



# THE PLYMOUTH PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

JUNE 2021



# Contents

- 1. Introduction ..... 1
- 2. Summary of key findings ..... 2
  - Healthy city ..... 2
  - Growing city ..... 3
  - International city ..... 4
- 3. Methodology ..... 5
- 4. Context ..... 6
- 5. Primary indicators update ..... 7
  - Healthy city ..... 7
  - Growing city ..... 12
  - International city ..... 17
- 6. Look ahead ..... 21

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Since its inception in 2014, the Plymouth Plan has set out a shared direction of travel for the long term future of the city of Plymouth, helping to achieve an ambition to become one of the most vibrant waterfront cities in Europe where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.

1.2 Transforming the city is a long term venture requiring careful planning and investment and a persistent focus on delivery. This annual report provides an overview of progress over the past year, for each of the different elements of the plan. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on progress in the first six years of the plan.

1.3 This report forms part of a suite of documents which also includes the [Plymouth Report](#) and the [Authorities Monitoring Report](#). The Plymouth Report provides an overview of the needs and issues facing the city and contains the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) whilst the Authorities Monitoring Report (AMR) sets out key information on the delivery of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

## 2. Summary of key findings

The tables below provide a summary overview of the trends for each indicator, and an overall indication of the direction of travel. You can view more detail and see the data behind each indicator in Section 4.

### Healthy city

● Improvement ● No change ● Deterioration ○ Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	OVERALL TREND
A(i) Male healthy life expectancy at birth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
A(ii). Female healthy life expectancy at birth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
B. Over 65s emergency hospital admissions for Plymouth residents 2016 to 2020 (per 10,000)			○	●	●	●	●	●
C. % of residents who regularly (once a month or more) do voluntary work (formal and informal)					○		●	●
D(i). % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area during the day	○				●		●	●
D(ii). % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area after dark	○				●		●	●
E. Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (extremely or very satisfied)			○	●	●	●	●	●

## Growing city

● Improvement ● No change ● Deterioration ○ Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	OVERALL TREND
A. Population of Plymouth	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
B. Carbon emissions per capita	○	●	●	●				●
C. Gap between national living wage and 10th percentile	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(i). % of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children achieving a good level of development (measured against national benchmark)	○	●	●	●	●	●		●
D(ii). Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 achieving the 'basics' (measured against national benchmark)	○	●	●	●	●	●		●
E. Capital investment in infrastructure	No data analysis available at this time							

## International city

● Improvement ● No change ● Deterioration ○ Base data

INDICATOR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	OVERALL TREND
A. % of residents who agree that Plymouth has a lot to offer					○		●	●
B. Visitor numbers	○	●	●	●	●	●		●
C. Jobs in high-tech manufacturing and scientific research and development	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(i). Ranking of Plymouth's universities – University of Plymouth		○	●	●	●	●	●	●
D(ii). Ranking of Plymouth's universities – Marjon		○	●	●	●	●	●	●
E. % of residents who agree with the statement: my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	○					●	●	●

### 3. Methodology

2.1 A suite of high level indicators has been developed to monitor progress towards the strategic outcomes and objectives within the plan. This is a deliberately limited indicator set, structured around each of the Measures of Success identified in the Plymouth Plan.

2.2 The indicator set has been split into the four categories of Healthy City, Growing City, International City and Spatial Strategy, however it is recognised that all work together in a complex system of interaction. The Spatial Strategy indicators are reported elsewhere, in the Authorities Monitoring Report.

2.3 These indicators provide insight as to how the city is progressing on delivery against these objectives and highlight where further deep-dive analysis is needed to understand what is preventing sufficient progress. This insight also enables reviews and refreshes of the Plan to take place, ensuring it remains relevant to current challenges and that focus is given to those areas that are not yet showing improvement.

2.4 The indicators have been updated with the latest available data and at least three years of data have been included wherever possible. Also, where possible, progress is benchmarked against regional and national outcomes. The primary source of the data or statistic is shown for each indicator.

## 4. Context

4.1 With a resident population of 262,100, Plymouth is the largest city on the south coast of England and the 15th largest in the country. Plymouth is also the most significant urban area on the south west peninsula and the key urban hub of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

4.2 Plymouth is Britain's Ocean City. Its connections to the sea go back beyond the sailing of the Mayflower in 1620 and now include Western Europe's largest naval base, a thriving commercial and ferry port, a significant fishing industry, and one of the most important global concentrations of marine research and production. The sea, coastline and maritime heritage are some of Plymouth's greatest assets.

4.3 Plymouth has experienced significant regeneration and transformation over the last ten to fifteen years and this is set to continue however, the city also faces some significant long-term challenges. Plymouth is the most significant urban area on the South West peninsula yet it suffers from poor road and rail connectivity. The average rail journey time from Plymouth to London is eight minutes slower than from Newcastle to London, and yet the route is 40 miles shorter.

4.4 The city has traditionally struggled to raise its competitiveness and productivity (Plymouth's GVA per hour worked stands at around 87 per cent of the UK average). This is, in part, due to a low business density and start-up rate, for which the city ranks 62nd out of the UK's 63 cities; poor connectivity with the rest of the region and country a potential deterrent for inward investment and the migration of skilled workers. Plymouth has an elevated number of people who are economically inactive due to long term sickness and these figures have remained persistently static over the years.

4.5 The city has higher than average levels of deprivation and health inequalities. Plymouth is within the 20% most deprived local authority districts in England. Two areas fall within the most deprived 1% in England while 28 fall within the most deprived 10% in England, affecting around 46,000 people within the city. An average of 1 in 5 children in Plymouth are estimated to be living in poverty.

4.4 The health of people in Plymouth is generally worse than the England average, with life expectancy for both men and women lower than the England average. Within Plymouth, there is considerable inequality in health, with a difference of 7 years and 9 months years in life expectancy across the city from the east to the west.

4.6 There will be a major shift in the population structure of Plymouth over the next 15 years as the proportion of the population aged 65 and over increases. A rise in the percentage of the Plymouth 65+ population is projected, from 18.5 per cent in 2020 to 22.7 per cent by 2034. An ageing population suggests an increasing need for care and support services and also an increasing burden placed on the working age population. Further information can be found in the [Plymouth Report](#) which provides an overview of the needs and issues facing the city.



