

Brexit, Infrastructure and Legislative Change Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 8 December 2021

PRESENT:

Councillor Bingley, in the Chair.

Councillor Dr Buchan, Vice Chair.

Councillors Coker, Dr Cree, Dann (substitute for Councillor Penberthy), Hendy, Hulme (substitute for Councillor Jordan), Partridge (substitute for Councillor Wakeham), Patel and Salmon.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Jordan, Penberthy and Wakeham.

Also in attendance: Paul Barnard (Strategic Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure), Councillor Maddi Bridgeman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene), Caroline Cozens (Head of Strategic Programmes), Councillor Mark Deacon (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Hannah Harris (CEO Plymouth Culture) Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader), Amanda Lumley (Executive Director, Destination Plymouth), Kevin McKenzie (Policy and Intelligence Advisor), Victoria Pomery (CEO The Box) and Sophie Tucker (Senior Support and Research Assistant).

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 5.30 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the Panel will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

22. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the code of conduct, Councillor Dr Buchan declared a private interest as follows, with regard to –

- (a) minute (26), as she was a duty holder of Cattewater;
- (b) minute (28), she was a marine social scientist (working with OCT);
- (c) minute (29) her husband was employed by the Plymouth College of Art.

23. Minutes

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021 are confirmed as a correct record.

24. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

25. **Policy Updates**

The Committee having considered the policy update (as contained with the agenda pack) had no issues it wished to raise.

26. **Destination Plymouth Progress Report on Visitor Plan 2030**

Councillor Mark Deacon (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport), Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development) and Amanda Lumley (Executive Director, Destination Plymouth) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the Visitor Plan 2030 would enable Plymouth's residents to benefit from the visitor economy, supporting quality job retention and creation; whilst also enabling Plymothians to take full advantage of the City's rich history, heritage and unique environment, by promoting opportunities for education, health and wellbeing and pride;
- (b) the Visitor Plan 2030 was formally adopted in March 2020 (just one week prior to the first Covid lockdown); since the start of the pandemic things had changed significantly with the tourism, leisure and hospitality sector being one of the hardest hit nationally and internationally; together with the UK's departure from the EU this had led to a significant economic shock and longer term challenges as the economy started to recover;
- (c) 2020 data showed the significant impact of Covid19 with a loss of 54% of visits down to 2,436,000 and 56% of visitor spend down to £148,436,000; up to 2019, the growth of tourism and the visitor economy had been a great success story for the City with over 25% growth since 2010; from just under four million visitors to 5.2 million in 2019, spending over £327m annually and supporting nearly 8,000 jobs, over 7% of the City's employment;
- (d) it was too early to calculate how well the sector had recovered through the early part of 2021 however, early data showed that although the first half of the year was still well below 2019 levels (-£89,206,509 from January to May), it recovered in the latter part of the year (+£12,290,061 from June to September 2021); this was very positive and it was anticipated that by year-end there would have been a significant recovery towards 2019 pre-Covid visitor numbers and spend in the City;

- (e) this would not have been possible without significant support from the Council's grants team giving out Government Covid19 grant funding to businesses and the cross city partnership working between Destination Plymouth and the two Business Improvement Districts (City Centre Company and Waterfront Partnership) to support, promote and help businesses to recover.

The Committee –

- (f) sought clarification -
- on what considerations had been given to the environmental impact of growing the visitor numbers, the treatment of the City's facilities (as evidence during the lock down on the Barbican) and whether there would be sufficient accommodation to meet these needs;
 - as to the risk of the future funding of Destination Plymouth in order to deliver the Visitor Plan for 2030 and the unusual ask of a Scrutiny Committee to support the lobbying of local MPs;
 - on the level of businesses that had been lost due to the pandemic and an indication of the level of recovery;
 - as to whether there were any proposals to formally constitute the Great South West Tourism Partnership;
 - whether the structural sectoral changes would take place and whether these could have any implications for partnership working in the South West;
- (g) considered that -
- given the importance of tourism to the City, this matter should be considered by Scrutiny on a more regular basis (six monthly).

The Chair advised that it was important to communicate to the local MPs how important tourism was to the City (the City had lost 54% of visits and had seen a significant reduction in visitor spend) in supporting nearly 8,000 jobs which was over 7% of the City's employment and contributed over £300m annually (pre-Covid) to the economy.

The Committee agreed the following recommendations –

- (1) continue to support Destination Plymouth to lead delivery of the plan working with wider City stakeholders and partners;

- (2) recognise the significant achievements of the Destination Plymouth, Plymouth City Council and BID teams in supporting the sector to recover post Covid 19;
- (3) support the sector 'asks' to government through local MPs;
- (4) that the Visitor Plan 2030 be included on the Committee's work programme (to be reviewed on a six monthly basis) due to the importance of the tourism sector for the City;
- (5) the Chair and Vice Chair write to the local MPs highlighting the significance of delivering the Visitor Plan 2030 for the City.

