

Cabinet

Tuesday 21 December 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.

Councillor Nicholson, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Deacon, Downie (Virtual), Drear, Mrs Pengelly and Riley (Virtual).

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 6.19 pm.

203. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest submitted by cabinet members.

204. **Minutes**

The minutes from 9 November 2021 were signed as a true and accurate record.

205. **Questions from the Public**

There were no public questions.

206. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of business from the Chair.

207. **COVID 19 Update**

Dr Ruth Harrell, Director of Public Health provided an update for members and went through the following key points:

- (a) Omicron was a new variant which was highly infectious even more so than the Delta variant. The speed of the spread had been very high and this had been seen in London. There had been many things that were unknown about the new variant, however it was seen as being similar to the Delta variant;
- (b) Plymouth had many cases of the Delta variant and this wave had been reducing due in part to many having already been infected and on top of vaccination, the infection had nowhere to go. Restrictions were in place and people trying to minimise risk to themselves and to others had also contributed to the reduction in Delta cases. Plymouth's rates had been 743 people per 100,000 in a week;
- (c) The reduction meant that Plymouth's rates were now below the England average; England rates had been 840 people per 100,000 in a week. It was noted that the large increase had been driven by Omicron;

- (d) Although the decline in infection was positive, the number of cases in the city that were Omicron were increasing with data suggesting a 40% increase. Dr Ruth Harrell advised members that due to the increase the rates within the city could rise again;
- (e) An unknown of the variant was how many people would be admitted to hospital with the new variant and what the impact would be. Derriford Hospital had over 60 patients in hospital with COVID-19; there had been a high in January 2021 of 120. This meant that the healthcare system had been under huge pressure and operations were cancelled and people requiring surgery had not been completed;
- (f) The Governments 'Plan B' had been brought in to keep cases and hospitalisations down; people were required to wear face coverings in indoor settings, work from home where possible and the need to prove either vaccination status or negative lateral flow tests to attend some venues;
- (g) Plymouth residents had been coming forward for vaccination and the capacity to deliver vaccines had increased, these two factors enabled two times as many people to be vaccinated compared to the previous high. Uptake in Plymouth had been very good and was in line with England levels by age group;
- (h) Many people had been accessing boosters too with the take up in the high 80's for older adults. Many people had booked in for their boosters and others had been making use of the walk-in clinics. The location and times of appointments had been on the national NHS website as well as Plymouth City Council's website;
- (i) Vaccination helped to reduce transmission and helped to reduce severe disease; the protection had increased once people had the booster;
- (j) An Ipsos MORI poll reported that many people were going over and above any restrictions in place as they wanted to keep themselves and their colleagues, friends and loved ones safe.

Dr Ruth Harrell (Director for Public Health) requested people to:-

- Limit social contact to those who really matter to them;
- Take a lateral flow test prior to visiting other people and make sure there was no faint line on the test;
- To follow guidance if contact had been made with someone that had tested positive for COVID-19. Whilst there had been no need to isolate, caution had been advised as people could test positive at any point;
- Seek a PCR test if they had been feeling unwell;
- Limit indoor contact.

Plymouth had the lowest death rate due to COVID based on medical certification of all upper tier local authorities in the UK; 114 deaths per 100,000 population.

Members discussed the following:

- (a) Councillors thanked Ruth Harrell (Director for Public Health) and the staff

deployed in their efforts to help roll out the booster and vaccination programme;

- (b) There had been discussions with Devon CCG to open further venues for the programme, however at this time no further venues would be used. Home Park and other venues being used were operating at higher capacity to accommodate the high demand. It was acknowledged that the programme doesn't fit everyone's needs but that the department had been working to ensure that the sites are accessible to many people;
- (c) The Home Park facility had a late clinic, more had been planned for the future. The booster programmes social media had been effective in providing updates, Councillors and members of the public were advised to follow this with regards to up to date news on the booster programme;
- (d) Uptake of the programme in Plymouth had been good; the uptake had been lower towards the lower age groups which had been due to those groups not having the opportunity to be vaccinated; Lower age groups had also been affected due to contracting the virus which meant the vaccination could not be administered for a period of 28 days for adults and 12 weeks for children. There had been a small minority of people in Plymouth who had chosen not to have the vaccination. Data continued to evidence the safety efficiency of the programme and continued community conversations with COVID champions had been on-going to encourage those not already vaccinated to get the vaccine. Numbers of people having their first vaccination continued at 80 people per day.