## 5. Primary indicators update

### Healthy city

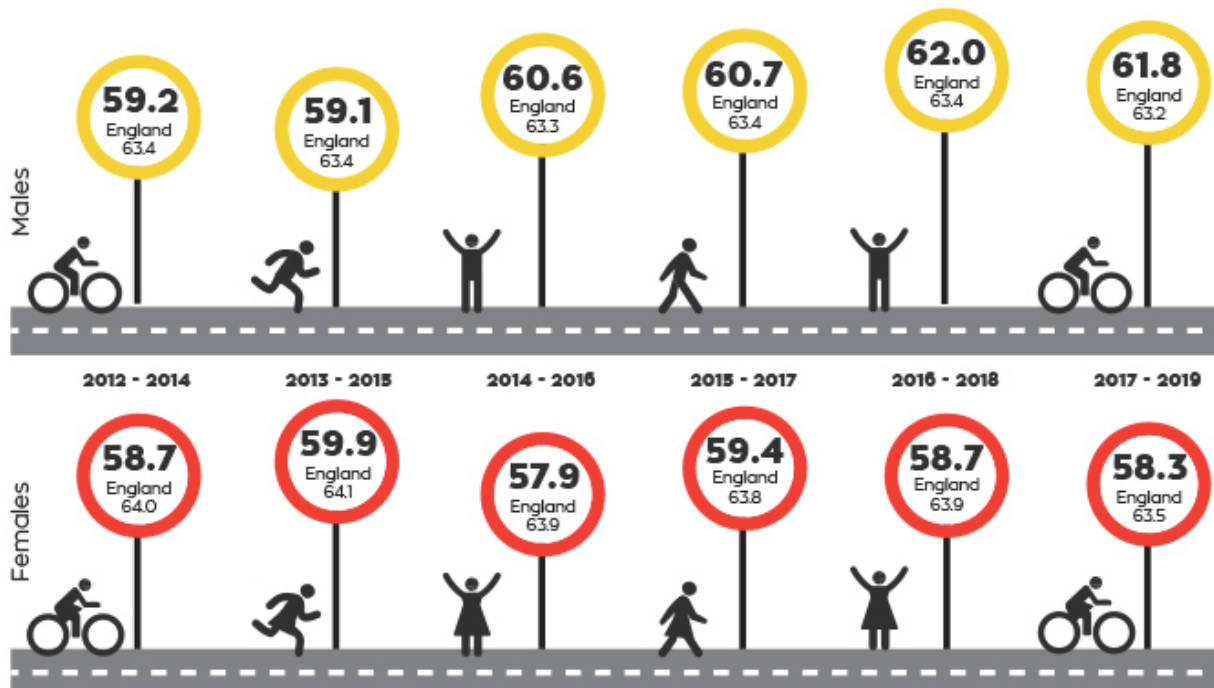
**What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for a healthy city**

#### Strategic Outcome

People in Plymouth live in happy, healthy, safe and aspiring communities, where social, economic and environmental conditions and services enable choices that add quality years to life and reduce the gap in health and wellbeing between communities.

**People in Plymouth get the best start to life with improved health, increased life expectancy, and a better quality of life**

**Primary Indicator A - Healthy life expectancy at birth (males and females) 2012 to 2019**



Source: [Public Health England](#)

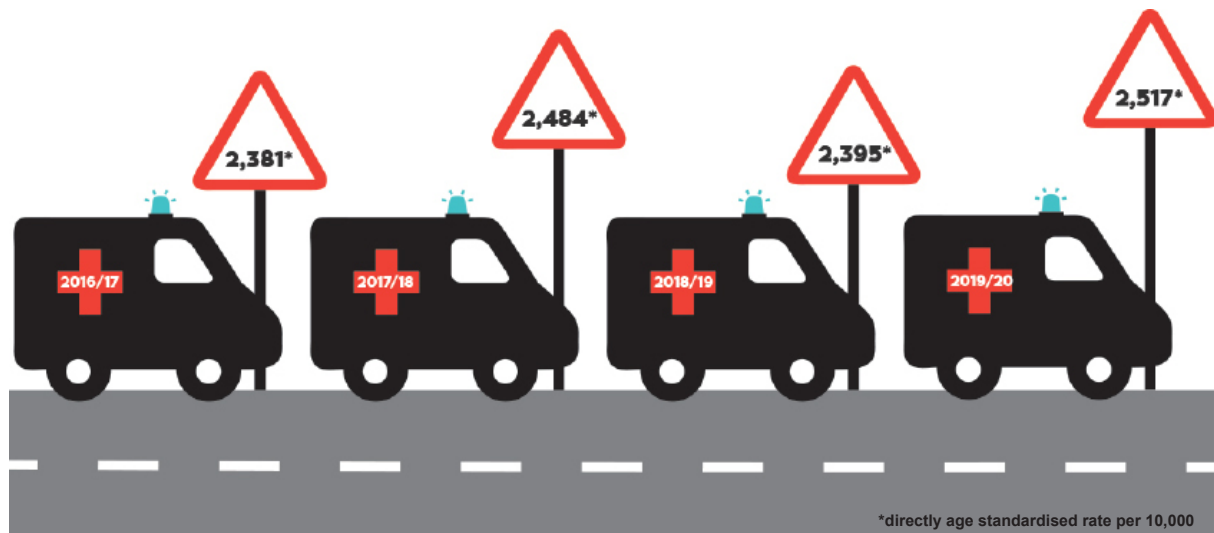
## Comments

In Plymouth healthy life expectancy for males has increased slightly and although it is still below the England average, the gap has narrowed.

In Plymouth healthy life expectancy for females has decreased slightly and is below the England average. Looking forward there are early signs that healthy life expectancy in England might be slightly decreasing and Plymouth looks to be following this trend.

## More people taking care of themselves

**Primary Indicator B - Over 65s emergency hospital admissions for Plymouth residents 2016 to 2020**



Source: [Hospital Episode Statistics](#)

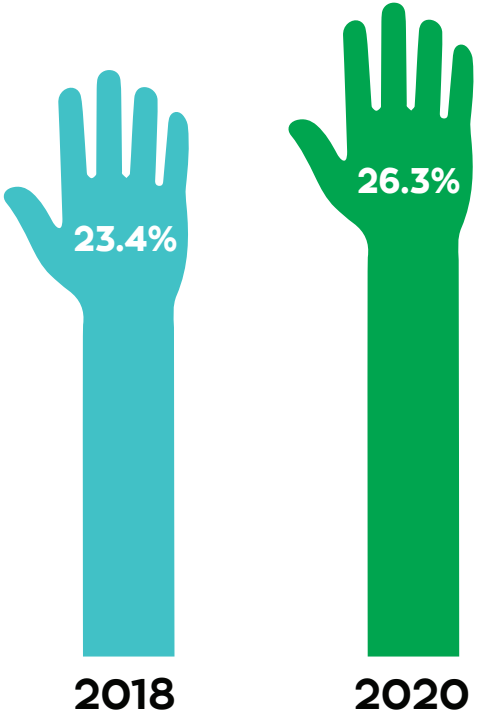
## Comments

In Plymouth the rate of hospital admissions in the over 65s has increased slightly from 2016/17 to 2019/20. Further monitoring is needed to see if this increase is maintained and not just normal fluctuation.