27. **Exempt Business**

There were no items of exempt business.

The Committee agreed that it did not need to ask questions relating to the confidential information.

28. **Plymouth Sound National Marine Park**

Councillor Nick Kelly (Leader), Councillor Maddi Bridgeman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Kat Deeney (Head of Environmental Planning) and Caroline Cozens (Head of Strategic Programmes) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the Plymouth Sound National Marine Park (NMP) originally declared as the first in the UK in 2019, had secured the first significant investment through a successful bid to the National Heritage Lottery Fund's Heritage Horizon Awards; the development of the wider NMP was also being progressed through other secured funding and the recruitment of an Interim Chief Executive Officer;
- (b) provided an update on the development stage of the NMP Horizons project and the plans up until the submission of the delivery stage bid in June 2023, as well as the progress and plans for the wider NMP development.

The Committee –

- (c) sought clarification on the following key points -
 - as to whether there would be early engagement with Councillors relating to the outline Activity Plan; this would enable Councillors to link issues together as well as having a democratic input (as had previously been achieved with Green Minds);

- as to whether the engagement process for the NMP would provide a real opportunity to include engagement on the wider environmental agendas (such as climate change, ocean recovery) which covered both the green and blue areas of the City;
- on how visitors would recognise that they were in part of the National Marine Park;
- as to whether other organisations across the City, such as the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum were being engaged with on this project;
- with regard to the community strand of the outline Activity Plan (P4), whether further explanation could be given relating to the different (HR) roles allocated to this stream and what the community stream would look like (ie benefits and developments);
- as to how the NMP would link to the Freeport;
- with regard to the governance arrangements for the NMP, whether this could be staffed with individuals that were able to make material contributions to this project, such as subject matter experts, and people working in business; there were concerns that individuals would be appointed to the Board, who were not engaged; it was important to have a real public/private sector partnership, in order to bring communities and businesses together;
- with regard to the outline Activity Plan, in particular the 'heritage will be in better condition' section, whether this related to the built heritage, natural heritage or cultural heritage, or all three of these areas, or whether this had already been defined;

(d) raised -

- that it was important for the success of the project's mission, to make the whole City feel its identity as Britain's Ocean City, and that Councillors were fully engaged with this project, as they would be able to assist in getting this message out in their communities;
- the importance of evaluation in the process and qualitative measures being put in place, such as how wellbeing had improved within the communities;

- the importance of individuals learning about how the blue and green areas interacted, in order to raise environmental credentials and to be able to link this with the impact of the disposal of waste and plastics.

The Committee agreed that –

- (1) it became a key point of engagement in the development of the NMP future vision being led by the Interim NMP Chief Executive Officer;
- (2) it endorsed the approach to the development phase of the NMP Horizons Project and that scrutiny had a continuing role in assessing the outcome and impact of the Activity Plan and development of the delivery phase bid;
- (3) it asks for the Activity Plan for the NMP Horizons project to be presented to it in February 2022, with in depth focus on the community engagement methods and aims.

(Councillor Dr Cree left the meeting after this item and therefore did not take part in the remaining items on the agenda).

29. **Culture Plan Update**

Councillor Mark Deacon (Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Culture, Leisure and Sport), David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development), Hannah Harris (Chief Executive of Plymouth Culture) and Victoria Pomery (CEO The Box) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the Culture Plan had been adopted by the City Council in March 2021 and published in May 2021; the Plan was the culmination of extensive consultation with stakeholders and part of a robust process to co-design the 10 year strategy for Culture;
- (b) the co-design process was conducted between April 2020 – January 2021 with the support of external facilitators, Arts Development Company Dorset and included -
 - 40 one to one interviews with stakeholders;
 - three facilitated workshops;
 - three consultation workshops;
 - five focus groups (conducted with the support of partner organisations Barbican Theatre Plymouth, Funky Llama Steering Group, Beyond Face, students from Plymouth Marjon University and the Freelance Task Force);
- (c) to support the development of the Culture Plan, Plymouth Culture had recommissioned the Audience Agency to collate and analyse data relating to cultural audiences, Plymouth residents and the cultural

sector;

this was designed to better understand the economic and social impact of the sector across the City and begin the process to use data to drive decision making within the sector; this work that formed the basis of the report.

The Chair considered that the update report had not reflected the Committee's ask and that further clarification on certain issues was required in order to fully understand it.