208. **Leader's Announcements**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council announced the following:

- (a) Plymouth City Council had been successful in winning the opportunity to host Sail GP next year;
- (b) Plymouth City Council had been working in partnership with South Hams District Council and Devon County Council and an outline business case had been submitted to government which would create a Plymouth and South Devon Freezone and unlock millions of pounds worth of public and private investments. The Business case focussed on the City's engineering and advanced manufacturing sectors and would build on Plymouth's strengths in the marine and defence sectors;
- (c) The Leader unveiled Haxter Court last month and was privileged to get a look behind the scenes at Plymouth Argyle's warehouse which was one of the units. There had been great demand in the city for quality employment space and it was great to see businesses thriving in those units;
- (d) The pandemic had a huge impact on businesses, this administration wanted to build back better in Plymouth and had worked hard to support the local economy, helping local businesses and creating and protecting jobs. Plymouth City Council helped to pay out £92 mil in government grants which had

supported 7,440 Plymouth businesses;

- (e) Local spend had exceeded the target of 10% with £40 million more spent with local businesses this financial year;
- (f) 10 new commercial units at Plymouth International Medical and Technology Park had been completed;
- (g) The third phase of development at Header Court on the Langage had started;
- (h) Big investments had been secured in the city to create jobs by providing a new home for the Valuation Office Agency which opened in September. Marks and Spencer's and Aldi would become new tenants at Plymouth's newest district shopping centre of the former Seaton Barracks;
- (i) The pandemic highlighted how critical good digital connectivity was for the city, and the first school in Plymouth was able to access download speeds of up to 1 Gigabit per second thanks to the Plymouth and South West Devon Local Fast Fibre Network scheme;
- (j) Fishing was at the heart of Plymouth's economy for centuries Councillor Kelly had been talking with partners and those working in the industry about the exciting plan for a bigger and better fish market;
- (k) Plymouth had made progress in the past seven months and had secured £9.5 million for the UK's first National Marine Park in Plymouth Sound;

The Council had:

- (e) Repaired slipways, steps and railings along the waterfront as part of physical improvements;
- (f) Installed a new welcome sign below the Citadel, surrounded by wildflowers, and restored some of Plymouth's landmarks at Gydna Fountain on St Andrews Cross and the San Sebastian Fountain. Erected a new flagpole on the Council House to fly the Union Jack flag;
- (g) Started the third phase of the Improving Plymouth Play scheme, which would see 10 more parks being redeveloped;
- (h) Had issued more than 400 fixed penalties for littering and fly-tipping;
- (i) Improved safety by installing new CCTV cameras, improving street lighting and 'help-points. These are stand-alone emergency points put in place as part of a package of measures to make people, especially women and girls feel safe;
- (j) Launched a new multi-agency commission to tackle violence against women; and girls, bringing together key partners and agencies across the city to review what more needs to be done to prevent these crimes;

- (k) Completed work on Millbay Boulevard, progressed the ambitious plans for the railway station, and asked people for their views on the latest designs for this plaza;
- (l) Started work on a scheme to refresh and revive Old Town Street and New George Street as part of a multi-million pound investment in the city centre;
- (m) Seen more affordable homes built thanks to a new agreement with LiveWest, which would see an additional 153 homes in the city;
- (n) Would be delivering on the commitment to prioritise the delivery of a dual carriageway between Woolwell and The George and secured £19.9 million for the Government's Levelling Up Fund for this scheme;
- (o) Secured just under £60,000 to run a number of trial schemes designed to encourage greater uptake of electric bikes in Plymouth;
- (p) Opened two new, off-road cycling and walking paths;
- (q) Launched the 'Engines Off for Clean Air' campaign to reduce pollution outside schools;
- (r) Delivered the commitment to provide three hours of free parking in Mutley Plain and had also created a partnership with bus operators to make buses an easier choice for everyone;
- (s) Upgraded signals at 16 major junctions across the city to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion;
- (t) Successful in the bid to create a new Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest;
- (u) Would be introducing a new smartphone app to bring Central Park to life for families and would be planting beautiful new blossom trees at Devil's Point;
- (v) Would be welcoming Afghan heroes and their families to Plymouth as part of the Home Office's scheme to relocate those who worked for British forces;
- (w) Agreed a new five year plan to ensure Plymouth's children and young people have the best possible start to life. The Bright Future Plan set out the vision for children and young people to be healthy, happy and safe as well as having opportunities to aspire and achieve;
- (x) Delivered on the commitment to make it easier for people diagnosed with a terminal illness to apply for disabled facilities grant and blue badges;
- (y) Launched a new campaign to recruit more Home Care Assistants;
- (z) Delivered on the promise to change the policy on school absence to support