Rates over the next year or so are likely to be skewed by the COVID outbreak and may possibly show a decrease in admissions although it is too early to fully understand the impact that the pandemic has had on this indicator.

# More residents are contributing to and are involved in their local community

**Primary Indicator C - % of residents who regularly (once a month or more) do voluntary work (formal and informal)**



Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

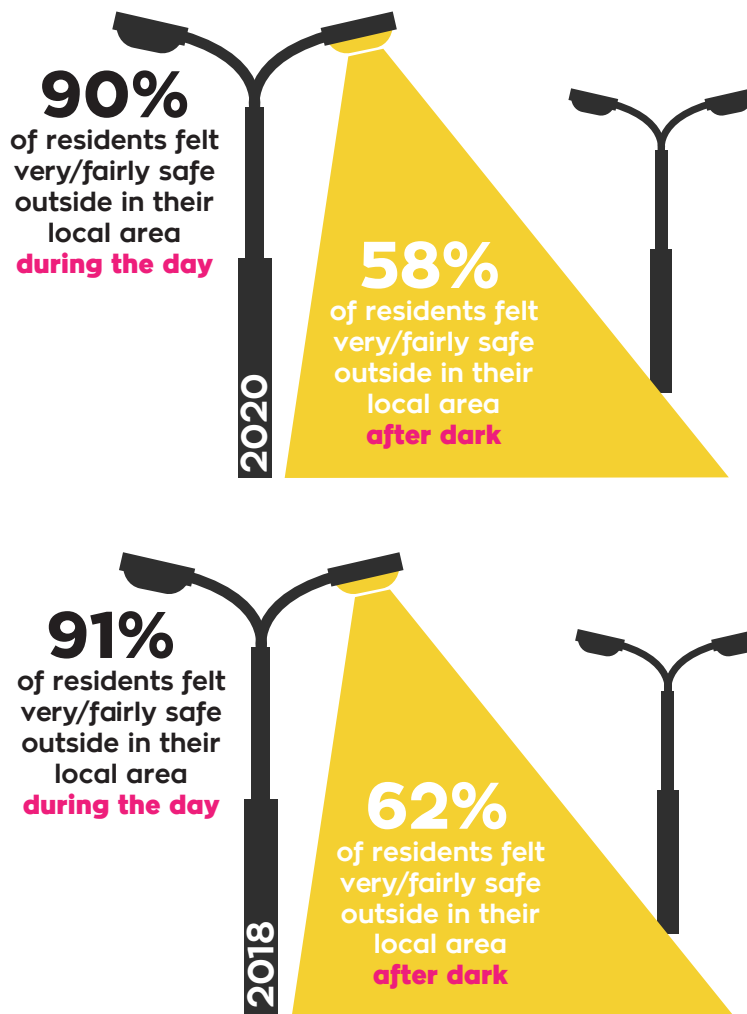
### Comments

There has been an increase in the percentage of respondents who report that they regularly (once a month or more) do formal or informal voluntary work from 23.4% in 2018 to 26.3% in 2020. The city currently has a volunteer work programme with the aim of increasing the number of volunteers (at least once a month) by 1 per cent per year for five years. There was also a focus on recruiting volunteers for the Mayflower 400 activities in 2020.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic may well impact on the rate of volunteering going forward and this will be seen in the 2022 City Survey.

## People of Plymouth are well housed and live in good quality, well looked after neighbourhoods where they feel safe and happy

### Primary Indicator D - % of residents who feel safe outside in their local area in 2020



Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

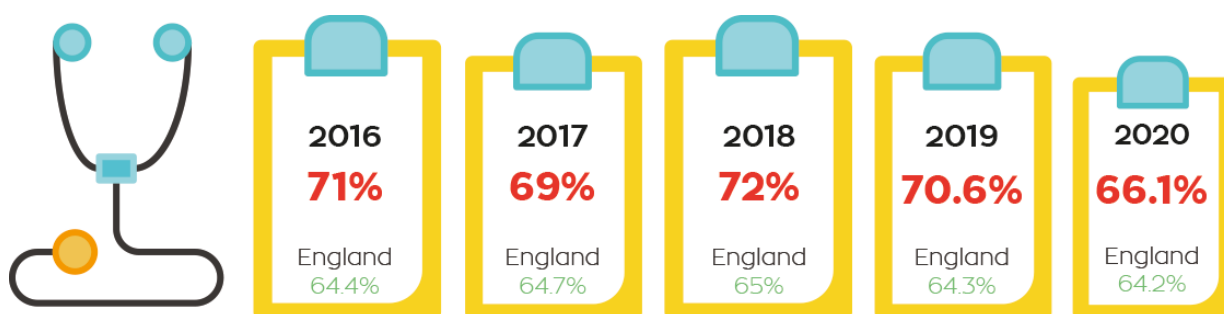
#### Comments

90% of respondents felt safe in their local area during the day and 58% after dark in 2020. This is slightly higher than in 2014 for during the day although no significant change from 2018.

There has been a decrease of 3% for those feeling safe after dark between 2014 and 2020 and further analysis is needed to understand this change. The proportion of younger respondents feeling safe after dark aged 16 to 24yrs (44%) was significantly lower than those aged 45 to 54yrs (61%).

## Good quality and sustainable health and wellbeing services for people who need them, whether they are public services or care in the community

### Primary Indicator E - Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support (extremely or very satisfied) 2016 to 2020



Source: [NHS Personal Social Services Adult Social Care Survey](#)

### Comments

Although satisfaction rates appear to have fallen in Plymouth in recent years, overall satisfaction remains higher than both the England average (64.2%) and the CIPFA comparator group average (63.5%). The rate of satisfaction in 2019/20 dropped among those people aged 65 and over living in the community and among clients with a learning disability. An action plan is in place to target these client types and to raise satisfaction rates.

Due to COVID-19 no survey was done in 2020/21 with the next survey due in early 2022. It is difficult to predict the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on satisfaction rates when the next survey is undertaken.