The Committee –

(d) sought clarification on the following key points -

- on the methodology that had been used regarding the Culture Plan data report and the social impact report (ie which organisations had been liaised with);
- on how the Audience Agency worked, how the data was collated, the origin of the data and how representative it was (in respect of the audience segmentation);
- whether there was an opportunity to reflect on the data already available and the measures that could be undertaken to improve it in the future;
- whether there was a further opportunity for Scrutiny to provide a steer regarding the design of the research work to be conducted prior to the British Art Show;
- with regard to the priority work programme, in particular 'aligning the cultural engagement activity with the National Marine Park Horizon programme for an effective community engagement strategy', it would be helpful to have a joined up strategy; (ie the aim should be that residents in more deprived neighbourhoods would be more engaged in the cultural sector and green and blue areas of the City)';
- whether all schools had been reached with regard to The Box's Schools' Programme and if data was available relating to whether the visits to The Box were first time visits or repeat visits;
- on what would be the City's next big cultural offer (other than The Box) which would result in increased visitor numbers and therefore spend;
- on what measures the City could take, in order to increase both visitor numbers and revenue, as it was considered that Plymouth did not have the cultural offer of other similar sized cities;

- what community engagement work was being undertaken in this sector;
- whether Culture Plymouth had been working with other local authorities to promote Plymouth's cultural offer;
- with regard to the employment map, whether data on where employees came from across the City to engage with the sector through employment was known;

(e) raised -

- that one of the challenges for Councillors was being able to think across Wards (without mapping a geographical area); it would be helpful if this could be addressed in the future; it was hoped that the gap in the data would be addressed through the recently commissioned work, in order to support how culture reached across the City;
- whilst the map detailing 'the number of organisations interviewed which were focusing in each postal sector' was informative, there was a need to improve data accuracy, look to increase the number of organisations submitting data and how this could be achieved;
- how the City could evidence the different cultural connections, in order to provide confidence that culture was reaching all communities.

The Chair –

- (f) took this opportunity to welcome Victoria Pomery (CEO of The Box) to her first Scrutiny meeting and passed on his congratulations to the staff who worked at The Box for their work in this award winning venue;
- (g) advised that whilst a lot of good work had been undertaken, in his opinion the report had not detailed a tangible plan that demonstrated what actions were being undertaken to get people, post Covid-19, to see big live music events and theatre/gallery productions in the City; Plymouth was a fantastic city and he would like to see more live performances and art events.

The Committee agreed to -

- (1) actively support the development and delivery of BAS9 as a cross City transformational engagement programme;
- (2) endorse the Cultural Partnership, led by Plymouth Culture, to steer

the implementation of the Culture Plan.

30. **Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) 2022**

Councillor Maddi Bridgeman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene) and Paul Barnard (Strategic Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the report introduced the Climate Emergency Action Plan for 2022 and the planned specific actions to address climate change issues during 2022; the Climate Emergency Action Plan sets out the strategic direction for the City Council and its partners in relation to climate change for Plymouth; it was a demonstration of the City Council's commitment to lead the City towards net zero carbon by 2030;
- (b) the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 was a dynamic, living document that was prepared annually; the Plan maintained the five key areas for action established by the first plan to ensure that it was fit for purpose as actions were ramped up through the three strategic phases of the journey to zero carbon emissions by 2030;
- (c) initially, the response to the climate emergency required quick and decisive action to reverse the on-going increases in carbon emissions; this period of activity was identified as the 'emergency response phase'; there were two further stages in the Council's journey towards net carbon net zero carbon;
- (d) the 'transitional phase' would focus on the delivery of more substantial carbon reduction projects, a reshaping of policy and a realignment of resources to meet the 2030 net zero carbon challenge; the final phase, known as the 'acceleration phase', would drive a significant shift towards net zero carbon living, working and travelling, ramping up still further decarbonisation actions and initiatives;
- (e) the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 was intended to be the last of the current 'emergency phase'; it outlined over 114 realistic, achievable and deliverable actions the City Council was committed to delivering during 2022, in order to make tangible progress in this period of urgent response; detailed case studies provided by partners in Plymouth Net Zero Partnership have been included in this third Climate Emergency Action plan to illustrate the growing momentum behind climate emergency work across Plymouth.

The Committee –

- (f) sought clarification on the following key points -

- as to the rationale, why the plan was still in the emergency response phase when the timetable indicated that in 2022, it would be moving into the transitional phase and whether there were any implications arising from this;
- as to how the Council was incentivising businesses, to support the Action Plan (as it was recognised that the climate was everyone's responsibility not just the City Council's);
- whether the waste structure could be changed to enable the use of glass bottles rather than plastic ones (as in Europe, a small refund was made on glass bottles once they had been returned);
- how residents could engage with the BRIC Project to help mitigate flooding in the Lipson Vale and St Levan areas, and how the community groups would work;
- on the support that the Council was providing to small businesses in the City, that were not part of either the Chamber of Commerce or the Federation of Small Businesses;
- as to whether a list of all electric charging points across the City could be provided;
- that given the future challenges with ad hoc funding for transport, infrastructure, cycling and walking, would there be the same commitment given to improving the infrastructure, in order to negate the need to use cars and promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking (in particular along Royal Parade);
- on the need to understand the budget implications of the yet funded for established Climate Emergency Investment fund;