both schools and families when they want to take a holiday in term-time.

209. **Cabinet Member Updates**

Councillor Jonathan Drean, Cabinet member for Transport made the following announcements:

- (a) Mobility Hubs - Plymouth City Council would be awarding contracts for electric vehicle charging points, an electric vehicle club and electric bike elements in the project. This would provide drivers access to electric charging vehicle points across 300 parking bays over the city, of which over 100 would be rapid chargers;
- (b) A contract would be awarded for electric bikes which would lead to over 400 E-bikes delivered to Plymouth by 2023;
- (c) Plymouth City Council are in the process of delivering an electric vehicle car club for use by residents and businesses and information would be shared in the New Year after contracts had been awarded;
- (d) The Department for Transport had sponsored the upgrade of the CCTV Centre, this would see the replacement of the Urban Traffic Control Software, Video Management system and replacement of aging monitoring arrangements.

The Plymouth Highways team had:

- (aa) Commenced white lining of roads in Plymouth using an MMA which was a cold plastic Methyl Methacrylate system, this would last longer than the current road marking techniques. It would be laid at a lower temperature and would reduce carbon emissions and set quicker and therefore eases congestion by reducing on time site;
- (bb) Continued works of upgrading of subway lights, pedestrian crossings and traffic island bollards using LED technology and the service had achieved all targets within the Carbon Reduction Plan;
- (cc) Prepared over 90,000 tonnes m² of Highway ready for next year's micro asphalt surface treatments. The Processing comparison of traditional road surfacing would see a saving of 85% carbon emissions;
- (dd) Commenced work in setting up a Social Media page which would highlight all works being carried out on Plymouth's road network and would be working with the Corporate Communications Team but be led by the Highways Team;
- (ee) Repaired street lighting columns, there are now less than 100 street light columns to be repaired. Two teams were out in the day repairing 30 columns per day. The repairs had been undertaken under warranty from the manufacturers. South West Highways, the contractor had a sufficient stock of lanterns and photocells and would be working up to Christmas Eve

before commencing again in January on the annual repairs;

- (ff) Disabled parking bays at Devils Point Car Park had been doubled from 4 to 9 with waterfront parking and Plymouth would be looking to adding more on the Hoe Promenade in the future. Plymouth had assisted Blue Badge holders with Electric vehicle charging in the Theatre Royal Car Park. Holders would be able to ask staff to connect their vehicles to the charging point at no additional charge. This trial would be reviewed after four months;

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene made the following announcements to Cabinet:

- (a) Household Waste and Recycling Centres would be open throughout the festive period (except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day) and the staff would be working hard to deal with the increased use during this time of the year;
- (b) Plymouth City Council had closed its first full season of the new garden waste collection service, which was extended into December to ensure that all residents had a final collection. Over 57,000 registrations and record tonnage of green waste was collected;
- (c) Plymouth City Council's cleansing teams would be working over festive period and collections would start again next Wednesday;
- (d) Councillor Mrs Bridgeman thanked all Street Services frontline staff who had continued to work hard throughout the pandemic.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader of the Council made the following updates:

- (a) The Play Area Improvement Plan 6 of 10 sites had been fully ordered and will be implemented early in the New Year. Sites included; King George V playing field, Lancaster Gardens, Albion Park, Staple Close, Lower Park Drive and Yealmpstone Farm. For the other 4 sites, consultations would be taking place early in the New Year with company supplying the equipment and it is hoped this would be agreed with relevant ward members to enable ordering;
- (b) 2021 trees had been planted by Plymouth City Council as part of the tree planting programme.