## Growing city

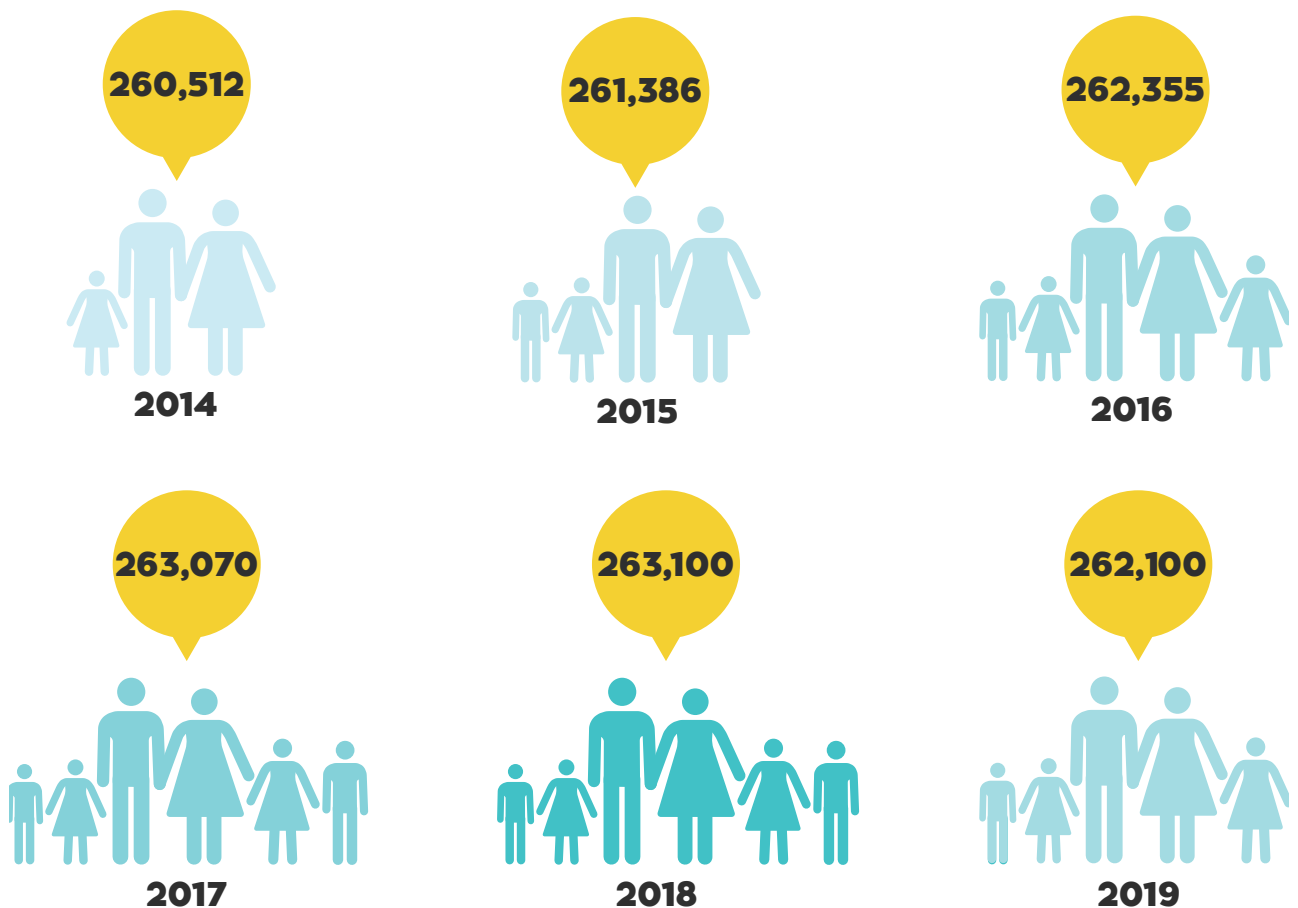
### What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for a growing city

#### Strategic Outcome

Plymouth has used its economic, social, environmental and cultural strengths to deliver quality and sustainable growth. The city's long term prosperity has been improved, and its economy has been transformed and rebalanced. It has raised its productivity, and provides higher average wages as well as employment opportunities to support a skilled and talented workforce. Its population has grown to nearly 300,000 by 2034.

### The population has grown to achieve the city's ambition (population of 300,000)

#### Primary Indicator A - Plymouth's population



Source: [Office for National Statistics](#)

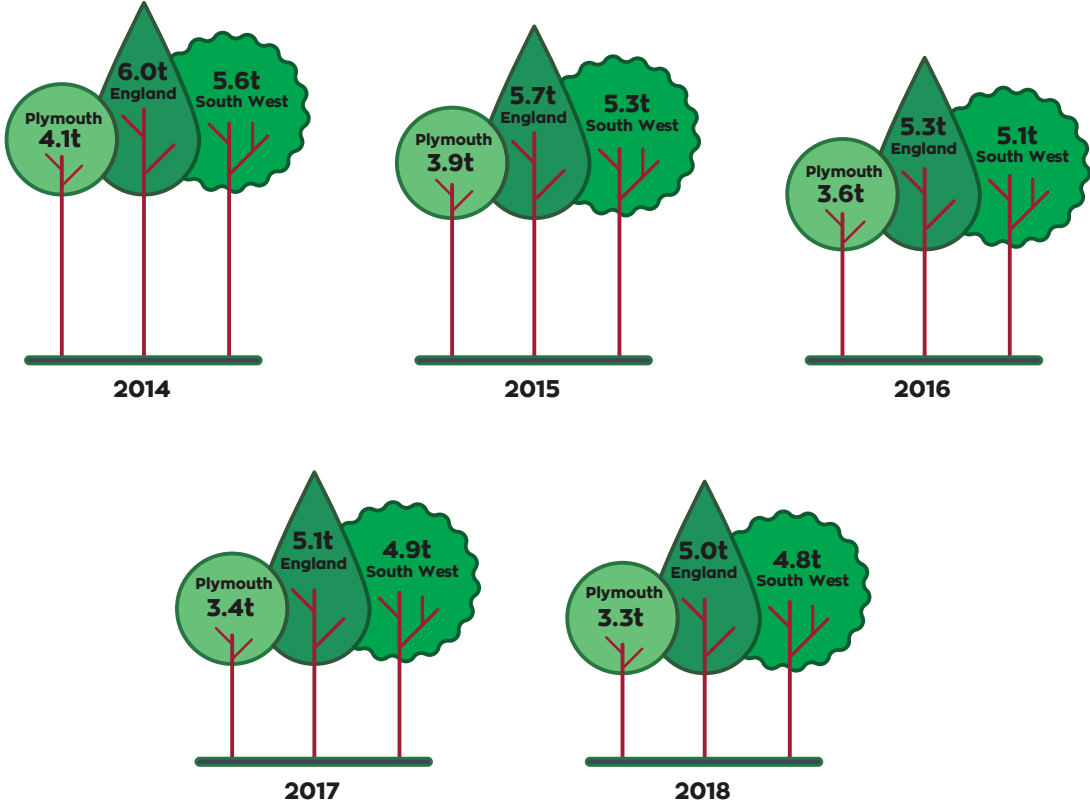
### Comments

The Plymouth Plan aspires to see the city grow to nearly 300,000 in population by 2034. The measure relates to Plymouth as a functional urban area, including places such as Sherford, Woolwell and Land at West Park Hill where over 7,900 new homes are planned, but for now the more tightly defined administrative boundary of Plymouth is used as a proxy measure. The population (as measured by the Office for National Statistics) has increased by 0.6% between 2014 and 2019. This compares to an increase of 3.6% in England as a whole. Early results from the 2021 Census are due to be released in March 2022 and will give a more accurate picture.

