

Date of meeting: 25 January 2021

Title of Report: **Plymouth Plan Climate Change Review**

Lead Member: Councillor Mark Coker (Cabinet Member Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)

Lead Strategic Director: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)

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Your Reference: 0121/JAB

Key Decision: Yes

Confidentiality: Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

At its meeting on 16 December 2019 City Council resolved to 'Undertake an early review of the Plymouth Plan with city partners in order to ensure that the plan responds to the climate emergency and the commitments set out in the Climate Emergency Action Plan'. This review was undertaken during 2020 and included a policy by policy assessment, informed by stakeholder and community consultation, to ensure that the Plymouth Plan was aligned to City Council's pledge to make Plymouth carbon neutral by 2030, a declaration that was agreed unanimously by City Council on 18 March 2019. The review process has recommended changes to 23 sections/policies of the Plymouth Plan to bring it into alignment with the climate emergency declaration and Climate Emergency Action Plan. These changes relate primarily to the carbon neutral city target and embedding this approach throughout the plan particularly through: promoting sustainable transport opportunities; growth of the clean, green economy; reducing emissions in new and existing buildings and waste; and highlighting the importance of the natural and historic environment. This report seeks agreement to make those changes and the formal adoption by City Council of the updated Plymouth Plan as part of the City Council's Policy Framework.

Recommendations and Reasons

That the changes to the Plymouth Plan as identified in the report be approved and the updated Plymouth Plan be formally adopted as part of the City Council's Policy Framework.

REASON: To ensure that the Plymouth Plan is updated to reflect the decisions of the City Council on 18 March 2019 to declare a climate emergency (Minute 89 refers) and to undertake an early review of the Plymouth Plan with city partners in order to ensure that the plan responds to the climate emergency and the commitments set out in the Climate Emergency Action Plan on 16 December 2019 (Minute 7 refers).

Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternatives relate to other changes that could have been made to the Plymouth Plan. The consultation process generated 192 comments on the Plymouth Plan, many of which suggested potential changes to the plan. A Climate Emergency Consultation Response Report which includes a summary of these comments and officer responses has been published at <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningandbuildingcontrol/plymouthplan/plymouthplanclimateemergencyconsultation2020>

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The report itself seeks to update the Plymouth Plan, which will remain the City's single long term strategic plan informing and guiding delivery, investment decisions and action plans.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No new resource implications arise from this report.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The report has a positive impact on the City Council's pledge to be a carbon neutral city by 2030. It brings our strategic policies for the city into alignment with this pledge. However, given that the Plymouth Plan is a high level strategic plan this will not be sufficient alone. There will remain a need for more detailed action and delivery plans around the climate emergency, including the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan. Additionally, other delivery plans of the Council and its partners will need to respond to the policy direction set by the Plymouth Plan.

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 scope of review of the Plymouth Plan was limited to the climate emergency. However, the climate emergency is not just an environmental crisis, it is one that effects our social and our economic wellbeing too. If the climate change goes unchecked there will be increasingly dangerous impacts for all people, with for example increased risk of flooding and other adverse impacts from severe weather events and an unequal impact on different sectors of the community. It is therefore of great importance that the City's overarching strategic plan is aligned to the City Council's climate emergency pledge.

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	Background 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)						
	If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Paul Barnard, Service Director for Strategic Planning & Infrastructure											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 04/12/2020											
Cabinet Member approval: [electronic signature (or typed name and statement of 'approved by email/verbally')] Mark Coker, approved verbally											
Date approved: 10/12/2020											