

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	08 September 2022
Title of Report:	Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement
Lead Member:	Councillor Rebecca Smith (Cabinet Member for Homes & Communities) Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Joanna Lee
Contact Email:	Joanna.lee@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	JL090825
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report seeks the Cabinet's support for the Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement prior to its consideration by City Council for formal adoption at its meeting of 19 September 2022.

The Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement has been produced in collaboration with South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council. Since the adoption of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan in March 2019, each Council has declared a Climate Emergency. The Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement responds to the need for urgent action and provides interim policy and guidance on the climate emergency in advance of a formal review of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

The Climate Emergency Planning Statement has the legal planning status of 'interim policy statement', which is a policy tool that enables a local planning authority to put in place an interim policy pending the next review of its local plan. Interim policy statements do not have the status of a statutory development plan, and therefore carry less weight in the decision making process than local plans. However, they can nonetheless be important material considerations in planning decision making.

Once adopted it will set new mitigation and adaption requirements for new development and will be a material consideration in decision making.

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Cabinet support the Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement and refer it to City Council for formal adoption as an interim policy statement, pending completion of the next review of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan.

REASON: To allow City Council to adopt it which will give formal weight to the Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement as a material consideration in decision making on all new planning applications.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Alternatives considered include waiting for the formal review of the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan to introduce new requirements and going much further by introducing full Future Homes/Building Standard requirements. Both these options were rejected because they either do not recognise the significance of the issue and importance of ensuring new buildings are fit for the future, or they go too far which at this stage cannot be justified.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

‘A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment’ and ‘A Growing City’ – The Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement will play an important role in supporting a low carbon economy, responding to the challenge of climate change and making Plymouth more resilient to its impact.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No new resource implications arise from this report

Financial Risks

No new financial risks arise from this report

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement introduces measures for new development to reduce the carbon footprint so adopting this should have a positive impact on the carbon emissions.

This will be achieved through the requirement for new development to meet the most up to date building regulations and to go further achieving 20% improvement through onsite renewables, no new gas boilers, space for battery storage, use of resilient and low carbon building materials, priority for reuse and retrofit, increased capacity in EV charging, active and sustainable travel, encouraging passive solar design, protecting the soil resource, enhancing tree cover and green spaces, managing surface water and delivering 10% biodiversity net gain.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

A Sustainability and Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken to inform the preparation of the Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement. It concluded that it does not have any direct negative impacts on different groups, it seeks to ensure that new development delivers positive benefits and responds appropriately to the Climate Emergency we are facing.

There are no other implications

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

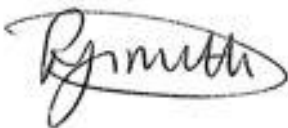
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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Paul Barnard (Service Director for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 09/08/2022

Cabinet Member approval:

Handwritten signature of J. R. Strenna in black ink.Handwritten signature of R. Smith in black ink.

Date approved: 23/08/2022