Looking forward, there is a need to consider Plymouth’s population aspirations in the context of the national planning reforms, the climate emergency, and any impacts on population change arising from issues such as Brexit and the COVID pandemic.

### Plymouth continues to be recognised as a leading green city

#### Primary Indicator B - Carbon emissions per capita



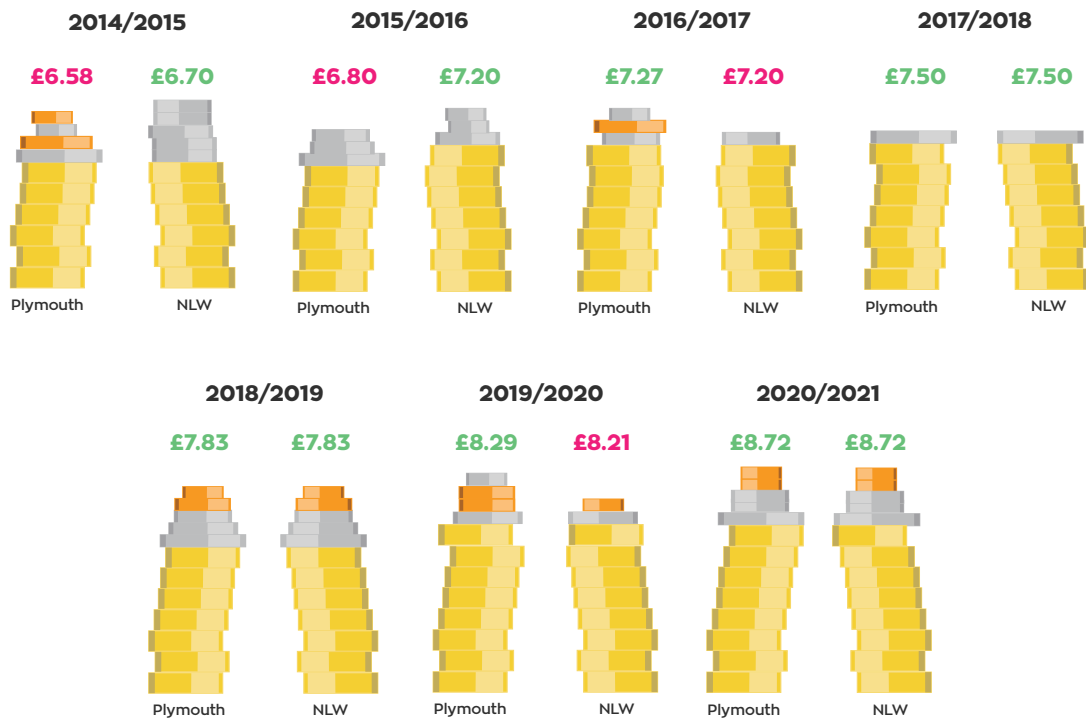
Source: [Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy](#)

### Comments

Plymouth’s carbon emissions per capita has fallen by 45% since 2005 to 3.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018 (latest available data). Massive increases in the amount of renewables in the energy mix have helped continue this reduction, and the Council’s declaration of a Climate Emergency will ensure that action at a local level plays a key role too.

**Plymouth has a vibrant, productive, inclusive and innovative business sector with a workforce that is paid a living wage**

**Primary Indicator C - Gap between national living wage and 10th percentile**



10th percentile wage per hour vs national living wage (NLW) per hour, excluding overtime  
 (£7.86 is 10th percentile wage, so less than 10% earn less than this. £7.83 is national living wage)

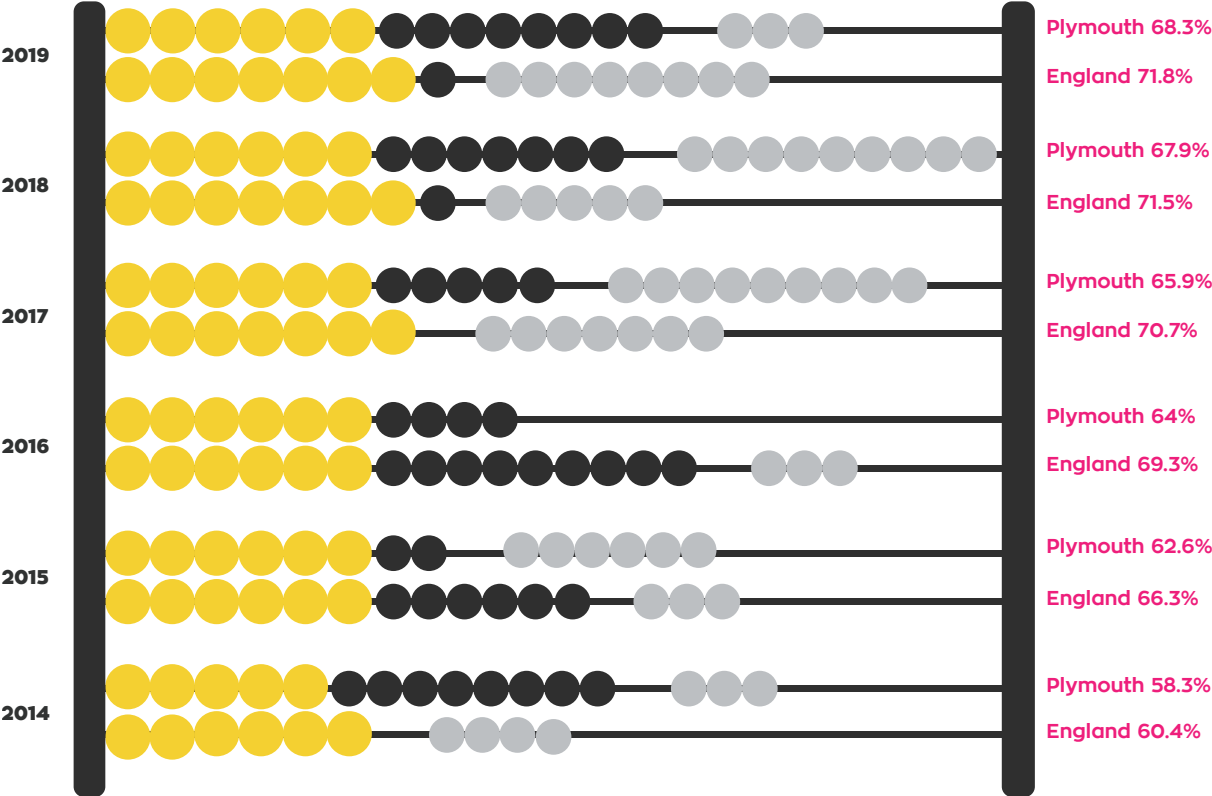
Source: ONS/NOMIS

**Comments**

Early in the plan period (2014/15 and 2015/16) Plymouth’s 10th percentile wage level was below the National Minimum Wage but has since moved up to and kept pace with accelerating rises in the National Minimum Wage.