Cabinet members were then presented with a short video to look back at some of the events that took place in Plymouth.

Cabinet thanked the Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader) for his hard work and dedication in Leading the Council and Cabinet.

210. **Commitments**

Councillor Nick Kelly, The Leader of the Council introduced the Commitments report and invited Cabinet Members to speak on commitments relating to their portfolios as follows:

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council advised:

- (a) **Commitment 33** – *We will establish an investment fund, via the Council's capital spending programme, to promote the creation of a vibrant small business start-up sector in Plymouth;*
- (b) The Council had helped businesses get back on their feet and had given entrepreneurs the support they need to get going. Four brand-new projects had offered businesses a lifeline and supported Plymouth's economic recovery during and following the pandemic;
- (c) We aimed to create 50 new jobs, 27 new social enterprises and support more than 140 individual businesses. This had involved helping individuals into self-employment or guiding them as they set up new businesses, as well as supporting existing businesses looking to 'relaunch' after the interruption caused by coronavirus.

Each of the four business support programmes had its own specific focus:

- Business Start-up Support: Offering advice and support for new business start-ups or re-starts, including workshops, 1 to 1 support sessions and access to a Business Start-up Specialist;
 - Inspirational Entrepreneurship Programme: Designed to increase entrepreneurship, individuals, sole traders and new businesses would be given access to a Community Enterprise Advisor and flexible support that met their needs;
 - Digital Pivot Programme: Helped businesses to adopt new digital solutions and adapt to new challenges posed by coronavirus, this would include free workshops and 1 to 1 advice for business owners;
 - Social Enterprise Support: Supported those looking to set up social enterprises with advice, provided through 1 to 1 sessions, group workshops and drop in 'surgeries';
 - The Business Start-up Support and Inspirational Entrepreneurship Programme would be provided by YTKO. The Digital Pivot Programme was being run by Cosmic, a social enterprise offering digital skills training and services, while the Social Enterprise Support would be led by the School for Social Entrepreneurs.
- (d) **Commitment 35** – *We will lobby the Government and protect our Dockyard. It is home to the Royal Navy and is the largest dockyard in Western Europe.*
 - (e) We had continued to lobby, protect and support partners to protect the naval base. We had included South Yard in the Freezone bid, we had invited the Secretary of State for Defence, The Right Honourable Ben Wallace MP to Plymouth and had asked for the Government's continued commitment to HMNB Devonport and specifically the base porting and maintenance of the Type 26 and the through life support for the Type 31 Frigates. We had provided cross party MP briefings on future deep maintenance of the Type 26 Frigates.
 - (f) **Commitment 37** – *We will build on our enviable reputation for hosting major nautical events such as the Americas Cup, the Fastnet, Sail GP.*

- (g) Sail GP would host its Great Britain Sail Grand Prix in Plymouth for the second year running, following a bumper event in 2021, which saw an estimated 27,500 spectators enjoying the spectacle that brought £6.9 million into the local economy.
- (h) The thrilling racing would take place on 30 and 31 July 2022. Plymouth was one of the initial eight locations confirmed on the line-up for Sail GP Season 3, which also included stops in Bermuda, Chicago, Saint-Tropez and Dubai.

Councillor Patrick Nicholson, Deputy Leader of the Council advised:

- (i) **Commitment 1** – *Working with key partners we will complete the provision of Health & Well-Being Hubs in Plymouth in order to reduce inequalities in our local communities.*
- (j) The west end health centre in Colin Campbell Court would be a multi-million pound, multi storey, multi-disciplinary health centre which would transform health treatment in the city centre of Plymouth. The Centre aimed to bring health to the high street by combining services from doctors, to dentists, to mental health support and a community kitchen. Plymouth City Council and the NHS had been working together on plans to involve local people on the design and to determine which services should be provided within the building. A Planning application had been submitted and if approved would house three local GP services and hospital services which would potentially be relocated from Derriford and would reduce the need to travel to the main strategic hospital at Derriford. The Centre had been planned to open in 2024.
- (k) **Commitment 6** – *We will encourage more community lunch clubs and activities for lonely people by working in conjunction with voluntary and community groups to establish a wider network of community activities. We aim to reduce social isolation and social exclusion, whilst improving the physical, mental and emotional health and well-being of participants.*
- (l) A partnership of the Plymouth Octopus Project had been successful in reaching the second stage of a Lottery funded project called Healthy Communities Together. This would see a network of activities developed across the city over the next three years which would tackle social isolation and loneliness. It would be driven by a movement of local people joining together to find solutions and connect people called Belonging Plymouth. The vision for Belonging Plymouth had been for people to belong in a city in which no one felt forgotten. Also this year we had increased provision of time banks and peer transport in the city targeting over 65's which would provide social activities and groups for people to join. We had also funded an Age UK telephone befriending service which would encourage people who had been isolated to meet up in small community groups. Plymouth City Council had been providing a funding pot of small grants in partnership with the Plymouth Octopus project to which community groups can apply to fund a wide range of activity.

Councillor Jonathan Drean, Cabinet Member for Transport advised:

- (a) **Commitment 56** – *We will make sure utility companies minimise the impact of their works on the highway network and repair the carriageway to the same standard.*

- (b) In Highways we would enforce permitting requirements of undertaking of works of the highway to effectively manage their works and minimise disruptions. Highways would robustly be applying the requirements of the NRSWA to ensure statutory undertakers and private contractors reinstate the highway to the same condition as it had been previously with inspections carried out by dedicated Highways inspectors. September 2021 saw the introduction of New Roads and Street Working Act and the team are robustly applying the legislation.
- (c) **Commitment 60** – *We will encourage and help facilitate the greater use of public transport, walking and cycling as a more sustainable way of getting around the city. We will work with bus operators to provide the services and routes you want*
- (d) The Plymouth 2021 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was complete and had been published online. The 2021 LCWIP considered 10 active travel routes; 4 cycling and 6 walking and identified the physical improvements needed to improve levels of active travel. 693 residents took part in the consultation; Councillor Dreaan thanked them for their valuable feedback and comments on the proposals set out in the plan. 87% respondents stated that it was extremely or very important to promote walking and cycling within Plymouth. The LCWIP had been a live delivery plan for walking and cycling and work had been underway at an advanced stage in preparing 2022 LCWIP which will would continue in spring.
- (e) **Commitment 63** - *We will exempt all motorcycles (2 wheels} from having to have a residential parking permit, currently £30 pa.*
- (f) With effect from the 1st December 2021 motorcycles had been no longer required pay £30 for a residential parking permit, this would encourage the use of motorcycles which would take up less space and help residents where parking had been an issue. It was hoped that it would help traffic flow across the city by encouraging people to use motorcycles over cars.
- (g) **Commitment 64** – *We will review the provision of disabled parking spaces to ensure there is sufficient parking for blue badge holders.*
- (h) Plymouth City Council took the access needs of Blue Badge holders seriously and had undertaken a review of Blue Badge holder parking across the City car parks whereby we provide parking above and beyond that is recommended by Department for Trade. This had been supported by an independent review which identified Plymouth as England's most accessible area for disabled parking. This followed the recent fast track process for terminally ill residents wishing to apply for blue badges and dedicated support for the terminally ill to access their homes. Plymouth City Council undertook regular review of the provisions for disabled parking and access which included exploring opportunities and providing additional support. Looking forward Plymouth City Council had been looking to undertake work around EV charging and ensuring chargers installed in future are easily available and accessible to person with disabilities.

Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman Cabinet Member for Environment & Street Scene advised:

- (a) **Commitment 31** – *We will support community volunteers to keep our streets, greenspaces and beaches clean.*
- (b) The first Plastics volunteer event working with Plymouth Gin Distillery took place on Tuesday 13th April 2021 on the Barbican. 9kg of plastic waste was collected. 13 people involved. The second event working with Plymouth City Council staff took place on Wednesday 28th April 2021 on the Hoe. 5.3kg of plastic waste was collected. 12 people involved. The third event took place on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at Teat's Hill. 10.9kg of plastic waste was collected. 5 people involved working with NMA and Gin Distillery staff.
- (c) All Mayflower Maker and the Plymouth Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers have been actively encouraged to sign up to the: Clean Our Patch, Keep Britain Tidy and Plymouth Beach Clean volunteer activities. All these projects and additional opportunities for volunteers to keep our streets, greenspaces and beaches clean are advertised on the Our Plymouth website. Work to support volunteering will be ongoing post the sign off of this commitment.

Councillor Mrs Pengelly, Cabinet Member for Home and Communities advised:

- (a) **Commitment 9** – *We will prioritise the work required to eliminate homelessness in our city and the Government's policy to eradicate rough sleeping by 2024 and support the "no second night" initiative.*
- (b) It had been clear from the onset of the pandemic that the impact on the vulnerable would be immediate and longer term with issues manifesting over the coming years. This would require a long term plan which Plymouth City Council had continued to work towards with its partners. Rough sleeping is the most visible form on homelessness and the Council had worked to deliver a comprehensive multi agency response to meet the needs of those sleeping rough and support people away from the streets. Government funding from the Next Steps accommodation programme and cold weather fund, we had 12 individual supported, COVID safe night shelter spaces available at Hamoaze House. We know the links between health and homelessness are inextricable and had ensured a self-contained shower unit as part of the offer as well as health outreach support.
- (c) The Homelessness Prevention Partnership executive and Homelessness Prevention Partnership Stakeholder Forum had been developed to oversee the work which had been pulled together and delivered against 7 priority areas.
- (d) **Commitment 81** – *We believe tenants who live in Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) have the right to live in affordable, good quality and safe accommodation. To ensure these standards are met we will scrutinise HMOs across the city so that such accommodation makes a valued contribution to Plymouth's housing stock.*
- (e) 180 dwellings within licensed HMO's had been inspected and 37 had been improved. In the financial year 2021-2022 Plymouth City Council had served 160 notices and fined landlords £29,000 for failing to comply with housing legislation. The Council had also successfully prosecuted a landlord and had been added to the rogue landlord

database, the Council would also be applying for banning order in respect of this landlord. – when applying for HMO license a range of safety certification would be required.

- (f) Licensed HMO is inspected during the course of the license, the inspection would check for hazards and assesses them under the Housing health and safety rating system. In addition the property would be checked against HMO standards and regulations. Where the Council had not been satisfied it could be required for works to be undertaken to improve standards.

Councillor Mark Deacon, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport advised:

- (g) **Commitment 37** – *We will build on our enviable reputation for hosting major nautical events such as the Americas Cup, the Fastnet, Sail GP.*
- (h) Sail GP would host its Great Britain Sail Grand Prix in Plymouth for second year running. An estimated 27,500 spectators enjoyed the spectacle which had brought £6.9 million into the local economy. The racing would next take place on 30st July and 31st July 2022.

Councillor Riley, Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety advised:

- (i) **Commitment 16** – *We will continue to work with Devon & Cornwall Police to prevent, detect and reduce crime on our streets making Plymouth a safer and more welcoming city.*
- (j) Safer Plymouth continued to keep people in Plymouth Safe. The Council agreed a new set of priorities formed from MORILE (Management of Risk in Law Enforcement) workshops and a strategic assessment. Strategic Assessment was signed off at the Safer Executive in October.
- (k) **Commitment 17** – *We will work with our Police & Crime Commissioner to provide additional Police Officers on the beat in Plymouth.*
- (l) Conversations with the Police, OPCC and Cabinet Member had been held and an approach to ensuring more officers are deployed at key times as part of the policing strategy.

Cabinet agreed to endorse the completion of 16 commitments numbering 1, 6, 9, 11, 16, 17, 19, 31, 33, 35, 37, 56, 60, 63, 64 and 81 identified in this report.

211. **Corporate Plan Performance Report, Quarter 2 - 2021 - 22**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update on Quarter two of the Corporate Plan Performance Report.