(g) raised -

- that within the engagement and responsibility section of the Action Plan, six actions could be identified for the general public; whilst partnership working was important, so was the domestic market; this thread did not appear to pull through all areas of the Plan;
- that the actions in the engagement and responsibility section of the Action Plan, related mainly to schools and raising awareness; it was considered that most people were aware of the climate issues and therefore the actions needed to be based around supporting and facilitating change;

- whilst engagement work was being undertaken with schools, did this include being part of the City's Plastic Free City pledge, as it was known that one school was still using single use plastic;
- whilst school children were important in this process (as creating environmental citizens) they were not the decision makers within households and as such there was a need to include actions for the adult population, in order to support, encourage and facilitate change;
- that future plans should include more actions for the general public (the Council's website could be updated to include a 'support tool' for the public) and that the actions needed to be more transformative;
- the lack of contextualised information contained within the Action Plan which was important to highlight where progress had been made and was continuing;
- the importance of including the case studies, as climate issues were not owned by the City Council but by the City and commended those studies that had been included in the Action Plan;
- whilst there was no reference to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service in the Action Plan, the Council was encouraged to work with them, as the Service had its own environmental strategy;
- the Council's need to be brave in the transitional phase and lobby Government to get more regulative powers and incentives on a national level, in order to be able to level up on issues such as mobility;
- that there needed to be a more consistent narrative across the City with regard to the National Marine Park and the climate agendas, in order to get the message out to those communities that were not engaged.

The Chair thanked all those involved in drafting the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022.

The Committee requested that –

- (h) information be provided on the BRIC Project to Committee Members, outside of this forum;
- (i) a list of electric charging points in the City is provided outside of this forum to Committee Members;

- (j) a response be provided to all Committee Members regarding the current position on the transport measures for Royal Parade;
- (k) investigative work would be undertaken with the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service regarding the climate work it was undertaking for inclusion in the Council's future action plans.

The Committee agreed to recommend the following recommendations to Cabinet –

- (1) support and endorse the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022, noting that the Climate Emergency Investment Fund had yet to be funded or established;
- (2) contextualise prior actions within the Climate Emergency Plan in 2022;
- (3) support Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan by asks to Government through local MPs and national channels;
- (4) provide the public with a Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan website support tool by May 2022.

31. **Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan (CCRP) 2022**

Councillor Maddi Bridgeman (Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene) and Paul Barnard (Strategic Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure) presented the report which highlighted the following key areas –

- (a) the City Council agreed the first Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan in December 2019; this marked a key milestone towards achieving a net zero carbon City by 2030; this plan was the subject to detailed review by this Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2020;
- (b) the plan was a dynamic, living document that would be reviewed and updated yearly and would evolve during the three phases of the Climate Change Action Plan Strategic Approach; the commitment was to produce annually a new action plan for each of the 11 years of the Climate Emergency period (2019-2030);
- (c) the Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan 2022 maintained the five key areas for action, established by the previous plans to ensure that it was fit for purpose as actions were ramped up through the three strategic phases of the journey to zero carbon emissions by 2030;
- (d) the 2022 Corporate Carbon Reduction Plan contained 35 actions; most of the actions planned for delivery were financed from the prioritisation of existing capital and revenue budgets; other actions included in the plan were financed from either already secured external funding or subject to specific funding bids;

- (e) a few of the actions could only be delivered through the Climate Emergency Investment Fund which was yet to be funded and established; some of the proposed actions would deliver measurable carbon reductions from the specific activities planned and these would be monitored going forward; others, whilst not directly measurable, would still contribute to reducing overall corporate carbon reduction impacts of the City Council estate and the delivery of its services and functions.

The Committee raised, with regard to -

- (f) the governance section of the Plan, the need to ensure a consultation exercise was undertaken with the taxi trade (relating to having a ULEV fleet by 2030) and to also explore achievable and deliverable ways to transition to this fleet;
- (g) the lobbying on planning section, was there more that the Council could be doing (as additional powers were always required);
- (h) the schools section of the plan, was there a way that the School Education Programme could be made available to non-maintained schools in the City, and whether Catered was being included in the plan (in order to reduce carbon emissions through its menus).

The Committee agreed to –

- (1) support and endorse the Corporate Carbon Reduction Action Plan 2022, noting that the Climate Emergency Investment Fund had yet to be funded or established.

32. **Work Programme**

The Committee considered its work programme and agreed to add the following –

- (1) the Visitor Plan 2030 (on a six monthly basis);
- (2) the National Marine Park Activity Plan for the Horizons Project.

33. **Tracking Decisions**

The Committee noted it's tracking decisions.

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