**Primary Indicator D(i) - % of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) children achieving a good level of development**



Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics](#)

Please note there are no results for 2020 due to COVID-19

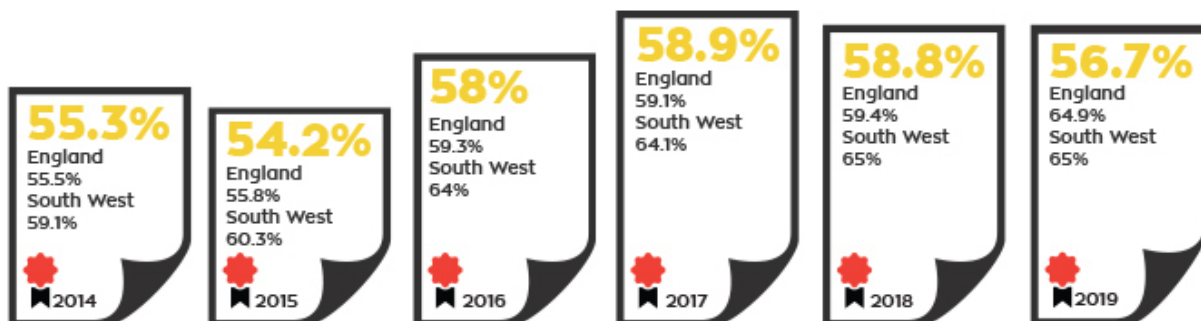
**Comments**

Since 2014, the percentage of Early Years Foundation Stage pupils achieving a good level of development has increased by 10 percentage points (from 58.3% in 2014 to 68.3% in 2019). However, this is below the level of improvement nationally, which has increased by 11.4 percentage points (60.4% in 2014 to 71.8% in 2019), and the gap between Plymouth and the national benchmark has widened from 2.1% to 3.5%.

In 2020, academic testing within the Early Years was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and there is growing evidence that the pandemic has had a significant impact on the communication and language development of children birth to five, which may affect long term learning and development unless the necessary support and interventions are secured.

## The people of Plymouth have the skills to be school ready and work ready to meet the needs of the city, enabling them to avoid poverty

### Primary Indicator D(ii) - Key Stage 4 Attainment 8 achieving the 'basics'



Source: [DfE Explore Education statistics](#)

Please note there are no results for 2020 due to COVID-19

### Comments

Since 2017, when the Key Stage 4 curriculum was reformed, the percentage of Key Stage 4 pupils achieving a standard pass in English and Maths (graded 9-4 in both subjects) has declined by 2.2 percentage points (from 58.9% in 2017 to 56.7% in 2019). Nationally progress has increased by 0.7 of a percentage point (from 59.1% in 2017 to 59.8% in 2019). The gap between Plymouth and the national benchmark in this period has widen from 0.2% to 8.2%.

In 2020, GCSE grades were awarded in a different way due to the Coronavirus pandemic. All exams were cancelled and pupils were awarded grades based on previous test results and teacher assessments. Therefore data for 2020 cannot be used in comparisons.

## Plymouth continues to strengthen the conditions for increased growth and investment including ensuring effective infrastructure systems

### Primary Indicator E - Capital investment in infrastructure

This indicator is under review and is not included in this year's report.

# International city

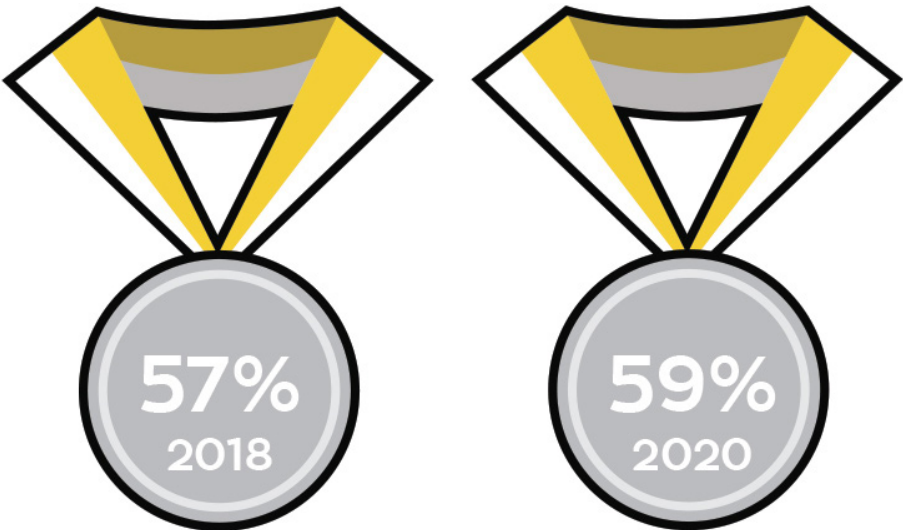
## What we are trying to achieve - our strategic objective for an international city

### Strategic Outcome

Plymouth is internationally renowned as Britain's Ocean City and is the UK's premier marine city, famous for its waterfront and being home to the UK's first National Marine Park. It is recognised as unique among UK cities for its natural drama and for its 500 year old history as a place of embarkation and exploration. Plymouth's continuing journey towards a world leading marine city supports the cultural experiences it offers to visitors who are looking for authenticity and character. The city's world class universities and research institutions are recognised for their innovation, and Plymouth is a place where businesses can capitalise on a unique economic position and talented workforce. Visitors from around the world are welcomed to a city that provides a diverse cultural experience and a perfect base for enjoying the city's surrounds, land and marine. Plymouth is an international city that local communities can enjoy, be a part of and be proud of.

