networks and facilities to capture the commercialisation of Plymouth’s strong knowledge base into new higher value, exporting businesses.</p> <p>Local Economic Strategy</p> <p>Plymouth City Council (PCC) is currently updating the Local Economic Strategy as the ‘Delivering Economic Growth’ Plan to cover the period up to 2024. This document aligns with the sub-regional and national strategies below, while integrating the strategy of the Plymouth Plan in to the city’s plans for economic growth.</p> <p>The evolving plan has six flagships to deliver the city’s strategic economic objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean City Infrastructure; • Business Growth & Investment; • Defence; • Learning & Talent Development; • Inclusive Growth; • Visitor Economy & Culture. <p>SmartSound Connect makes the most direct contributions to the first three flagships. The creation of high-speed data network will accelerate growth and investment through new digital infrastructure.</p> <p>It will also enable our marine tech businesses to innovate and be productive so that they can excel in global markets, including ‘supporting SMEs and micros to engage with our thriving primes in industries such as marine autonomy, defence manufacturing, health technologies, and other...’</p> <p>The specific focus on marine autonomy and cybersecurity will also play a significant part in Plymouth’s leading role in the Defence sector.</p> |
| 10 | Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact) | <p>Low Carbon / Clean Growth</p> <p>The Government’s ambition for a low carbon economy has been articulated through the development of the Clean Growth Strategy produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). This document addresses the transition to a low carbon economy, prioritised in the Industrial Strategy, that increases national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The strategy has a number of actions towards which SmartSound Connect can contribute, particularly through the business applications and innovations that a high-speed data network in SSP can help accelerate. This includes areas such as marine autonomy and the development of marine science that can help reduce, mitigate / limit the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the R&D that will emerge from the mobile high-speed data network testbed will help to shape the development of smart shipping and drive the logistical</p> |

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| | | efficiencies reducing fuel consumption and contributing towards clean growth. | | |
| Urgent decisions | | | | |
| 11 | 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 | No | (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 | No | (If no go to section 14) |
| 13b | Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision? | N/A | | |
| 13c | Date Cabinet member consulted | 23/06/2020 | | |
| 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 | No | |
| 15 | Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted? | Name | Anthony Payne | |
| | | Job title | Strategic Director for Place | |
| | | Date consulted | 25/06/2020 | |
| Sign-off | | | | |
| 16 | Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted: | Democratic Support (mandatory) | DS17 20/21 | |
| | | Finance (mandatory) | pl.20.21.37. | |
| | | Legal (mandatory) | LS/34911/AC/24/6/20. | |
| | | Human Resources (if applicable) | N/A | |

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| | | Corporate property (if applicable) | N/A | | | | | |
| | | Procurement (if applicable) | | | | | | |
| Appendices | | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Ref. | Title of appendix | | | | | | |
| | A | Briefing report <i>part 1</i> | | | | | | |
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| Confidential/exempt information | | | | | | | | |
| 18a | 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 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 | No | | | | | |
| | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 18b | Confidential/exempt briefing report title: Briefing note part 2 | | | 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 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 |
| N/A | | | | | | | | |
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| Cabinet Member Signature | | | | | | | | |

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| 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 | 03/07/2020 |
| Print Name | Tudor Evans | | |