Following Key Points were raised:

- Recycling rate improving and achieving target;

- Continued good performance on completing carriage defects in time;
- Improvement in free school meal take up;
- Continued good performance around council tax collection which is achieving target.

Performance Challenges were:

- Small decrease in small medium enterprise spend and PL postcode spend (still achieving target);
- Slight increase in repeat referrals to Children's Social Care;
- A decrease in homelessness prevention;
- Number on multiple child protection plans has increased.

Cabinet noted the report.

212. **Finance Monitoring Report October 2021**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update on month 7 of the financial monitoring report.

- (a) It was noted that the financial position will fluctuate as we move through the year, this month showed a small adverse movement from the September position. In September an overspend position had been reported of £729,000 however this had moved to £883,000 for October, this represented a net movement of £154,000;
- (b) The Children's Directorate had reported a £414,000 overspend which had moved from a nil variance and reflected the uncertainty of delivering the fostering savings plan;
- (c) The Place directorate had been reporting an over spend of £121,000 due to income targets being impacted on following delegated decisions signed off in June 2021. The directorate had been working on other savings to mitigate the over spend;
- (d) Customer and Corporate Services Directorate had improved it's overspend position by £110,000 to £655,000;
- (e) The Public Protection Service had reported an underspend of £327,000 which was an improvement of £230,000 due to additional grant funding received;
- (f) It was reported that 70% of savings targets that had either already been achieved (51%) or ready to be achieved (19%) being a total of £9.771 mil from the total of £13.845 savings the Council had been looking to deliver;
- (g) £2.662 mil of savings had been marked as 'red' or at risk and the details were included in the forecasted figures.

Cabinet noted the report.

213. **Budget 2022 - 23 - Draft Budget**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update to Cabinet for this item and highlighted the following key points:

- (a) Since reporting a budget shortfall of £20 mil in November 2021, Officers and Portfolio Holders had done further work which had included reviewing all cost pressures and putting forward directorate savings plans. The report presented to members showed a budget shortfall of £13.533 mil. The report did not look at or address all of the contents and impact of the Autumn Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review;
- (b) The Provisional Settlement had been published last week and officers had been reviewing the contents and implications for Plymouth. Within the assumptions regarding core resources it was assumed the Council's resources base would be broadly unchanged by the Local Government Finance Settlement. However Plymouth had been given additional funding but this would be offset in the main with additional burdens. The report reflected the additional cost of the National Living Wage for Plymouth City Council's Adult Social Care providers, in addition to the impact of the 1.25% National Insurance increase. These combined to a total cost of £5.876 mil which had been offset by an assumed grant of the same value;
- (c) Directorates had identified £20.942 mil of net additional costs and had developed since the last report £6.751 of saving proposals. When taken with other corporate adjustments including movements in the core resources of £4.308 mil Plymouth City Council had been left with a forecast budget shortfall in 2022/23 of £13.533 mil. That shortfall is before any assumption of the confirmed maximum 1.99% Council Tax and 1% Adult Social Care Precept, together these would give additional resources of £3.650 mil. Final recommendations on council tax matters will be presented for the full decision to full on 28 February 2022;
- (d) Plymouth City Council had been reviewing the budget shortfall and were in the process of identifying solutions to resolve the position. The Council were analysing the provisional settlements to confirm that the assumptions were correct. The Council recognise that it is important that on-going sustainable solutions are used to bridge the gap where practical and were confident a balanced budget would be produced and presented to Full Council in February 2022;
- (e) Brendan Arnold, Service Director for Finance would provide a briefing paper on the settlement to cabinet members.

Cabinet agreed to:-

1. Note this report is subject to change in line with any Settlement adjustments;
2. Approve the savings options as set out in Appendix 2. Once approved these will be presented to Budget Scrutiny for review and after consideration of Scrutiny recommendations, to Full Council.

214. **Council Tax Base Setting 2022/23 and Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update to Cabinet for this item.