## Plymouth continues to improve its diverse cultural and sporting experience with great venues, major events, good food and hospitality offer

Primary Indicator A - Agreement with the statement 'Plymouth has a lot to offer'



Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

## Comments

The proportion of residents agreeing that Plymouth has a lot to offer (cultural offer, events) has remained fairly consistent with 59% agreeing with this statement in the 2020 City Survey compared to 57% in 2018.

People in the age group 45 to 54 year were significantly more likely to disagree with this than those in older age groups (65+). This could reflect that the city has less to offer people in this age group and further research could help to identify what events or activities are considered to be missing.

## Plymouth is internationally renowned as a leading UK tourist destination

### Primary Indicator B - Visitor numbers



Source: South West Research Company

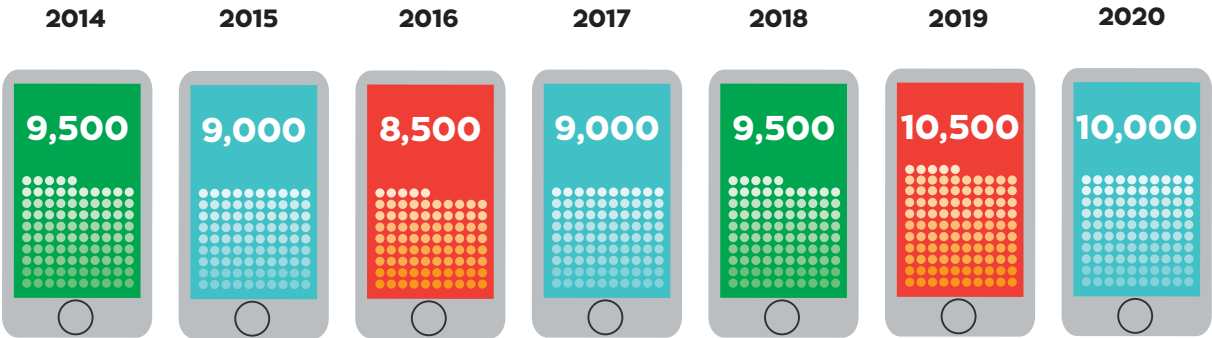
## Comments

Visitor numbers have demonstrated a clear increase over the plan period to 2019 (about 1% a year). However, while usual statistics are not available for 2020, indications are that there may have been a reduction of over 50% from 2019 which will take perhaps a few years to recover from.

The visitor economy has been one of the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19 pandemic and has lost in excess of 50% of annual visitor spend in the city.

# Plymouth is recognised internationally for expertise in the marine science and high technology manufacturing sectors

## Primary Indicator C - Jobs in high-tech manufacturing and scientific research and development



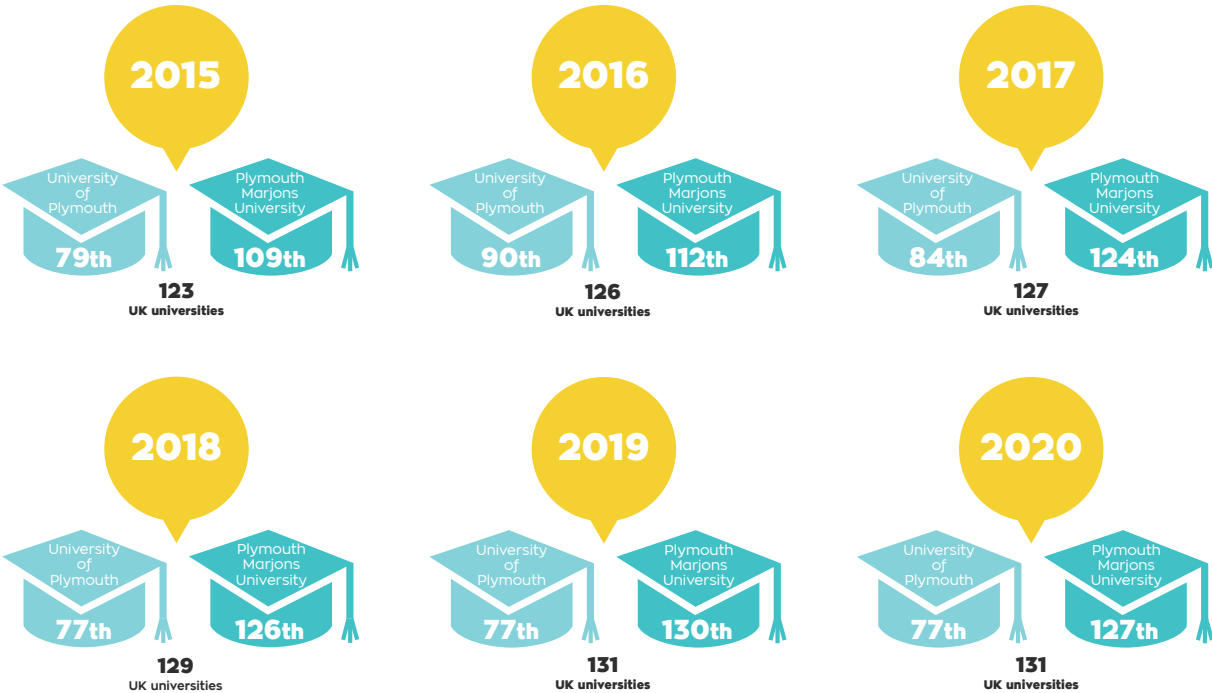
Source: University of Plymouth/AMORE

### Comments

Statistics for this indicator suggest a variable but nevertheless clear increase (about 2% a year) to date in high-tech job numbers in Plymouth.

## Plymouth’s reputation for world class universities and research institutions continues to grow

### Primary Indicator D - Ranking of Plymouth’s universities (UK and world rankings)



Source: [The Times Higher Education Young University Ranking](#)

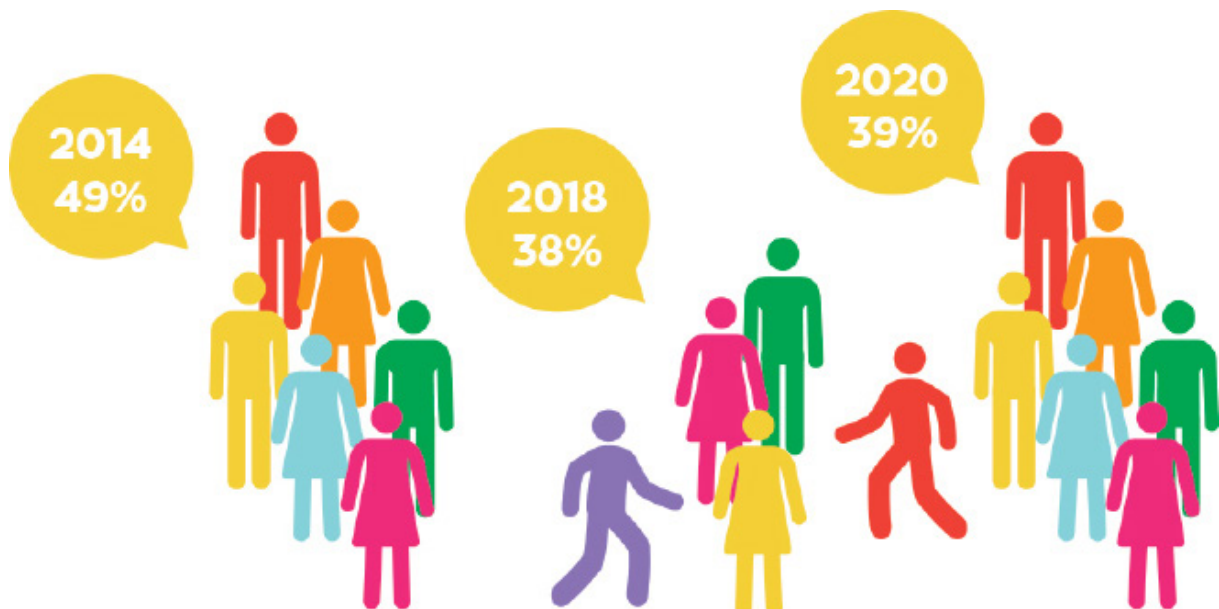
## Comments

The University of Plymouth ranking within the UK and globally has fluctuated since 2014, the university's lowest UK ranking since this time was recorded as 90/126 in 2016 compared to 71/130 in 2021. Globally, the University of Plymouth has consistently been ranked within the banding 300-600, with a recent improvement shown in the last 12 months from a ranking of 501-600 recorded in 2020 to 401-500 in 2021.

The University of St Mark and St John UK university ranking has fluctuated since 2014, the highest ranking of 109/123 was recorded in 2015 and the lowest ranking of 130/131 recorded in 2019. This year there was a slight improvement with the University of St Mark and St John achieving a ranking of 128/131. There are no global rankings awarded to the University of St Mark and St John at this time.

## Plymouth's reputation is strengthened as a welcoming, multicultural city where a broad range of partners promote the benefits of diversity

**Primary Indicator E - % of residents who agree with the statement: my local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together**



Source: [Plymouth City Survey](#)

## Comments

The proportion of residents agreeing their local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together has stayed consistent at 39% in 2020 compared with the 2018 City Survey where 38% agreed. However, there has been a significant decrease from 49% in 2014 (Plymouth Wellbeing Survey).

## 6. Look ahead

5.1 In addition to looking backwards, this annual report provides a baseline so that in future years, we can assess how national challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the climate emergency and leaving the EU have impacted upon the city and its direction of travel. A brief commentary relating to these events follows.

### Coronavirus pandemic

5.2 The Coronavirus pandemic has had a significant impact on the city and the lives of its residents since it first began in early 2020 and Plymouth is facing some unprecedented challenges as a result. Whilst it is too early to see an impact on the indicators being looked at in this report, some of the challenges facing us can already be identified.

5.3 The overriding focus of the health and care system on tackling Covid-19 may well impact on broader health outcomes across communities and exacerbate existing health inequalities. The impacts of the 'stay at home' policy and the closure of schools for normal educational provision are likely to have negatively impacted on the life chances of key vulnerable groups, ranging from children in receipt of social care and vulnerable adults to victims of domestic abuse. Rising unmitigated risks of 'hidden harm' to both children and vulnerable adults will require concerted and focussed action going forward.

5.4 The economic impacts of the pandemic are deep and ongoing, with leisure, hospitality, non-food retail and tourism at a standstill and all other sectors seriously affected. The visitor economy has been one of the hardest hit sectors and has effectively gone into economic shock losing in excess of 50% of annual visitor spend in the city.

5.5 There is still a huge amount of uncertainty around how long the economic effects of the pandemic will last. The effects could be temporary and a full recovery could be made in 2022 or much longer-term, with permanent changes to the economy and the way people work. Plymouth is potentially facing high numbers of unemployment along with over 4,000 potential school leavers and 10,000 further and higher education leavers trying to enter a jobs market with high unemployment and fewer new entrant opportunities.

### Leaving the EU

5.6 The UK left the EU on 31 January 2020 and secured a trade agreement at the end of December 2020. It is currently too early to assess the full economic and social impacts on Plymouth or the wider region and the data behind the indicators in this report only covers the period before leaving the EU.



**5.7** EU structural and infrastructure funding has significantly benefited the city over recent years. The terms of the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund that is anticipated will replace EU funding streams are not yet known so the city is facing a potential future funding gap.

**5.8** There are concerns nationally over the impact of increases in food prices and the shortage of labour, particularly in the health and social care sector and these are of concern to Plymouth. Also, Plymouth is more vulnerable than other cities to the effects of new burdens relating to port procedures that result from Brexit and any negative impacts on the fishing industry as the UK takes back control of its international waters.

**5.9** In March 2021 it was announced that Plymouth would be one of the first eight cities to become a Freeport. This will help to maintain the flow of foreign direct investment and mitigate some of the effects of Brexit. It is estimated that the new Freeport could help to bring 9000 new jobs to the city over its lifetime and attract some major new companies to Plymouth.

### **Climate emergency**

**5.10** On 18 March 2019, the City Council declared a climate emergency in recognition of the need for an urgent response from the global community to the threat of climate change, with a target of a net-zero city by 2030. Carbon neutrality is defined as the point when the city achieves a net zero carbon budget by getting as close to zero greenhouse gas emissions as possible by 2030, and then offsetting any residual emissions via other credible initiatives. Following consultation and review in 2020, the Plymouth Plan was aligned with the ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and these changes were approved at a City Council meeting on 25 January 2021.

**5.11** Plymouth aspires to be amongst the greenest and most sustainable places in Europe. It has been recognised as one of Forum for the Future's leading 'green' cities and has a strong reputation in promoting sustainable development. For example, in recent years Plymouth has almost doubled the area of land designated as Local Nature Reserves, supported 2,500 improvements in home energy efficiency, and launched a programme of work to establish the UK's first National Marine Park within Plymouth Sound.

**5.12** Current and future progress towards achieving the city's climate change ambitions are measured through a series of [Climate Emergency Action Plans](#). The Climate Emergency Action Plan 2021 (link) contains over 80 realistic, achievable and deliverable actions that the city is committed to delivering during 2021. This is the second of 11 action plans that will be delivered by 2030.





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