- (gg) The Council Tax Base for 2022/23 was based on total housing stock as of October 2021. The Tax base was the estimated number of dwellings in the Local Authority area, modified to take account of the different proportions payable, discounts, premiums and other reductions;
- (hh) A change in legalisation allowed for an additional premium to be charged if a dwelling had been left empty for more than two years;
- (ii) The assumed collection rate for Plymouth City Council would be 97.5% and would be the same as the collection rate for 2021/22;
- (jj) The tax base for Plymouth had increased by 715 properties compared to last year. The average Band D total base was forecast to be 73,830 properties;
- (kk) Following the abolition of the Council Tax Benefit Scheme in 2013, Plymouth had implemented two local benefit schemes, a Council Tax support and discretionary or exceptional hardship scheme. Members and residents of Plymouth had been advised that if they are struggling with paying their Council Tax or that their circumstances had changed they may be eligible for support through these schemes.

Cabinet agreed to:

1. The Council Tax Base for 2022/23 of 73,830 equivalent Band D dwellings as set out in the report.
2. The continuation of the current Council Tax Support scheme and Exceptional Hardship Scheme for 2022/23 with no updates.

215. **Social Value Report 2021**

Councillor Nick Kelly, Leader of the Council provided an update to Cabinet for this item and highlighted the following key points:

- (a) The report had been produced in accordance with Plymouth City Council's commitments within the Social Value Policy to conduct an annual review of the policy;
- (b) This provided an opportunity to illustrate the current impact of the policy on Plymouth City Council's decision making within procurement and commissioning and the benefits secured for the city through its implementation;
- (c) This was also an opportunity to reflect on progress to date and implement improvements to drive the policy forward creating a greater Social Value for the city of Plymouth and its surrounding communities;
- (d) The key aim of the Social Value Policy was to deliver benefits for Plymouth and to unlock its potential. The Council directly spent £144 million with local businesses in

the last financial year and where possible tried to ensure that the benefits stayed within Plymouth and where initial spend does go outside of Plymouth, the Council would secure local benefits through social value;

(e) Social Value is the driving force behind the Procurement Service's goals towards local and small and medium enterprise (SME) spend. Plymouth had taken great steps over the past twelve months to embed and promote the social value policy and its linked behaviours through the procurement process. The Council had received positive feedback to the Policy from both internal and external stakeholders. Initial achievements from the policy included:

- £2.5 million in social value commitments;
- £1.4 million in local spend for contracted suppliers supply chains, £800,000 had been through the MSME;
- 79 weeks of training opportunities;
- 977 tonnes of hard to recycle waste had been diverted away from landfill;

Members discussed:

- The desire for a user friendly policy document

Cabinet agreed to:

1. Acknowledge the progress and achievements secured during the first 12 months of the Social Value Policy;
2. Acknowledge and support the development plans for the coming 12 months.

216. **Wellbeing Hubs - Progress Report and Next Steps**

Councillor Nicholson, Deputy Leader of the Council presented this item to members and made the following key points:

- (ll) Health and Wellbeing Hubs had been a priority for not only for the current administration but previous administrations. It had also been a priority of the Clinical Commissioning Group as an integral part of the Local Care Partnership approach to integrated health and wellbeing;
- (mn) Health and Wellbeing Hubs focus on prevention, early intervention and to empower communities in providing support to those in need. The Hubs had been designed in partnership with a wide range of organisations and each one would be unique to the community it serves. All hubs would provide services such as information and advice, health advice, support for people with long term conditions and a wide range of wellbeing, social and physical activities;
- (nn) Six targeted hubs had been rolled out since 2018 with two additional sports and community hubs at Manadon and Central Park;
- (oo) Six more hubs had been planned for Plymouth which included the building of a Health and Wellbeing centre at Colin Campbell Court of which there had been considerable engagement and publicity with the local community. The

NHS had provided millions of pounds worth of funding for this development. A planning application had been submitted to Plymouth City Council for consideration;

- (pp) Over the next three years 5 new hubs would be created in partnership with local communities and organisations and would be based in Southway/Derriford; Mount Gould; Plymstock; Efford and Estover;
- (qq) A successful bid had been made for funding from the Clinical Commissioning Group to employ additional community development staff which would enable the hubs to work more closely with communities in developing the activities that would keep them well in the future.

Cabinet agreed the plan for the next phase of Wellbeing Hubs